

Jacques Cartier first cent – 1859-1868, a complete plate reconstruction

Synopsis

Purpose

This is a single frame exhibit of Canada Jacques Cartier Seventeen cents, its production and use, as demonstrated by a rare (1 of 3 known) reconstruction of a full sheet, containing all 100 plate positions, all its known re-entries and varieties, and examples of typical frankings, via covers to the UK and France.

With recent developments and improvements of digital tools, availability of high resolution material, philatelists have at their disposal many tools to expand previous knowledge and share with peers, information that was previously available to only a few specialists. This exhibit is a first attempt to expand to the broader community of stamp collectors and specialists, on one of the Canadian masterpiece of stamp engraving – Cartier 10p and 17c blue.

Exhibit plan and observations

The exhibit starts by examining the 10p proofs (black, orange-yellow and blue), a rare pale reddish purple example from the trade sample sheet, and used stamp (normal and major re-entry pos. 6). It is followed by 17c proofs and SPECIMEN (carmine Vertical and Diagonal) including a block of 4 showing position 46 (diagonal scratch through AGE and the right margin).

The center piece of the exhibition, shown on pages 5 to 7, and 9 to 11 consists in a complete plate reconstruction of all 100 positions, including 2 rare blocks of 6 (ex. L. Reford and C. Fox), as well as 4 pairs and a block of 3. Multiples are key material for any plating undertaking. All actual stamp images, magnified 2.5x, are added to facilitate viewer's appreciation. Additional images of duplicate stamps for position 7, 29, 75, 80 and a unique part double perforation, position 18.

Page 4 describe method for laying the plate, position dots and alignment lines, including some diagrams from hi-resolution scans obtained from Library and Archive Canada (both dark blue and light blue sheet of 100), as well as contemporary (post 1880) plate proof. It also includes a description of supplementary findings assisting in plating, especially for off-center copies, and the relevance to adjacent stamp positions, as expressed by their relative frame positioning.

Pages 4, 8 and 12 exhibit in-use single rate covers to Ireland, Scotland, Wales, England, one new (unique) discovery cover, with mixed franking (17c plus GB 1d) redirected to channel Island (Isle of Wight), and cover history. A rare (1 of 8) double rate

to France follows, as well as a strike on piece (single rate, dated 1872 (new Latest Date of Use).

Forgeries and fakes

Known forgeries from Oneglia and proofs are shown, as well as a unique fake re-entry recently discovered. This section also shows a series of progressive proof vignettes, on stamp size, of the Cartier portrait.

In closing, some up-dated sales statistics (census) stamps and covers are provided, and a brief discussion on papers, colors and need for further studies, for the specialists.

Items of impact are surrounded by a red border throughout the exhibit

Philatelics references

1. Plating the seventeen cents Blue, Scott #19, Kenneth A. Kershaw, BNAPS, April 2009, ISBN: 978-1-897391-43-3
2. Senator James A. Clader's complete plating of the Canada 17c Jacques Cartier from the 1859 Cents issue, edited by Charles J.G. Verge, 1992, ISBN 0-9696199-0-1
3. The first decimal issue of Canada 1859-68 by Geoffrey Whitworth, printed for the Royal Philatelic Society, London, 1966
4. Arfken, Leggett, Firby and Steinhart, Canada Decimal Era: 1859-1868, VGG Philatelic Research Foundation, 1997
5. Canada Steel Engraved Constant Plate Varieties, by Hans Reiche
6. British North America Philatelic Society, Canadian Re-Entry Study Group Newsletter, Volume 13, Nos. 2 and 3
7. <http://flyspecker.com/> from Scott Robinson
8. https://www.re-entries.com/decimal_seventeencents.html by Ralph Trimble
9. North Atlantic Mail Sailings 1840-75 by Walter Hubbard and Richard F. Winter, Edited by Susan M. McDonald
10. Unitrade Specialized Catalogue of Canadian Stamps
11. <https://stampsmarter.org/features/CanadaPlateHome.html>

Other references: Personal research on covers, from Ancestry, Newspaper (Ryde Observer), local historic societies, Hope-Johnstone family manuscript, etc.

Addendum (advanced copy current as of
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