

Confederation

The Newsletter of the BNAPS Large and Small Queens Study Group

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New ERD for Half Cent Small Queen

Vic Willson (lloydwill@aol.com)

Just when you think you have an early date, another one comes along. Perhaps a year ago I reported the earliest dated, cancelled cover for the half cent small queen at May 7, 1883. This cover came out of the Herb McNaught sale, but I am not sure Herb ever listed it. This far eclipsed the October item shown by Hillson and Nixon. I alone showed at least 3 covers in my small queen exhibit in the 1990s that had earlier dates, including a June 1885 to Norway, another June with 6 used domestically, etc. Now the cover shown below extends that date to March 5, 1883. The householder rate item was used in Moncton and has a faint but readable backstamp with the date.

George Arfken illustrated Norm Brassler's printed circular with a published date of Feb. 1, 1883, and there still is no reason to believe it is not the earliest usage, although the actual date of use cannot be verified. Typically such items were sent out close to the published date since the seller wanted them to be current for potential buyers. So, there is also reason to believe that my early date is only temporary, and we will someday see a February dated usage on cover. *Sic hoc transit gloria*, but for now Moncton reigns.



Small Queen Six Cent Neck Flaw

Jim McCormick (jim.mccormick@rogers.com)

The Neck Flaw is described by Bill Burden as “the most outstanding Plate flaw of the early Six Cent printings and one of the least common”. Earliest and latest recorded dates are May 14 and Sept 26 in 1875, and the perforations are 11.5x12 or 11.75x12.

I was lucky to find one recently in a used block of 6. Multiples of the Six Cent are particularly useful for plating, as the different plates are found to have one, two, or three position dots for each impression. The stamp with the Neck Flaw has no position dots, clearly identifying it in vertical row 1. Two position dots on each of the four stamps on the right indicate either a late state of plate 1 or an early state of plate 2.



Illustration 1: Neck flaw on top left stamp, p11^{3/4} x12,



Illustration 2: Closeup

John Hillson had identified the stamp as belong to pp 41 or pp 51 having known of a margin copy showing a small piece of the imprint at left. Yet then I found the image of a 6 cent block of 4 from the Simpson sale from Nov 18, 1980 showing the full imprint at left, and position dots that are identical to the ones in the vertical row of my block. That block was identified as belonging to the A plate. So the flaw then is confirmed as belonging to pp 41 on the A plate, and was present for a short period in 1875.

The position dots are very useful for plating on this issue. If any are aware of a study done based on the position dots, I am interested to learn more.

I thank John Hillson for answering several questions on the 6c plates, and Glenn (our editor) for seeking other opinions.

A Candidate for Earliest Known Use of the 6¢ Small Queen

Guillaume Vadeboncoeur (guillaume@vadeboncoeur.ca)

Hillson and Nixon have described and illustrated a cover mailed on January 18, 1872 as the earliest-known use of the 6¢ Small Queen, as illustrated at Figure 14.1 of their book¹.

I have owned the cover illustrated at Figure 1 below for a long time, and have semi-attempted to confirm its legitimacy on an on-and-off basis without success.

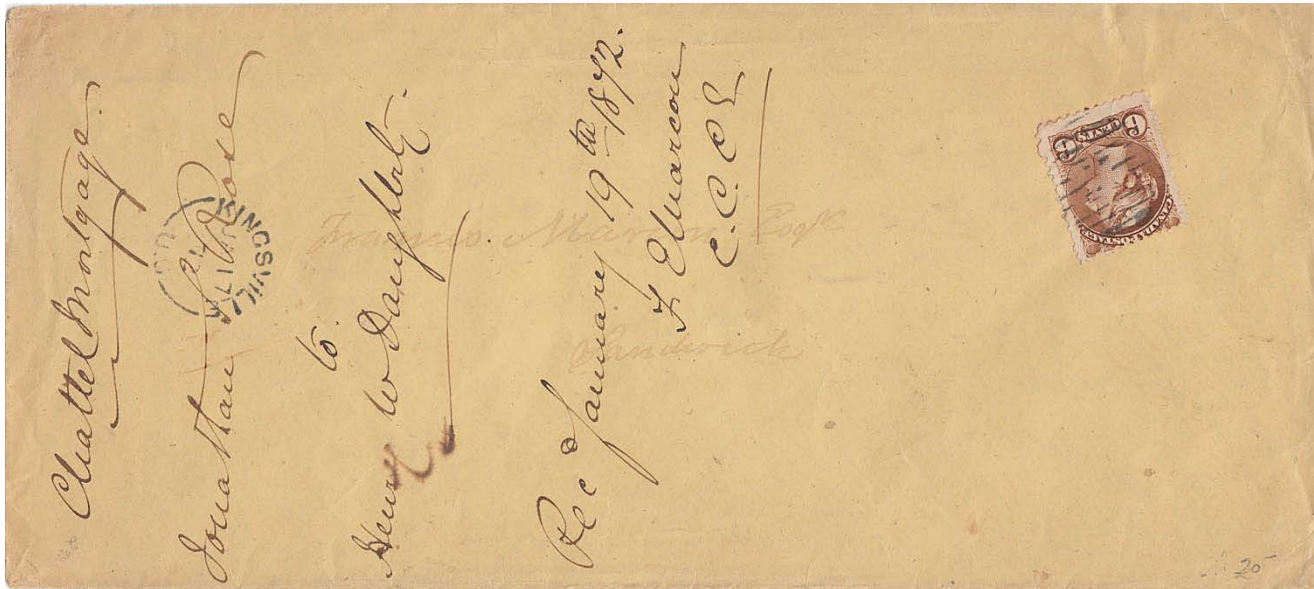


Figure 1: 6¢ Small Queen cover mailed on January 17, 1872 – a potential earliest known use

There is no question this cover was mailed on January 17, 1872, as it has a clear Kingsville, U.C. JA.17.1872 split ring cancel on the front (figure 2). In addition, there is a weak but legible arrival backstamp from Sandwich dated JA.18.1872 (figure 3). Finally, the cover has filing notes on the front indicating that the cover was related to chattel mortgage and was received on January 19, 1872.



Figure 2: Kingsville dispatch cancel dated JA.17.1872

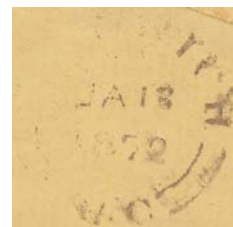


Figure 3: Sandwich arrival cancel dated JA.18.1872

The problem is that the 6¢ Small Queen stamp is not tied to the cover. So before this cover can be considered as legitimate and potentially accepted as the earliest-known use of the stamp, one must establish whether the stamp originated on this cover. This is where your help is needed. The stamp is cancelled by a potentially identifiable cancel (figure 4).

¹ *Canada's Postage Stamps of the Small Queen Era, 1870-1897*, John Hillson and J. Edward Nixon, Vincent Graves Greene Philatelic Research Foundation, 2008, p. 147.



Figure 2: Close up of the 6¢ stamp and the cancel requiring your help

I have verified my collection and I do not have other covers from Kingsville, U.C. I am asking for your help so that if you have any covers mailed from Kingsville from let's say 1868 to 1875, I would be interested in obtaining high quality scans of them. By comparing such covers and their cancels, it may be possible to confirm whether the cancel on the 6¢ stamp is indeed from Kingsville, thus confirming or refuting that the stamp belongs to the cover.

I would appreciate any comments or information which would add, support or refute any part of this write-up.

Registered Cover To Texas Bearing 15-Cent LQ

Glenn Archer, Editor (glennarcher@hotmail.com).



The following eye-catching item appeared on ebay recently and I thought it deserved a brief mention in the newsletter, having been purchased by a member of the study group. The cover represents a logical but decidedly rare 4X rate plus 5 cents registration. For authentication the barred cancel tying the stamps to the cover needs to be researched for use in Toronto as it is a bit misaligned, also there is evidence the 2c may have been moved. By January 1894 the 5 cent RLS was being withdrawn so one would expect the entire postage to be paid in stamps.

It appears to have carried evidence in a legal matter. It is unclear where the docketing UL and "Refused" overwrite was added, perhaps by receiver. The backside of this is shown on page 8.

Discovery of a 1¢ Small Queen Plate Number 2

Guillaume Vadeboncoeur (guillaume@vadeboncoeur.ca)

Hillson and Nixon have described the various Plates of the 1¢ Small Queen at Table 9.2 of their book². Figure 9.16 shows a strip from Plate 3, a 100-subject Plate with type V imprint and counter. In addition, this strip shows a large reverse numeral 3 in the upper right corner. The 3¢ value is also recorded with similar Plate numbers for Plates 1 and 2 (the 2 appears to be slightly different than on the 1¢ illustrated below, but this needs to be confirmed). Very few examples of these Plate numbers have been recorded.

The stamp illustrated at Figure 1 was recently acquired by the author and does not appear to have been recorded in any literature.

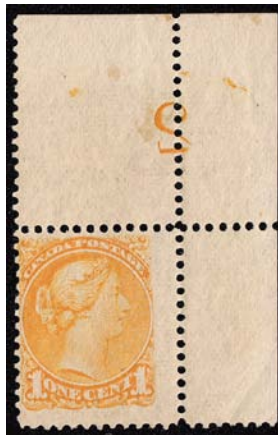


Figure 1: A new find - 1¢ Small Queen showing Plate number 2

The stamp is perforated 12 with a guide dot at lower left. Based on the characteristics of the stamp, namely the shade, the gum and the vertical weave of the paper, it appears to be from an early 1880s printing. The stamp shows a clear reversed number 2 in the upper right corner. Figure 2 illustrates a mirror image of the Plate number.



Figure 2: A mirror image of the Plate number

The size and typeface of the number 2 appear to be consistent with the number 3 as illustrated by Hillson and Nixon.

² *Canada's Postage Stamps of the Small Queen Era, 1870-1897*, John Hillson and J. Edward Nixon, Vincent Graves Greene Philatelic Research Foundation, 2008, pp. 95-98.

Table 9.2 in Hillson and Nixon mentions that “*distinction between Plates 1 and 2 [is] not clear*”. Both Plates 1 and 2 are noted as having the type IV imprint. Plate 3 is noted as having the type V imprint and a “*large 3 in right margin*”. Lastly, Plate 4 is noted as also having the type V imprint and that “*Plate exists, four not seen yet*”.

Given the similarities between the numbers 2 and 3, one has to wonder exactly which Plate carried the number 2. The arguments for the Plate listed as no. 4 by Hillson and Nixon carrying the actual Plate 2 number are several, although all circumstantial:

- The numbers 2 and 3 appear to be identical, thus may have been produced at or around the same time.
- The printing characteristics of the stamps with the number 2 and the number 3 are quite similar. They appear to have been printed during the same time period.
- I have not encountered a 1¢ stamp with the printing characteristics of this stamp showing a type IV imprint. Rather, the printing characteristics of this stamp are more likely to be encountered with a type V imprint.
- Plate 4 listed by Hillson and Nixon has not been identified, but is listed as being in the same format as Plate 3 (same location of imprint, same type of imprint). It is thus possible that this Plate carried the number 2 rather than a number 4 or some other form of identification.
- Hillson and Nixon state that distinction between Plates 1 and 2 is not clear. It could be that there is not clear identification to differentiate these Plates. If Plate 2 was not clearly identified, then it could have been easily overlooked during the preparation of the next Plates, assumed to be Plate 3 (with the number 3 inscription), and Plate 4 (with the number 2 inscription).

At this time all of the above is speculative and circumstantial. Until a definitive piece can confirm the layout and inscription of either of the Plates identified as no. 2 and 4 by Hillson and Nixon, it may not be possible to determine which Plate carried the number 2 inscription.

I would appreciate any comments or information which would add, support or refute any part of this write-up.

A Letter From The Former Chairman

Ron Ribler (laudron@yahoo.com)

Here is a note I sent to APS as a letter to the editor. I received no reply. I think that BNAPS should attack the problem and resolve the issue once and for all. Please let me know what you think.

“I am a long time collector, exhibitor, and writer about Canada’s Three Cents Small Queen. The stamp was in use for more than 27 years which resulted in many printings and varieties. The stamp is perhaps one of the more difficult to isolate in its many parts. Among the reasons for this is that of color and shade. Confusion is widespread and most collectors and dealers are unable to accurately identify the many varieties. I recommend Chapter 2 of my *Canada’s Three Cents Small Queen* to gain some understanding of the identified variations. This letter addresses a basic problem regarding color. For example, the Scott Catalogue lists 37 as *orange red* and 37c as *dull red*. Unitrade is just the opposite. Richard Morris’ *Color Guide System* shows what each named shade looks like. Scott also has the issue dates the opposite of Unitrade.

Having studied the issue for more than 40 years and learned from the experts in Canada and the US, I am convinced that the Unitrade listing is correct and Scott should make the proper adjustment.”

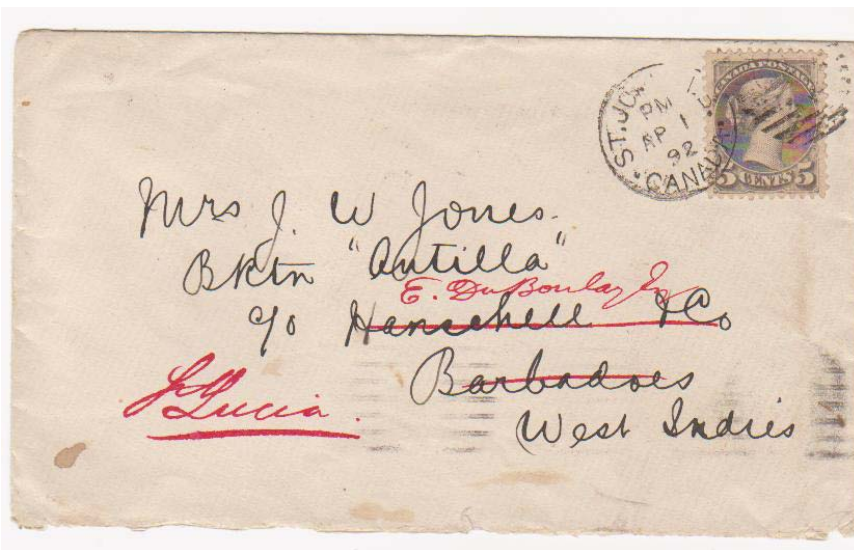
Getting Scott to make such a change can be difficult, so *caveat emptor* collectors. I would like to hear from others who may have experiences similar to mine.

Chairman's Notes

Bill Radcliffe (bsbvp88@hotmail.com)

First I would like to start out by thanking the seven members of our group that showed up at our meeting in Ottawa, which I think was a good attendance for such short notice. We need articles for future newsletters; this one has been done for a while but has been held up by me since I started a new job. So my apologies go out to the group for the delay. I look forward to see a lot of you in North Bay for the BNAPEX convention, we should have a good turn out for our meeting there I'm hoping I can talk a guest speaker into giving a talk on Small Queens there.

The cover that I'm showing here is a rare SQ cover to St. Lucia. It was mailed from Saint John NB on April 1 1892 to Barbados via New York April 3rd. The cover arrived in Barbados May 9 1892 where it was forwarded by a Barbados ship the same day and arrived in St. Lucia the next on May 10 1892. I picked this little gem up at the show in Ottawa. If any one has any inquires I can be contacted by phone (856-589-1945) or email.



Registered Cover To Texas Bearing 15-Cent LQ contd.



Continued from Page 4: Scan of reverse of cover, Sept. 23rd, Toronto ON to Texas, 15 cent plus 2c SQ, Registered. I would like to note here that anyone wishing an updated e-copy of the 15-cent LQ cover census (with several new items over the past few years) may request same and I will forward electronically. I am happy to mail one too but ask for a SASE in that event, it is a twelve-page document now.

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