

# Confederation

The Newsletter of the Large and Small Queens Study Group

Number 29

April 2006

## The 5 cent on 6 cent Re-entry Explained

*John Hillson*



Illustration #1  
(Plate Markings enhanced by editor)

In the first paragraph of Chapter 4 of *Small Queens Re-appraised*, I wrote " In the March 1959 issue of the *Collectors Club Philatelist* Vol 38 #2 a well researched, logical and superbly presented article appeared by Winthrop S. Boggs proving that the 5c/6c re-entry was the result of the use of the wrong roller in repairing a Six cents plate. The article was convincing. It was also dead wrong".

It was not the first time anyone had got a piece of research into Small Queens so completely in error; it will certainly not be the last. What Winthrop Boggs did not know was that there are at least SEVEN variants of the re-entry known, and they come from two different plates.

Had he been aware of them it is highly unlikely that the above article would have been written, or at least would have had a totally different conclusion.

The well known and catalogued variety (Scott/Unitrade 43c, Gibbons 107a) is from the twin pane 'Montreal' plate Pane B Row 3 / 4. (Illustration #1)

As can be seen the major variety extends right across the top of the stamp and is particularly noticeable in the first 'A' of 'CANADA' and 'AG' of 'POSTAGE' as well as the hair, and it terminates in the left margin with the decorative pearl of the Five Cents.

(Continued on Page 2)

## 5 Cent on 6 cent Explained

(Continued from Page 1)

Peter Hurst described a second major which does not so terminate - no pearl is visible - which he believed, somewhat oddly was an earlier state of the variety, rather than a later state where wear had removed traces of the pearl. However the lines of the 5c are in a subtly different position and that variety is at a very slight slant cutting the left hand margin a shade lower than on the one illustrated.

So far a second copy has not been recorded and one can be sure neither of the plate it came from nor its position; the most likely is the same pane, pane B as a late state Pane C of the 'Montreal' plate still exists as does a late state of a complete sheet of the 'A' plate.

A third major was reported in the re-entry study group's newsletter some years ago, again position unknown, and again it is the sole recorded copy.

The 'A' plate managed to acquire no less than four versions on the variety during a repair to the plate which took place c.1892. Confined to the left half of the stamp rather than right across, the two most prominent are from Row2/10 and Row 3/1.



(Illustration #2)

The one illustrated (#2) is from the second row and has three position dots, the one on the first stamp on the third row, as usual, has none. Immediately above that position, i.e. Row 2/1 I discovered some years ago the beginning of the variety which consists just of a line about 2mm long cutting the tiara; Bill Burden found the same independently plus another similar one from another position.

Collectors of the One Cent 'Strands of Hair' may be struck by the similarity of these latter with those varieties.

How did they come about? Clearly one has to rule out the use of the wrong roller. This leaves the only plausible explanation as over-rocking of a multi denomination transfer roller.

It can't have been that there were two reliefs on the original Six Cents rollers because they were made in 1871, four years before a Five Cents was required - in any case if the printers had had such a tool there would have been no need for the use of the large Queen 5c in 1875.

Together with the One Cent 'Strands' it does point to the printers experimenting with a multi relief roller in the 1890's. Whether all six standard size Small Queen designs extant in 1892 were squeezed on to one roller, one can only surmise, but it seems likely, with two pairs of the reliefs a little too close together; the arithmetic shows it was a possibility.

While the 'A' plate varieties occurred in the 1892 (or thereabouts repair) which also resulted in the Row 3 /4 major re-entry, it is likely that the repair to the 'Montreal' plate was much later, possibly toward the end on 1895 which is why the variety *and* the three major re-entries which came from the same repair are so rare.

## The Six-Cent Large Queen - Bottom Row Re-entries, Plate 1

By: *Glenn Archer*

My story starts with a purchase I made at the Feb. 2005 Maresch Auction. It was an excellent sale for the Large Queen collector - wonderful material, all available at once, a veritable feast. I spent the better part of three days viewing, as such material rarely appears in quantity.

I bought a number of lots. I write about one in particular here - lot 779, which had three six-cent LQ singles on piece cancelled by faint 2R11 (Fredericton) numerals. The piece is pictured in Figure 1. It piqued my curiosity a bit as to why it had survived as a piece, as the left stamp is obviously faulty.

On examining it at home I discovered some very interesting things about it. Firstly, the rightmost stamp turned out to be the Pos. 93 Major Re-entry, a difficult stamp. The other two stamps were also interesting, as they also showed re-entry - the

left stamp I positively identified as Duckworth's "Unlocated 1", and the middle stamp as "Unlocated 3". The left stamp also has no position dot, indicating it is a first-column stamp.

The most exciting discovery I made was an unrecorded faint plate scratch tying the left and middle stamp together, pictured in Figure 2. Further study of the perf separations convinces me that these three stamps were actually joined together at one time, and are Positions 91, 92 and 93 respectively on the printed sheet.

Figure 3 shows a rough image of what the five re-entries at the bottom right look like (I have shown only the top outlines of the stamp for the sake of simplicity). The re-entry lines are somewhat thickened here for ease of viewing. Doubling is usually quite fine-lined on the stamps and visible only under magnification.

It is interesting to note that, at Pos. 91, most of the re-entry features appear towards the right corner and gradually move towards the left by Pos. 95.

(Continued on Page 6)

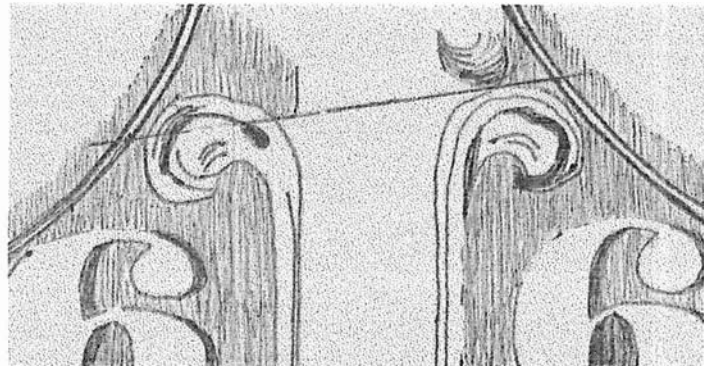


Figure 2. My amateur "artist's rendition" of the plate scratch

tying Pos. 91 and 92.



Figure 1. Three X 6 Cent Large Queens on cover piece.

## Editor's Column

Roy Sass

Recently I've been working on reviewing and remounting my Large Queens. I was fortunate to purchase several auction lots of 15c LQs which had belonged to Horace Harrison. His identifications by Firth groups helped me to correctly identify some of the stamps which I had placed in the wrong places.

Using the new Unitrade catalog as another guide, it seems that Scott 29 generally refers to the first Ottawa printings of the 15c LQ and Scott 30 generally refers to the Montreal printings plus the second Ottawa stamps.

This isn't exact since the Imperfs Scott 29d are second Ottawas. Also Scott 29a greyish purple perf 11 1/2x12 is a Montreal printing, unless Scott means the perf 11.75x12.1 which is a first Ottawa.

The notation of "many shades" for Scott 30, the 15c grey, is an understatement. I can't explain in words the differences between (1) dull purple, grey purple, grey lilac and pale violet grey, or between (2) slate, slate grey, dark blue slate and grey violet, or between (3) blue, blue grey, greyish blue and slate blue, but when placed side by side, I can see differences in shade.

I go by the theory that if one copy of a stamp is good, having two is better. For the Montreal printings, I have 10 distinct shades of purple, 12 shades of grey and

13 shades of blue. I wouldn't be surprised if there are more, but how would I know from an auction catalog description whether the stamp for sale is a shade I have or a shade I need? The problems we collectors must face!

The editors of every philatelic organization publication routinely bemoan the fact that the hobby is not attracting young collectors. Suggestions are made to have "youth tables" and "youth exhibits" at stamp shows. Let me suggest another avenue. I just ordered the 2006 editions of some Scott catalogs. When they arrive I am going to give my old copies to the Intermediate School library.

The latest editions in my local school's library are from 1997. Many school libraries do not have the money to update stamp catalogs. Donations of newer catalogs and other philatelic texts will be greatly appreciated by the librarian. Further, the 10-, 11-, and 12-year-olds are the children we need to introduce to our hobby. It can't hurt if the school library (and don't forget the high school) has current books for them to read.

I asked John Hillson to explain the 5c on 6c major re-entry, Scott 43c, and he kindly wrote the lead article for this edition of the newsletter. MEMO to the Editor of Unitrade: include an illustration of the upper left of the stamp to show the "pearl."

## Commentary

John Hillson

### Correcting Boggs

Re the last *Confederation*, the information in Boggs regarding the Canadian Bank Note Engraving and Printing Co. essay is incorrect. The company never got the contract, although they were virtually promised it, and the B.A.B.N.Co never bought them out.

What in short happened was that for political reasons, B.A.B.N.Co managed by the skin of their teeth to hang on to the stamp contract but had to agree to the CBNE& P Co quote on prices, not only for the actual printing but for the life of the plates which was virtually 3 times what had been guaranteed in 1867.

The CBNE & P Co never recovered and went bust in 1894 (3 years later) whereupon the BABNC bought up the tools and dies as bankrupt stock.

Ted Nixon and I have devoted a chapter to the saga in our forthcoming book. They are part of the Small Queens story, not the Large!

## CHAIRMAN'S COLUMN

*Ron Ribler*

Why is the Nicaragua coat of arms used to cancel stamps allegedly from the small town of St. Genevieve de Batiscan, Quebec? As far as I am aware, only 10 of these have been reported used on the three cents Small Queen. I have never seen an explanation for the conditions that existed leading to the use of a foreign coat of arms to cancel any stamp. The cancel seems to be a staple of exhibits and collections of the Small Queens. Lacelle does not list it. The only reference I have been able to find is on page 543 in Boggs. That reference describes the cancel in some detail, indicating it is found only on the three cents value, but it does not indicate where it was used. In fact, I am not sure how I came to believe the place. If memory does not fail me, as it often does, the town name probably was found in another exhibit of the 3 cents Small Queen. It occurred to me that there might be someone in the Study Group who might have more knowledge of this unusual marking. Is it possibly a private mark? Could it have been added in a later period. Is it genuine or a fantasy?



### References:

1. Boggs, W., *The Postage Stamps and Postal History of Canada*, Quarterman Publications, Inc. 1945, p. 543.
2. Lacelle, D. M., *Fancy Cancels on Canadian Stamps 1855 to 1950*, BNAPS, 2000.

## Six Cent LQ Re-entries

(Continued from Page 3)

The upper right scroll shows some doubling at all five plate positions, though, and is very sharp at Pos. 95.

It is almost certainly wear of the upper scrolls that necessitated the strengthening of the impression by re-entry.

Position 92 is most interesting. It is very similar in appearance to the Pos. 93 Major except that:

- a) The extra frame line at the bottom differs in appearance (not pictured)
- b) Pos. 93 shows weakness of the left scroll and upper right frame above "TA" of "POSTAGE" that 92 does not.

The two are easily confused as the strength of the re-entry is virtually the same. The plate scratch on 92 makes identification much easier.

Pos. 92 and 93 are the only positions that appear to show doubling of the "S" in "POSTAGE". Depending on the quality of the print, they are equally strong.

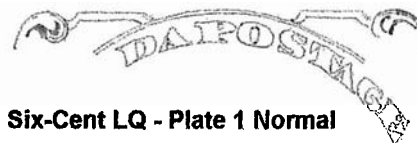
All of Pos 91 to 95 show re-entry of the "P" in "POSTAGE", specifically a doubling under the oval. The other letters are re-entered to varying degrees.

Figure 3. Positions 91 to 95, Re-entered Plate 1.

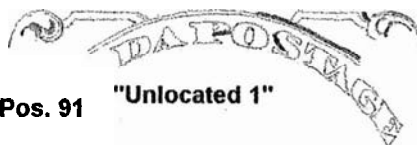
### References

Duckworth, H.E. and H.W., "The Large Queen Stamps Of Canada And Their Use 1868 - 1872", 1986, pp. 106 to 112.

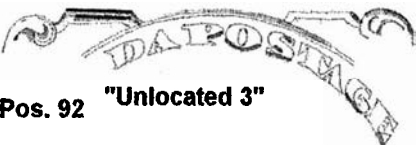
Reiche, Hans., "A Large Queen's Report", 1977, pp. 53 to 57.



Six-Cent LQ - Plate 1 Normal



Pos. 91 "Unlocated 1"



Pos. 92 "Unlocated 3"



Pos. 93 Major



Pos. 94



Pos. 95

Figure 3. Positions 91 to 95, Re-entered Plate 1.



## Answers

In response to Ben Cohen's inquiry, stitch watermarks are a "characteristic" variety of most of the earlier papers. We have seen stitch watermarks on most of the Pence and 1859 issues, a few on Small Queens and even a few on the Numeral issue. †

On the 6c Large Queen we know of ONLY TWO vertical stitch watermarks, both are defective. A GREAT RARITY! It is much rarer than normal watermark variety.

One has a vertical stitch watermark, nicely centered with a light cancel. It was repaired at UR corner. We sold this one May 2001 for C\$1,495.

The other has light diagonal creases which detract little from this extremely rare variety. We sold this for C\$699.95 in July 2004.

We know of only one stamp with a horizontal stitch watermark across the top of the stamp. We sold this in March 2005. These are all very, very rare.

John Jamieson

## Question:

John Jamieson has inquired:

I just had an inquiry from a fellow on what the EARLIEST RECORDED DATE is on the 5c Large Queen.

I went to Duckworth, expecting an easy answer, only to find that Duckworth considers the 5c to be a SMALL Queen since it was not issued until October 1, 1875.

The stamp in question is dated by what the collector claims to be "THORNBURY ONT OC 2/75" split ring cancel.

The town name is rather faint but the date is very clear. Any help in answering this question would be most appreciated.

## How To Reach Us

Chairman:

Ron Ribler,

NEW ADDRESS & PHONE  
PO Box 5451,  
Fort Lauderdale, FL 333 10,  
phone (954)968-5121,  
e-mail at [laudron@yahoo.com](mailto:laudron@yahoo.com)

Editor:

Roy Sass,  
PO Box 31054,  
Walnut Creek, CA 94598,  
e-mail [roywcca@earthlink.net](mailto:roywcca@earthlink.net)

