

THE CANADIAN STAMP PERFORATION CHANGE OF 1962

© Copyright 2016, 2015, 2014, 2013, 2012 Julian J. Goldberg

The Canadian Stamp Perforation Change of 1962

Over fifty years ago, an interesting and overlooked change in the perforation gauge and in the size of perforation holes on Canadian Elizabethan postage stamps first occurred sometime from middle to late 1962. It affected most Canadian Bank Note Company (CBN) line perforated perforation gauge 12 postage stamps from 1962 until 1974 which was when Canadian stamps were last line perforated gauge 12. Perforation gauge 12 (11.94) has been used on Canadian stamps that were issued since around 1862 so that the year of 1962 marked around 100 years of its use. Thus, perforation 12 (11.94) is so far the longest used Canadian stamp perforation gauge measurement from 1862 to 1968.

The perforation gauge 12 measurement was changed from around 11.94 perforations per two centimeters for the old perforations to around 11.85 perforations per two centimeters for the new perforations. The new perforation holes were slightly larger and wider in size than the old perforation holes. The new perforation holes were cleaner cut and rounder than the old perforation holes. The new perforation holes were perforated across in straighter lines than the old perforation holes. This all occurred because new rotary perforating machines that had new rotary perforating wheels started to supplement and/or replace the existing old worn rotary perforating machines that had old worn rotary perforating wheels. The American Bank Note Company (ABN) and its subsidiary the Canadian Bank Note Company (CBN) had for some time used rotary wheel perforating machines with rotary perforating wheels that line perforated postage stamps in which the perforations unevenly cross each other at the corners so that they mostly do not meet perfectly. Also, there is mostly no alignment nor correspondence between the perforations in different parallel rows in that the perforations in one row do not line up exactly straight with the perforations in another row across. For an American Bank Note Company rotary wheel perforator, see U.S. patent number 1,120,753.

This change was first noticed on the “Victoria Centenary” commemorative stamp which was first issued on August 22, 1962 with most stamps gauging around the older 11.94 and with some stamps gauging around the newer 11.85. In order to accommodate the new slightly wider pins on the top rotary perforating wheels and their equally corresponding new slightly wider holes on the bottom rotary perforating wheels, a slight change increase in the diameter and circumference of the rotary perforating wheels occurred. The older rotary perforating wheels had a slightly smaller diameter and circumference and the newer rotary perforating wheels had a slightly larger diameter and circumference while both the older and the newer rotary perforating wheels had the same number of pins and holes on them. Thus, the older wheels gave a gauge of around 11.94 perforations per two centimeters and the newer wheels gave a gauge of around 11.85 perforations per two centimeters. See: “CBN Perforating” note in The Unitrade Specialized Catalogue of Canadian Stamps 2016 on the bottom right-hand side of page 148 for a catalogue reference referring to this new perforation.

The older rotary wheel perforator had a perforating wheel diameter of around 4 1/32" (4.03125") which gave it a perforating wheel circumference of around 12.66" (12 2/3"?) and it had 192 pins or holes around its perforating wheel circumference [1]. This gave it a gauge of around 11.94 perforations per two centimeters. The newer rotary wheel perforator had a perforating wheel diameter of around 4 1/16" (4.0625") which gave it a perforating wheel circumference of around 12.76" (12 3/4"?) and it had 192 pins or holes around its perforating wheel circumference [2]. This gave it a gauge of around 11.85 (11.86?) perforations per two centimeters. (See page 5.)

To get the new 11.85 perforation, new rotary wheel perforators with new perforating wheels had to be made since only reducing the number of pins or holes by one or two pins or holes on the old perforating wheels, while keeping the same wheel diameter and circumference of the old rotary wheel perforators, would have given perforation 11.88 and perforation 11.81 which are not at all perforation 11.85 which falls in between both of them. Thus, the wheels on the old rotary wheel

[1] The Philatelic Gazette, “Fake Perforations”, J.B. Leavy, May 1918, Page 154. [(“ = inches)]

[2] Stamps, “Perforation Spacing on the 1908-19 Issue”, November 23, 1935, Page 310.

The Canadian Stamp Perforation Change of 1962

perforators were not changed to produce the new perforations. If it was the same number of old pins and holes being replaced with the same number of new pins and holes on the wheels of the old rotary wheel perforators which had the same diameter and circumference, then the gauge measurement would have stayed the same and would not have changed.

With regards to the new perforating machines, they were the newer automatic sheet-fed two-way direction rotary wheel L-perforators that were supplementing and/or replacing the older hand-fed sheet-fed one-way direction rotary wheel perforators. An L-perforator allowed stamp sheets to be perforated faster together in one machine with a horizontal or vertical rotary perforating unit that was interconnected by an L-shaped (perpendicular) automatic conveyor belt system to a vertical or horizontal rotary perforating unit which replaced separately hand-feeding one stamp sheet at a time into one rotary perforator for the horizontal or vertical perforations and then separately hand-delivering and hand-feeding one stamp sheet at a time into another rotary perforator for the vertical or horizontal perforations which took longer to do and was more prone to error. L-perforators were manufactured by John McAdams & Sons, Inc., Norwalk, CT., U.S.A. [1]. (See page 5.)

Besides this change affecting the perforation gauge measurement and the perforation hole size of the 1962 “Victoria Centenary” commemorative stamp (with its red vignette which is usually not found printed well-centered in stamps with the old perforations as it is in stamps with the new perforations), there are several Canadian stamps that were also affected by this perforation change in that there are several same looking Canadian stamps with two different perforation measurements from two different types of perforators, the older 12 (11.94) and the newer 12 (11.85). (See page 5.)

The following stamps have been found with both the old perforation 12 (11.94) and the new perforation 12 (11.85) since they were all printed and perforated before, during and/or after 1962:

- 1) 1952 “Canada Goose” 7 cents blue definitive stamp: Some plate 1 has new perforation 12 (11.85) while most plate 1 has old perforation 12 (11.94) [11-03-1952 to 03-11-1964]. (See page 6.)
 - 2) 1952 “Canada Goose” 7 cents blue definitive stamp: Some plate 2 has new perforation 12 (11.85) while most plate 2 has old perforation 12 (11.94) [11-03-1952 to 03-11-1964]. (See page 7.)
 - 3) 1953 “Totem Pole” 1 dollar grey definitive stamp: Some plate 1 has new perforation 12 (11.85) while most plate 1 has old perforation 12 (11.94) [02-02-1953 to 06-14-1963]. (See page 8.)
 - 4) 1953 “Totem Pole” 1 dollar grey definitive stamp: Some plate 2 has new perforation 12 (11.85) while most plate 2 has old perforation 12 (11.94) [02-02-1953 to 06-14-1963]. (See page 9.)
 - 5) 1953 “Textile Industry” 50 cents green definitive stamp: Some plate 1 has new perforation 12 (11.85) while most plate 1 has old perforation 12 (11.94) [11-02-1953 to 02-08-1967]. (See page 10.) [Note: So far, this stamp with plate 2 has only been found with old perforation 12 (11.94).]
 - 6) 1954 “Queen Elizabeth II - Wilding Portrait” 2 cents green definitive stamp: All plate 20 has new perforation 12 (11.85) while all plates from 1 to 19 have old perforation 12 (11.94) [06-10-1954 to 05-02-1963] [1962?]. (See page 11.)
-

[1] The Norwalk Hour Special Edition, “A Brief History of John McAdams & Sons, Inc.”, August 12, 1958, Page 15.

The Canadian Stamp Perforation Change of 1962

7) 1954 “Queen Elizabeth II – Wilding Portrait” 4 cents violet definitive stamp: Some plate 19 has new perforation 12 (11.85) while most plate 19 and all plates from 1 to 18 have old perforation 12 (11.94) [06-10-1954 to 02-04-1963] [1962?]. (See page 12.)

8) 1954 “Gannet” 15 cents grey definitive stamp: Some plate 4 has new perforation 12 (11.85) while most plate 4 and all plates from 1 to 3 have old perforation 12 (11.94) [04-01-1954 to 10-30-1963] [1960?]. (See page 13.)

9) 1955 “Inuk and Kayak” 10 cents brown definitive stamp: Some plate 3 has new perforation 12 (11.85) while most plate 3 has old perforation 12 (11.94) [02-21-1955 to 02-08-1967]. (See page 14.)

10) 1955 “Inuk and Kayak” 10 cents brown definitive stamp: Some plate 4 has new perforation 12 (11.85) while most plate 4 has old perforation 12 (11.94) [02-21-1955 to 02-08-1967]. (See page 15.)

11) 1955 “Inuk and Kayak” 10 cents brown definitive stamp: All plate 5 has new perforation 12 (11.85) while all plates from 1 to 2 have old perforation 12 (11.94) [02-21-1955 to 02-08-1967] [1966?]. (See page 16.)

12) 1956 “Paper Industry” 20 cents green definitive stamp: Most plate 4 has new perforation 12 (11.85) while some plate 4* and all plates from 1 to 3 have old perforation 12 (11.94) [06-07-1956 to 02-08-1967] [1963?]. [*Plate 4 plate blocks with old perforation 12 (11.94) are rare.] (See page 17)

13) 1956 “Chemical Industry” 25 cents red definitive stamp: Some plate 1 has new perforation 12 (11.85) while most plate 1 has old perforation 12 (11.94) [06-07-1956 to 02-08-1967]. (See page 18.) [Note: So far, this stamp with plate 2 has only been found with old perforation 12 (11.94).]

14) 1962 “Victoria Centenary” 5 cents black and red commemorative stamp: Some plate 1 has new perforation 12 (11.85) while most plate 1 has old perforation 12 (11.94) [08-22-1962 to 08-31-1962]. (See page 19.)

15) 1963 “Queen Elizabeth II – Cameo Issue” 1 cent brown booklet pane definitive stamp: Most have old perforation 12 (11.94) while some have new perforation 12 (11.85) [05-15-1963 to 02-1967]. (See page 20.)

16) 1963 “Queen Elizabeth II – Cameo Issue” 2 cents green miniature pane definitive stamp: Most have new perforation 12 (11.85) while some have old perforation 12 (11.94) [05-02-1963 to 02-1967]. (See page 21.)

17) 1963 “Queen Elizabeth II – Cameo Issue” 4 cents red booklet pane definitive stamp: Most have old perforation 12 (11.94) while some have new perforation 12 (11.85) [05-15-1963 to 02-1967]. (See page 22.)

18) 1963 “Queen Elizabeth II – Cameo Issue” 5 cents blue booklet pane definitive stamp: Most have old perforation 12 (11.94) while some have new perforation 12 (11.85) [05-15-1963 to 03-1967]. (See page 23.)

19) 1962 “Queen Elizabeth II – Cameo Issue” 5 cents blue miniature pane definitive stamp: Most have new perforation 12 (11.85) while some have old perforation 12 (11.94) [10-03-1962 to 02-08-1967]. (See page 24.)

The Canadian Stamp Perforation Change of 1962

20) 1962 “Queen Elizabeth II – Cameo Issue” 5 cents blue tagged definitive stamp: Most have old perforation 12 (11.94) while some have new perforation 12 (11.85) [10-03-1962 to 02-08-1967]. (See page 25.)

21) 1963 “Canadian Exports” 1 dollar red definitive stamp: Some plate 1 has new perforation 12 (11.85) while most plate 1 has old perforation 12 (11.94) [06-14-1963 to 02-08-1967]. (See page 26.)

22) 1967 “Centennial Issue” 5 cents blue booklet pane definitive stamp: Most have new perforation 12 (11.85) while some have old perforation 12 (11.94) [03-1967 to 11-01-1968]. (See page 27.)

23) 1935 “Fourth Postage Due Issue” 1 cent violet definitive stamp: Some plate 1 has new perforation 12 (11.85) while most plate 1 has old perforation 12 (11.94) [10-14-1935 to 02-08-1967]. (See page 28.)

24) 1935 “Fourth Postage Due Issue” 2 cents violet definitive stamp: Some plate 2 has new perforation 12 (11.85) while most plate 2 has old perforation 12 (11.94) [09-09-1935 to 02-08-1967] [1963?]. (See page 29.) [Note: So far, this stamp with plate 1 has only been found with old perforation 12 (11.94).]

25) 1965 “Fourth Postage Due Issue” 3 cents violet definitive stamp: Some plate 1 has new perforation 12 (11.85) while most plate 1 has old perforation 12 (11.94) [04-1965 to 02-08-1967]. (See page 30.)

26) 1935 “Fourth Postage Due Issue” 4 cents violet definitive stamp: Some plate 1 has new perforation 12 (11.85) while most plate 1 has old perforation 12 (11.94) [07-02-1935 to 02-08-1967]. (See page 31.)

27) 1948 “Fourth Postage Due Issue” 5 cents violet definitive stamp: Some plate 1 has new perforation 12 (11.85) while most plate 1 has old perforation 12 (11.94) [08-11-1948 to 02-08-1967]. (See page 32.)

28) 1957 “Fourth Postage Due Issue” 6 cents violet definitive stamp: Some plate 1 has new perforation 12 (11.85) while most plate 1 has old perforation 12 (11.94) [01-16-1957 to 02-08-1967]. (See page 33.)

29) 1935 “Fourth Postage Due Issue” 10 cents violet definitive stamp: Some plate 1 has new perforation 12 (11.85) while most plate 1 has old perforation 12 (11.94) [09-16-1935 to 02-08-1967]. (See page 34.)

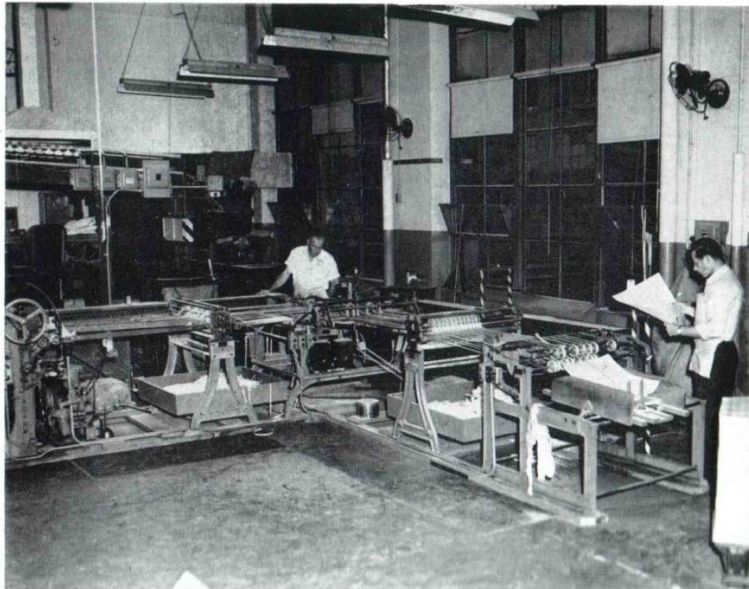
All tagged, fluorescent, hibrite, shades, official overprints and any other such varieties of any of the above stamps may potentially have new perforation 12 (11.85). However, they have all been found so far with only old perforation 12 (11.94), except for the 1963 “Queen Elizabeth II – Cameo Issue” 5 cents blue tagged definitive stamp which has been found with both old perforation 12 (11.94) and new perforation 12 (11.85). (See page 25.)

This philatelic listing of these different stamps is as complete as possible at this time. However, the search is ongoing so that it is still possible that more such perforation change stamps may be found. Thus, anyone can make any new discovery that may be added to this perforation listing at any time.

The Canadian Stamp Perforation Change of 1962



Old Rotary Wheel Perforators: Old Perforation 12 (11.94)



New Rotary Wheel L-Perforator: New Perforation 12 (11.85)

The Canadian Stamp Perforation Change of 1962



Old Perforation 12 (11.94)



New Perforation 12 (11.85)

The Canadian Stamp Perforation Change of 1962

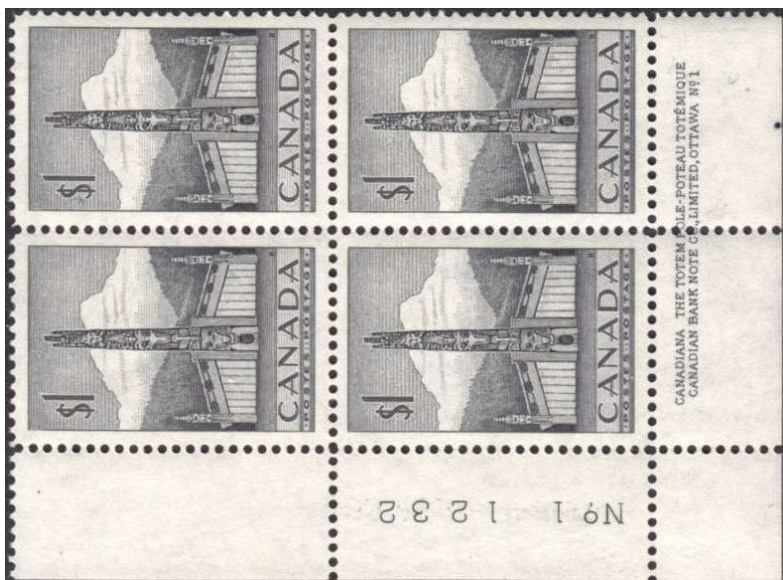


Old Perforation 12 (11.94)

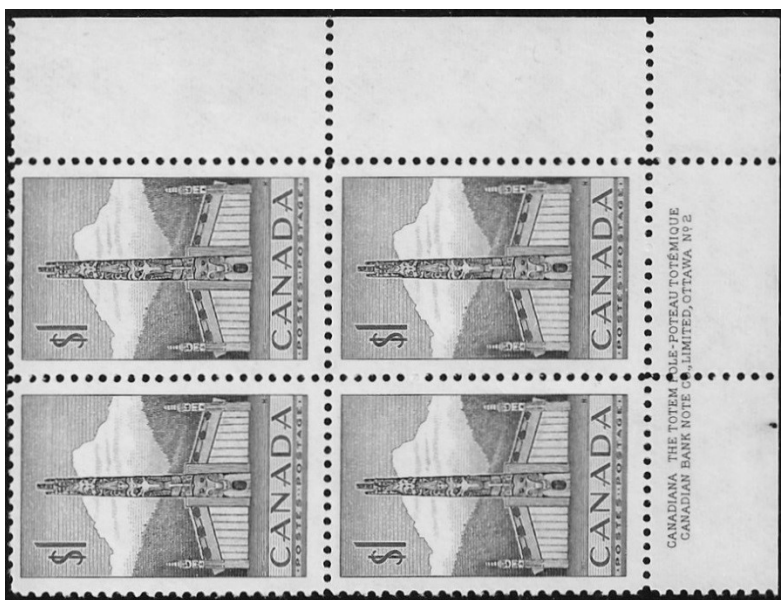


New Perforation 12 (11.85)

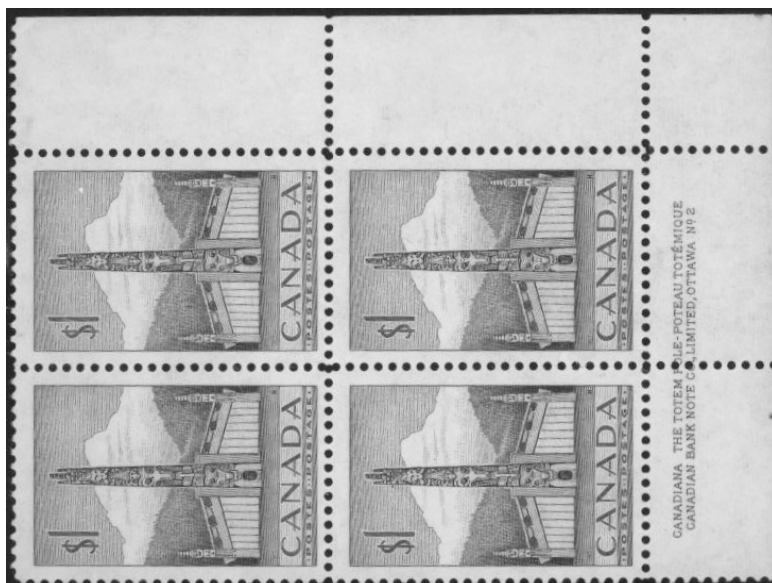
The Canadian Stamp Perforation Change of 1962



The Canadian Stamp Perforation Change of 1962



Old Perforation 12 (11.94)



New Perforation 12 (11.85)

The Canadian Stamp Perforation Change of 1962



Old Perforation 12 (11.94)



New Perforation 12 (11.85)

The Canadian Stamp Perforation Change of 1962



Old Perforation 12 (11.94)



New Perforation 12 (11.85)

The Canadian Stamp Perforation Change of 1962



Old Perforation 12 (11.94)



New Perforation 12 (11.85)

The Canadian Stamp Perforation Change of 1962



Old Perforation 12 (11.94)



New Perforation 12 (11.85)

The Canadian Stamp Perforation Change of 1962



Old Perforation 12 (11.94)



New Perforation 12 (11.85)

The Canadian Stamp Perforation Change of 1962



Old Perforation 12 (11.94)



New Perforation 12 (11.85)

The Canadian Stamp Perforation Change of 1962



Old Perforation 12 (11.94)



New Perforation 12 (11.85)

The Canadian Stamp Perforation Change of 1962



Old Perforation 12 (11.94)



New Perforation 12 (11.85)

The Canadian Stamp Perforation Change of 1962



Old Perforation 12 (11.94)



New Perforation 12 (11.85)

The Canadian Stamp Perforation Change of 1962



Old Perforation 12 (11.94)



New Perforation 12 (11.85)

The Canadian Stamp Perforation Change of 1962



Old Perforation 12 (11.94)



New Perforation 12 (11.85)

The Canadian Stamp Perforation Change of 1962



Old Perforation 12 (11.94)



New Perforation 12 (11.85)

The Canadian Stamp Perforation Change of 1962



Old Perforation 12 (11.94)



New Perforation 12 (11.85)

The Canadian Stamp Perforation Change of 1962



Old Perforation 12 (11.94)



New Perforation 12 (11.85)

The Canadian Stamp Perforation Change of 1962



Old Perforation 12 (11.94)



New Perforation 12 (11.85)

The Canadian Stamp Perforation Change of 1962



Old Perforation 12 (11.94)



New Perforation 12 (11.85)

The Canadian Stamp Perforation Change of 1962



Old Perforation 12 (11.94)



New Perforation 12 (11.85)

The Canadian Stamp Perforation Change of 1962



Old Perforation 12 (11.94)



New Perforation 12 (11.85)

The Canadian Stamp Perforation Change of 1962



Old Perforation 12 (11.94)



New Perforation 12 (11.85)

The Canadian Stamp Perforation Change of 1962



Old Perforation 12 (11.94)



New Perforation 12 (11.85)

The Canadian Stamp Perforation Change of 1962



Old Perforation 12 (11.94)



New Perforation 12 (11.85)

The Canadian Stamp Perforation Change of 1962



Old Perforation 12 (11.94)



New Perforation 12 (11.85)

The Canadian Stamp Perforation Change of 1962



Old Perforation 12 (11.94)



New Perforation 12 (11.85)

The Canadian Stamp Perforation Change of 1962



Old Perforation 12 (11.94)



New Perforation 12 (11.85)

The Canadian Stamp Perforation Change of 1962



Old Perforation 12 (11.94)



New Perforation 12 (11.85)

The Canadian Stamp Perforation Change of 1962



As a simple contrast in perforation measurement, the “Trans-Canada Highway” 5 cents stamp issued on August 31, 1962 has old perforation 12 (11.94) while the “Queen Elizabeth II – Cameo Issue” 1 cent stamp issued on February 4, 1963 has new perforation 12 (11.85) by using the closest different consecutive catalogue numbered positions as a simple perforation change marker between them.



As a simple contrast in perforation measurement, the “Trans-Canada Highway” 5 cents stamp issued on August 31, 1962 has old perforation 12 (11.94) while the “Queen Elizabeth II – Cameo Issue” 5 cents stamp issued on October 3, 1962 has new perforation 12 (11.85) by using the closest different consecutive first day stamp issue dates as a simple perforation change marker between them.