

Confederation

The Newsletter of the BNAPS Large and Small Queens Study Group

Volume 59

April 2015

The PP65 'Cracked Plate' Variety On The 15 Cent Large Queen. Varieties Within The Variety

Brian Hargreaves (bhargrea@email.com)



After the Pawnbroker, and of course the Major Re-Entry, the Cracked Plate at Position 65 is probably one of the most popular constant plate varieties of the 15 Cent value. Why Unitrade should catalogue it higher than the Pawnbroker I'm not quite sure. Both are after all only found one on a sheet of 100.

Figure 1 illustrates this variety nicely, and, to my knowledge, seems to be the way it is identified in the literature and the catalogues. As can be expected, the variety shows up best in the darker shades of the #30 value. It is more difficult to spot on the violet/purple shades and on those examples where plate wear has dulled its appearance. Figure 2 is an example of this.

What I had not appreciated until recently was that there are some examples of this variety where what I can only

describe as 'ink smears' have produced a totally different appearance. When I first found a copy with this effect, I assumed it was a one-off. Over the last couple of years however I have managed to acquire two more – which clearly demonstrate constancy.

Two are illustrated here in Figures 3 and 4 to right. The spread of ink differs slightly between the two, which might suggest that the smearing reduced over time? All of my copies are #30, so I assume that this 'smearing' originated during the Montreal or second Ottawa printings. Does any other member have examples of this sub-variety, or shed any further light?



Varieties on the Half Cent Large Queen (Part 2)

Geoff Browning

This article is the second in a series on the half-cent Large Queen. (See BNA Topics fourth quarter – Whole No. 541, V.71, No.4 for first article.) In this article we examine further the block of nine discussed in the first article, noting those identifying features which will allow positioning of other examples from this corner of the sheet. Position 1 of the block (also position 1 of the sheet) exhibits a number of features besides the re-entry discussed in the first article. The first of these for our purposes (shown in Figure 1) is a black dot off the upper left corner of the design. This may be a guide dot but it is not mentioned by the Duckworths in their discussion of the laying down of the Large Queen plates (2nd edition, pp.41-42). As will be seen below in Figure 8, this dot also exists on pre-re-entry copies of sheet position 1.

Varieties on the Half Cent Large Queen (2) contd.



Figure 1. Plate Layout Dot, UL Corner, PP1. Note re-entry of scroll.



Figure 2. LL Corner, PP1. Note absence of a LL position dot, indicating first column.

The second feature to be noted on sheet position 1 is the absence of a guide dot off the lower left corner of the design (Figure 2). This feature is mentioned by the Duckworths and is shared by all ten positions in sheet column 1 in both pre- and post- re-entry printings.

The third feature to be noted is a black "spur" extending upwards from the "reversed C"-shaped curl above the "H" of "HALF" (shown below in Figure 3). This feature is referred to as progressive as the angle by which the spur separates from the curl increases gradually until it doubles over at sheet position 4 and then has broken off

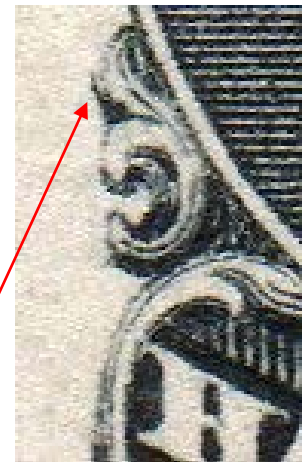


Figure 3. Spur variety at PP1, post re-entry. Note how the spur is still tight to the design; it gradually loosens away until the H-Spur variety occurs at PP4.

entirely at sheet position 95 (the next to be laid down by the transfer roll). See Duckworths (2nd edition pp.47-49) for a discussion of the order in which the sheet positions were laid down. This feature first makes its appearance at sheet position 11, then at sheet positions 1, 92 up through 2 (that is, column 2), 93 through 3 (that is, column 3) and finally 94 through 4 (that is, sheet column 4). This "spur" occurs on both pre- and post- re-entry printings.

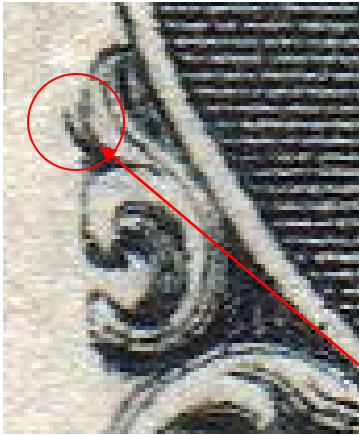
Figure 3 also shows a much shorter black "spur" extending from the black shading beneath the "reversed C"-shaped curl above the "H" of "HALF". As will be seen later, this feature also occurs on both pre- re-entry printings.

Figure 4 to right shows the salient portions of the re-entry at sheet position 1. This is repeated here from the first article for comparison purposes with pre-re-entry copies from this sheet position discussed later in this article.

Figure 4. Features of the PP1 re-entry. Note tripling of outer frameline of UL scroll, and strengthened lines of engraving in scrollwork.



Varieties on the Half-Cent Large Queen (2) *contd.*



Moving on to block position 2 (also sheet position 2), there is, of course, the black "spur" extending upwards from the "reversed C"-shaped curl above the "H" of "HALF" (shown below in Figure 5), though at a somewhat greater angle from the design. PP2 also exhibits a curved black line extending diagonally upward to the left from the frame line above the "P" of "POSTAGE". This feature is progressive as it occurs in slightly different shape and position on the sheet positions below sheet position 2. This feature exists on both pre- and post-re-entry printings, though not in exactly the same shape. This feature may have resulted from unsuccessful attempts to strengthen the frame line in the original laying down of the plate. In support of this theory is the noticeable gap in the frame line to the left of the curved black line (also indicated by an arrow in Figure 5 below). Additionally, there is a frame break of the center top oval and a faint upward line above the P of "POSTAGE" (*ed. note: see Figures 10a, 10b later in article*).

Figure 5. Spur Variety from PP2. Post re-entry. Note how the gap between spur and design increases.

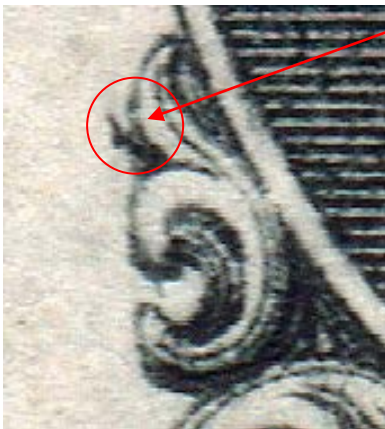


Figure 6. Spur Variety at Position 3. Note progressive separation from engraving. Post re-entry example.

Moving on to block position 3 (also sheet position 3), there is, again, the black "spur" extending upwards from the "reversed C"-shaped curl above the "H" of "HALF" (shown below in Figure 6), though again at a somewhat greater angle from the design. Block position 3 (also sheet



position 3) also shows a black triangle extending into the scroll area below, and to the left, of "1/2" (shown below in Figure 7).

Figure 7. Triangle Feature at PP3, a wedge-shaped variety that extends into scrollwork at left of "1/2". Post re-entry example.

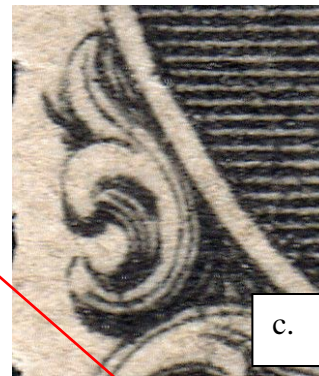
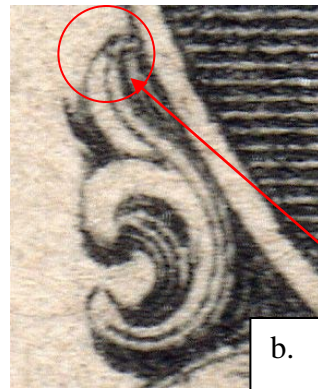
Having established a number of identifying features for sheet positions 1, 2 and 3 using a post-re-entry block with selvedge, it is now possible to identify these positions on other multiples, including pre-re-entry, as some features remained after the re-entry of the plate (which probably occurred between 1874 and 1876). The first feature considered here is PP1, which retains the UL layout dot but does not show re-entry of Figure 4. This is shown in Figure 8 to right. The LL position dot is also absent (not pictured).



Figure 8. Plate Position 1 prior to re-entry. Note UL layout dot, and absence of re-entry features present in Figure 4.

Varieties on the Half-Cent Large Queen (2) contd.

The third feature considered above for block position 1 of the post-re-entry block was a black "spur" extending upwards from the "reversed C"-shaped curl above the "H" of "HALF". Figure 9(a) below shows how this feature appears on block position 1 of the pre-re-entry block of ten.



appears on block position 1 of the pre-re-entry block of ten. Figure 9(a) also shows a much shorter black "spur" extending from the black shading beneath the "reversed C"-shaped curl above the "H" of "HALF".

Figure9 (a, b, c). The spur varieties at PP 1, 2, and 3. Pre re-entry examples. Note the T-shaped feature, circled in red, present at PP2.

Indicated by an arrow in Figure 9(b) is an inverted "T-shaped" black line cutting diagonally across the upper tip of the ornament containing the "reverse C-shaped" curl above the "H" of "HALF" at PP2.

Position 2 (Figures 10(a) and 10(b), at right) also exhibits a curved black line extending diagonally upward to the left from the frame line above the "P" of "POSTAGE" but a comparison with the post-re-entry version (10(b)) will show that the pre-re-entry version is much stronger. Also evident in 10(a) are two squiggly black lines extending diagonally upwards from, and forming a "pyramid" on, the upper frame line above the third "A" of "CANADA".



Also occurring at position 2 is a black dot just to the right of the upper edge of the design (see Figure 11 below).



Figure10 (a, b), pictured above. PP2 pre (a) and post (b) re-entry. Note how the "line above P" features are strong but gradually weaken after re-entry and progressive wear on the printing plate.

Figure 11. Dot to right of design at PP2, which largely disappears post re-entry.

Varieties on the Half-Cent Large Queen (2) contd.

Figure 12. Wedge-shaped triangle present below value tablet, PP3. Pre re-entry.

Appearing at block position 3 of the pre-re-entry block of ten is a black triangle protruding into the scroll line area to the left of "1/2" just below the base of the "1" (see Figure 12 to left).

This concludes our examination of sheet positions 1, 2 and 3 in their pre- and post- re-entry states – this re-entering being in reference to sheet positions 1, 11 and 21 but affecting other positions as well, for example, sheet position 2 as detailed above. I hope that you have found this examination of the first three sheet positions interesting and that you will look forward to further articles covering the rest of the sheet. However, I should add that I do not believe that every sheet position is amenable to plating.

I should also note that some of the varieties identified in this article are listed in catalogues (e.g., Unitrade Specialized Catalogue of Canadian Stamps) and handbooks (e.g., The Large Queen Stamps of Canada and Their Use, Second Edition, by H.E. and H.W. Duckworth). Those covered in this article include the "line over P of POSTAGE" – Unitrade 21ii), "spur" in scroll left of H" – Unitrade 21 iv) and "re-entry in UL corner (pos 1, pos 11)" – Unitrade 21ix). However, most of the varieties identified in this and subsequent articles have not, to the best of my knowledge, been identified in the philatelic literature.

An Alternate Six-Cent Small Queen Plate "A" Theory And Guideline to Plating the Stamp

Glenn Archer and Jim Watt* (phil-lately@wattxray.com)

* *Primary author to whom correspondence should be addressed.*

In Confederation vol. 58, a well-presented theory was put forth providing evidence for a fifth six-cent plate. The purpose of this article is not necessarily to refute this theory, rather its purpose is to provide observations as to how a four plate theory can make sense and provide guidance to future six-cent plate researchers. Furthermore, this article is intended to be an overview outlining how the first plate (Plate "A") was re-entered during its life, and to provide a guide for further plating research.

The first Six-Cent plate had an "A" check letter added to it early during its life. A second plate was prepared during this time but only saw brief use during early 1874; this is known as the "Ghostly Head" plate. Its LL guide dots are completely different, thus is excluded from the discussion here. The other two plates, the "B" and "C" plates, were prepared and used for Second Ottawa (post-1888) printings. The "A" plate was revived for use around 1894.

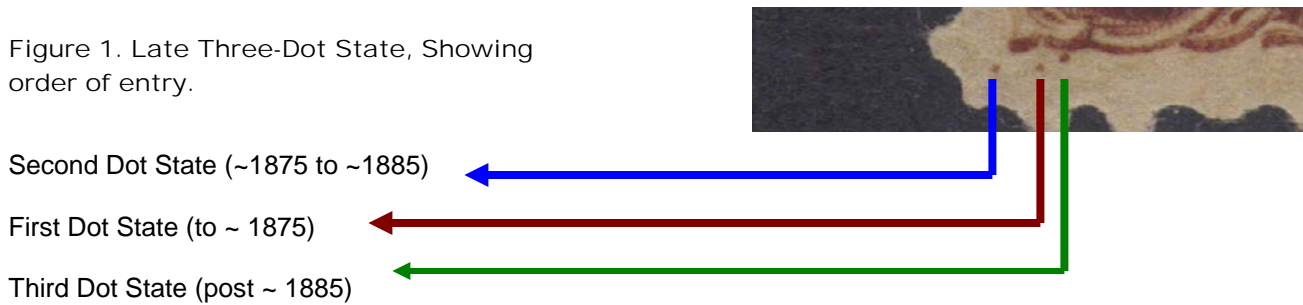
The imaging of the three-dot state of the complete 100-subject "A" plate, made available courtesy of Brigham Auctions and Ralph Trimble's www.re-entries.com website, has renewed some interest in this complicated plating exercise and it is hoped that future researchers find this article a starting point for a complete study.

1. The Key to Understanding the "A" Plate

The "A" plate appears to have been extensively burnished and re-entered twice during its life, once around late 1875 and once around 1885. The order of re-entry can be tracked by lower left position dots as follows:

An Alternate Six-Cent Small Queen Plate "A" Theory contd.

Figure 1. Late Three-Dot State, Showing order of entry.



This order of entry can be used to determine the majority of plate positions and states. There are some exceptions to the rule, described below.

- a. Second Column stamps: The first column stamps appear not to have been burnished during the second extensive re-entry. Position dots appear as a result of entering *the stamp to the left*, that is to say the position dot for the stamp at pp1 appears under pp2. Column 2 stamps, therefore, do not exhibit a three-dot state.
- b. Plate Position 15: This position shows *two* position dots in its first state, three in its second and four in its third state.
- c. Plate Positions 90, 99: Show *no* position dot in first state, one in the second and two in the third state. This suggests that both positions were perhaps burnished early in the life of the plate, removing the first position dot, and that a variety may exist on the earliest examples of these plate positions.
- d. Position 67, the Major Re-Entry: The major re-entry exists on the earliest printings of the Six Cent and disappears from the plate around 1874. There exists, however, evidence that the position was burnished out (removing the position dot) and re-entered prior to 1874. A pair is known on cover showing the repaired state; interestingly, traces of the major re-entry remain and no discernible position dot is observed. The repair to the pp67 major appears to have occurred specially (perhaps during use of the Ghostly Head plate) before the overhaul of the plate in 1875. Thus position 67 can be summarized existing in four states:
 - 1a. Major Re-entry present, one position dot, 1st dot state.
 - 1b. Major Re-entry corrected, no position dot (possibly weaker trace remains), 1st dot state.
 - 2. Major Re-entry absent, one position dot, 2nd dot state.
 - 3. Major Re-entry absent, two position dots, 3rd dot state
- e. The Demi-Major Re-Entry, pp. 48: This position was also burnished out in the 1873-74 period, thus the 2nd dot state shows only one position dot and the 3rd dot state shows only two.

The attached strip of four (courtesy John Hillson, reproduced from Confederation #58) plates as pp 47 to 50, State 2 according to this theory.



An Alternate Six-Cent Small Queen Plate "A" Theory *contd.*



The third dot state of PP48 is pictured to left (courtesy Ralph Trimble's website, from the full sheet ex. Brigham). Note how the position dots are lower relative to the stamp image than other positions in the design. The "jump" at PP 48, which continues to the third dot state, lends credence to the theory that the "A" plate was used exclusively until the "B" and "C" plates were prepared.

2. Understanding the Travelling guide dots

The 3rd dot state of the plate is especially challenging to interpret. The State 1 and State 2 position dots both migrate downward and infinitesimally to the right after the second overhaul. This suggests that the second extensive re-entry to the plate shows an upward shift of the entire stamp engraving (save for the first column), though the relationship between the 1st and 2nd position dots remains exact. Nothing in our study of engraving can explain this shift of position dots relative to the LL margin, yet the observation is there nonetheless and the relationship between position dots remains constant.



3. Explaining Plate Positions 10 and 67

Pictured to left is PP10, Third dot state (image courtesy Ralph's website, from the full sheet ex. Brigham). Despite a new entry at this position, a trace of a third position dot remains.

Pictured below is the third dot state of PP67, again courtesy of Ralph's website and ex. Brigham. Note how the stamp image is "jumped" relative to its neighbours, and that the stamp shows only two position dots. The left dot, relative to the stamp, is positioned farther away from the design than any example on the sheet of 100.

Summary

In a three-dot state, visualize the middle dot as the first state of the plate, the leftmost dot as the second state and the right hand dot as the last added. The position dots migrate downward and slightly to the right between the second and third dot state, although the authors can furnish no good explanation for the migration. There are several positions showing single position dots in the 1875-1885 period (second-dot state).



Chairman's Notes

Bill Radcliffe (confederationbnaps@gmail.com)

I would like to start this newsletter asking for articles so if anyone has something for us please sent it so we can get the summer newsletter out on time.

The study group will be meeting at 6:30 PM May 2nd the night of ORAPEX at Guillaume Vadeboncoeur's house in Ottawa. I would like to thank Guillaume and his wife Annelise for their hospitality; this is the seventh year they have hosted this meeting. Here is his email address to confirm guillaume@vadeboncoeur.ca or to get directions. Or you may contact me.

So far this year your chairman has purchased a few nice things, this is one of them: a block of nine of the 12 ½ cent Large Queen with 2R1 numeral cancels on it. I bought it for the numeral cancels, but the block turned out to be more important as a position piece. Jim Watt pointed out to me the block proves that there are at least two "missing frame line on left value tablet" stamps in the pane of 100, both circled in orange at right, i.e. the stamp in the upper right corner and lower right corner are both missing frame lines. According to Jim, this block would be a key piece to help plate the 12 ½ cent Large Queen. If any members have other large pieces of this value, please feel free to send me (or the editor) scans of them. If anyone has any inquires I can be contacted by phone (856-589-1945) or email bsbvp88@hotmail.com.



Newsletter contact information:

General enquiries: confederationbnaps@gmail.com

Chairman:

Bill Radcliffe, 500 Columbia Ave., Pitman NJ 08071 U.S.A.
Email: bsbvp88@hotmail.com, Ph. (856) 589-1945

Editor:

Glenn Archer, 295 Sunnyside Ave., Toronto ON M6R 2R1 CANADA
Email: glennarcher@hotmail.com