

Confederation

The Newsletter of the Large and Small Queens Study Group

Number 6

January 1998

Greene Foundation Certificate says "Reperf."

Chairman's Column

Small Queen Fluorescence?

Ron Ribler

Recently George Arfken sent me two groups of used three cent Small Queens because they react to fluorescent light by either glowing or appearing dark-brown. Many elements and compounds fluoresce under ultra violet radiation, creating a number of different visual phenomena. Therefore, we should not be surprised that treatment of the issue should include some fluorescence. The real question is, "If this is a true fluorescence, why only a relative few of the stamps reveal this feature."

It is safe to conclude that the fluorescence was not put on the stamps intentionally, since no known purpose could be served at the time. It is also likely that the presence of the fluorescence was unknown to the printers or to the postal authority. The most likely explanation is that either the fluorescent qualities were in the paper or the inks or were added after the stamps had been issued and used.

On the stamps that glow bright under the UV lamp, the glow is visible on the back of the stamps as well as on the front, suggesting that the fluorescence was in the paper or resulted from

washing the used stamps in a chemical bath of unknown composition. The stamps appearing dark brown under the UV lamp show this phenomenon only on the face of the stamps, suggesting that the ink might be the source.

If, in fact, the fluorescence resulted from the manufacturing or printing process, the natural question arises, "How come only so few were affected?" "Do we see the same phenomenon on mint stamps - with and without gum?" We may never be able to answer the questions, but we can speculate that papers came from different suppliers, or that an odd paper might have been inserted into the production for any number of reasons. Also, ink batches were probably mixed daily and it is possible on a certain day the fluorescent element was included, while it usually was not. Perhaps it was only a matter of how much of the fluorescent material might have been included in the ink batch.

So far I have checked only a relatively small sample (a few hundred) of used stamps with the UV lamp, revealing that perhaps as many as 5 per cent of a random lot react in one of the

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In our last few newsletters, we have been discussing the 6 cent Small Queen, perf 12 x11 1/2.

We have looked at two copies, one on-cover perf 11.87x11.6 and one off-cover perf 11.95x11.6. Opinions have differed whether the off-cover stamp had been reperfed or not.

John Jamieson submitted the stamp to the Vincent Graves Green Philatelic Research Foundation for their consideration. In Certificate 2239, dated October 1, 1997, their comment is "Canada Scott No. 39, used, sides have been reperfed." A copy of the certificate is reproduced on Page 2.

IMPERFORATE VALUES OF THE SMALL QUEEN ISSUE

Ted Nixon

The imperforate printings of the Small Queens have more variety than appears at first glance. Most of the values appear in more than one shade, some printings are gummed and some are ungummed. Often the gum was quite disturbed and it is known that gum has been washed off some such pairs.

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Fluorescence?

ways described above. The quality of the fluorescence varies greatly, showing very little consistency within each group. Unfortunately, almost all the stamps that fluoresce show no dates, although they all appear to be from the Second Ottawa printing.

If forced to draw a conclusion from the small sample observed thus far, I would have to say that the fluorescence is probably the result of post-use washing or other treatment, such as storage in containers that transferred the fluorescence.

However, rather than draw such a conclusion

based on so small a sample, I would like to ask each of you to examine your used and unused Small Queen holdings, including values other than the three cent. Be sure to irradiate the backs as well. We can thereby expand the sample size and gain more confidence in whatever conclusions may be drawn from such a study. This is a new way to look at this issue and could pleurably consume much of the long winter's dark hours. Please let me hear from all you study group members- and anyone else who may read this column.

Imperforate Small Queens

There have been various suggestions about when the imperforates were printed - clearly they belong to the Second Ottawa printings. Some have suggested that they were the last printings from a plate so that they were not necessarily all pulled at the same time. Many have characteristics of the 1895 or 1896 printings but others do not. Thus it seems useful to record the printing characteristics of the various values to seek some answers.

One-half Cent - All copies have gum; as expected both panes 1 and 2 produced imperforates.

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VINCENT GRAVES GREENE PHILATELIC RESEARCH FOUNDATION

P.O. Box 100, First Canadian Place
Toronto, Canada
M5X 1B2

Member, A.I.E.P.

CERTIFICATE NO:- 2239

DATE: October 1, 1997

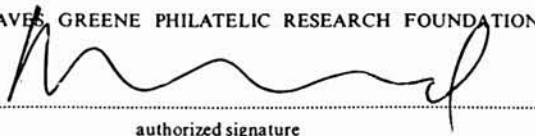
COMMENTS: Canada Scott No. 39, used, sides have been reperfored.

ISSUED TO:



VINCENT GRAVES GREENE PHILATELIC RESEARCH FOUNDATION

By:


.....
authorized signature

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ANY TAMPERING WITH THIS CERTIFICATE RENDERS IT VOID

Editor's Column

Roy Sass

There are three things I would like to mention in this issue of the newsletter. The first is a request that I received from the Fancy Cancel study group. They are looking for examples of a Crown over Registered postal marking. Although a photocopy of a photocopy won't allow anyone to study the various properties of this marking, it will give you a good idea of what it is. If you have any LQs or SQs with this mark, please let me know and I will share with the Fancy Cancel folks and also our own group.



Second, on just about every membership form I have received, the box has been checked for a way to exchange stamps among the members of the study group. This is the purpose of our

"Wanted" column, yet no one is taking advantage of this. We have members now in all four corners of the globe and what you might need could be half way around the world, just waiting for you to ask. Our "Want Ads" are free of charge.

At Pacific '97, I saw a 15 cent Large Queen that was in the same blue color as the 12 1/2 cent LQ. If anyone has one they want to sell, please let me know.

Lastly, it's time for 1998 dues. On your address label, the code 0198 means that dues are due. Dues are US\$5, or C\$7. Payment can be made by US check, US or Canadian paper money, or US postage or Canadian dollar-value postage (I want to make it as easy for everyone as possible.)

Enclosed is a Dues Notice. Please make any corrections necessary on the address. Also, I would appreciate some comments back from you on the newsletter. Is it what you want? Can we make it better? Can you contribute an article or a comment on a past article? It's your newsletter.

20 Times Rate Cover

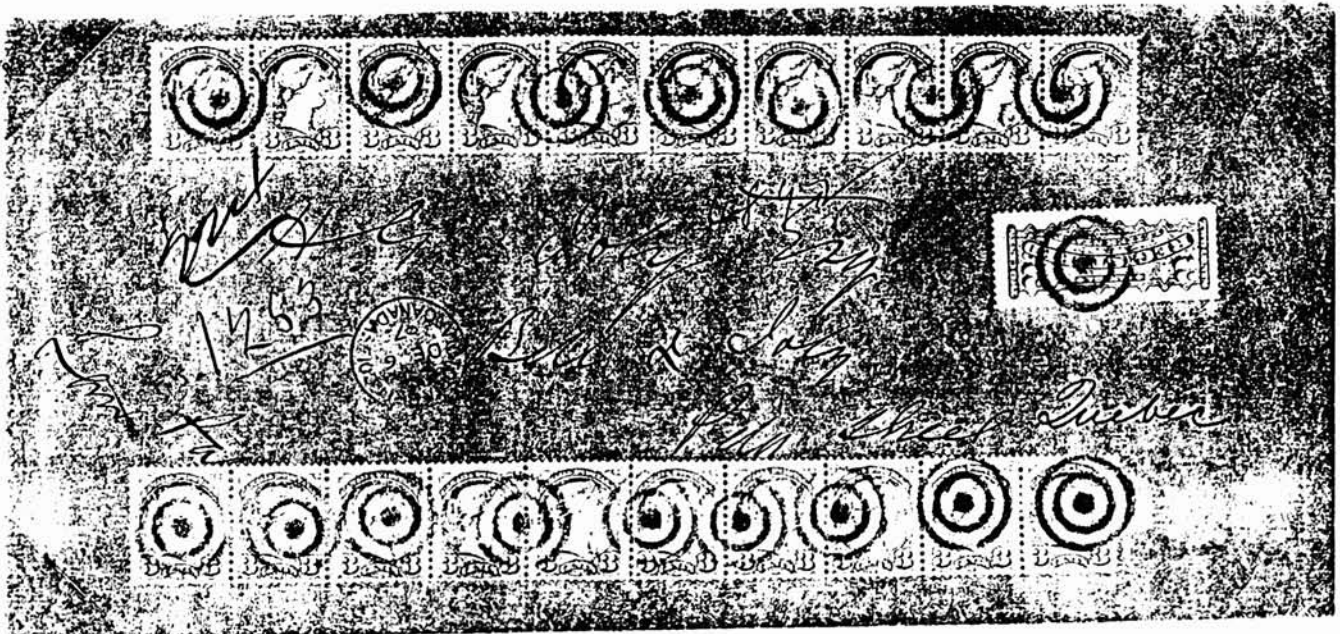
John Burnett

I recently came across this 3 cent cover that sat in the renowned Wellburn collection. This cover is a little different in so much as it has been sent from the west to the east. To the best of my knowledge, most business mail went East to West, as the East was the main seat of business in Canada in the 1880's

This cover was mailed from Victoria, British Columbia on December 6, 1887, and arrived in Quebec on December 15. The envelope is franked with a 2 cent Registered letter stamp and two strips of ten stamps of the 3 cent Small Queen.

To date this is the largest multiple of the 3 cent I have seen on a letter. Does anybody have a larger multiple on cover?

Also, please note my e-mail address has changed to roypitch17@aol.com.



Imperforate Values of the Small Queen Issue

The shade and gum are difficult to pin-point but probably are about 1885. There is no variety in printings.

One Cent - All printings are similar [in] shade.; probably about 1895 and most seem to be gummed although in most cases the gum is disturbed. Some ungummed pairs exist but they could be with gum washed off. Printings are from the small Ottawa Imprint plate.

Two Cents - Most printings are from the Large Ottawa Imprint Plate from about 1895, with gum. A scarce printing exists on a whiter paper, [the] shade of perhaps 1892. Simpson has distinguished some prints from another Montreal plate but I cannot confirm them as being distinct.

Three Cents - Several printings exist: an 1891 printing, with gum, in the rose vermilion shade; an early 1895 printing on coarse white paper with no gum, in a finely inked vermilion shade; a late 1895 or 1896 printing, strongly inked orange vermilion shade with gum; and a more brownish vermilion from 1895-1896 on thin paper with no gum. Plates were Small Ottawa Imprint plates, at least, with letters B and H.

Five Cents - Printings are from both Montreal Plates and also from the Large Ottawa imprint plate. There are 1890-1891 printings from the Montreal plate with both gum and no gum. There are 1895 printings from the Large Ottawa plate in a more heavily inked brownish gray shade with gum.



Six Cents - [The] most common printing is from 1895 with both gum and no gum, a dark red brown shade from the Montreal and Ottawa "A" plate. However, a scarce printing in an almost

chocolate brown, no gum on grayish paper exists and probably is about 1891 - but is not the true rich dark chocolate brown of early 1891. Also there is a strip of three in a yellow brown shade characteristic of 1888 on a whiter paper, no gum.



Eight Cents - Two printings exist from a single plate. [There is] a blue grey shade with gum from about 1895. A second printing, finely inked on a whiter paper in the dark gray shade with no gum, appears to be from 1897.

Ten Cents - The 1891 printings in the rose carmine shade exist with gum and no gum, although the gum may have been washed off the later. Also 1896 printings in the softer rose pink shades exist with gum and no gum. A third shade which is more brownish than the rose pink shade probably was printed in late 1896 or early 1897.

According to a Jephcott listing in the Holmes catalog, the following quantities were printed. Given our observation of the plate style used, an estimate of the number of sheets printed has been added. At this time {1990..ed.} more investigation of the Five Cents is required because the "Montreal" plate has 100 subjects although it may have been printed as a left and right pane together, while that "Large Ottawa" plate is a single plate of 200 subjects.

1/2 cent black	400 stamps	2 sheets
1c yellow	800 stamps	4 sheets
2c green	600 stamps	3 sheets
3c vermilion	1,000 stamps	5 sheets
5c greyish	800 stamps	?
6c red brown	600 stamps	6 sheets
8c grey	800 stamps	4 sheets
10c brown red	1,000 stamps	10 sheets

These quantities probably do not include the few oddities such as the 2 cents on white Montreal paper and the 6 cents in the yellow brown shade on Montreal paper.

Article reprinted from the September 1990 newsletter of the "Small Queen Study Circle of BNAPS."

Pre-printing Creases
By Ron Ribler

Folds occurring in the paper before printing create a white space and a distortion of the image when the fold is pressed out. Such items are relatively uncommon on the Small Queens and typically occur as seen in Figure 1.

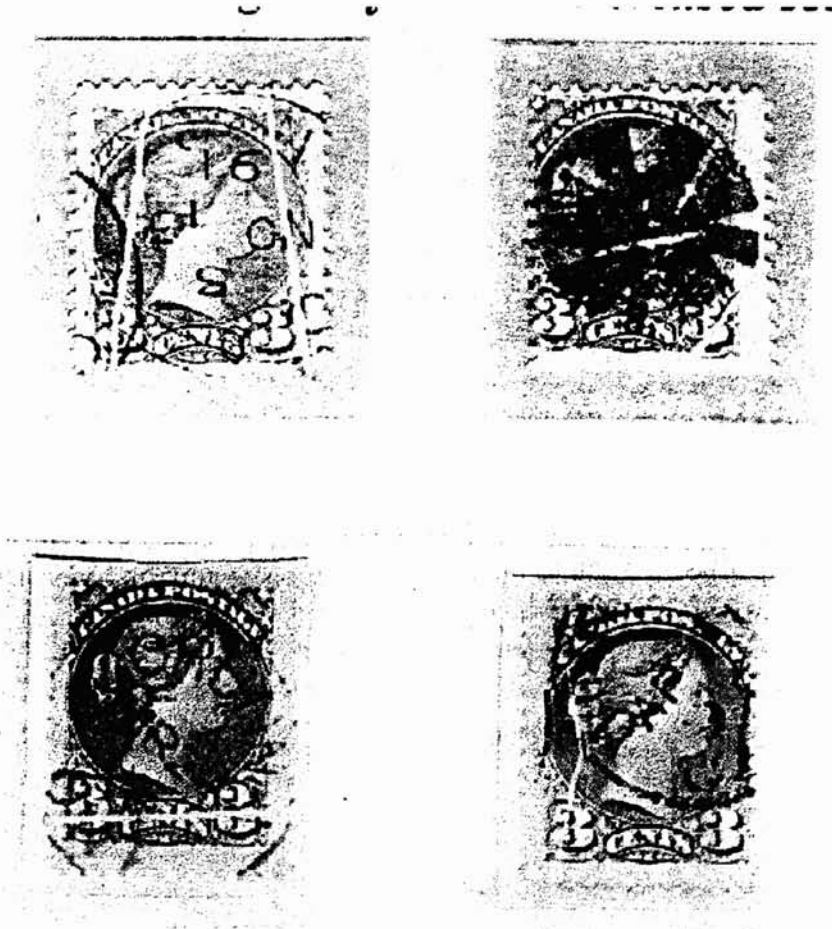


Figure 1. Typical Pre-Printing Paper Folds

The paper fold in Figure 2 is probably unique in its magnitude, measuring 8.5mm at its widest point. The stamp pictured here has full original gum with the paper fold showing an absence of gum. According to John Jamieson of the Saskatoon Stamp Centre, the item is from a private collection and, as far as we can determine, has never before been shown publicly.



Figure 2. Spectacular Paper Fold

Study Group Financials

In our first year as the Large and Small Queens Study group, we received \$275 in dues.

Postage for the five newsletters for the members and for promotional copies to prospective members came to \$185.33.

Our only other expense was \$6.45 for envelopes, leaving the study group with a balance of \$83.22.

The membership interest in the group was estimated at 36 in December, 1996. We finished 1997 with 51 members.

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WANTED

Three Cent Small Queens with overprints or precancels.

Please let me know what you have.

Ron Ribler