

CANADA: THREE CENT SMALL QUEEN

Printing Classes – The Montreal Period – 1873 To 1888

Synopsis

PURPOSE OF THE EXHIBIT:

This exhibit illustrates and describes the results of printing the 3 cent Small Queen in terms of colour variation, paper type and perforations during the period 1873 to 1888 known as the “Montreal” printing period. An emphasis is placed on colours and shades related to a given printing class.

TREATMENT:

The three cent Small Queen was issued over a period of 27 years. Shoemaker identified 37 printing classes covering the 27 years of the issue. Each printing class represents the combination of a perforation, paper type, mesh type and colour.

Hillson and Nixon state that, “the most interesting features of the stamp are its range of shades, range of papers, and range of perforations...”

In the time period from September 1873 to September 1888, twenty eight printing classes were identified by Shoemaker and other researchers

The structure of the exhibit is based upon the chronological order of the printing classes as defined by Shoemaker and revised by Ribler. There are some additional revisions to this classification scheme based upon observations by experts over the years.

Shade variations are an important part of the exhibit presentation. The key shade is provided by the colour guide developed by Morris. Sub-shades are included in the exhibit to illustrate the printing classes.

Since no government or printer records are available on the issue, the comprehensive study by Shoemaker provides a foundation for this exhibit. Additionally, there are no known exhibits that extend the work of Shoemaker with stamps and accompanying narrative.

It is important to build upon previous efforts to define printing classes and to provide those whose philatelic interest is the 3 cent Small Queen with additional information and reference material to aid in the study of the 3 cent Small Queen.

KNOWLEDGE, STUDY AND RESEARCH:

The exhibitor has made the 3 cent Small Queen a subject of research and study for 10 years. All of the research has been “secondary” relying on work and opinions expressed in newsletters, books, exhibits and catalogues.

RARITY AND CONDITION:

With the exception of a small number of items, as noted, few of the items in this exhibit merit a designation of “rare”. However, many of the items have proven difficult to obtain because very specific dated stamps are required to represent a printing class.

Additionally, illustrating the printing classes required material that represented each printing class in terms of perforation, mesh direction, paper type and shade variations.

There are subtle shade differences between the printing classes and even within a class. Therefore, to accurately specify a given shade was sometimes difficult. Obtaining mint examples for some of the printing classes was particularly difficult. Consequently, not all classes are represented by mint stamps.

The material in this exhibit was obtained from numerous sources. However, some required material seldom becomes available. The exhibitor continually searches for material to enhance the exhibit and to upgrade the condition of material.

WHAT IS PRESENTED:

Represented with one or more examples are the printing classes from 1873 to 1888, known as the “Montreal” printing period. A variety of formats are used. Single stamps, multiples and stamps on cover are used. Particular emphasis is on the use of dated copies. Dated stamps help place the stamp in the appropriate printing class.

Covers are used to represent a dated stamp. The postal regulations of the time prohibited striking the date on the stamp. Therefore in many cases the date appears only on the cover.