

Confederation

The Newsletter of the Large and Small Queens Study Group

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Three Cent Small Queens - A Study of Color

Dot in the Bun



Paul Hahn sends in a blow-up of the 3¢ SQ, perf 11.75x12, which shows an extra dot halfway down from the top of the edge of the Queen's bun.

Is this a plate flaw or just a stray blob of ink? Paul does not find it mentioned in Reiche and Sendbuehler's "Constant Plate Varieties of the Small Queens.

by John E. Milks

In 1961, Mr. E. A. Smythies, a Fellow of the Canadian Philatelic Society of Great Britain, assembled a number of 3 cent Small Queens which he believed were representative of the shades described in the Stanley Gibbons' catalogue.

Among the shades was one purporting to be Shoemaker 4, i.e. Scott 37i, dark rose on thick blotting paper.

Because of the strong disagreement amongst the "experts" the latter was withdrawn. The remainder upon submission to Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., was subsequently certified them as being in order, although there were in one or two cases shades with rather more depth than those in the Reference Collection.

Recently, a group of us who are members of the BNAPS Northeastern Regional Group and the Large and Small Queens Study Group had a chance to compare our dated material with the Reference Collection.

The conclusions we arrived at were as follows:

1) It was possible to recognize subtle difference between SG 83b (pale rose

red, Sept. '70) and SG 83 (Indian red, Jan. '70) in good light by color alone.

The use of the Reference Collection was essential; no other reference guide was known which could identify these catalogue numbers with any confidence.

2) A distinct and recognizable printing corresponding to Scott 37 (dull red 1872) did not exist. Rather, stamps in the 1872 period were SG pale rose reds, a continuation of those first issued in the fall of 1870. Stamps considered to be pale red by Gibbons and red and dull red by Scott did not appear until later in the 1870's and were best identified by the Reference Collection.

As a part of a broader study of the significance of color changes in an issue, it was found that the change from SG83 to SG83b represented a point at which zinc oxide became a standard component of the printing inks for the 3 cent Small Queens until the appearance of the rose carmines in 1888. Scott numbers, however, do not recognize this differentiation from the Indian reds.

The addition of zinc oxide, presumably, was beneficial in the blending of the pigments.

Chairman's Column

Ron Ribler

We just attended the stamp show in Sarasota, FL where we had a booth and exhibited my three cent Small Queens. Happily, I can report being awarded a Gold and the BNAPS medal for the 8-framer. Another excellent BNAPS exhibit was from Newfoundland.

It was a wonderful, well-attended show and, to my way of thinking, one of the best run shows I have ever attended. The Sarasota Philatelic Club runs the show and they do a great job. Besides, it is a great place to visit in February. The weather was spectacular.

I plan to show again in Cleveland at the annual APS show in August. I hope to meet some more of our members there. If not, I hope to see you in Vernon in September at BNAPEX.

Response to our request for updates on Earliest Reported Dates for the Small Queens has been sparse. The dates are important in that they help us identify printings and add generally to our knowledge of the issue. Please take another look at your collections. Perhaps you will find a gem - or at least a semi-precious item.

In the last issue, I asked about the small crown on the cover shown on Page 1. The response has been interesting. No one seems to know for certain the source of the overprint, but some of the suggestions and theories are that it was:

§ A British postmaster's Inspector's mark.

§ A Montreal postmaster's patriotic receiving mark.

§ A collector having fun.

The crown has been reported in purple on a 3 cent Small Queen from Nova Scotia dated October 1880, in black and in purple on 6 cent Small Queens and on a 3 cent Small Queen cover to St. Hyacinthe from Montreal in 1895. It has also been reported in purple on 1 cent and 5 cent Small Queens in the 1880s. If anyone can provide further information, it would be most welcome.

Richard Morris, who developed the Color Guide for the three cent Small Queen, informs me that he is in the process of developing another Small Queen Color Guide to include three different values. We should look for its appearance. The 3 cent Color Guide has been well received by collectors and dealers.

The purpose of our Study Group is to learn more about our subjects and to share information with other members. The best way I know to do that is for you to write about your findings. If you prefer not to be acknowledged as an author, your information can be published anonymously. The important thing is to share your knowledge.

I recently wrote a brief article for the *Perfins Bulletin* of the *Perfins Club* describing the four reported perfins on the Small Queens. I received e-mail from a member of that group informing me that there is a fifth perfin from the period and that one was produced on the 3 cent Small Queen in 1935 (CPR), probably by a collector. I have been promised photocopies of these items, which I plan to share with you in the next issue.

Let us share your knowledge and information - please.

This and That

Regarding cancellation dates on the Queens, Frank Waite sent in three 3 cent SQ Ottawa vermilion which have cancel dates of OC 30 70, JY 74, and ??12 70. Since these dates are before the stamps were printed, Frank suggests that dates be confirmed when possible with backstamps on the envelopes.

The question comes up again whether 15 cent LQ's can or should be part of a SQ exhibit if one shows the era 1870-1897.

My personal opinion is that they should be allowed. If the 20 cent and 50 cent Widow Weeds can be considered "Small Queens," I would think that the blue, grey, and slate shades (at least) should be allowable. The reddish or purpleish shades from the first Ottawa printing probably should not be included.

Would there be any benefit in identifying and describing the papers of the SQ's with the degree of detail as the Duckworths' work on the LQ pages? Is it sufficient to have "medium wove paper" with either a horizontal or vertical mesh for the Montreal's, and a "poorer" paper for the second Ottawa's?

The Northeast Beavers have initiated a series of meetings/ working sessions to try to make some more sense out of the SQ classifications. Maybe they can include the papers as well.

Patent Green

by John E. Milks

George Mathews received US patent 17688 on June 30, 1857, at the time he represented the American Bank Note Company in Montreal as their active agent.

The claim for the patent was for the "use of the calcined green oxide of chromium for making ink for printing from engraved plates, from types, or other kinds of printing, as described."

Quoting from the text of the patent, "(t)he nature of my invention consists in using for the basis and coloring ingredient of the ink the article known as anhydrous sesquioxide of chromium which I mix with burnt or boiled linseed oil sometimes called printers varnish in the manner usual in preparing ink for printing bank-notes or other instruments."

Although Patent Green was used extensively in bank-notes by the American Bank Note Company and the British-American Bank Note Company, the only indication as to whether it might have been used in the printing of the 2 cent Large Queens can be found in the ink recipe given by Boggs (page 274).

R.P.O. Cancel

The R.P.O. cancel Jack Davis asked about is OTT & FT.COULONGE M.C. It is an Ontario cancel classified as #O-219, Type 9E, E(ast). It has a rarity factor of 185 on a scale of 5-500. See the "Catalogue of Canadian Railway Cancellations" by Lew Ludlow, 1982.

Fort Coulonge in Pontiac County is on the Quebec side of the Ottawa River, between Renfrew and Pembroke. The post office in Ft. Coulonge opened in 1853. This cancel was used in the railway mail car between 1893 and 1909. See "Canada Post Offices 1755-1895" by Frank W. Campbell, or "The Handbook and Catalogue of Canadian Transportation Postmarks" by T.P.G.Shaw, (1963) RPSC.

Thanks to Ted Bowen, Claude Usher, Frank Waite and others for sharing their knowledge.



Two of the ingredients are referred to as Chrome Green (American and Common) and a third as Lemon Chrome Yellow. The other two are white pigments. The problem is that Chrome Green can be either Patent Green (Pigment green 17, yellowish green to green), hydrated Patent Green (Pigment green 18, green to bluish green), or Brunswick Green (pigment 15, a mixture of yellow lead chromate and Prussian Blue, yellowish green to olive). Lemon Chrome Yellow is a specific mixture of lead chromate (yellow) and lead sulfate (white).

X-ray fluorescence spectroscopy is of little help other than to show that the 2 cent deep green Large Queens and the green 12 1/2 cent 1859 perf 12 issue have some similarities in composition and the 2 cent pale emerald green Large Queen of 1871 is strikingly different from the others. The latter might possibly contain a predominant amount of Patent Green with a minor amount of Brunswick green based on the high ratio of chromium to lead and the color. The paleness comes from a low pigment content of the ink and the presence of zinc oxide (white).

Question

John Milks asks, "Do any others have a 12x12 orange red 3 cent SQ dated in 1873? I can find no error in the measurement either by a perforation gauge or by comparison with a stamp perf 12x12 as reference.

The stamp is on a cover and the envelope was sent from Bridgetown, N.S., July 7, 1873 to Laurancetown, N.S. Is it possible that the stamp was perfed 12x12 before the 11 1/2 perf machine came into use? Was a perf 12 machine used to handle an excess work load?

This and That - 2

John Jamieson reports he has the full sheet of the 1 cent Small Queen Black Defaced Proof Sheet. With the other pieces he has, he now says conclusively that there was a left pane and a right pane which have been split up. Thus there should be a total of 200 of these defaced plate proofs in various collections. He believes his full, intact sheet is unique.

The 2 cent Large Queen on laid paper was part of the "Brigham" collection that won the Grand Award at the APS show last summer.

Editor's Column

Roy Sass

We're into our third year of the LQ/SQ study group. I think we have achieved some progress in making the newsletter your newsletter. We are getting articles, information, and questions from various members. (More are always welcome.)

I was pleased with the responsiveness of members with answers to the R.P.O. cancel question. Thanks to you who answered that question and asked a new question for our consideration.

If you don't mind a pet peeve, I received two recent auction catalogs with color photos of the 15c LQ in green. These definitely are errors of colors, but not stamps I would want to bid on. This also causes me to question the colors of the other pictured stamps. I think if an auction house will go to the time and expense to include color pictures, they should make sure the colors are accurate.

SQ Spreadsheet

John Burnett

Attached is a little spread sheet I have been working up over time and I thought the members of the Study Group might enjoy giving it a critique. I do not present this as a finished piece but as a second step in a process.

I ask the members to pull the thing apart. I would hope to have a finished chart later in the year.

I would like to know:

(A) Is this of value?

(B) Have I missed varieties that the members feel should be included?

(C) How can I make this chart more user friendly?

(D) Should the "Widow Weeds" be included?

(E) Should the 15¢ Large Queen be included on this chart (it was in existence for all of the SQ era)?

I look forward to hearing from the general membership.

Interesting Covers

Horace Harrison shares some instances of unusual use of the 1 cent Small Queen.

First is a shipping label for a packet of apple seeds. The stamp is canceled by the bullseye mark. The postmark is a split ring from Manilla, U.C. May 11, 1885.

Next is a letter going from Belleville, Ont., MA 15 95, to Thonotosassa, Florida, going 5th Class.

Finally is an unsealed circular 1 cent rate used at Frelighsburg, L.C. FE 21 71.



Six Cent LQ Plates I and II

Pictured are the two plate varieties for the 6¢ Large Queen. The difference is the location of the guide dots.

Plate I has the guide dot in the lower left corner, just below the spandrel. The dot for Plate II is under the *S* of SIX CENTS.



Postage Rates on Miscellaneous Matter.

"Patterns or samples must be sent in covers open at the ends, so as to be easy of examination. Samples however of seeds, which cannot be sent in open covers, may be enclosed in bags of linen or other material, fastened in such a manner that they may be readily opened;... The Packet may bear on the outside the address of the sender, in addition to the address of the persons for whom it may be intended;... The rate of one cent per ounce is to be pre-paid by postage stamps, and, if such rate be not fully prepaid by the stamps affixed, the Packet is to be rated with the deficient postage and a fine of five cents in addition,..." From the Postal Guide.

Address tag from a sample bag of Apple Seeds; Stamp and postmark side. Manila, U.C., MY 11, 1885.

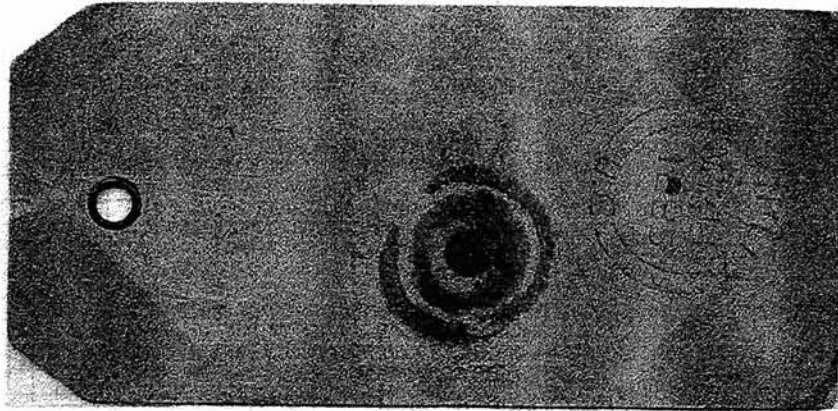
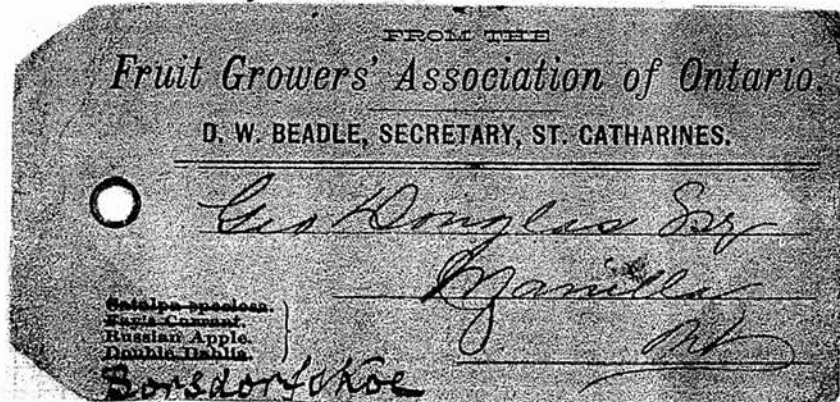
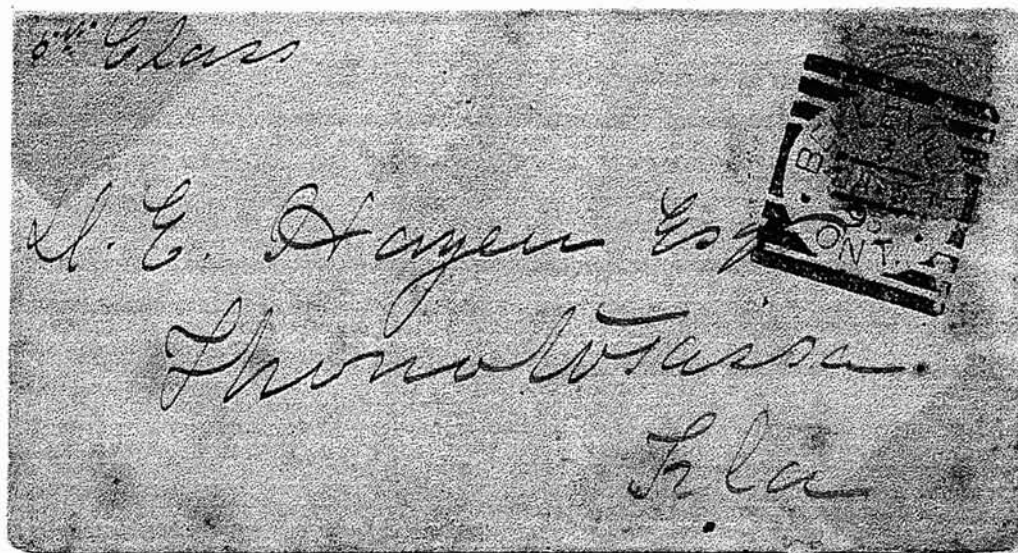


Photo-copy of the Address side.



5th Class Mail, 1¢ Rate to Thomotosassa, Florida



Belleville, Third Hammer

CS

Unsealed Circular 1¢ Rate, Frelightsburg, L.C.; FE 21, 71

