

Confederation

The Newsletter of the Large and Small Queens Study Group

Number 1

January 1997

Editor's Column
Roy Sass

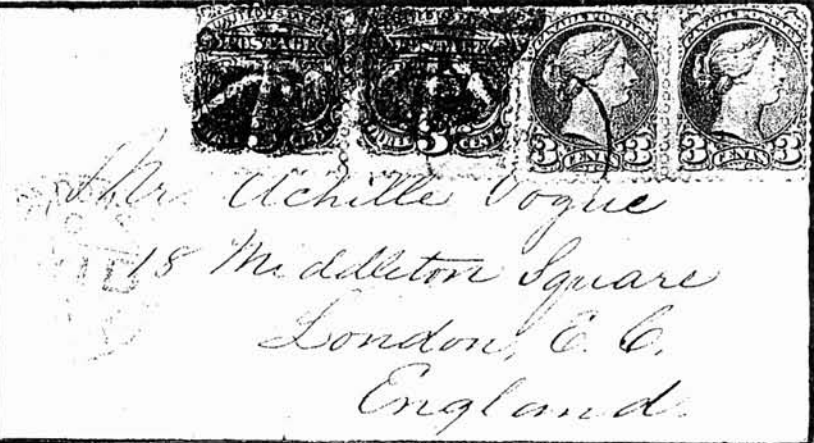
This is the first newsletter of a new Study Group for the Large and Small Queens. I had volunteered to be the editor of a Large Queen newsletter, but there was not interest enough for a Study Group based only on those issues. Thus, since the two issues were printed and used concurrently, and since the Small Queen group appears to have gone dormant, we will give it a try on both.

I am not an "expert" on either series of stamps. My goal is to learn more about both. What I am hoping is that we can make this newsletter interesting and informative for all levels of collectors, those whose interests range from just one in each color to all of the re-entries and everything in between..

I would like to have a "Questions and Answer" column where questions can be posed and BNAPS members who have the answers can let me know in a few short paragraphs. I am also envisioning a "My Favorite Cover" column which can include rare covers, mixed LQ and SQ covers, or anything else. I will start by writing about my favorite cover - so far the only cover I have.

If you have anything to share, be it a long article or just a few sentences, please send them to me at PO Box 31054, Walnut Creek, CA 94598.

The Mystery of the Cross Border Cover - Where Was It Mailed?



This cover is from Christie's Ishikawa sale of 1993. The lot was estimated at \$2,000 to \$3,000 and sold for \$5980. (The catalog description is on page 2.) The question is whether this is a legitimate double franking, mailed in Canada, or is it the result of the mailer's change of mind or circumstance. Did he go to (probably) Boston and affix US stamps and then post it to England?

Note that the Canadian stamps are not cancelled. This was rare in Canada at the time. Have you ever seen a Canadian Small Queen go through the mail without some kind of cancellation?

The red circular mark that ties one of the Small Queens was probably a Boston (?) transit mark. Have you ever seen that kind of mark on a Small Queen cancelled in Canada?

The rate to England from Canada at the time was six cents. Therefore if the letter was posted in Canada, there would have been no need for US postage, even if the mails had carried the letter through the US.

There are no markings on the letter to indicate it originated in Canada - only the stamps.

The letter rate from the US to England was also six cents. The US stamps were cancelled in the US. One could deduce that the letter was mailed from the US and not from Canada. The mailer could have changed his mind about mailing it in Canada or perhaps forgot it in his folio when traveling to the US, so it was mailed in the US.

What do you think? Have you seen any other mixed franking covers where the Canadian stamps were not cancelled, but the US stamps were? Please send any comments to the editor for inclusion in the next newsletter.

Questions and Answers

QUESTION: The catalogs have the color of the main listing for the 8c Small Queen as grey. The 5c Small Queen, Ottawa, Scott 42, is also listed as grey. Is it the same grey as the 8c?

ANSWER: The 5c color is actually a brownish grey, as listed in the Gibbons catalog.
(Thanks to Dick Lamb for the answer).

QUESTION: For the Half-Cent Large Queen, what are the paper and perf combinations?

Not counting the differences in shades between intense black, black, and grey black, the editor has seen:

Perf 11.9x11.9,
Perf 11.9x11.9,
Perf ?x?,

Thin, Duckworth Paper 2
Medium, Duckworth Paper 3
Bothwell watermarked,

Duckworth Paper 6

Perf 11.9x11.9,
Perf 11.9x11.9,
Perf 11.75x12.1,
Perf 11.6x11.9,

Soft, white, Duckworth Paper 8
Stout wove, Duckworth paper 10
Stout wove, Duckworth Paper 10
Medium, Montreal printing

What other paper and perf combinations are out there?

Mystery of the Cross Border Cover The Christie's Catalog Description

Lot 634 **3c Ultramarine** (114), average horizontal pair. left stamp with trimmed perfs at left prior to use, used with **Canada 3c Dull Rose (37a, Gibbons 64c)**, horizontal pair on 1870 cover which **originated in Canada** to London, England. US stamps tied by bold circle of wedges cancel, both pairs tied by indistinct red Boston exchange credit hand-stamp, red London transit, stamps have faults from overlapping cover edge, cover opened three sides.

A VERY FINE AND SCARCE LEGITIMATE COMBINATION FRANKING, THE CANADIAN STAMPS PAY THE SIX-CENT RATE TO THE UNITED STATES, THE UNITED STATES STAMPS PAY THE FURTHER SIX-CENT RATE TO ENGLAND.

Pacific 97 World Philatelic Exhibition
Moscone Center, San Francisco, CA
May 29 to June 8, 1997

The Chairman's Column

Ron Ribler

THE COVER IN THE lead article has been in dispute for many years, and as far as I know, no definitive expert opinion has been rendered to date. I disagree wholeheartedly with the catalog description. I have seen an expert's opinion, only recently, about this cover written many years ago and the conclusion was that the expertiser could not definitely say anything except that it might be valid but was at least an interesting and attractive piece.

I believe some of the members of the Study Group might have opinions about the cover and it would be useful for the collecting community to resolve the issue. We could have a very interesting exchange of ideas.

Let's get the Study Group moving again! We want to be responsive to members' desires and get as much involvement as we can.

Among the things we have thought about are establishing a trading/selling clearing house, expertising opinions among members, census of scarce and rare items, and a question and answer column in the newsletter.

Please let me know what you want and we will do our best to ensure it happens. Meanwhile, Roy and I promise to respond to any and all correspondence. You can reach me at: POBox 22911 Ft Lauderdale, FL 33335; (954)760-7795; fax (954)760-7795 and e-mail at laudron@aol.com.

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My Favorite Cover by Roy Sass

My favorite cover is my only cover. It is franked with six copies of the Half Cent Small Queen and was mailed from Quebec to Syracuse, New York on April 4, 1894. The cover shows a backstamp from Ogdensburg, New York April 24, 1894 at 8 AM. It was received in Syracuse later on April 24.

What makes this interesting? For me it is interesting because I grew up in Syracuse, leaving for California some 30 years ago. It's also interesting because the address was in my old neighborhood, and I

think I remember there being a family named Gerst still in the area. Was this sent to one of their ancestors?

The cover crossed the border at least three times that I know of. The original posting, of course, and then it made its way back to Canada, showing up in a recent Ian Kimmerly auction. Then it came back across when it was sent to me.

Thus, it is a cover that is part of my collecting interests and a link back to my youth, which makes it my favorite cover.

Join Us!

This newsletter is being mailed to a long list of members of the old Small Queens Study group plus those who have expressed interest in the Large Queens and in related areas. We are asking all of those members who are interested in the new group to complete the membership form and survey and send it to the Group Chairman Ron Ribler, PO Box 22911, Ft. Lauderdale, Florida. 33335-2911.

BNAPS headquarters suggested that we establish dues at \$5 per year, which can be sent directly to Ron.

In order to make the new Study Group work, and the new Newsletter to be written, we also encourage all members to send in articles, comments, questions. The more we receive, the more we can print and distribute.

