



CENTENNIAL DEFINITIVE
STUDY GROUP NEWSLETTER



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Whole Number 68

November 1996

NOTES FROM YOUR EDITOR:

For some unknown reason, stamp collectors share some of the instincts of bears: they hibernate and we pull out our stamp collections in the fall! (Is that why the place stamp collectors haunt is called a den?) I must admit that this summer has been a busy stamp collecting one for me, and judging from the amount of mail I get, a busy one for many centennial collectors. I would like to thank George Sangster, a long time former member of the study group, for a donation of his old newsletters and a nice centennial reference library (Keane&Hughes, the Milos monograph, etc). I should have the material catalogued and available to members by the next newsletter. Mike Painter writes the following in response to the short-printed Opal booklet single illustrated in the last newsletter:

Just a little follow up re the 2¢ Opal with missing trunk.

I did a very cursory lamping over a couple of bags of used 2¢ and separated out some Opal stamps. Adding in a few from an album and a stock book, I looked at a total of 55 with the straight edge at left. Only one of these had the missing trunk.

Although you can't conclude too much from a limited sample like that, it suggests the flaw was present in one booklet in 25 or 30. This, of course, is much less frequent than the roughly one in six of my mint booklets which show this flaw.

A possible explanation for the discrepancy is that I got a lot of a couple of dozen Opal booklets in an auction a while ago. If my guess is right that this is a worn inking roll, it presumably happened late in the print run. If the batch of booklets I got was from late in the run, there would be more than usual of the flaws.

My sample of used stamps, which as far as I know is from all through the Centennial period, is probably more indicative of the frequency that the flaw occurs. Since there were 2,200,000 Opal booklets printed, it looks as if there were several tens of thousands with the flaw. It will be interesting to see if others find the flaw with the same sort of frequency. From my rather small sample it looks as if it is not a great rarity.

The deadline for the next CDSG/QE II Mail Sale is fast approaching. I am now speaking from the viewpoint of a consignor that this auction is a great way of getting rid of the extra material you accumulate and get new material at a great price: you will be happy with the prices you get for your material.

CDSG/QEII Joint Mail Sale # 6

Deadline for submitting Lots: December 13, 1996

See the following page for details & prices realized from Sale # 5.

!!!!!!PAY PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO SCOTT'S NEW ADDRESS!!!!!!

I would like to remind members of the new free ad policy. If you would like to run an ad, or submit an article or just some news, drop me a line:

Len Kruczynski
19 Petersfield Pl.
Winnipeg MB R3T 3V5

REVISED SEPTEMBER 1996

STUDY GROUP MAIL SALE - TERMS FOR VENDORS

1. MINIMUM RESERVE OF \$15 PER LOT.
2. LOTS TO BE SOLD TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER, MEETING OR EXCEEDING THE RESERVE, FOR ONE (1) INCREMENT OVER THE SECOND HIGHEST BID. IN CASES WHERE ONLY ONE BID IS RECEIVED, THE LOT WILL SELL FOR THE RESERVE PRICE.
3. RESERVE OR MINIMUM BIDS MUST BE STATED.
4. COMMISSION CHARGES WILL BE 15% PER LOT BASED ON THE REALIZED PRICE.
5. UNSOLD LOTS WILL BE RETURNED TO THE VENDOR, VIA REGISTERED MAIL, AT THE TIME OF FINAL SETTLEMENT. RETURN POSTAGE WILL BE CHARGED TO THE CONSIGNOR.
6. FINAL SETTLEMENTS WILL BE MAILED TO VENDORS APPROXIMATELY 45 DAYS AFTER CLOSING.
7. LOTS FOR FUTURE MAIL SALES SHOULD BE SENT TO:

SCOTT TRAQUAIR
PO BOX 25081
1375 WEBER STREET E
KITCHENER, ONTARIO
N2A 4A5

* PLEASE NOTE *
* MY NEW *
* ADDRESS *

PLEASE USE REGISTERED MAIL FOR ALL SUBMISSIONS.
I WILL ACKNOWLEDGE ALL RECEIPTS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

ALL PROCEEDS FROM COMMISSIONS, AFTER EXPENSES OF COPYING AND MAILING, WILL BE SPLIT BETWEEN THE STUDY GROUPS.

Thanks to all consignors and bidders.

Please contact Scott Traquair for details regarding consignment of lots:

Note my new address: PO BOX 25081
1375 WEBER STREET EAST
KITCHENER, ONTARIO, N2A 4A5

Deadlines for SALE # 6 are as follows:

SUBMIT LOTS BY	December 13, 1996
SALE MAILED OUT BY	January 13, 1997
CLOSING DATE	February 14, 1997
INVOICES MAILED	February 21, 1997
FINAL SETTLEMENT	March 28, 1997

The proceeds from recent sales have not quite covered the expense of copying and mailing the sales so please participate in the next sale as either a consignor or bidder

LOT	SOLD	LOT	SOLD	LOT	SOLD
1		23		45	\$8.00
2		24	\$13.00	46	10.00
3		25		47	
4		26	15.00	48	11.00
5		27	10.00	49	17.00
6		28	7.50	50	17.00
7		29	13.00	51	20.00
8		30	8.00	52	19.00
9		31	20.00	53	15.00
10		32	20.00	54	18.00
11		33		55	15.00
12		34	40.00	56	
13		35		57	18.00
14		36		58	21.00
15		37	20.00	59	
16		38	51.00	60	22.00
17		39		61	18.00
18		40		62	45.00
19		41	40.00	63	15.00
20		42	17.00	64	24.00
21		43	26.00	65	32.00
22		44	34.00	66	21.00
				TOTAL:	\$917.50

John Jamieson (Saskatoon Stamp Center) sent me a beautiful colour copy of a full sheet of a misperfed 6 cent black which he picked up at Capex. He has broken up the sheet; the four corners are shown below. Misperfed sheets of the 6 cent black are not new, two different ones have been in the Newsletter already (see Newsletter No. 16, p. 89 and No. 22 p.136). The corners shown below share some similarities: they are all CBN Co. Plate 2 and in all three the design is skewed counter-clockwise relative to the perfs. There is something different, though: *John's colour copy clearly shows that the Ottawa tagging bars coincide with the perf holes.* This means that the tagging and perfering operations were done in close proximity on the press. Not shown below, but present in the full sheet copy are some confetti remaining behind in the perf holes. The confetti is tagged and carries the design, so the sequence was: printing, then tagging and then perfering.



Dr. Jim Watt has three consecutive panes of 8¢ field stock which have a line of faint dots across the second row of all three panes, 3mm above the bottom frame of the stamps. Jim loaned me these to sketch up and they raise some interesting questions. The panes have an inked "9", "10" and "11" in the margins and cut fibres at the pane edges can be matched under a ten-power magnifying glass (in both ultraviolet and natural light) to prove they are consecutive. Pane 10 fits to the right of pane 9 and pane 11 to the right of pane 10. Thus pane 11 came off the press first, then 10, then 9.

The dots are similar to the dots on the consecutive panes reported in the July 1992 Newsletter on pages 425-434. Both sets of panes are on medium fluorescent paper (about Keane/Hughes 7) with Winnipeg 2-bar tagging and PVA gum from plate 4 (Unitrade 544pii, unless they've shuffled numbers again since I bought my catalogue). Both sets indicate the circumference of the printing cylinder was within a millimeter of 768mm. However, there are differences. Jim's dots are in row two, while the ones illustrated earlier were between rows 5 and 6. Jim's dots are less visible, being smaller and fainter and with the majority hidden in the design. The fact that many are obscured by the design makes it impossible to see if there is any pattern or spacing similar to the earlier dots. All I can say is that no visible portions of the dots seem to match anything reported earlier.

I checked my stock of several hundred 8¢ that I've set aside because they had marks of various sorts, and found something interesting: I have one perfect match. The sixth stamp in row two of the pane marked "9" has eleven dots that match a used stamp of mine in every detail of position and size. You need a ten-power magnifying glass to see most, and I likely missed some, but there's no question the stamps have identical marks. If one stamp has a perfect match, I have to conclude the others all do, too, and that these are marks on the printing cylinder.

Since I only found one match, it may mean not many sheets picked up this flaw - i.e. it may have developed late in the use of that particular cylinder. As I understand it, they used a plastic transfer process to make printing cylinders off the original steel plate, so there were several cylinders for every numbered plate. When one became damaged or worn they simply transferred another cylinder off the original plate. I take it that these printing cylinders were sometimes quite short-lived. The cylinders were all theoretically identical, since they were transferred from a single plate. However, if damaged they would print stamps with marks unique to that particular cylinder. I'm reasonably confident this explains why some plate flaws show up much less frequently than you would expect from the number of impressions on each printing cylinder. For example, if plate 4 was used to make a dozen printing cylinders of 600 impressions each, a particular flaw would only show up once in every 7,200 stamps (assuming each cylinder was used for an equal length of time) instead of the once in 600 stamps if only one cylinder was used. Of course, if the flaw was on the original steel plate of 100 impressions, it would show up on every 100th stamp.

Returning to my discovery of a single matching stamp, there is another point of interest. The single stamp I have is general tagged (OP2), not Winnipeg tagged.

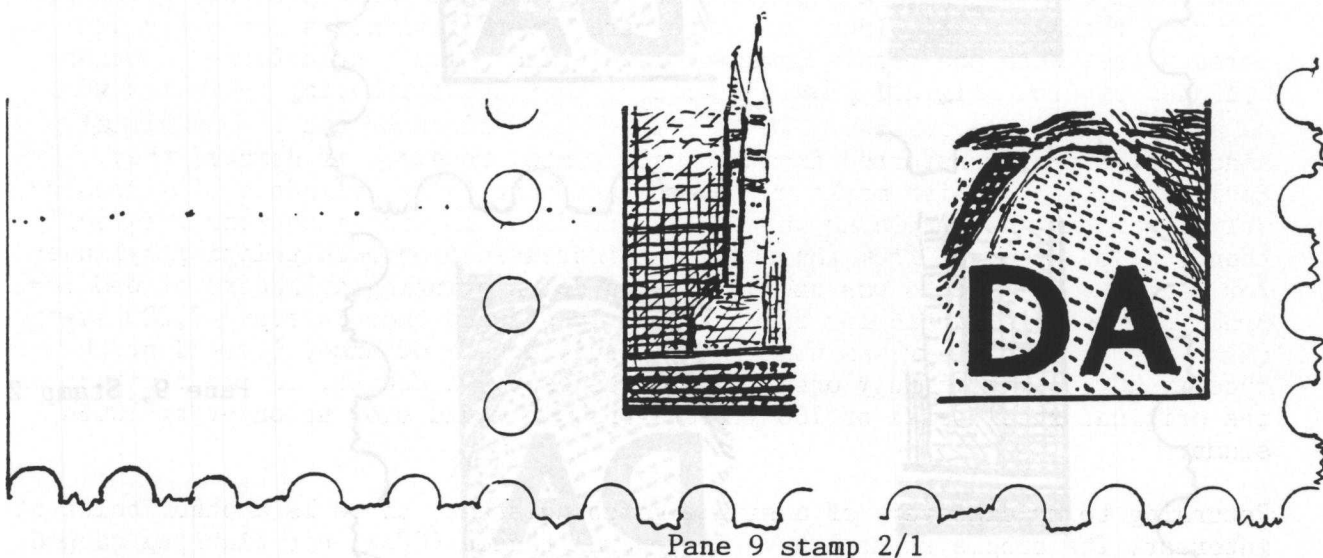
The gum is gone, of course, but the fluorescence (K/H 5) and OP2 tagging indicate that it was PVA. According to Unitrade, 544pii (Jim's) was issued in July, 1972. The earliest general tagged on PVA, 544piv (mine) was in December 1972.

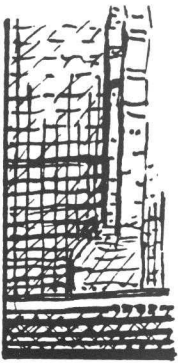
I suspect that Jim's panes are a late 1972 printing of the medium fluorescent Winnipeg tagged and that the cylinder (from plate 4) was probably the last used on the Winnipeg tagged and the first used to print some of the general tagged stamps. It likely was not in use for a long time (or you would expect more of the dots would be found to match) until it was replaced by another printing cylinder (now made from plate 5 or 6 if Canada Specialized is right). That's my guess, but others may think of something more plausible.

There are several other smudges and noticeable marks on Jim's panes, but I could find no match to anything that I have. For example, there is a prominent cluster of marks on the Queen's eyebrow on the first pane at position 9, but all of the corner blocks and individual stamps that I have show nothing similar. There is also a dot on the chin on 10/6 of the first pane, but it isn't the same as the well-known "chin dot", nor do I have any stamps with a similar mark. It may be that some of these other marks on Jim's panes are plate flaws, but I think the majority are more likely random bits of ink transferred off other sheets or off the machinery of the printing press. I must have a couple of hundred 8¢ with marks on the Queen's forehead - every one different in some way and probably just random accidents. BABN's Goebel press seems to have been rather messy compared to the CBN press.

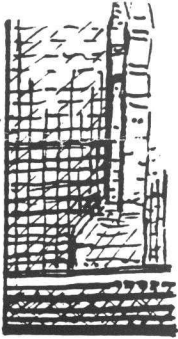
A comparison microscope would probably reveal many of the dots hidden in the design of Jim's panes. However, there is very little chance that anyone would detect these dots on their own stamps because they are faint and obscured by the design. Therefore I have made no attempt to sketch them all. The only dots anyone is likely to notice are in the margins and on the whiter space of the Queen's arm. Incidentally, none of these dots match the more prominent plate flaw known as the "mole" or "vaccination mark" on the arm.

The following are sketches of those stamp positions with dots which might be noticed. I have used the numbers "9", "10" and "11", as penned on the panes, to distinguish between panes.





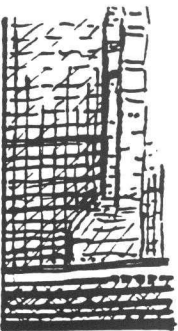
Pane 9, Stamp 2/2



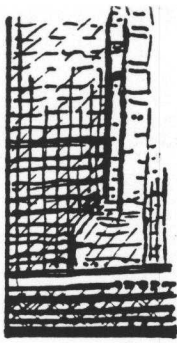
Pane 9, Stamp 2/3



Pane 9, Stamp 2/4

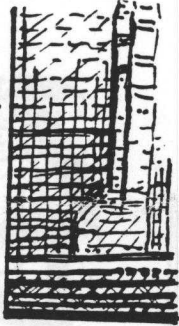


Pane 9, Stamp 2/5

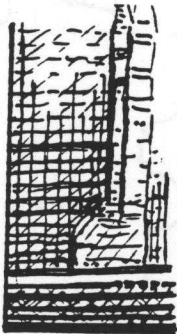


Pane 9, Stamp 2/6

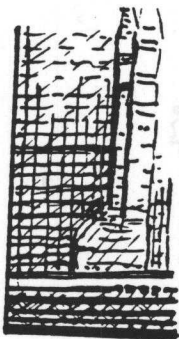
This is the stamp for
which I have a perfect
match of dots.



Pane 9, Stamp 2/7



Pane 9, Stamp 2/8



Pane 9, Stamp 2/9



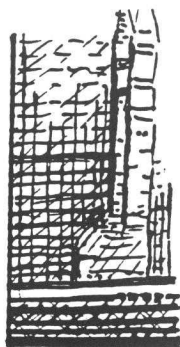
Pane 9,
Stp.2/10



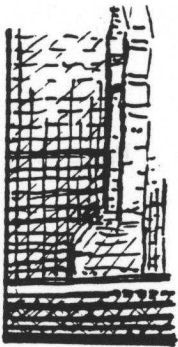
Pane
St.2/



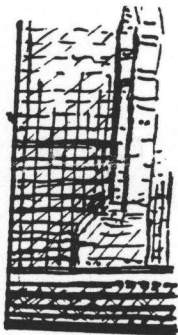
Pane 10, Stamp 2/2



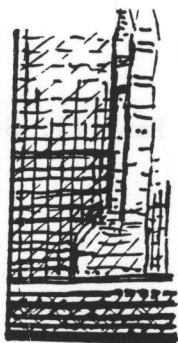
Pane 10, Stamp 2/5



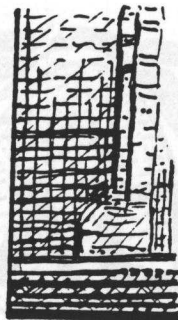
Pane 10, Stamp 2/6



Pane 10, Stamp 2/8



Pane 10
St. 2/10

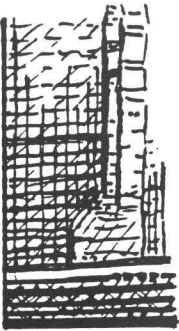




Pane 11, Stamp 2/3



Pane 11, Stamp 2/5



Pane 11, Stamp 2/6

