

Confederation

The Newsletter of the Large and Small Queens Study Group

Number 7

March 1998

Two Cent LQ on Laid Paper Sold!

Paper Shrinkage and Paper Mesh

John Jamieson

R. D. Leith

Geoffrey Whitworth states on Page 5 of his classic book "The First Decimal Issue of Canada" that an approximate 2% paper shrinkage at right angles to the paper mesh can be expected on early Canadian stamps. The suggestion was checked on the three cent copper red Small Queen on "A" paper (horizontal mesh) versus the three cent rose red on "B" paper (vertical mesh).

The stamp impression on the vertical mesh stamp was in fact about 2% narrower than on the horizontal mesh stamps. Since both stamps originated from the identically sized die and plate, [it is seen that] the paper did shrink after printing.

If the 2% shrinkage occurs after perforating, we would expect a large increase of about 0.25 units in the perforation gauge. This is not the case in either the First Decimal Issue nor with the Small Queens.

It can therefore be concluded that the paper shrinkage occurred after the printing operation but before the sheets were perforated.

(Illustration on Page 3)

Reprinted from Small Queen Study Circle of BNAPS, August 1991.

Canada #32 - the 2¢ Green Large Queen on Laid Paper has a new home. Saskatoon Stamp Centre has announced that a sale has been negotiated between its client and an anonymous buyer. The price was over \$200,000.

Saskatoon Stamp Centre purchased the stamp in February, 1993. It had been controlled by K. Bileski since he purchased it in the Reford sale in October, 1950, for the then princely sum of \$3,800. It was part of the Kanee collection during those 4 decades but was again in Bileski's hands when it was sold as part of a huge collection to Vancouver dealers F.E.Eaton & Sons. Saskatoon Stamp Centre shortly after, and a few months later sold it to a US collector for \$187,500, where it has remained until now.

This is by far the finer of the 2 known copies. The other, Ex Firth and Foxbridge, sold in 1986, is reportedly in a very important British Commonwealth collection in California.

Will either of these stamps ever find their way back to Canada? Only time will tell. The market for exceptional Canadian stamps has never been better. Strong economies in both Canada



and the USA are benefiting many collectors. The continuing weakness of the Canadian dollar is resulting in a growing portion of our sales going to foreign collectors in the USA and abroad. Well over half of the stamps we sell are going out of Canada to collectors with stronger currencies. The stamp we offer at C\$1,000 is only US\$720 to a collector south of the border and that collector earns his US\$720 at least as easily as the Canadian earns his C\$1,000. As well, most European and Asian collectors think in US dollars and not Canadian dollars.

It is estimated that there are close to twice as many serious collectors of Canada and BNA outside Canada as within...and that group is growing faster.

A Little History of #32

Roy Sass

The recent sale of one of the two known examples of the 2 cent Large Queen on Laid Paper makes this a good time to review its history.

Beginning in 1868, the British American Bank Note company printed approximately 10 million copies of the 2 cent green Large Queen. One sheet of Alexander Pirie and Sons' laid paper got into the stack and through the printing press, producing 100 stamps. (K. Bileski in 1982 speculated that 2 sheets might have been printed.)

The laid lines in the paper are horizontal to the design, with spacing of between 13.5 and 14.5 lines per 2 cm.

Since one of the two copies has a double ring 5 cancellation, it's a good bet that this sheet was sold at the Hamilton, Ontario, post office. At the time, Hamilton was the fifth largest post office in Canada.

Copy #1 is well centered and has a partial blue Registry cancellation. It has a tiny thin spot and a light vertical crease. This stamp carries Certificate 18,955 from the Royal Philatelic Society, London, dated 12 December 1935.

Copy #2 is off center to the right. It has the black double ring 5 cancellation and a minute thin. It carries certificate 18,655 from the Royal.

The One that Sold

One of the stamps was in the collection of German Count Philippe la Renotiere von Ferrari (1848-

1917). His collection was seized by the French government as war reparations and sold at auction in 1924.

Copy #1 was auctioned in Paris on June 18, 1924 and purchased by U.S. dealer Warren H. Colson for 2510 francs, then worth approximately \$500. Dr. Lewis L. Reford subsequently purchased it for \$1,250. When the Reford collection was sold by Harmer, Rooke & Co. in New York between October 3 and October 6, 1950, it was listed as Lot 955. Kasimir Bileski purchased it for \$3,800. The stamp was housed in the Kanee collection for a number of years, before returning to Bileski until 1993.

When the Bileski collection was sold to Daniel Eaton in January, 1993, the 2 cent Large Queen was included. Within days, Eaton sold the stamp to John Jamieson of Saskatoon for C\$150,000. Next, it was sold in March, 1993, for \$187,500 and went into the "Bayfield" Collection. It was from the "Bayfield" collection that the stamp was exhibited with other Canadian rarities at CAPEX 96.

The stamp has now been sold again, as reported by John Jamieson, for something over C\$200,000.

The Other One

Copy #2 was in a collection formed by English dealer J. W. Westhorpe, who died in 1935. It was auctioned by Puttick & Simpson in London, where Tom Allen bought it for £215 or approximately \$1,000. From Allen, the stamp went into the collection of Gerald Firth, in

WANTED

Dated Copies (on or off cover) of the rose carmine 3 ¢ Small Queen, #41a, 41i. Will buy or trade. M. Heit, 5740 189A Street Surrey, BC V3S 7M4

3¢ SQ's on cover with CDS 1870-1874 for shade study. Please send offer on what you have to rcreighton@img.net Richard W. Creighton, #4-1362 Penticton Ave Penticton BC V2A 2N5

Pittsburgh, PA.

When the Firth collection was sold in Toronto in November, 1971, the high bidder at \$25,000 was Robert W. Lyman for Duane Hillmer of Omaha, Nebraska. The stamp traveled from him to Robert Siegel and then into the "Foxbridge" collection.

From there, through Stanley Gibbons in early 1986, it was purchased by F. E. Eaton & Sons for C\$80,000 and turned over in May, 1986, to a prominent California collector for C\$90,000. It remains, I was assured by the owner, in a safe deposit box somewhere in Southern California.

There were at least two other 2 cent Large Queens on laid paper floating around, but those were fakes. Frodel used genuine Pirie paper from commercial stationery and rebacked the paper to two genuine, but thinned, 2 cent LQs.

Source Material:

Larry McGinnis, *Linn's*, January 25, 1993

L.N. Williams, *Linn's*, April 1, 1985,

K. Bileski, *Some Canadian Stamp Errors...*, 1982,

and various newspaper articles

(Mostly) Firth's Descriptions of the Large Queen Papers

1868- 1869 Ottawa - Thin Crisp Transparent Paper

Firth I - fairly thin to medium, semi-transparent, usually with a faint horizontal grain (Duckworth 1 - thin, hard, crisp semi-transparent with a vague vertical grain. Design showing through on back. Appears to have an oily surface(?). Used for 1¢, 2¢, 3¢. Duckworth 2 - thin, hard paper, less transparent than 1, with a vague horizontal grain. Sharper impressions. Used for all values except the 1¢.)

1868-1870 Ottawa - Medium Wove Paper

Firth II - Medium, gradually becoming thicker and with a horizontal grain
Firth IV - stout smooth surfaced with a horizontal grain - used for the red-lilac shades

late 1868-1869 Ottawa - Thick Soft ("Blotting") Paper

Firth II - the thicker end of the range (Duckworth 8)

late 1868-1869 Ottawa - BOTHWELL Watermarked Paper

Firth III - has a vertical grain (Duckworth 6)

1868 Ottawa - Laid Paper (Duckworth 5)

1873-1879 Montreal - Medium Wove Papers - Perf 11 1/2 x 12

Firth V(A) - medium, smooth surface with a horizontal grain - used for the "muddy" brownish purple

Firth V(B) - thicker and rough surfaced, with a vertical grain - used for the "muddy" brownish purple

Firth VI(A) - Stout, smooth surfaced, with a horizontal grain - used for the dull brownish grey or greenish grey shades

Firth VII - stout smooth surfaced showing horizontal grain - used for the grey violet shade (rare in this perf.)

Firth IX - medium wove with horizontal grain - slate grey to bluish grey

1879-1889 Montreal

Perf 12

Firth VII - stout smooth surfaced showing horizontal grain - used for the grey violet

Firth VIII(B) - medium wove with definite horizontal grain - rare in the deep dull violet

Firth IX and X(A) - medium wove with horizontal grain - slate grey to bluish grey

Firth X(B) and XI - rougher surface and usually thinner with vertical grain, slate grey to bluish grey X(B); deep greyish blues XI

1877 Montreal - Script Watermarked PIRIE Paper

Firth VI(B) -

1879 Montreal - Thick Paper

Firth VIII(A) - very thick white carton paper, faint vertical grain -used for the deep dull violet

1889-1897 Ottawa - Poor Thin Paper

Firth XII and XIII - thin to medium, rough surfaced with a vertical grain - used for shades of slate violet

1894 Ottawa - Dark brown purple Imperf on medium paper

Firth XIII A

Compiled by RS

No. 18,955 12 DEC 1935

The Royal Philatelic Society, London.

EXPERT COMMITTEE

We have examined the enclosed *Canada*:
1868-72, 2c. pale emerald-green,
on laid paper, perf 12 (S.G. 57^A), used
Stamp, sent by *R. Lewis L. Retford*.
of which a Photograph is attached hereto, and are
of opinion that it is genuine.



FOR THE EXPERT COMMITTEE,

Geo. C. Sear

CHAIRMAN.

The One And Two Cent
Drop Letters
The Adjacent Post Office Rate

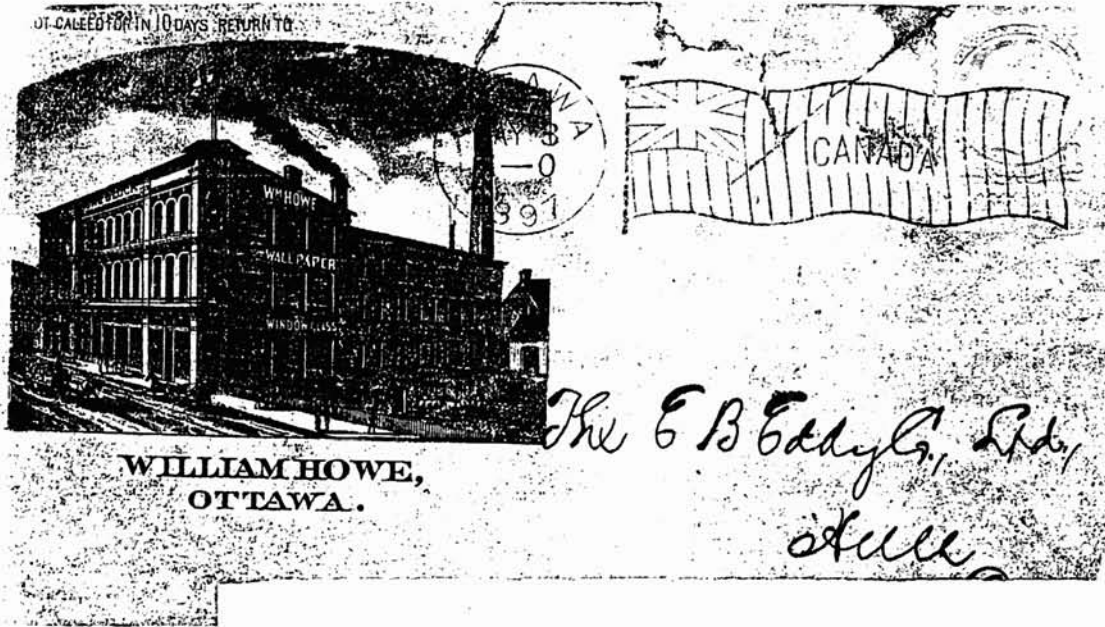


FIGURE 2

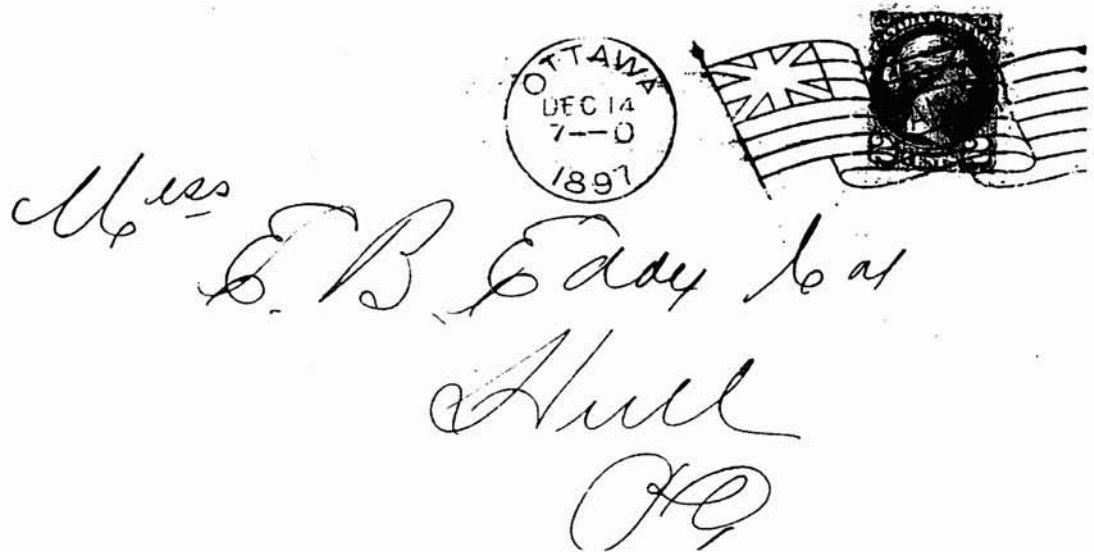
1¢ drop letter

Type 1 blank
flag cancel

2¢ drop letter

Type 9
unfinished flag
cancel

FIGURE 1



Adjacent post office
Ottawa, Ont./Hull, Que.

Some postmasters accepted letters to an immediately adjacent post office as though they were local drop letters.

This practice was never sanctioned by postal authorities

The Suburban Letter or Adjacent Letter Rate in the Small Queen Era

by John Burnett

During the era of the Small Queens, a 3¢ stamp would carry a letter from the Maritimes to British Columbia. Canadians argued that a letter going only a few miles should not have to carry the same postage as one going across the country.

There is no clear date when, but sometime in the early 1890's letters traveling from a suburb to a city were allowed to travel for 2¢. The earliest publication to acknowledge this rate was Department Order 35, dated May 20, 1892.

“Letters posted at suburban Post Offices where there is no delivery by letter carrier, addressed to cities where there is delivery by letter carrier, of which such offices are suburbs, will be charged two cents.

John G. Haggart
Post Master General

As George Arfkin brings up in his fine book *Canada Small Queen Era 1870-1897*¹ (where most of the information on this subject is found) there was no weight limitation given. One must assume that the standard letter weight of one ounce was meant to be used. Mr. Arfkin also points out that the rate was for letters from the suburbs and no mention was made of letters to the suburbs.

This rate was not meant to be valid for interprovincial mail. It's this that makes the two covers shown in this article most interesting. The first cover (figure 1) is a 2¢ letter which used the “Suburban” rate to an “adjacent” post office. Not only did this cover receive the reduced rate but it traveled across the provincial border between Ottawa, Ontario and Hull, Quebec. The cover is dated December 14, 1897 and was canceled with a nice Type 9 (Richardson) flag cancel.

The second cover (figure 2) made the same journey but was given “drop letter” status to the Hull, Quebec, post office. As a drop letter, it should not have received any identifying cancellation but it was struck with a nice May 3, 1987, Type 1 (Richardson) flag cancel. In my mind, both of these envelopes have their exhibit value enhanced with the addition of the flag cancellations.

Many postal historians believe that there was a “gentlemen's agreement” to allow this reduced rate and the closing of a “blind eye” to drop letters when the post offices were adjacent. I think it would be fair to say that it probably would have cost the post offices more to police this action than to accept it.

1- *Canada Small Queen Era 1870-1897* by George Arfkin. Published by The Vincent Graves Greene Philatelic Research Foundation, pages 83-86

Chairman's Column

Ron Ribler

In almost 20 years of exhibiting the three cent Small Queen, never has there been another exhibit of this stamp in the same show. That was true until the February show at Sarasota, FL, where a very nice five frame exhibit was a pleasant surprise. With my one-frame exhibit of the stamp and its varieties, we had two exhibits on the same stamp.

I was pleasantly surprised and pleased to see more exhibits in our area of interest. The following week I went to the APS show in Houston, TX, to again show my one-framer. To my astonishment, about two frames removed from mine was another one-frame exhibit of the three cent Small Queen. Nothing for almost 20 years - and two in consecutive weeks! How many more surprises will I get? How many of you are exhibiting the Queens? Let us know where and what results you obtained. Share with us your experiences.

Speaking of sharing, you probably all are aware of the BNAPS annual meeting to be held in Orlando in October. That will be a wonderful opportunity to show your stuff where the judges and observers know what they are looking at. The feedback can be invaluable. The meetings, for those of you who have never attended one, are a

wonderful way to meet people you may only have heard of and to share your experiences in BNA collecting. Try to attend if you can and, if possible, prepare an exhibit - even if only a frame or two. If you view exhibiting as a learning experience, you will reap large rewards. Think about it. If I can be of assistance in any way to assist in preparation of the exhibits, please feel free to call on me.

Last time I wrote of fluorescence on the three cent Small Queen. I have since received some response from members and I have encouraged them to write of their experiences with fluorescence and share with the rest of us. Without stealing their thunder, I can tell you that at least some people have been using fluorescence to sort the stamps of the different printings for years. Another response offered an explanation for the fluorescence and the different kinds.

If any more of you have had any experience with fluorescence, please let me know. If you do not want to write about your experiences for publication, I will be happy to quote you in future columns.

Overall, membership has been growing steadily and the responses we get from members we meet at shows have all been positive. Roy has done a great job editing this newsletter and he deserves a vote of thanks from all of us.

Until next time, let us know what you are doing and share your experiences with the rest of the Group.



Interesting Cover, using the 3¢ SQ for postage and the 2¢ LQ for the registry fee between Toronto and Sarnia, May 26, 1871. Cover is in the T. R. Morgan collection in Australia.



Copy #1 with Blue
Registry Cancel



Copy #2 with
Double Ring 5
Cancel

Editor's Column

Roy Sass

True to our name as the Large Queen and Small Queen Study group, we have some real news concerning Large Queens. My thanks to John Jamieson for sending me the news release on the sale of the 2 cent on Laid Paper.

Thanks to those of you who have given me your comments along with your dues. I agree with you that we need more articles on the Large Queens, and more articles in general to have a larger and longer newsletter. (That's a hint to WGB.)

I have also received requests for articles on Postal History, advertising covers, and a table of ship sailings in the SQ era. I'm sure some of you have info on these to share. Finally, John Burnett asked whether a Small Queens exhibit should contain Large Queens when the eras overlap. Should LQ's be required considering that the 15 cent LQ existed during the entire SQ era? Comments, anyone?

As Dean Martin used to say, "Keep those cards and letters coming."

