

# Confederation

The Newsletter of the BNAPS Large and Small Queens Study Group

Volume 44

August 2010

## The Nicolaus Schütt Small Queen Correspondence to Bolivia

Guillaume Vadeboncoeur ([guillaume@vadeboncoeur.ca](mailto:guillaume@vadeboncoeur.ca))

Nicolaus Schütt, a stamp collector from Itzehoe, Germany, lived in Sucre, Bolivia from 1892 to 1898. The city of Sucre is the constitutional capital of Bolivia and currently has a population of approximately 250,000. In 1898, the Bolivian government moved to La Paz, which could explain why Mr. Schütt left Sucre. It is my understanding that the Schütt collection included a total of approximately 200 to 250 incoming postcards and a few covers sent to him from all over the world.

Recently the following four items, originating from Canada, appeared for the first time on the philatelic market. To the best of my knowledge, Small Queen covers of postcards to Bolivia had not been recorded prior to the appearance of these four items.

The first item (Figure 1) is a 1¢ black “rosette” postcard uprated with 1¢ Small Queen, sent from Montreal on November 13, 1896 paying the 2¢ UPU postcard rate.



Figure 1: Uprated 1¢ postcard sent to Sucre, Bolivia

The three other items were all mailed on June 15, 1897 – a sure sign they were sent to Mr. Schütt in order to provide him with examples of various postal stationery items that were available at the time. This includes a 3¢ red envelope uprated with a 2¢ Small Queen in order to pay the 5¢ UPU letter rate (Figure 2). This item has a New York transit marking on the reverse. Finally, examples of the 1¢ black letter card (Figure 3) and 2¢ green letter card (Figure 4) were also uprated by 1¢ and 2¢ Small Queens in order to pay the 5¢ UPU letter rates. Both of the letter cards have a Buenos Aires, Argentina transit cancel. The letter cards did not prove to be very popular with Canadian letter writers and examples to exotic destinations are few and far between.

The Nicolaus Schütt Small Queen Correspondence to Bolivia contd.



Figure 2: Uprated 3¢ envelope sent to Sucre, Bolivia with New York backstamp



Figure 3: Uprated 1¢ letter card sent to Sucre, Bolivia with Buenos Aires backstamp

The appearance of these items is a clear reminder that we always have to be on the lookout for new items – there are still finds to be made in 2010! You never know when the next item will show up.



Figure 4: Uprated 2¢ letter card, sent to Sucre, Bolivia with Buenos Aires backstamp

**Jumbo Small Queens**

Jim McCormick

Jumbo copies of Small Queens are not uncommon. There are wide ones, tall ones, but good luck finding one that is both wide and tall with a well centered design. In the May 2010 Firby sale, a couple of jumbo Small Queens sold for more than \$200 apiece, where if not a jumbo they would have little value.

Why the fascination? It could be the quest for the finest used copy, or perhaps it's just something that impressively stands out. Figure 1 shows my finest jumbo.

I think of a jumbo stamp as mis-perforated, with the half-cent as perhaps the most common of the Small Queens. The perforating machines could not handle the small size of this stamp, so it took two passes, often resulting in the narrow / wide / narrow / wide variety found in some strips and blocks (see Figure 2).



Figure 1: Wide jumbo

Figure 2: Narrow / wide / narrow / wide

In another mis-perforation variety, it would appear that one of the perforation wheels was loose resulting in uneven or non-parallel perforations (Figure 3).



Then there are the large wing copies. After taking such care to perforate between stamps on the sheet, why not take some liberties on the sheet margin? Or perhaps the machine operator intentionally wanted to include the imprint from the sheet margin. And you may recall that the position dots below the lower left corner actually belong to the stamp to the left. A wide right margin stamp from column 10 may show its position dot (see Figure 4).

I will offer a final word of caution with those "imperforate singles", you know, the ones that are claimed to be too large to have had their perforations trimmed? Happy hunting!



Figures 3 and 4. Left: Angled perforations on stamps, probably from loose perforation wheels. Right: Jumbo one-cent showing Column 10 position dot at lower right.



### A Major Unreported Plate Flaw on the One-Cent Yellow Large Queen

Glenn Archer ([glennarcher@hotmail.com](mailto:glennarcher@hotmail.com))

A major constant plate flaw exists on the one-cent Large Queen that, to the best of my knowledge, has not been reported nor recorded in the literature. So far I can confirm seeing seven examples, all on the orange or yellow shades (Unitrade 23). Varieties on the one-cent LQ seem to be confined usually to either one or the other shade, lending some weight to the theory that two plates were made for the one-cent Large Queen issue.



I call it the “temple flaw” though others may see fit to name it as they wish. It consists of a large oval mark at the hairline of the Queen’s portrait. On clear, early examples it is defined in two parts, the lower part resembling a chevron; on later printings where the plate is worn this virtually disappears.

Yannick Cartier deserves credit for first pointing out to me an apparently unused example in Charles Firby’s April 2009 auction catalogue. I had also noticed the mark but it was his prompting that led me to research whether or not it was constant. As a Large Queen collector, it is exciting to find such a major variety 140 years after issue – it still amazes me what turns up, though the mark is definitely in a “subtle” location where it might not be readily spotted. It is probably just as rare as the Goatee variety on the three-cents (likely more so) and obviously just as important a variety for the series.

Figure 1. Temple flaw in deep orange shade.

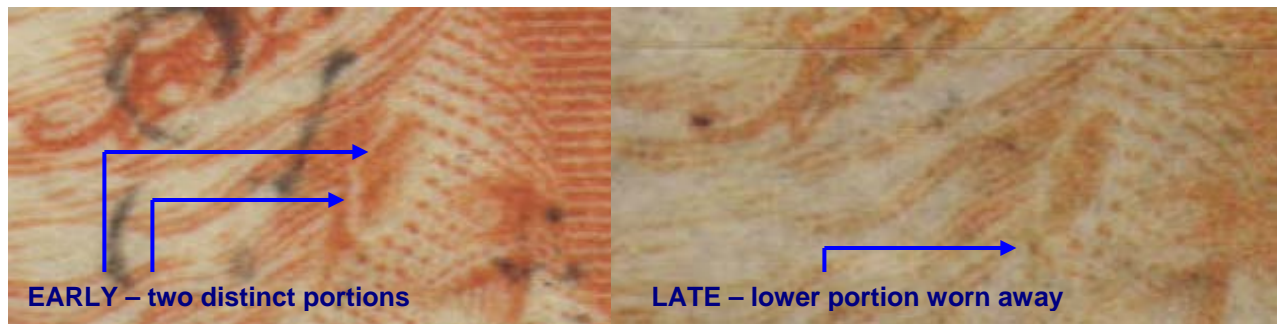


Figure 2. Early and Late states of variety. Left Stamp: shows distinct upper and lower portion. Right: Late printing, note how the lower portion of the variety has worn away.

Insufficiently Paid Small Queen Registered Covers to United States and Great Britain

Gary Steele

1. To U.S.

Some covers are challenging to explain, and this cover is a prime example. It was mailed at Tioga, Ont. MR 19 / 1885 to Broome Co., N.Y. with just a 2 cent registration stamp and a 3 cent Small Queen nicely tied with a star fancy cancel on each stamp.

Traveling by train, the cover arrived in Toronto later on the 19<sup>th</sup>. There, it was recognized as being short-paid and was marked **RETURNED FOR / DEFICIENT POSTAGE** before being forwarded to the Dead Letter Office in Ottawa, received MR 23 85 (closed circle handstamp on reverse).

The correct postage appears to be 5 cents registration fee, plus 3 cents payment for 1<sup>st</sup> half ounce and 3 cents for 2<sup>nd</sup> half ounce. At various times a registered letter short-paid was instructed to only demand simple deficiency payment. Also, should the first half ounce be fully prepaid, then due to a reciprocal agreement between the US and Canada there was to only be charged the deficient amount.

This is where the interpretation gets interesting, with the requirement that registration stamps only pay the registration fees (up to May 7 1889) and regular issue stamps to pay regular postage fees. Either way, six cents postage was paid with a 5 cent registration stamp and a 1 cent Small Queen cancelled with an Ottawa Dead Letter Office closed circle handstamp on MR 30 / 85.

With no return address included, the Dead Letter Office would have opened the letter to try to find the sender's address. If no address of sender was found a notice would be sent to the addressee to send funds for payment of deficient postage so that the item could be forwarded.



Insufficiently Paid Small Queen Registered Covers contd.

2. To Great Britain

A favourite cover of mine is this double weight registered cover to Great Britain. A five-cent registration stamp paid the registration fee and a five-cent Small Queen stamp paid the first half ounce rate. However, as it was overweight between one-half ounce and one ounce, another five cents was required to be collected.



As this was a registered letter, it was the responsibility of the postmaster to collect the correct postage.

Only the simple deficiency of 5 cents was to be collected.

Mailed from Brantford, Ont on JY 22 91 the post office imprinted RETURNED FOR / POSTAGE on the front of the envelope. Per Canada Post Office regulations it was sent to the Ottawa Dead Letter Office 24 JY 1891, opened to determine the sender, and notice then sent to collect postage of five cents. A five-cent Small Queen stamp was applied to pay the deficient postage, and cancelled by the Ottawa Dead Letter Office closed circle handstamp on 28 JY 1891.

Note once proper franking was applied the RETURNED FOR / POSTAGE gateway marking was crossed out. Transiting the Ottawa post office on JY 28 91 the letter made landfall in Manchester, Great Britain on 10 AU 91 arriving in Bakewell same day a mere 19 days later.

**Chairman's Column**

Bill Radcliffe ([bsbvp88@hotmail.com](mailto:bsbvp88@hotmail.com))

We had a great meeting at ORAPEX. I would like to thank Guillaume for his hospitality. We had nine members at the meeting: Tom Meyerhof, Bill Wegman, Jim McCormick, Gary Steele, Brian Murphy, Jim Watt, our editor Glenn Archer, and myself. The meeting went late into the night and was and was enjoyed by all. Guillaume has graciously volunteered his home for a meeting at next year's ORAPEX.

The cover I am showing below is one of the gems I found lately. According to the Arfken book, there are no Small Queen examples of International Parcel Post. This was a parcel, containing only autumn leaves, that was mailed from Peterborough, Ont. to Bedford England at the 16 cent per first pound rate.

This parcel only weighed 4oz., therefore was paid with a ten-cent and two three cent Small Queens. The cover also contains both the Canadian and English parcel tags. In comparison, the eight cent registered stamp has 17 covers going to England. This is the only parcel cover recorded going to England so in my opinion it is much rarer.



**A Note from the Editor.**

Glenn Archer ([glennarcher@hotmail.com](mailto:glennarcher@hotmail.com))

With considerable begging for articles and some generous last-minute contributions by some of our group members, we've been able to put together a good newsletter in time for BNAPEX. I thank everyone who set aside a few hours of their busy lives to keep this effort going, also those who promise they have articles in progress.

Wish I could make it to Victoria, but I cannot. With some squeezing (mostly resizing covers, sorry but it's a necessary evil!) I was able to edit to nine pages, one more than usual. It is possible we will only be able to bring you three newsletters this year, as there is always a shortage of articles in waiting. Nevertheless I hope Volume 44 is a good read for you, and, IF we get some more contributions, I'll see to it there are two more in 2010.

Some Small Queen Rarities

Vic Willson

Fig. 1 shows a triple rate cover to England. It did not receive much attention on Ebay and I picked it up quite cheaply. A look at the 10 cent SQ list however shows that there are only two covers to the UK paid with 10¢ and 5¢ recorded to date. I believe triple 5¢ covers are a bit more common, but not greatly so. It is surprising how many 10+5 covers there are to Australia and New Zealand in comparison. Probably, the UK covers were stripped more often just to get the stamps! Sent from Hamilton Dec. 15, 1884, it has a Dec. 30 Glasgow receiver on the back.

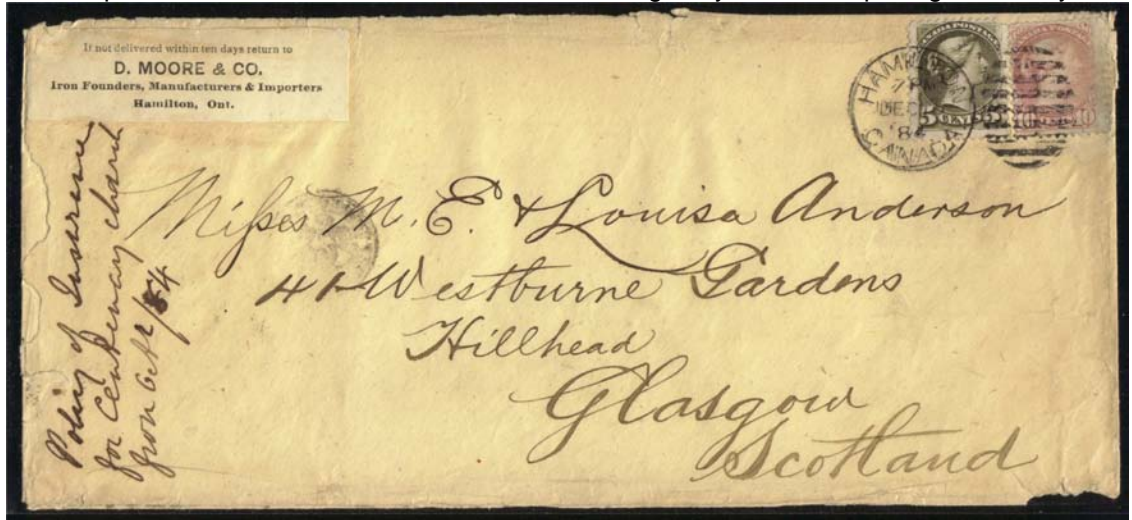


Fig. 1. Triple Rate Cover to Scotland.

Fig. 2 shows what I believe to be the only 19<sup>th</sup> century cover to British Somaliland. It went via usual UK-Mediterranean mail, likely through France to the southern coast, possibly shipped to Gibraltar, then to the Suez Canal and on to Aden. It has an Aden transit of NO 23 96. East Africa coastal packets delivered mail to the British Colonies, and it has a Berbera Nov 26 receiver. Given the Nov. 3 posting in Ottawa, the transit time to one of the less accessible places in Africa at the time is quite good. The UK, France, Germany, and even Belgium had all been angling to get to Fashoda on the Nile to control access, either north-south or east-west across Africa. British Somaliland hardly had any other redeeming qualities except access by Britain and another step in the great north-south Cape to Egypt path it desired.



Fig. 2. Canada to British Somaliland.



Some Small Queen Rarities contd.

The third item in Fig. 3 is a short paid cover to England. A short payment of 5¢ would produce a 10¢ double deficiency due, but since this was sent on Jan. 5, 1877, from Kingston (on back), the half-fine system was in place, resulting in 15¢ due. This translated to 7½d, indicated with both "MORE-TO-PAY" and 7½d manuscript as well as handstamp. Jan. 30 and 31 Birmingham handstamps indicate the receipt.



Fig. 3. Short Paid Cover to England.

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