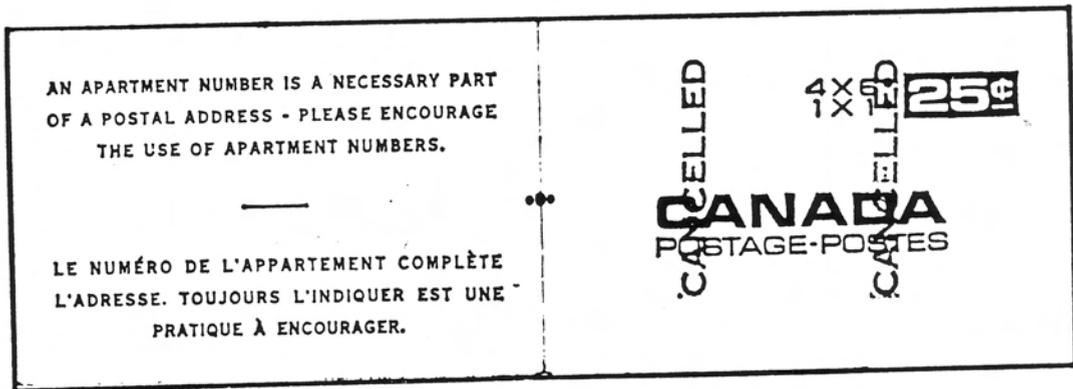


A very interesting and mysterious booklet recently went in a LCD auction. John Aitken has sent us a photocopy of this item. It consists of a gummed pane of six blue stamps (?) or possibly seals of some type with two girls on them. This pane is perforated (misperforated!) and comes in a booklet cover which has permutations of the name, British American Bank Note Company on the outside. We are not saying that this is a centennial item. Could this possibly be an essay of some type, produced by the bank note company around the time they received the printing contract for Centennial booklets (1968) and around the time the other questionable Centennial booklet, Bk 59, 25¢ orange with "CANCELLED" markings on the cover and inside the pane may have appeared (See below)?



SOME PLATE FLAWS OF THE 7¢ CENTENNIAL - M.F. Painter

The BABN company produced the 7¢ green (#543) with a Goebel press which printed, perforated and cut panes in one operation<sup>(1)</sup>. The layout on the printing cylinder was 600 stamps in two rows of three panes, each 10x10, with the 24mm width of the stamps oriented around the cylinder<sup>(2)</sup>. The top three panes had plate inscriptions in all four corners in the upper and lower selvage, while the bottom panes, for field stock only, had no inscriptions. Field stock was also produced from some upper panes by trimming off the inscriptions by replacing the top and bottom row of perforator pins with a slit<sup>(3)</sup>. The preceding 6¢ printing had required a width of 240 mm per pane, plus 8 mm left selvage, the right side being straight edge. This had meant a printing cylinder circumference of 744 mm<sup>(1)</sup>. For the 7¢ stamps, the straight edge was abandoned and a selvage, which examination indicates is also 8 mm, was added to the right side. Thus it appears that the printing cylinder for the 7¢ had a circumference of 768 mm. From the pattern of flaws described in this article, it appears that the three panes fitted exactly around the cylinder with a 16 mm gutter between each pane. The web of stamps was separated into individual panes by a cross-cutting device that sliced through the middle of this gutter.

A series of constant plate flaws occurs on all three upper panes of Plate 1, on both philatelic stock and on the field stock trimmed from these panes. Something produced a recurrent pattern of dots on the plate, about  $\frac{1}{4}$  mm below the bottom frames of row two, extending right around the printing cylinder. Examination of Plate 2 philatelic stock and Winnipeg tagged field stock (543ii) indicates that these dots are confined to Plate 1 and that tagged stamps, none of which have dots, must all have come from Plate 2.

Assistance from a number of dealers<sup>(4)</sup> produced strips of stamps including all thirty stamps in row two of the three top panes. Each stamp contained one or two of the 42 distinctly placed dots that encircle the cylinder. From these strips, a constant pattern could be detected which identifies the position of each flaw and also fixes the sequence of panes around the cylinder. The following pages labelled A, B & C show these flaws. Any stamps with one or two dots can be positioned and the pane identified by referring to these pages.

The pattern of dots is as follows: Commencing at R2/7 of pane A (flaw #9), the dots progress to the right with spacings of 4, 21, 25, 21, 4, 21, 25, 25, & 21 mm. This sequence is then repeated, moving from pane A to B to C and back to A and the point of commencement. The full sequence only repeats  $4\frac{1}{2}$  times around the 768 mm circumference of the plate and ends with the 4/21/25/21/4/21 portion back at the starting point. Another way of describing the pattern is: three spaces of 25 mm ahead, then 4 mm back, then four spaces of 25 mm ahead, then 4 mm back and then repeated. The 25 mm spacing is actually closer to  $25\frac{1}{8}$  mm as an even 25 mm would end the pattern 4 mm short of the full circumference. This has been compensated for in the accompanying diagrams by adding an extra millimeter in four places.

Since the stamp perforations are 24 mm apart, the spacing of dots at just over 25 mm doesn't seem related. At the time of writing, it is not known what caused the flaws and ideas are welcomed. Conceivably they could be related to the dots on the 8¢ (see page 68 of Irwin & Freedman<sup>(3)</sup>), or to some of the dots that occur on the BABNC printings of the 6¢, but no connection is readily apparent.

Two final bits of information may be of interest. Charlton Specialized<sup>(1)</sup> indicates that 16,000 matched sets of Plate 1 corners were printed. If this refers to the total production of all three philatelic panes, then each flaw was only printed 5,333 times.<sup>(5)</sup> Irwin & Freedman<sup>(3)</sup> show (table 17, page 43) a fluorescent grade 1 paper with a colour under ultra violet of dark green on a light blue, flecked, background. They carry this forward from the original Keane & Hughes edition as "A, plate not identified". From samples examined during the study of these flaws, it appears that this slightly fluorescent paper comes from plate 1.

Some other constant flaws occur on the 7¢ Centennial, but there is no immediate evidence that they are related to the pattern of flaws in row two of Plate 1. They are identified in a separate article.

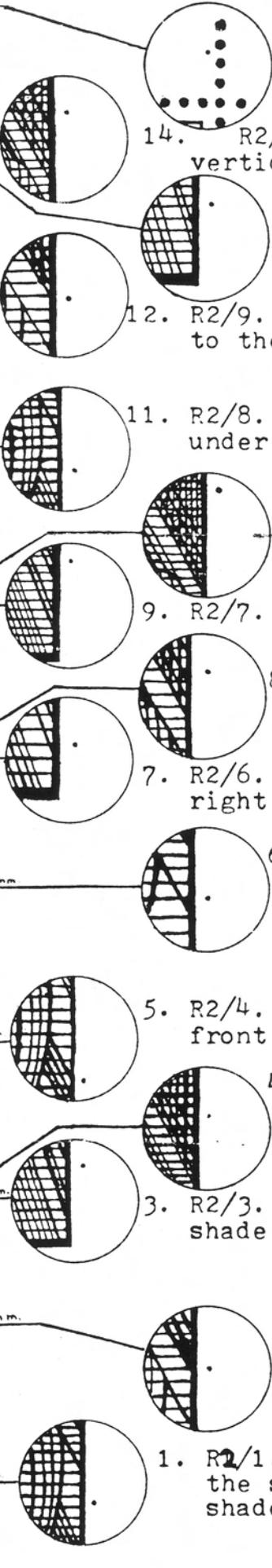
Anyone who has an upper left or upper right Plate 1 corner block of the 7¢ Centennial, or any other stamp from row two of this plate will have one or more of these constant plate flaws, and can locate the pane and position on the accompanying three pages.

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- (1) The Charlton Specialized Catalogue of Canadian Postage Stamps, Volume 3, Elizabethan Era, 1982.
  - (2) 1982 Canadian Stamp Handbooks, The Centennials 1967-73, Edited by Michael Milos.
  - (3) Canada - the 1967-73 Definitive Issue, 2nd Edition, Edited by D. Irwin & M. Freedman.
  - (4) Crawford Coin & Stamp Co. Ltd, New Westminster, B.C.  
F.E. Eaton & Sons Ltd., Vancouver, B.C.  
Mark Edward Philatelic, Carlisle, Ont.  
Saskatoon Coin & Stamp Centre Ltd., Saskatoon, Sask.  
Stanley Stamp Co (1958) Ltd., Vancouver, B.C.  
John H. Talman Ltd., Toronto, Ont.  
Weeda Stamps Ltd., Vancouver, B.C.
  - (5) The total of 5,333 is for flaws on philatelic panes. The quantity of field stock trimmed from the upper three panes on plate 1 is not known, but the total 7¢ printing of 271 million suggests that some 200,000 copies of each pane were printed.

BRITISH AMERICAN BANK NOTE  
OTTAWA, N.C.

BRITISH AMERICAN BANK NOTE  
OTTAWA, N.C.

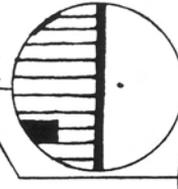
250 mm  
231 mm  
230 mm  
226 mm  
205 mm  
180 mm  
159 mm  
155 mm  
134 mm  
130 mm  
109 mm  
84 mm  
63 mm  
59 mm  
38 mm  
13 mm  
8 mm  
0 mm



- 15. R2/10. In selvage about 6mm right of right frame.
- 14. R2/10. See #4. This dot is one vertical shade line further left.
- 13. R2/10. See #3. This dot is under 6th vertical line from corner.
- 12. R2/9. See #2. This dot is slightly to the left of a vertical line.
- 11. R2/8. See #1. This dot is directly under a vertical shade line.
- 10. R2/7. This dot is larger than the other dots.
- 9. R2/7. Between 10th & 11th vertical lines from left corner.
- 8. R2/6. Under 3rd vertical line right of RR track.
- 7. R2/6. Under 3rd vertical line to right of lower left corner.
- 6. R2/5. Under left side of intersection of RR track with bottom frame.
- 5. R2/4. Under the centre of the front of the train.
- 4. R2/3. See #14. This dot is between 7th & 8th vertical shade lines to right of the intersection of RR & frame.
- 3. R2/3. See #13. This is 7 vertical shade lines to right of LL corner.
- 2. R2/2. See #12. This is directly under the vertical shade line at the intersection of RR track & frame.
- 1. R2/1. See #11. This dot is under the space between two vertical shade lines.

PANE A. all dots are about 1/4 mm below bottom frame, row 2.  
145

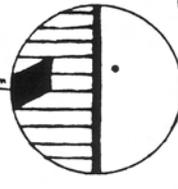
512 mm  
495 mm  
491 mm  
470 mm  
444 mm  
419 mm  
398 mm  
394 mm  
373 mm  
348 mm  
327 mm  
323 mm  
302 mm  
276 mm  
256 mm



28. R2/10. See #19. This dot is one shade line closer to left of N.



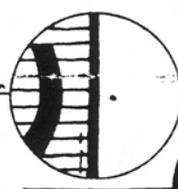
27. R2/10. See #18. This dot is one line closer to left side of C.



26. R2/9. See #17. This dot is under right leg of A.



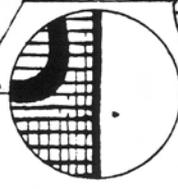
25. R2/8. See #16. This dot is under left leg of A.



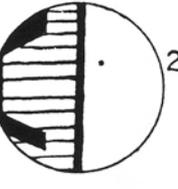
24. R2/7. This dot is under middle of C,  $3\frac{1}{2}$  lines from right side.



23. R2/6. This dot is under the left leg of the N.



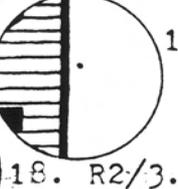
22. R2/6. This dot is one vertical shade line to left of C.



21. R2/5. This dot is under the middle of the A.



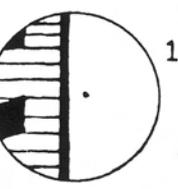
20. R2/4. This dot is between the C and the A.



19. R2/3. See #28. Three lines right of left of N.



18. R2/3. See #27. Seven lines to left of right side of C.



17. R2/2. See #26. This dot is just slightly right of right leg of A.



16. R2/1. See #25. This dot is one vertical shade line to the right of the left leg of the A.

PANE B. All dots are about  $\frac{1}{4}$  mm below bottom frame, row 2.

C

BRITISH AMERICAN BANK NOTE  
OTTAWA, NO. 1

BRITISH AMERICAN BANK NOTE  
OTTAWA, NO. 1



756 mm.  
735 mm.  
731 mm.  
710 mm.  
685 mm.  
664 mm.  
660 mm.  
638 mm.  
613 mm.  
588 mm.  
567 mm.  
563 mm.  
542 mm.  
516 mm.  
512 mm.

- 42. R2/10. See #33. Just over four vertical lines left of A.
- 41. R2/9. See #32. About 1 line right of LR corner.
- 40. R2/9. See # 31. Almost even with left side of D.
- 39. R2/8. See #30. Just left of right leg of A.
- 38. R2/7. Under left leg of A.
- 37. R2/6. Just under 1 mm right of LR corner.
- 36. R2/6.  $4\frac{1}{2}$  vertical shade lines right of left side of D.
- 35. R2/5.  $1\frac{1}{2}$  vertical shade lines left of LR corner.
- 34. R2/4. Under middle of A.
- 33. R2/3. See #42. Just over 3 vertical shade lines left of left leg of A.
- 32. R2/2. See #41. About 2 vertical shade lines right of LR corner.
- 31. R2/2. See #40. 1 vertical shade line right of left side of D.
- 30. R2/1. See #39. Under right leg of A.
- 29. R2/1. In selvage  $5\frac{1}{2}$  mm left of left frame line.

PANE C. All dots are about  $\frac{1}{4}$  mm below bottom frame, row 2.