

Confederation

The Newsletter of the Large and Small Queens Study Group

Number 14

January 2000

Unitrade Changes LQ and SQ Numbers

PAPER EXPANSION & SHRINKAGE AFFECT PERFINS & PERFORATIONS

John Jamieson

On the issue of minor perforation variations that are considered so important in trying to isolate printings, I have a little story that puts the "paper expansion" issue into proper context.

A couple of months ago Don, here in my office, was pricing up some OHMS Perfins. He was carefully checking each stamp against the standard 5-hole OHMS template, which was based on a block of 15 formerly in John Johnson's collection and is now in the Canadian Postal Archives. This is the standard reference on these issues, similar to the Kiusalas gauge for perforations. He had one of the more valuable items which matched perfectly to the template but had a big hinge which he thought should be soaked off. So, the stamp went into the water and was soaked for about 20 minutes which nicely removed the hinge.

Don then put the stamp between plastic card and blotter and into his small Thor stamp press and tightened it up very snugly. In due course he removed the stamp from the press and IT NO LONGER MATCHED THE TEMPLATE.

The pressure of the stamp press had "squished" the wet stamp to expand it by enough to affect the alignment of the adjacent OHMS Perfins. The change was perhaps 0.2mm, a tiny amount indeed but enough to throw off the measurement.

He brought the stamp to me, as it was now a problem. As the holes did not align, anyone carefully examining it against the template was going to immediately question its authenticity. I suggested that he put the stamp back in the water for an hour and then just pat it dry and let it finish drying in the air. The result was the stamp returned to its previous size and the OHMS Perfin again matched the template perfectly.

The obvious moral of this story is that soaking stamps really does affect the paper size and must be considered. In this case the change was only 0.2mm over a space of approximately 26.0mm (26.0 vs. 25.8 before the pressure was applied + 0.78%). Not much, however, when you are comparing 12.0 to 12.1 it matters. It is enough to change 12.0 x

Continued on Page 2

On the footsteps of Stanley Gibbons, the Unitrade catalogue has changed some of its numbers for the Large and Small Queens.

In our area, five numbers have been changed, which shouldn't cause us too much difficulty. Three of the changes replace the Unitrade lower case Roman numbers for Scott's alphabetic, and the other two are reversals.

Unitrade 26ii, the 5-cent Large Queen perf 12, is now 26a. Unitrade 26iii, the imperf pair is now 26b.

Unitrade 39iii, the 6-cent Montreal Small Queen imperf pair is now 39c.

On the 8-cent SQ, the violet black shade, formerly 44c has become the basic stamp number 44, and the grey shade changes to a variety, from 44 to 44c. The catalogue value of both shades has increased and Scott followed its usual pattern giving the lower valued stamp the main number with the more expensive stamp getting the varietal letter.

Regarding the Gibbons's number changes reported in the last newsletter, John Hillson has pointed out that the 3-cent rose carmine, Second Ottawa, was number 105 in the pre-1988 and not unlisted as the table might indicate.

Soaking and Measurements

Continued from Page 1

1.0078 to 12.09 which would certainly make any observer record it as 12.1. Following from this 11.5×1.0078 equals 11.59 (or 11.6) and 11.7×1.0078 equals 11.79 (or 11.8).

Since 26.0mm is about the length of the edges on most Large Queens and the sides on the Small Queens this is significant. I would recommend anyone seriously studying the minor perf differences do some experiments on this matter to prove to himself or herself how significant this issue is.

Take a dozen of your common stamps (some vertical and some horizontally wove) and measure the perfs (and the dimensions if you care) carefully. Soak them for 1/2 hour in luke-warm water. Then put them between a plastic card and a

blotter in a stamp press and leave them for at least a couple of hours until completely dry. There must be significant pressure applied. I would doubt that a single big dictionary would do the job. Anyone who does not have one of the little Thor stamp presses to which I referred above and does any wood-working could fabricate a suitable press using a couple of pieces of board and a couple of C-clamps. Make it tight. Remove the stamps from the press and measure the perforations (and dimensions if you wish) again.

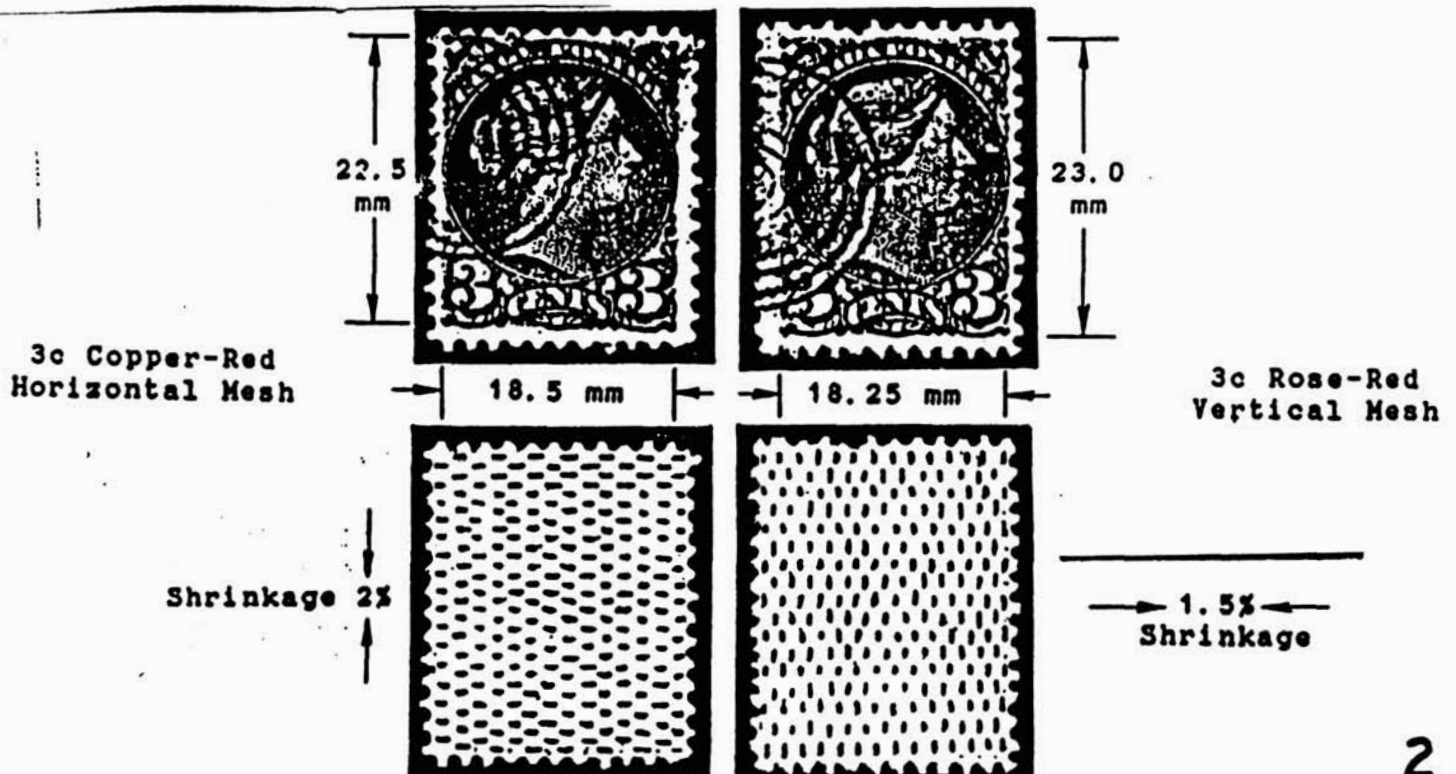
Keep in mind that the expansion will be greater against the weave. If the stamp is on vertical wove paper it will expand more in the horizontal direction and this will "reduce" the perforation measurement across the top of the stamp. You will notice a larger difference on the longer side of the stamp. A LQ or SQ stamp with horizontal wove will be a better sample to use as the

expansion will be a bit more significant along the longer vertical sides. My bet is you get a 0.05 to 0.10 difference in the perforations.

After you measure your findings you can then "re-soak" the stamps and this time just lightly pat them dry with a paper towel and let them dry in the air with no pressure. Check them again and see what the perforations measure. My bet is you will find they are all pretty much back to where they were when you started.

The other thing that will affect the perforation measurements is whether the example used has even the slightest amount of gum residue on the back before you start. This can be with original stamp glue or the gum from previous hinges. This gum will likely have shrunk the stamp a tiny bit and might make a very slight difference if you are really accurate with your measuring.

Reprinted from Newsletter number 7 are illustrations of horizontal and vertical wove papers and how they shrink when wet and dried.



Commentary

John Hillson

May I pick up on a couple of points made in the correspondence published in the November newsletter.

Dr. Perch states that 30-40% of his perf 11.5x12 varieties are "K67". Well, they are not; they are 11.75x12. I know neither Gibbons nor Scott catalogue 11.75x12 separately but that is because they are not producing specialized lists. That does not mean that we specialists shouldn't classify them correctly.

Again I find the statement that "K65" predominate on the Second Ottawa printings, i.e. Perf 12.11. I don't think such a measurement exists in reality; they may but I've never run across it.

After reading the letter, I checked out a couple of Second Ottawa 3c at random (both with squared circled postmarks). Both read perf 12 dead, that is with the lines of the Instanta exactly bisecting the holes and under magnification.

Among the Lussey covers I was fortunate recently in acquiring, and Lussey's writing up of same, all gave faulty readings against the Instanta. A matched 3c rose carmine and a rose carmine 2c Registered letter stamp, both written at 12.11 all around (and how the heck can one use a Kiusalas gauge on covers?) actually read 12x12.15 for the Small Queen and 12.15x12 for the RLS. The top and bottom to sides did not match up as the writing suggested it did.

As I have written to *Topics* following Ron Ribler's interesting update of the Shoemaker article on the 3c SQ, I will not elaborate

further at this stage except to point out one more fact. Even cursory examination will show that the spacing between many stamps printed before the 1880's is inconsistent - whoever made the early perforation wheels was working to commercial, not instrument maker's tolerances.

I was intrigued and a bit puzzled by Dr. Milks's comments on the colours of both Large and Small Queens. On the 3c SQ he states that the red lead is a pigment common to all of them from the Indian Red to Rose Carmine, and that the 6c SQ brown was obtained by a mixture of red lead and charcoal.

In the pages of the colour recipe book produced on pp. 274 and 275 in Boggs, 17 pounds of "orange lead" is mentioned in the 6c recipe - is this red lead? If so, why do 6c SQs not appear to oxidize. I presume the 1 pound of "hard black" will be the charcoal Dr. Milks mentions, or might it be lampblack or even plain soot?

Is "orange lead" the same as "orange mineral" in the 3c recipe? I wonder because one ingredient in the 6c mix that I know is derived from red lead is the 1lb of venetian red. If that is the only red lead ingredient present, and which is absent from the 3c mix, then Dr. Milks's assertion that all 3c shades include red lead appears to be at fault. Again I cannot recall ever seeing an oxidized rose carmine nor an aniline vermilion. Oxidation seems to be commonest in the 1880's 3 cents.

Incidentally, I trust no one now makes the mistake that Boggs did of

presuming the scratched out 3c "recipe" was a genuine mix. All that happened was a very human error that in copying the 3 cent mix, presumably from a master manual, the workman continued to write in 6c ingredients on the 3c, realized his mistake, scratched it out, and entered the recipe correctly on the top of the next page.

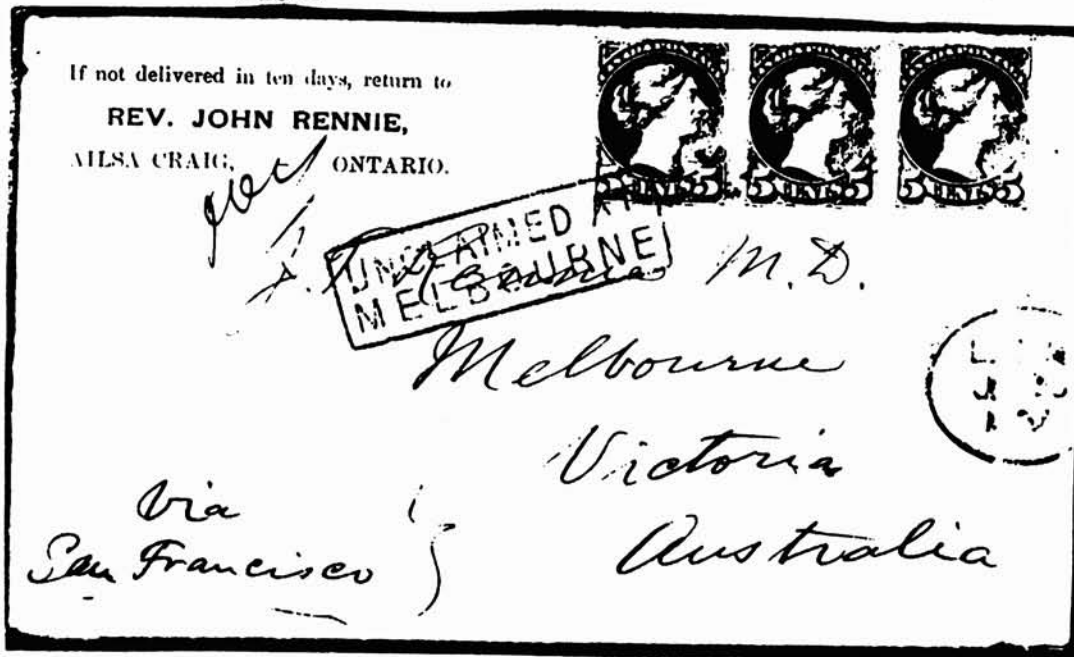
Now I come to "Patent Green". Was there any such? Read the BABNC's proposal - ...*"Fifth*: To that end the propose to use the patent colours, for the use of which in Canada... Mssrs. Burland L'Africain & Co. have the exclusive right reserved under Letters Patent....." and the agreed contract *"Fifth* ...excepting where the patent green is used...."

Please note the only capitals used are on the words "Letters Patent" and not "patent green" or "patent colours" which are all subject to the Letters Patent. This can only refer to the particular mixes used. Clearly one cannot patent any of the ingredients which had been used for centuries. In the case of the patent green, this included "American Chrome Green."

As for the 2c LQ emerald green, since we know colour balls were added to the ink, rather than mixing up a fresh new batch every day, it does not seem improbable that too much "Lime White" may have been added to produce this departure from the norm. Thus I have my doubts that there was any great deviation from the recipe in the book, other than by "refreshing" the existing colour balls.

Small Queen Cover to Australia

John Hillson sent a photocopy of cover showing a strip of three 5c SQs from the second "Montreal" plate paying the non-UPU half ounce letter rate to Australia. It is backstamped at San Francisco and then at Melbourne on June 29, 1887. There is a purple Melbourne Dead Letter Office cds of 7 July 87 and a Canadian Dead Letter Office split ring cds of 23 August 1887.



How To Reach Us

Chairman:
 Ron Ribler, PO Box 22911
 Fort Lauderdale, FL 33335,
 fax (954)760-7794,
 phone (954)760-7795,
 e-mail at laudron@yahoo.com

Editor:
 Roy Sass, PO Box 31054,
 Walnut Creek, CA 94598,
 e-mail roywcca@ccnet.com.

Study Group Financials

Opening Balance 1/1/99	\$333.05 (US)
Dues Received	235.00
BNAPS Stipend Received	59.58
Expenses:	
Postage	166.98
Photocopying	16.24
Ending Balance 12/31/99	\$444.41

Chairman's Column

Ron Ribler

Let's talk about what is collectible. Tradition in stamp collecting is strong and biases and prejudices linger for a long time. We all want to collect stamps that are without faults and as clean as possible, with nice strikes on canceled ones. That is a tradition that will no doubt remain forever.

But the definition of fault is one that I believe is changing. Three specific things come to mind: precancels, perfins, and manuscript cancels. Those three categories have been shunned by collectors since stamp collecting began. Consequently, many of them were discarded and destroyed, leaving the total population in the scarce category.

Until recently, they were all endangered and rapidly facing extinction.

Precancels

Precancels have been collected in the past mostly by collectors who were interested in the variety and availability of them at prices lower than those for regular canceled stamps. The new 2000 Canada Precancel Catalogue has been published and if you haven't seen it, you might be shocked by some of the prices quoted for some of the Large Queen and Small Queen precancels.

If you have not been collecting precancels, you might think that they are easily identified and classified according to the Precancel Catalog description.

Such may not be the case. The catalog offers only some of the possibilities and precanceled stamps exist that are not pictured as such in the catalogue. For example,

the description might read "3 to 5 bars." How can you tell for sure?

Another factor is that the illustrations of the precancels for the Large Queens and Small Queens are solid black. In reality, the impressions made by the precanceling devices are not always so black, adding to the difficulty of identifying a given item without a reference collection. Precancel collecting of the Queens has become truly difficult. Because so many were destroyed over the past 100-odd years, some of the ones described in the Catalogue may no longer exist and those that remain have become extremely hard to find.

For example, I have been searching for more than 20 years to find precancels on the Three Cents Small Queen. To date, I have found only 6 of the 16 basic types identified. Among the 16 types are varieties such as vertical and double and triple impressions. Precancels are easiest to find on the one-cent stamps because they were used for large mailings of circulars at the one-cent rate. Finding precancels from this era on cover is another matter. They are scarce to rare!

Check through your holdings and see how many precancels you can find. If you find any on the Three Cents Small Queen that you do not want, offer them to me and I will probably buy them from you.

Perfins

If precancels are scarce, wait until you try to find perfins. Those stamps with the little holes have been disparaged and called damaged for eons. Now they are becoming rarities. As far as I can tell, only four perfins existed on the Small Queens

and none on the Large Queens. The four are W.J.G, which is for W. J. Gage, a Toronto Stationer; IC/R, for Intercolonial Railroad; SL/A Co for Sun Life Assurance Company; and J.H./S. for John H. Stiles.

Of these, the WJG is the most common and exists on at least several of the Small Queens. The IC/R is the second most common, but apparently much scarcer than the WJG. The last two are so scarce as to almost never to be seen. I have never seen a Sun Life or J.H. Stiles perfin on a Three Cents Small Queen. Only one cover is known of the one-cent J.H. Stiles perfin.

Perfins on the Small Queen issue are hard to find on or off cover. As with the precancels, check your stock books to see how many you can find. If you find them and do not want them, I do, especially the Three Cents Small Queens.

Manuscript Cancels

Pen cancels are probably the least desirable of the three classes of previously uncollectibles. The variety of manuscript cancellations is surprisingly large and a page assembled from such findings can be quite interesting. I believe they will never bring premium prices nor will they become highly coveted. However, I do believe collectors will stop discarding them and find a special place in their collections for them.

Think about it. Every manuscript cancel is unique, creating an endless variety of marks and colors. Who says these kinds of stamps are not collectible or desirable? Do you have experience with any of the above you can share with us? Let us hear from you.

Editor's Column

Roy Sass

When I first became interested in the intricacies of the LQ and SQ stamps, my only references were the Scott Catalogue and the Brookman Price List. I realized I needed more information. I wrote to the APS library for books on the subjects and I found the Duckworth book and the Firth book.

Continuing my search in the sale catalogs of philatelic literature, hobby-oriented newspaper articles and some searching in local used book stores, I found Boggs and Jarrett.

Since I became editor of the newsletter, the attached Bibliography of books on the

Large Queens and Small Queens was given to me. I picked up a few to help me understand our topic. I received and kept some auction catalogs of "Name" collections, such as the Firby catalog of Menich's LQ collection (Feb. 1997). I can attest that these reference materials will add to your knowledge of the Large and Small Queens.

As always, I look forward to receiving comments, questions, photocopies of covers (anyone have a cover to Argentina?) or anything else the members may wish to include in the newsletter.

BIBLIOGRAPHY OF CANADIAN PHILATELY IN THE LARGE AND SMALL QUEEN ERA

Arfken, G.	Canada and the UPU	Unitrade Press	1992
Arfken, G.	Canada's Small Queens Era 1870-97	V. Greene. Foundation	1989
Boggs, W. S.	The Postage Stamps and Postal History of Canada	Quarterman Pub.	1975
CAPEX	CAPEX Catalogue	CAPEX	1978
Day & Smythies	Canadian Fancy Cancels of the 19th Century	BNAPS	1973
Duckworth, H.E. & H.W.	The LQ Stamps of Canada and Their Use 1868-1872	V. Greene Foundation	1986
Firby & Wilson	The Cdn. Postal Letter Guide 1851-1902 1st Ed.	Firby	1996
Firth, L. G.	Canada - the Fifteen Cents of 1868	Firth	1963
Gillam, L. F.	A History of Canadian RPOs 1853-1967	APS	1979
Hansen & Moffatt	Squared Circle Postmarks of Canada - 1st Ed.	Friesen	1981
Hansen, G.	Guidebook & Cat. of Cdn. Stamps - 1st Ed.	Regency Pub.	1970
Hansen, G.	Guidebook & Cat. of Cdn. Stamps - 2nd Ed.	Regency Pub.	1973
Hillson, J.	The Small Queens of Canada (Pamphlet) 1st Ed	Pall Mall Stamp Co.	1981
Hillson, J.	The Small Queens of Canada 2nd Revised Ed.	Southbourne Prtg.	1989
Hillson, J.	Canada Small Queens Re-Appraised	Cdn. Phil Soc. of GB	1999
Howes, C.A.	Canadian Postage Stamps & Stationery	Quarterman Pub.	1974
Jarrett, F.	Stamps of British North America	Quarterman Pub.	1975
Johnson & Tomasson	Cdn. Stamps with Perforated Initials - 4th Ed.	Unitrade Press	1985
Kramer, Reiche, et al	The Standard Canada Precancel Catalog (Pamphlet)	Unitrade Press	1997
Milos, M.	The Small Queens - (envelope)	Cdn. Stamp Handbooks	1985
Morin, C.	Cdn. Philately Bibliography & Index 1864-1973	Nat. Library of Canada	1979
Reiche & Sendbuehler	Constant Plate Var. of the Cdn. Small Queens 3rd ed.	Ian Kimmerly	1996
Reiche, H.	A Large Queen's Report	Cdn. Wholesale Supply	1977
Reiche, H.	Constant Plate Var. of the Cdn. SQ (pamphlet)	Unitrade Press	1981
Richardson, E.	Canada-BNA Philately - An Outline (pamphlet)	BNAPS	1981
Richardson, E.A.	Collect Canada Covers	APS	1978
Robson Lowe	Vol. 5 of Brit. Emp. Post. St. 1639-1952 BNA 1st ed .	Robson Lowe	1973
Sissons, J. N.	Holmes's Spec. Phil Cat. of Can. & BNA 10th Ed	Ryerson Press	1963