

Admiral Plate Flaws ~ Scratching the Surface

Introduction:

Many aspects of Canada's "Admiral" issue have been well studied over the last century and there is an impressive list of reference material available. Marler's 1982 work provides detailed descriptions of many of the re-entries and retouches he located on the printer's proof sheets, but he was able to notate only a very few constant plate flaws (CPVs).

Other students, especially Matte (for the 2¢ Carmine) and Reiche, have identified only a few hundred CPVs. "A few hundred" may sound like a lot, but given the hundreds of thousands of different Admiral plate positions, this is but the very beginning; an almost uncharted area to study.

Recently, the exhibitor has focused much of his philatelic attention on the constant plate varieties of the Admirals. He has found two or more examples of many previously unreported CPVs. **This research focused exhibit will show examples, with illustration, for some his more interesting CPV discoveries.** Re-entries and retouches are not considered in this effort.

While many of the CPVs are quite minor in nature, others are quite spectacular and well deserve 'Catalogue' status.

Assumptions:

The study of CPVs on any stamp will require a good working knowledge of the design of the stamp being studied and a good magnifying glass is essential.

The math of a CPV study can be daunting. Each CPV will occur on only one plate position of one printing plate for at most, the useful life of the printing plate. Some plate flaws are the result of damage during the life of the plate and are not found on the printer's proofs. These flaws would be less common than many of the well know "Major" varieties listed in the catalogues etc. For example the highly desirable "1¢ Green Major Re-entry" (12LR35) is found on only one of 400 positions from every impression made from Plate 12. There were 170 different plates for the 1¢ Green sheet format alone, thus well over 65,000 different positions to house a CPV. Finding two examples of any one of them is a challenge.

Admiral reference materials which are helpful to a CPV study include:

Marler, George C. *The Admiral Issue of Canada*. State College PA: American Philatelic Society, 1982. 567 pp.

Marler, George C. *Canada - The Admiral Issue 1911-1925*. Toronto: Unitrade Press, 1980. 75 pp.

Matte, Raymond. Study Relating to the George V 1912 Stamp, Self-published (in 3 parts), 1975-77.

Morris, Richard M. *The Admiral Issue of Canada*. British North America Philatelic Society, Ltd., 2008. 167 pp. (Volume 48 of BNAPS Exhibit Series)

Reiche, Hans. *Canada: The Admiral Flaws*. Self-published, 1987. 22 pp.

Reiche, Hans. *Canada: The Admiral Stamps of 1911 to 1925*. (printer: ?); 1965. 136 pp.

Reiche, Hans. *Canada: The Admiral Stamps of 1911 to 1925, Part 2*. (printer: ?); 1971(?). 49 pp.