

Confederation

The Newsletter of the Large and Small Queens Study Group

Number 26

June 2004

Usage of the Half-Cent Large Queen

by Dr. J. Frank

BNAPEX 2004 at BALPEX

Our study group will be having a meeting at BALPEX, September 3 to September 5.

The meeting will be scheduled for 90 minutes, although the exact date and time are not yet fixed. Vic Willson will be chairing the meeting.

Doug Lingard, VP of the Study Groups, advises that this information will be posted on the BNAPS web site www.bnaps.org.

If you are planning to attend BALPEX, you may wish to keep an eye on the web site for the meeting time and any other late convention information.

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The correct single usage of the Large Queen Half-Cent value is a rare item and a problem for the postal historian.

The March 1868 General Regulations of the Dominion Post Office distinguished between newspapers and periodicals.

Howes lists the half cent rate for periodicals weighing less than one ounce to anywhere in the Dominion, Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland, and the United States, to be prepaid by postage stamps.

The Duckworths concur with this and add that the rate was also used for occasional newspapers, i.e. newspapers sent from the publishers to persons who were not regular subscribers. This latter rate apparently only became effective in 1873, according to Arfken.

Illustrated (figure 1) (on page 2) is a wrapper addressed to New Brunswick franked by the half-cent stamp, tied by a target cancel in black. The stamp is on stout wove paper with perforation 12, indicating it is a later usage.

The item is ex-Harbour collection and has a

clear Greene Foundation Certificate, so it has a pedigree. Although my old friend Y. P. recently expressed some reservations about the item, he now concedes that there were a few Large Queen Half-Cent wrappers which came on the market some years ago. This would explain the use of a late printing Large Queen stamp.

I have written to the Postmaster at Norton, N.B. to verify the existence of the Hayes post office but have had no reply to my letter. I would appreciate it if one of the members living in the area could corroborate the whereabouts, past or present, of this office. Campbell only lists Hayesville (York County) in New Brunswick.

The August 24, 1877 Halifax N.S. cover to Dartmouth (figure 2) is a one cent drop letter prepaid by a pair of Large Queen perf 12 Half-Cent stamps.

It was a pre-Confederation practice to extend the drop rate to the county. Although this letter was not delivered from the post office of origin, it remained within Halifax County. No back stamps were applied to drop letters.

THE HALF-CENT NEWSPAPER / PERIODICAL RATE - ZIP TO LOUNGE
EFFECTIVE 1873.

SINGLE USE OF HALF CENT VALUE ON NEWSPAPER WRAPPER TO NEW BRUNSWICK

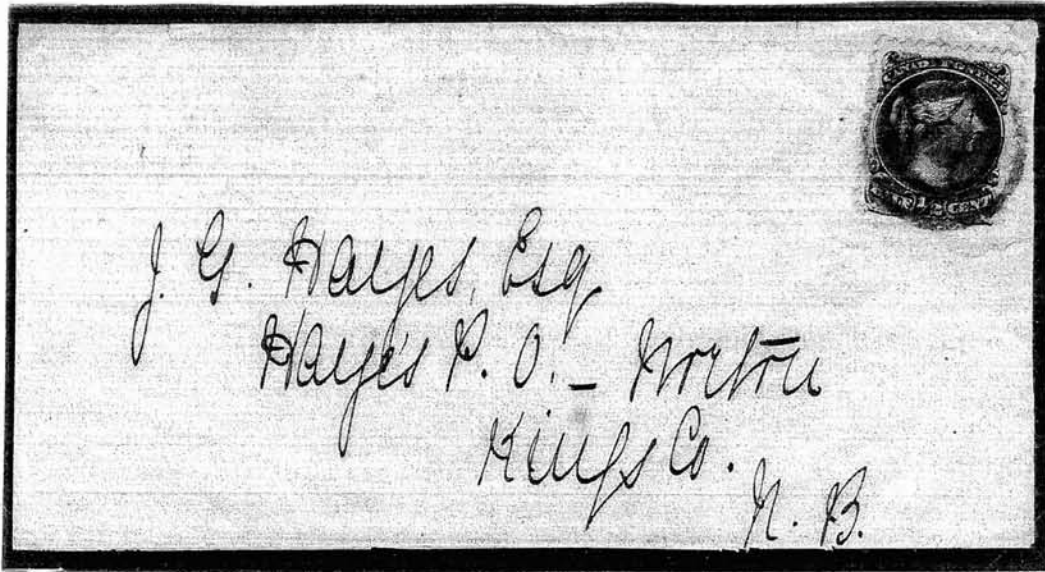


Figure 1
single LQ
usage

RARE USAGE OF HALF CENT, PERF. 12, CANCELLED BY TARGET CANCEL
IN GENERAL USE. ADDRESSED TO NORTON, N.B. NO BACKSTAMPS NEEDED.
SIX EXAMPLES RECORDED. GREENE CMT. 3814 (e).
(EX HARBOUR COLLECTION)

ONE CENT DROP LETTER RATE EXTENDED TO COUNTY, NOVA SCOTIA.



Figure 2
pair 1/2c
LQ

AUG. 24 1877. - HALIFAX TO DARTMOUTH, HALIFAX CO., N.S.
DARTMOUTH IS SEPARATED FROM HALIFAX BY ONLY A QUAY.
PRE-CONFEDERATION PRACTICE OF ONE CENT COUNTY DROP
LETTER RATE PERSISTED AFTER 1867. (DUCKWORTH). NO DUE CHARGES.
NO BACKSTAMP WAS APPLIED TO DROP LETTERS.

Bisects Wanted

Our friends in the "Fancy Cancel and Miscellaneous Markings" study group are looking for information and examples of bisected Small Queens. John Hillson and Dave Lacelle believe there is sufficient new information on bisects for a *Topics* article.

Dave mentions that the only detailed article he could find on bisects was in *Topics* Volume 8, 1951.

This was on the two-cent SQ. They are particularly interested in the bisects usually attributed to Henry Hechler from Halifax N.S. in the mid 1880's.

Info can be e-mailed to Dave at lacelle@mars.ark.com or mailed to him at PO Box 233, Merville B.C. V0R 2M0.

Shades of the RLS

by *Richard M. Morris*

One of the most enjoyable experiences I ever had was spending several days with Horace Harrison sorting and colorizing his extensive collection of Registered Letter Stamps.

Since they were printed simultaneously with the Small Queens they share the same shades.

It might be of some interest to some to see what we came up with as the order of printing:

- Dull red
- Pale orange
- Dull red orange
- Bright orange
- Orange
- Scarlet
- Rose carmine
- Pale rose carmine
- Deep rose carmine
- Crimson
- Pale vermilion
- Red orange

John Hillson's Six-Cent Small Queens

We have copies of several examples from John Hillson's collection of the Six-cent Small Queen.

On this page is a copy of a pair in the chestnut brown shade with an indistinct cancel. What makes this interesting is the placement of the stamps on the printing plate as evidenced by the relative positions of the two stamps.

You can see that the right-hand stamp is placed just a little bit higher on the page than the left-hand stamp. This difference would have occurred when the die for the stamp was entered onto the printing plate.

Collectors who try to reconstruct a pane of stamps from their positions on the printing plate would find this pair useful.

Continued page 5



From the 'Montreal' Plate, possibly Pane 'C'



This block of 15 is one of the two or three largest Six Cents used blocks known.
Note the four stamps on the right of the bottom row which are 'dropped'

**John Hillson's Six-Cent
Small Queen**

Continued from Page 3

Next is a block of 15, being one of the largest blocks known in the red brown shade. The cancellation is from Kingston, Canada, on JA 12 99. Again, note the relative positions of the two stamps in the lower left-hand corner of the block and then the positioning of the two stamps in the right hand corner.

Even with positioning dots, perfect alignment wasn't possible a century ago.

Finally, we have a cover with a bisected Six-cent stamp. This is in the chestnut brown shade. As noted, the bisect was contrary to regulations.

Contrary to regulations a bisected example paying the half ounce domestic rate posted at Wilmot N.S. and dated 20 AU 1873, stamp cancelled with N.S. grid



Robineau Certificate No. 13249