

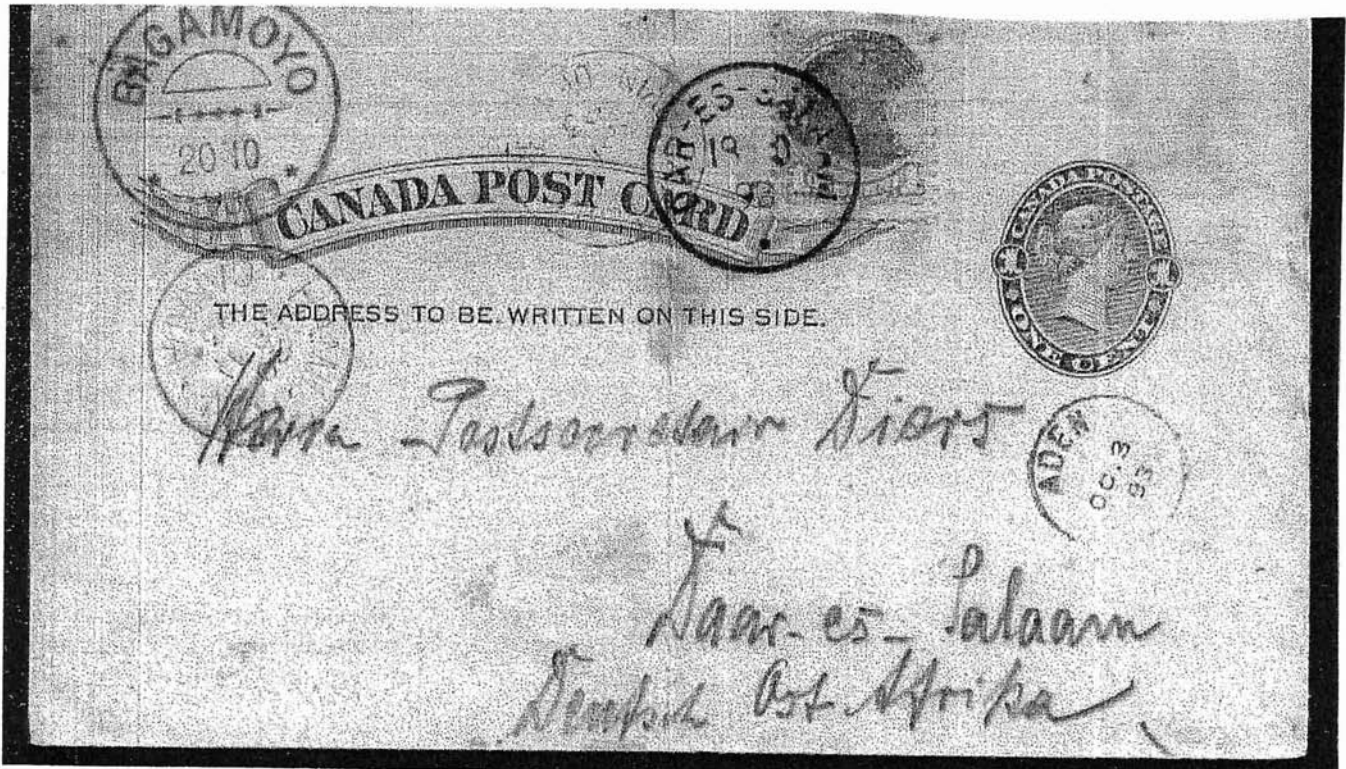
Confederation

The Newsletter of the Large and Small Queens Study Group

Number 25

January 2004

A Rare Transit Mark



Illustrated above is an interesting post card, shared with us by Vic Willson. It appears to be Scott #UX14, the 1893-1896 1-cent black card, 140mm x 86mm, with the addition of a 1-cent yellow Small Queen to pay the 2-cent international rate. The card is addressed to Dar-es-Salaam, Deutsch Ost Afrika.

There are two faint date stamps from Hamilton, Canada, with the date possibly SP 11 93 (September 11, 1893). Neither canceled the stamp or the post card indicia. The card

arrived in Dar on 19 (1)0 93, (19 October 1893) and was then carried a short distance north up the coast to Bagamoyo, receiving a date stamp there of 20 10 (20 October (1893)).

What is interesting about the card is the Aden transit mark of OC 3 93 (October 3, 1893). Vic tells us that it was unusual for mail destined for Africa to be routed through the Arabian Peninsula and thus this is a rare transit mark.

Editor's Column

Roy Sass

Items Urgently Needed

This newsletter is heavy on illustration and light on text. That's because there are no articles "in the well" waiting for publication.

This is your newsletter and we can only publish when articles, questions, answers, etc. are submitted. No articles equal no newsletters.

Half-Cent SQ

Continuing with examples from Herb McNaught's award-winning exhibit of the Half-Cent Small Queen, here are four pages from his exhibit showing usage to foreign destinations.

First is a Post Office 1-cent envelope with eight half-cent stamps to pay the 5-cent UPU rate from Montreal to Trieste, Austria, with backstamps at London and Trieste.

Next is a 1-cent cover with two half-cents (and a 1¢ and a 2¢ for the 5¢ rate) from Esquimalt, B.C., via Vancouver to England, and then forwarded through France to San Remo, Italy. It was forwarded at last to Poste Restante in Pegli, Italy. Quite the postal service for only a nickel!

The next cover shows a strip of six and a single half-cent to pay 3 1/2¢ from Halifax to Lisbon, Portugal.

Finally there is a 1¢+1¢ Reply post card, updated for international use with two pairs of half-cent stamps. This card went from Montreal via Vancouver to Auckland, New Zealand. The reply card was never detached and used.

I purchased a color copy of Herb's full 160-page exhibit from the BNAPS book department. At first I wondered why I needed a color copy of book on a black stamp. However, the color illustrations of the additional stamps used, the transit and registry markings, among others, add to my understanding of the use of these stamps and the activities of the Post Office at the time. I think it was well worth the difference in price.

Album Pages

It was suggested to me that it would be interesting to see how the study group members collect and arrange their Large and Small Queen stamps. I'm sure that standard pre-printed pages are insufficient to display and explain our attraction to these little pieces of paper.

To begin, I photocopied two pages from my collection. I started my album by following (copying) the Duckworths' paper descriptions and then showing some of the shades. I used this procedure for Paper Types 1 through 10.

When I was able to pick up some stamps from S. J. Menich's collection, I

kept his notes along with the stamp.

After the printing of the stamps went from Ottawa to Montreal, most are described as being printed on a "medium wove" paper. I have separated the 15-cent stamps by perf, (11.9 vs. 12.1) and by the watermarks. Again I try to show the various shades.

My next task is to incorporate the 15-cent stamps I bought from the Horace Harrison collection and to better describe the stamps by Firth classifications.

Dues

Lastly, you probably noticed that I did not ask for dues contributions for 2003. There was enough money in our "treasury" for paper and postage.

In the next newsletter I will include dues notices for 2004. Dues in the US will remain at \$5. Dues in Canadian currency will decrease back to \$7 because of changes in the exchange rate.

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HOW TO TELL A SCOTT #37 FROM A #41

Ron Ribler

In beginning the study of the Three Cents Small Queen, the most important lesson to be learned is how to distinguish between these numbers. Beginners and even many experienced collectors and dealers have difficulty distinguishing them.

It is tempting to follow the path of least resistance and to classify a Three Cents Small Queen as number 37 because it is the first one listed in the catalogue and it has a higher value. Scott lists the First Ottawa and the Montreal Printings as number 37 and all its modifiers.

Stamps from the Second Ottawa Printing are designated as number 41 and its modifiers. Attention to the identifying characteristics listed below makes the separations relatively simple.

Position (Guide) Dot.

The most outstanding characteristic of the First Ottawa and Montreal printings is the position dot in the lower left corner on approximately 90 percent of the stamps until 1885. Stamps from the leftmost vertical row do not show the color dot. It does not appear on the stamps from the Second Ottawa Printing.*

While the foregoing is true for the great number

*Per Hillson, there is a dot at 3 o'clock on the vignette rim. - ed.

of cases, collectors will find exceptions, such as multiple dots of color in the margins at different locations. Almost all of those are from the Second Ottawa Printing.

Rose Carmine vs. Rose Shades.

The Rose shades are from the First Ottawa Printing, while the Rose Carmine shades were printed in October 1888. While the Rose Carmine is classified in most catalogues as from the Second Ottawa Printing it can easily be classified as a late Montreal Printing, since it was printed at the Gazette building in Montreal.

Some Rose shades of the First Ottawa Printing appear similar to the Rose Carmine shades of the later printing. Look for the color dot, especially on multiples. Also, if the paper is vertical mesh, it is probably from the later printing.

The paper used for the Rose Carmine shades is whiter and of a better quality than those of the other stamps classified as being from the Second Ottawa Printing. If the perforations read 12 x 12 1/2 or 12 1/2 x 12, it is almost certain to be the 1888 Rose Carmine stamp.

Paper.

Another test to establish printings is the paper. Generally, the papers of the Second Ottawa Printing are inferior in quality to the earlier printings. The papers of the later printings are coarser and yellowish or grayish, while the earlier printings are whiter. The mesh may be horizontal or vertical, although the hori-

zontal mesh predominates in the earlier and the later printings.

The 1888 Carmine Rose shade is primarily on paper having a vertical mesh.

When attempting to classify a stamp by the paper thickness, it may be necessary to remove a stamp from its cover to measure the thickness. If the stamp is carefully replaced, no harm will be done to it.

Color or Shade.

A final quick test is to check the color or shade. If it is a brilliant Vermilion, it is from the Second Ottawa Printing. If it is a coppery or rosy shade, it is from the First Ottawa Printing. If the design bleeds through to the back, it is a so-called aniline print and belongs to the Second Ottawa Printing.

Most plate varieties, such as scratches and re-entries, exist on the stamps from the Second Ottawa Printing.

Dated Cancels.

It is often easy to differentiate by the dates and types of cancels. In most cases the stamps were probably used shortly after they were issued. Therefore, squared circle cancels are from the Second Ottawa Printing; 2- and 4-ring numerals are probably from the First Ottawa Printing. Dated cancels make it easier to establish printings.

As with almost everything else, exceptions do exist. Stamps on cover are usually easy to categorize because, in almost all cases, a date appears somewhere on the cover. Occasionally, we find stamps used on cover well after the date they were

printed, which means the date on the cover does not necessarily indicate when the stamp was printed or issued.

The only information that can be certain from the postmark is that the stamp was not issued after the date on the cover.

Sometimes, however, date stamps were in error but a receiving stamp can confirm the date. For example, if a stamp is perforated 11 1/2 x 12, it is from the Montreal Printing and will probably be dated 1873-1875. Sometimes any one of these tests can establish the printing, but sometimes several or all of them may be required.

Factors that Determine Stamp Color.

Shades of mint stamps may appear different from used copies. Stamps on cover should, as a rule, be considered as having gum. Stamps removed from covers when they were in current use may be different from those removed later, but the chemical composition and color of the cover also can affect the shade.

The combination of gum, age, pollutants, cover material, and cancellation all combine to increase the difficulty of identifying shades. Naming of shades and colors is, at best, an arbitrary exercise. However, over the years, the color names used here have come into general use and acceptance.

This article was taken from Ron Ribler's book "Canada's Three Cents Small Queen 1870-1897 Reflections of a Generation," published in 2000 by Philatelics Unlimited, PO Box 22911, Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33335

Chairman's Column

Ron Ribler

It has been a while since the last newsletter. We have been busy and not enough members have sent in material. Let's try to share more of our collective knowledge. It takes so little time and can be so rewarding.

I have been breaking down my three cents Small Queen collection because I felt there was little more I could do with it competitively. It was a sad moment when I decided to dissolve a relationship that had lasted more than 25 years, but others will enjoy those parts that fit into their collections.

Part of the collection, mostly the stamps, proofs, and essays were sold via Matthew Bennett auctions last year. The bulk of the postal history material will be in Bob Lee's late Spring auction - May or June. I have also been putting some of the "lesser" material on eBay. To be honest, it is not nearly as much fun selling the material as it was acquiring it.

I still keep busy with my 80,000+ inventory of worldwide stamps and covers on Stamp Finder.

Interest in early Canada material seems to be high, perhaps because of the falling value of the US dollar. Large and Small Queen material is in demand and prices seem to be increasing.

In a previous newsletter I recommended members make use of the internet more. I believe that, since then, a number of you have taken the plunge and gotten into the computer waters. The possibilities are virtually unlimited, not only for stamp collecting, but for almost any information you might want or need.

I have been using computers and the net for a long time and have learned a few tricks. If I can be of assistance to any of you newcomers (or old timers), please feel free to call on me. You have my e-mail address, so I am that close to you even if I am in sunny Florida and you are at Portage & Main. Don't be bashful. I am more than willing to help. Besides, it is nice to hear from fellow collectors.



CANADA

THE HALF-CENT SMALL QUEEN ISSUE OF 1882-1897

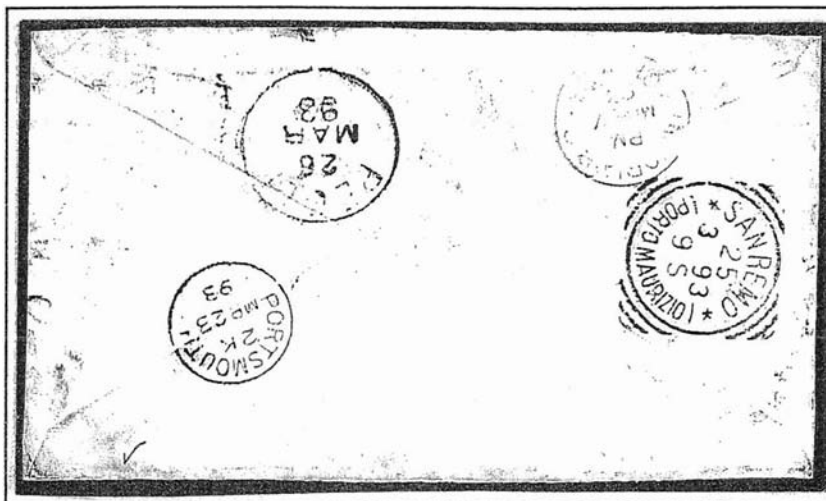
THE USAGE

To ITALY

(Forwarded from England)



Small Queen ½¢ Black(2), 1¢ Yellow and 2¢ Green tied to 1¢ Blue Postal Stationery Envelop from Esquimalt, B.C. to Victoria, B.C., MR 7, 1893, to England and redirected to Italy via France, no forwarding charge as both countries were members of the U.P.U. which rate had been prepaid.



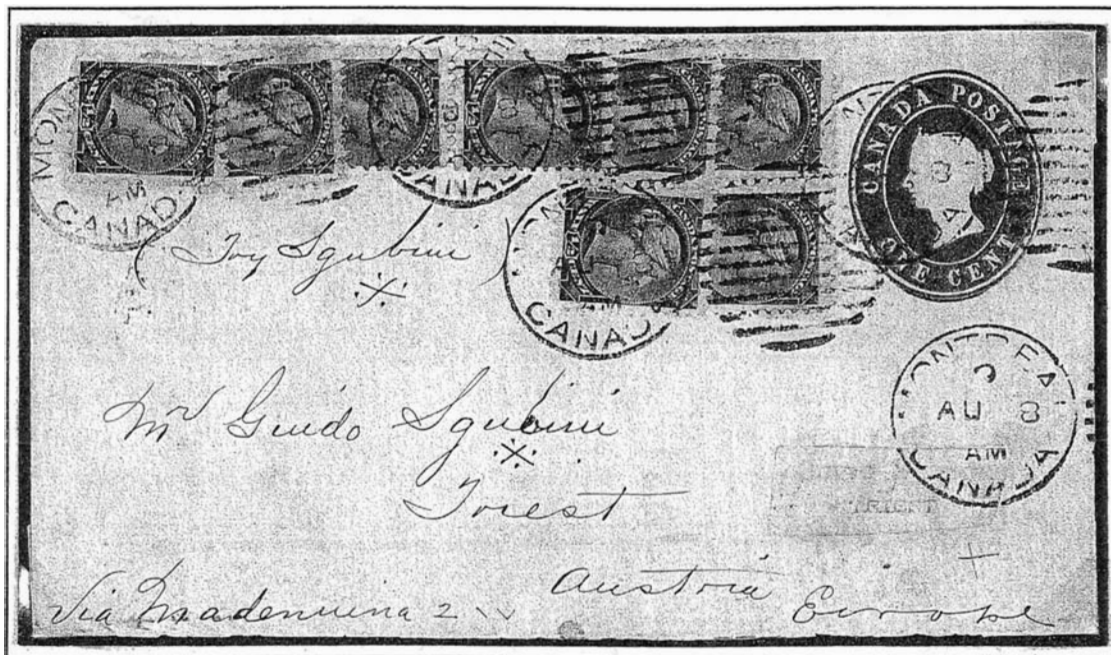
Backstamped Portsmouth, MR 23, 93 to San Reno 3, 25, 93 and to Italy 26 MAR 93.

THE HALF-CENT SMALL QUEEN ISSUE OF 1882-1897

THE USAGE

TO AUSTRIA

Combination with a Post Office Cover



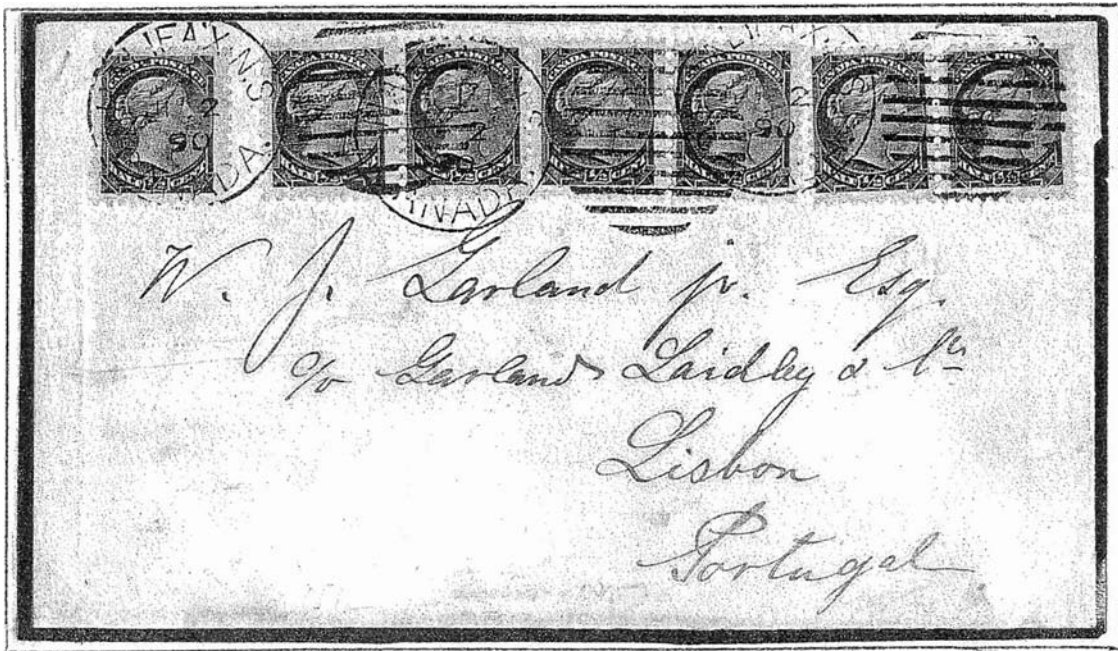
Eight 1/2¢ stamps in combination with a Post Office 1¢ Cover to make up the 5¢ letter rate to TRIEST, AUSTRIA, EUROPE from MONTREAL, CANADA dated AU 8, 92. Backstamped LONDON, AU 18, 92 and TRIEST 21.10.92.

C A N A D A

THE HALF-CENT SMALL QUEEN ISSUE OF 1882-1897

THE USAGE

To PORTUGAL



Strip of a six and a single paying postage from HALIFAX, CANADA, JUN 2,



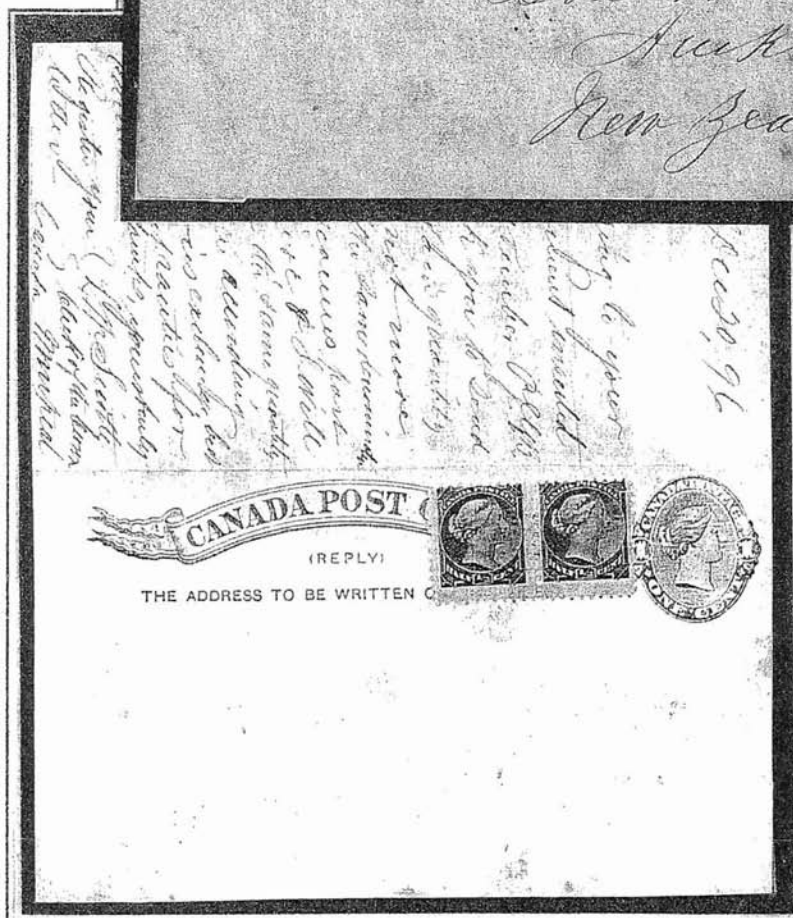
Backstamped LISBON, JUN 19, 90

CANADA

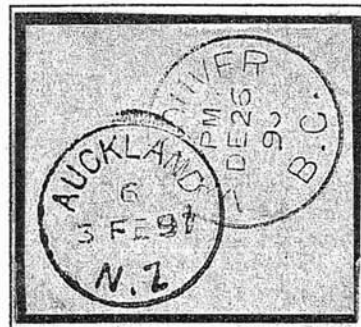
THE HALF-CENT SMALL QUEEN ISSUE OF 1882-1897

THE USAGE

Canada Post Reply Card To NEW ZEALAND



MONTREAL, DEC 21, 1890 to
AUCKLAND, NEW ZEALAND



Backstamped

1877

Printed on paper with *Alex. Perie & Sons* watermark Perf 11.6x12.1



1877-1879

Printed on a Medium Wove Paper Perf 12.1x12.1



1879

Printed in the deep violet shade on thick "carton" paper
and on medium wove paper Perf 12.1x12.1



"carton"



"wove"



1868 The Large Queens

Paper 1 is a thin, hard (or crisp) semi-transparent paper with a vague vertical structure. The impression of the design is blurred and the design shows through the paper, which has the appearance of a somewhat oily surface. It was used in the printing of 1c, 2c, and 3c stamps.

Perf 11.9x11.9



orange brown



brick red



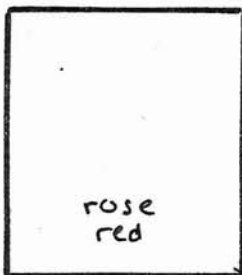
orange red brown



ex Henich



ex Henich



rose red



QV13

