

Confederation

The Newsletter of the Large and Small Queens Study Group

Number 23

January 2003

Possible Solution to 8c Mystery

John Hillson

The Meeting in Spokane

Roy Sass

The Spokane meeting September 26-29, 2002, was a success for our little study group. There were 7 members who showed up for our group meeting: Jack Wallace, Jack Gordon, John Burnett, Vic Willson, Dan Peterson, Dave Lacelle and myself. Several others who were not study group members came into the room to check things out.

There was a short discussion of what constituted the Small Queens "Era." Did it end in 1897 when the QV Maple Leaf issue came out? Did it extend until the 20-cent and 50-cent Widows were replaced by the 20-cent QV Numeral and/or the 50-cent Edward?

We asked each other whether the 15-cent was allowable in a Small Queens exhibit since there were printings contemporaneously with the later printings of Small Queens plus the fact that the 20c and 50c are "large" in size.

The general consensus was that you can do what you want as long as you define what you are doing.

John Burnett brought some Small Queens on covers from municipalities. Vic Willson brought some

It is amazing what one comes across when looking for something else. I am trying to find out who was responsible for the original portrait on which the "Widow's Weeds" design is based.

In doing so I came across a sample sheet printed by the BABNC, presumably while still at Montreal since that word adorns the middle of the sheet. There are eight examples of the left facing portrait used for the Eight Cents in the top half of the design.

There is another sample sheet produced by the British American Bank Note Co with the same vignette, in an oval again, as was used for the 8c. This one has a Boggs Type III imprint and also a "Montreal & Ottawa" in the middle of the sheet. It is illustrated in The Canadian Paper Money Journal Vol 28 No 1 Winter 1992 on the front page. Six examples of the vignette are on this sheet.

The Canadian National Archives may have copies. So might BABNC. All I have is a photocopy of a photocopy.

I know one thing. If I were a manufacturer who had to sub-contract out important work to arch rivals and wanted to keep it quiet, the one thing I would make sure of is that when I took delivery the name of my firm was on the product.

If I needed 8 times as many impressions to produce 6.6 million stamps where one of mine with only 100 impressions produced 4.25 million with little or no sign of wear (the 10 Cents), I would sue them for shoddy workmanship.

This rather scuppers the suggestion that the BABNC contracted out the work of engraving the Eight Cents.

Small Queen postcards with foreign destinations. One was sent to Dar es Salaam in German East Africa. It had an Aden transit mark. I've asked Vic to photocopy it and add a few paragraphs for the newsletter.

I showed off my Large Queens.

Of the exhibits, of specific interest to the study group was a 10 frame exhibit of the Half-Cent

Small Queen by H. L. McNaught. The exhibit had proofs, imperforates, papers, shades, imprints, gutter offsets, misperfs, imperf between pairs, a stitch watermark, reentries, cancellations and usages in Canada and beyond. I met Mr. McNaught and asked him if he would be kind enough to photocopy some pages for us. He said he would and did.

Continued on Page 2

Spokane Meeting

Continued from Page 1

Gary Steele had 3 frames of postage due covers to foreign countries, with a few examples of Small Queens.

In addition, Vic Willson had 10 frames of Admirals to foreign destinations, John Cooper had 9 frames of Admiral booklet panes and the late Horace Harrison showed 10 frames of Money Letter and Registered mail.

John Jamieson was the only Canadian dealer who brought anything I found interesting. I purchased a 50c dark blue Widow and a 2c unused LQ on thin paper (Paper 9). I came home with more cash and fewer stamps than I had hoped for.

More on the Eight-Cent Mystery

Robert Cumming

Was there any other company not related to BABN at that time which had the skilled personnel to make the vignette and plates? If so, then the plates could have been made by them.

I think the lack of an imprint is significant. I really wish someone could put forward an alternative reason why none of the plates had imprints when every other plate in the series had one.

I can understand that in the rush to prepare plates they might have missed one, but not four. That is far beyond a chance occurrence. My suggestion may be far fetched, but it is the only one I have been able to think of.

Letters

Three Cents and Blotting Paper

I had trouble following Ron Ribler's Chairman's Column so I got out my copy of Unitrade. There are three Unitrade numbers of interest here.

37i Dark rose on thick paper (this is Shoemaker's paper 'C' and Duckworth Paper 8).

41i Deep rose carmine.

41a Rose carmine.

Ribler refers to 41i as being on thick soft almost blotting paper, this should be 37i, 41i is on relatively normal thickness wove paper.

Ribler also gives the thickness of thick soft paper as 0.040" this should be 0.0040" and 0.0032" for the usual papers of this issue.

Richard Thompson

I acknowledge the error. When I mentioned 41i, I should have stated 37i. The point I was trying to make is that a lot of confusion exists about the real 37i. Unitrade does not list the thick soft paper variety at all - and that is the one most people incorrectly call 37i. None of the varieties I described are 41.

I am always confused about the paper thickness. I still do not know if it is three hundredths or three thousandths. Maybe someone else can address that issue. I have seen it both ways in different publications.

I hope this clarifies Mr. Thompson's concerns and I thank him for his sharp eyes.
Ron Ribler

Editor's Column

Roy Sass

The Spokane meeting was the first BNAPS meeting I attended since the last CAPEX in Toronto. I'm not sure what I expected but I had hoped for a greater number of dealers with stamps for me to see and buy. On the other hand, I was pleased to meet members of our little study group as well as the BNAPS staff.

I enjoyed looking at the BNA exhibits and I was privileged to meet Herb McNaught and talk with him about his Half-Cent SQ exhibit. This newsletter copies a few pages of his exhibit dealing with the printing plates. For the next newsletter we have several pages on the stamp itself, and for a third newsletter pages showing the usage of the Half-Cent SQ.

Mr. McNaught also mentioned that the full 160-page exhibit is being copied for a BNAPS book. I for one am looking forward to adding that book to my library.

Now for the editor's "lament".... **I need more articles for publication!!**

Best wishes for the holiday season.

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Letters

Constant Plate Varieties Project

I gather you have been corresponding with Steven Perch about my summer (multi-year, actualy) project. At some point I had intended to contact you. Should the next issue of the newsletter raise questions I can answer, please ask.

For members who have a computer but not a high speed internet connection, I could possibly provide a CD that would be accessible by a browser. Clearly this would be out of date after my next site update.

I am quite anxious for member contributions, but time is limited and each email I answer takes time away from site development so I will be trying to walk a fine line. Any help in this area would be appreciated.

A number of site attributes are 'under development (and others under consideration) I just started learning real web design this summer and already have had to do a major overhaul - and I seen another one pending. I would like to explore Steven's idea of keeping track of up to 10 dates per variety. This is possible, but to be easy I need to learn about CGIs...

Clearly a more advanced numbering system will have to be introduced, but what I am currently using should allow reasonably efficient communication.

I would like have users able to graphically access the general area of plate flaws etc. I have a start with the 3¢ - more skills are needed to do what I want,

Bill Burden

Chairman's Column

Ron Ribler

Since the last issue of Confederation I have been occupied with the upcoming Matthew Bennett auction sale, now scheduled for early February.

I have also been busy with my internet sales activities on Zillions of Stamps and Stampfinder. Zillions changed their fee structure so that it became impossible for me to continue with them, so I am now only on www.stampfinder.com.

I had the pleasure of spending some quality time with Horace Harrison at BALPEX shortly before his passing. He gave no hint of his condition and was quite active at the show.

His book, with Arfken, on Canada's registry system was due for publication imminently and I asked him about the so-called anomalous five-cent rate to the U.S. of 1888. The book includes an interesting discussion of it and he xeroxed a copy of the pages for me.

I had recently acquired a second cover of the period and was curious about the census of such covers. The list included 14 known covers from the 2-month period of the rate.

My newly acquired cover was not among those listed. I include this information here for two reasons.

First, more covers posted with the two-cent registration rate to the United States are probably in other collections and dealer stocks and the owners are unaware of the importance and value of such covers, much as the Three Cents Small Queen

perforated 12.5 was before people began looking for it.

Check your holdings for registered covers paying the five-cent rate to the U.S. between March 1, 1888 and April 30, 1888.

The second reason I am mentioning this here is that the cover will be in the Bennett auction along with another cancelled on the last day of the rate. I searched for these covers for many years and I believe no Small Queen or registration collection is complete without one.

After collecting the three cent Small Queens for more than 25 years, I am still searching for a number of elusive items, some of which may not exist, such as:

- JHS perfin
- SLA/Co perfin
- Montreal Roller 21 precancel
- Specimen overprints (2 types)
- Official overprints
- Covers used with the 15c Large Queen
- Stitch watermark
- Most precancels other than Types R, S, and T.

Some of these items I have seen in auctions, but could not get them. As far as I can tell, the first two items on the list probably do not exist, except as fakes (which I have seen). Even though I can list items, I am always surprised to find things I had no idea even existed. That is the ultimate joy of the hunt.

Happy holidays and happy hunting.

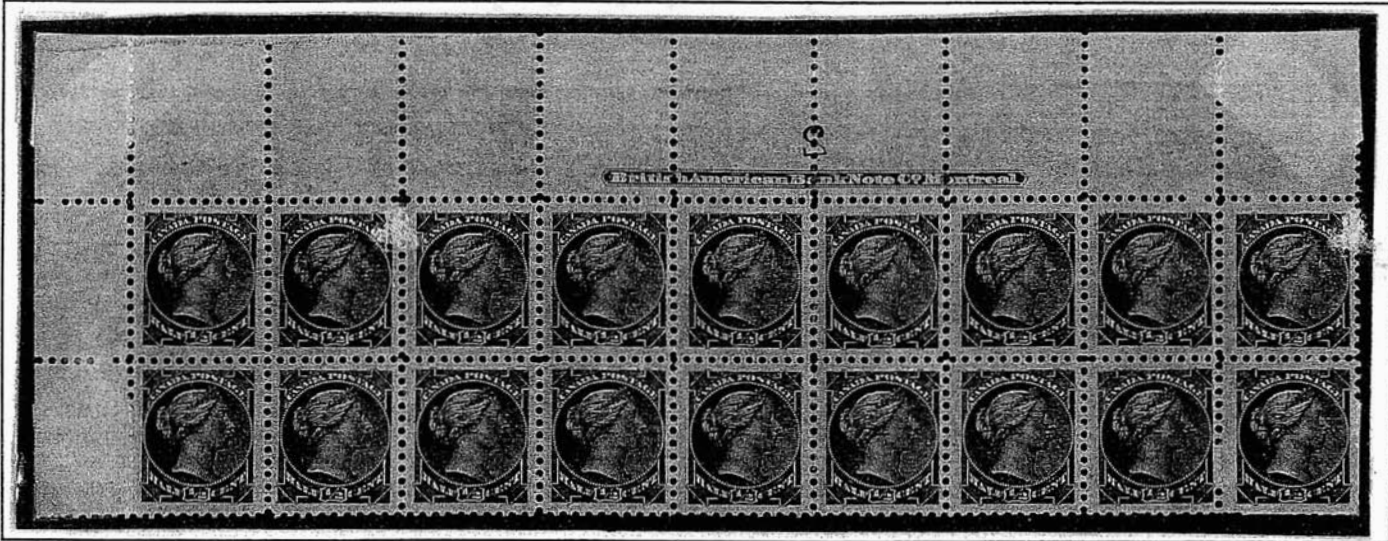
CANADA

THE HALF-CENT SMALL QUEEN ISSUE OF 1882-1897

THE PLATES



Top of right pane, Plate 1



Top of left pane, Plate 2

THE HALF-CENT SMALL QUEEN ISSUE OF 1882-1897

THE PROOFS

The British American Bank Note Co. produced the following Proofs:

1. Small die proof white bond paper .003" thick - black



2. Plate proof on India paper - black



3. Plate proof on card .014" - black



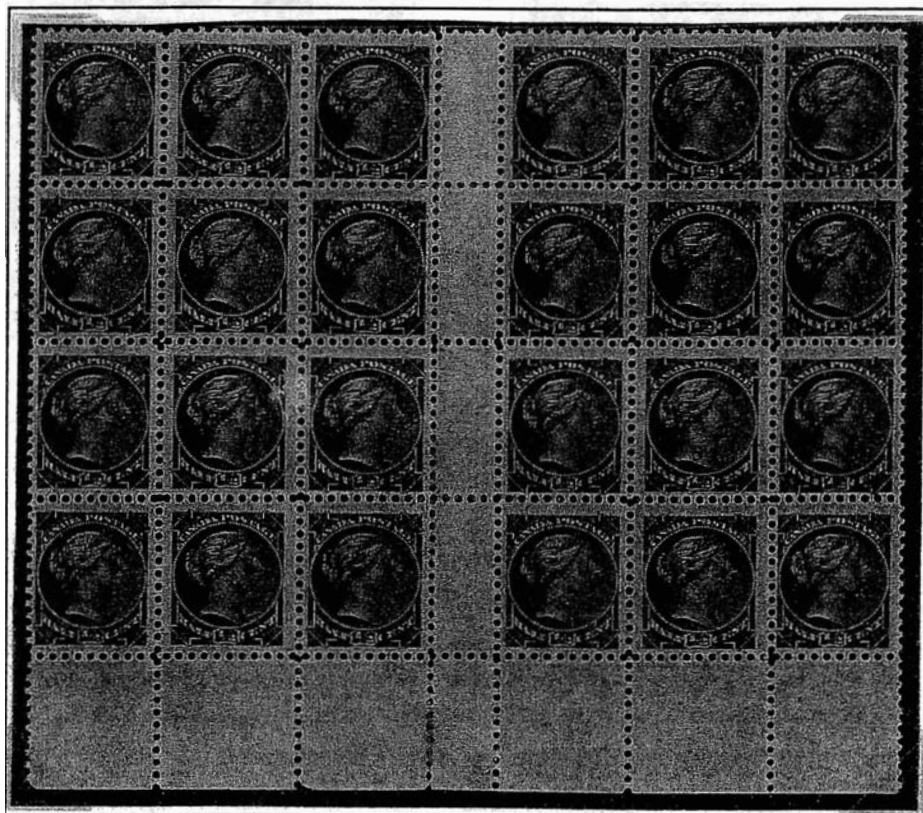
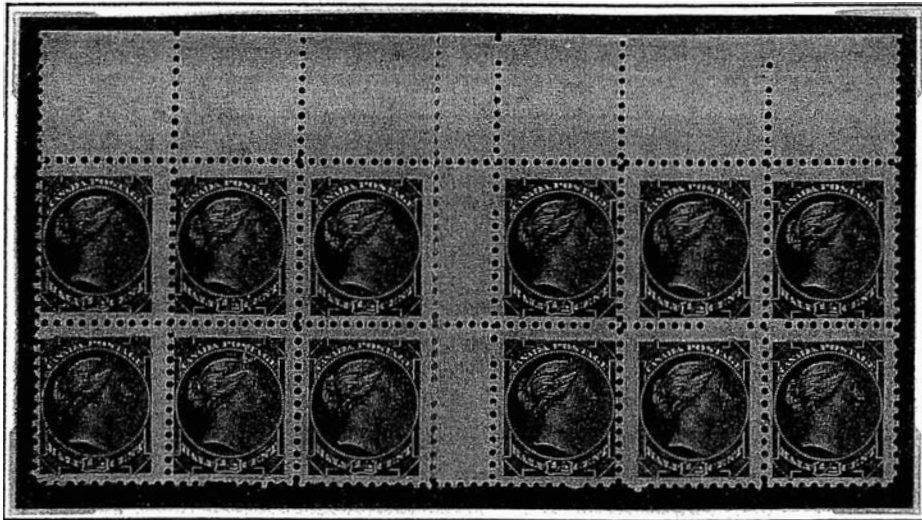
Other colours and proofs may exist

C A N A D A

THE HALF-CENT SMALL QUEEN ISSUE OF 1882-1897

THE GUTTER

The Gutter between the 16th and 17th rows of the sheet of 200 stamps divided it into 2 panes of 100 stamps.



CANADA

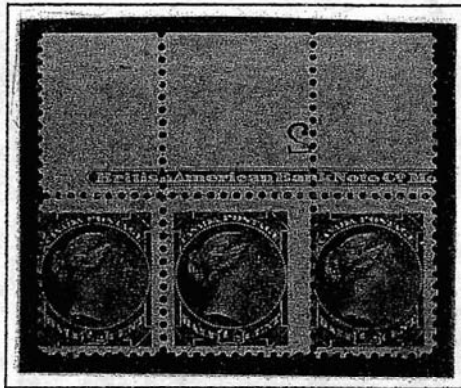
THE HALF-CENT SMALL QUEEN ISSUE OF 1882-1897

THE IMPRINTS

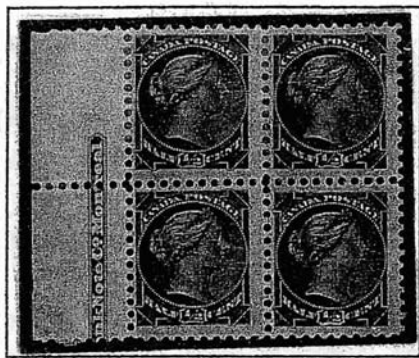
The Imprints appear in the top and bottom margin of each pane, as well as in the left margin of the left pane, reading up, and in the right margin of the right pane, reading down. All imprints were placed centrally, 56 mm long and 2 mm high.

The imprints read: "BRITISH AMERICAN BANK NOTE CO. MONTREAL"

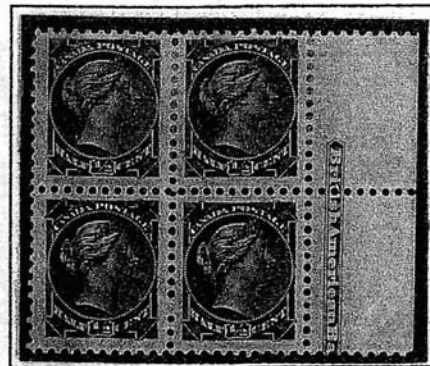
Above the imprint, over the left pane, appears the numeral "2" in reverse and above that of the right pane the reversed figure "1".



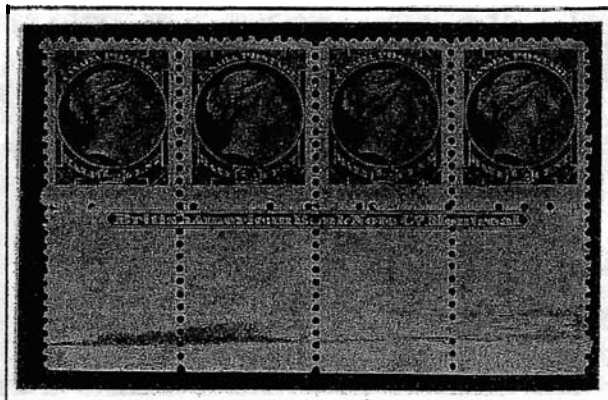
Top of pane, Plate 2



Left side of pane



Right side of pane



Bottom of pane