

Confederation

The Newsletter of the Large and Small Queens Study Group

Number 9

September 1998

Can Computers Help?

Bob Turkowski

I have a couple of "high tech" areas on which I'd appreciate some input. Can we use a computer scanner to classify our stamps?

Is there some "cheap" software which will allow using a scanned image and a mouse to:

1. Measure the distance between perfs (click on two points) to create my own perf gauge? Using the Instanta and/or the Canada Specialized gauge is too much work to get within 0.1 perf measurement exactly.

2. Measure accurately design heights and widths which may be of some classification value?

3. Use the mouse to select a small, well inked rectangular area of the image to then measure for "color content" quantitatively?

The data measurements should be electronically "copiable" (to minimize errors) to a spreadsheet/database where calculations (perf measurements) and comparisons to other stamps' measurements can be made.

If any of the above are available, I'd like to hear about it.

(If anyone has a way to do any of the above using "expensive" software like Photoshop, please share with the rest of us. --Ed.)

What is the Value of Never Hinged?

Ron Ribler

At the recent show in Hamilton, I found the stamp pictured here on the left.



It proved to be an Orange Red (37c), perforated 12.11 (Kiusalas 12-65) – and it was NH. Two things caught my eye. First, the stamp appeared taller than most. After checking the paper carefully, it proved to be vertical mesh wove paper. The stamp is not really taller, but it is narrower, which makes it appear taller. Most 37c stamps are on horizontal wove paper (compare it to the stamp on the right), and this is a lovely example of the scarcer vertical mesh. The second thing that caught my eye was that the stamp was rather heavily oxidized, thereby rendering it less desirable as an exhibit item representing vertical mesh paper. Now the dilemma was whether to use the stamp with the oxidation and retain the NH condition or to remove the oxidation and destroy the NH quality. I won't keep you in suspense. I removed the oxidation and, with it, most of the gum. I am pleased with the result and I have a valuable item for my presentation of the three cent Small Queen and the mesh of the paper on which it was printed. What would you have done?

COMMENTARY

John Hillson

May I comment on one or two topics mentioned in the May Confederation?

First, "Gibbons says you can't tell the difference between second Ottawa printings of the 1c yellow from...earlier" (i.e. Montreal). Well, the answer is Yes and No. There should be no problem where the paper quality is clearly one used at Montreal.

The problem arises when the end of the Montreal period approaches - 1887-1888 - because by this time the paper used is the same as that of the earlier printings from the second Ottawa years. Now if they perf 12x12.25, there is no problem because these are Montreal. So far, so good.

Gibbons doesn't catalogue that perf gauge so as far as they are concerned they can't tell the difference. I don't know if any late Montreal printings on poor quality "Ottawa" paper gauge just perf 12. If there were, no one could tell where they were printed - hence, the Yes and No. My own feeling is that Perf 12 dead on late Montreal 1c yellow is pretty unlikely.

Second, "2c plus 3c" Jan 10 and 11, 1870 is before the 3c Small Queen made its debut, so they would be Large Queens, wouldn't they. Which brings me nicely to early dates.

One has to be terribly careful with these. The 1c

strip from Sherbrooke dated Jan 8, 1870 is on a front, so there is no confirming backstamp.

Contemporary American philatelic press record the appearance of the 1c in March, 1870, when any new stamp was news, and there is no record of anyone ever writing in, in the early days, and saying, "I've got an earlier one."

I have a cover, 2c LQ and 3c SQ dated Jan 17, 1870 which "proves" rose-red shades appeared months earlier than recorded, particularly if one is naive enough to believe it took a year and a day to arrive - the cover is properly backstamped 18 Jan 1871.

The Priceville cover of Jan 19 1873 (3c perf 11.5x12) is in my collection; I got it from the late Bill Lea when it was described as "rose-orange", which it isn't. That cover is really responsible for my ever getting involved with Small Queens as it didn't fit with accepted theory at the time.

I have an earlier dated cover from Kingston dated Jan 8 1873. It is a registered cover with a 2c perf 11.75x12 together with the 3c orange red perf 11.5x12. I got it from Art Leggatt at the London 1980 International, and not knowing who he was at the time (just another dealer for all I knew) I queried the perf - and got a very dusty reply! Anyway, he'd marked it correctly, surprise, surprise, so that it is even earlier than the Priceville.

I was recently sent a

colour photocopy of a 6c perf 11.5x11.75 on cover dated Feb 24, 1873, which is pretty early for the 6c. Unfortunately the owner is hanging on to it. The earliest 2c Deep Green Perf 12 I have is a pair on registered cover dated Sept 14 1875 at Killarney, Ont.

Third, the suggestion that the 2c SQ cover I asked about could be a drop letter does not stand up as far as I can see. The 2c delivered drop rate didn't come in till 1889, and the 1c rate from 1875 was restricted to half ounce or less. I presume a letter weighing more would be charged a minimum of 3c though would be glad of confirmation on this point as the wording of the 1875 regulations specifies only the half ounce rate.

WANTED!

Readable dated cancels
on Large Queens wanted,
All denominations,
Any quantity.
Please write:
Ben Cohen,
748 Niagara Street,
Winnipeg, MB R3N OW3

Business Report

On January 1, 1998, our treasury balance was \$83.22. We have received \$200 in dues and \$165 from BNAPS.

Postage for January, March and May was \$119.96, leaving a balance of \$328.26.

Chairman's Column

Ron Ribler

The Royal show in Hamilton appeared to be a great success. It was well attended and the exhibits were unusually outstanding, with a very high percentage of gold awards.

One Small Queen and two Large Queen collections were entered and did well. I spent the entire three days at the show and met some people I had only heard of, talked with, and corresponded with previously. All in all, it was a most enjoyable experience. I even found a few items for my own collection. Unfortunately, I was too late in applying for frames, so my exhibit has yet to be seen in Canada.

The BNAPS annual meeting in Orlando is coming up and I hope you will all come to the Sunshine State in October. We have set aside rooms at the Holiday Inn Resort at the special rate of US\$79 per night. If you can make it, take a few extra days and enjoy the vacation spots in the area.

Response to our request for earliest reported date information was meager in number, but rich in content. If you haven't checked your collections yet, please do so and let us know what you find. This is an important effort and we want to get maximum input. In the next couple of months we will submit the list for publication in Topics to get a still broader input.

Finally, one more plea for all of you to consider writing for the newsletter. Articles, questions, opinions, and anything else of interest will be welcome. Let us hear from you.

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Editor's Column

Roy Sass

I am learning that there is a wealth of information in the Philatelic Literature of the Large and Small Queens era. In the Duckworth book "The Large Queen Stamps of Canada and Their Uses," on page 232 there is a chart of the postal rates to the United States between April 1, 1868 and 1872. "Letters between neighboring towns on either side of the frontier" were charged 2 cents. There is a footnote that says this was "only in New Brunswick and perhaps not officially countenanced."

So, if postmasters allowed mail between neighboring towns in Canada and the US to go for 2 cents, perhaps the postmasters also unofficially allowed mail between neighboring towns on either side of the provincial line for 2 cents..

In newsletter number 7, I mentioned that one member wanted to know about ship sailings. Again in the Duckworth book, Appendices "E", "F" and "H" give sailings between 1868 and 1872. The sailings between 1870 and 1872 would include the beginnings of the Small Queens era. Does anyone know where we find sailings between 1873 and the 1890's?

I will fill some space with a photocopy of a 1¢ Montreal yellow with a pre-printing paper crease. Those of you who receive John Jamieson's price lists with color pictures will recognize it, so I hope you will excuse me for picturing it for the other members.

This is a short newsletter because I have run out of things to print and send. Remember that Want Ads are free, questions are welcome, and long and short articles are needed.



One Cent Rate Cover

From the editor's collection, here is a 1 cent yellow orange on a local letter. It was mailed August 23, 1869, in Hamilton, Ontario, and is tied to the cover with the Double Ring "5" hand stamp.

I am trying to get examples of each value being used for its intended purpose - one stamp per cover paying the appropriate rate. I would love to see the 12 1/2c on a cover to Newfoundland.

