

Confederation

The Newsletter of the Large and Small Queens Study Group

Number 28

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A New Mark near the Queen's Neck?

by Glenn Archer

The One Cent Large Queen saw a limited period of production and use and as such there are very few varieties or re-entries found on the issue. Both the Duckworths and Reiche, in their respec-

tive works, note only a possible major re-entry on the one cent yellow. Reiche further notes two apparently minor re-entries on the one cent red brown.

A significant constant plate variety, however, can be found on the one cent brown red. The variety is found to the left of the bun in the Queen's hair. I have examples on several early papers(1). The variety likely occurs on every paper used for the production of the one cent brown red in 1867-1868.

In appearance the mark resembles the "neck flaw" on the six-cent small queen. The damage probably occurred

during the manufacture of the plate, evidenced by the fact that occurs on the earliest shades and papers. The relative scarcity of the examples suggests it occurs at only one plate position. To date it has not been found on the one cent yellow or orange.

The plate position of the variety may never be determined with certainty, but the following information may ultimately be useful in determining plate position:

1. The stamp shows a position dot at LL, indicating it is not from the first column.

2. The stamp is known as the left of a horizontal pair, indicating it is not from the rightmost column.

3. A horizontal pair exists showing the variety at the right. The left stamp also shows a position dot at LL, indicating it is not from the second column of the sheet.

4. There is some photographic evidence that the variety *may* occur on the block of 24 ex. Firth (Sissons auction, 17th Nov. 1971). It



Figure 1. Unused copy showing the variety, on thin crisp paper.

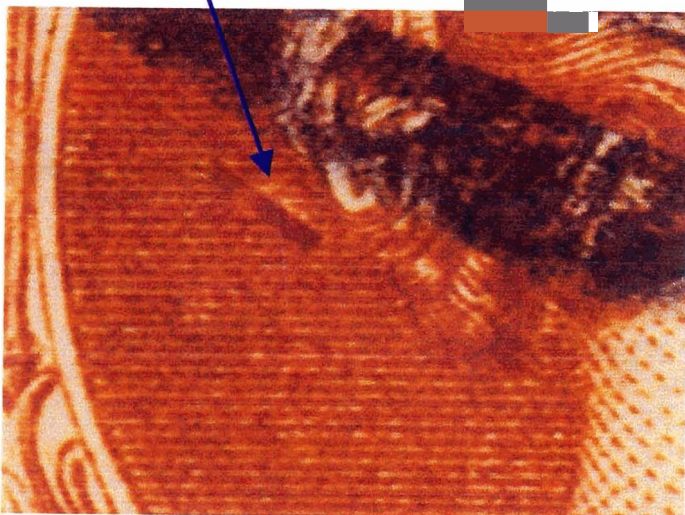


Figure 2. Second example, showing an enlarged view of the variety.

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Intercolonial Railway of Canada Perfins on Cover

Three Cents Value

1889 - 1897 Perf 12

Bright Vermilion

Printed in Ottawa on Thinnish poor quality paper

Intercolonial Railway corner card registered cover bearing ICR perfined 3c and 5c Registered Letter Stamp, the latter bottom edge imperforate and from plate II, posted at Boundary Creek, N.S. on OC 30 94. Only five such covers are recorded.



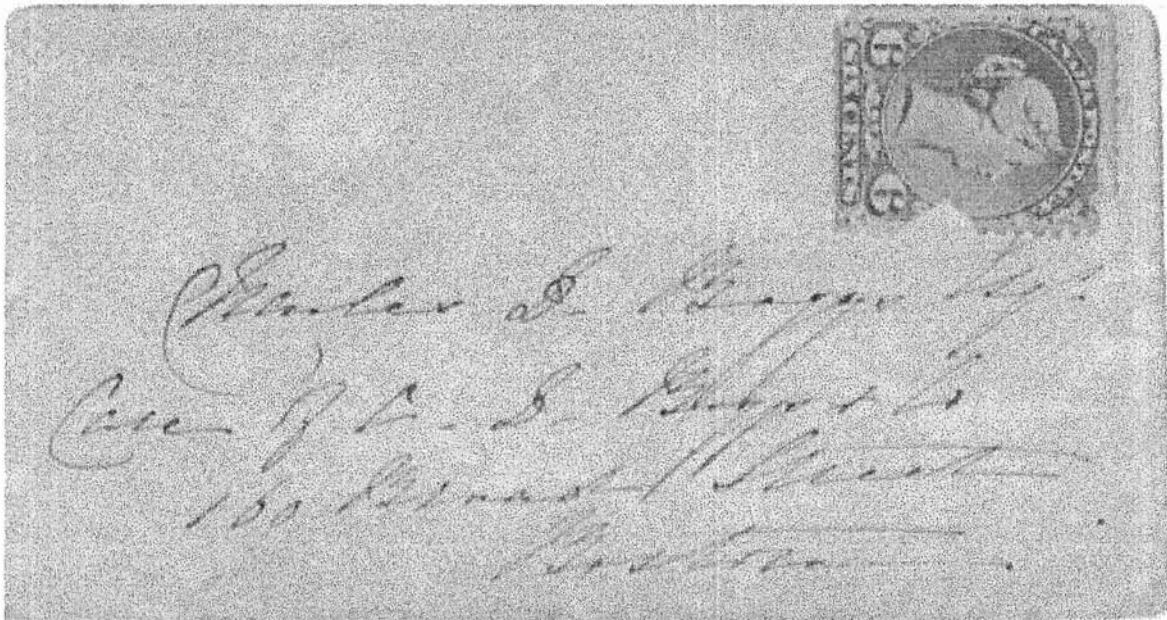
from the John Hillson collection

Large Queen Student Questions

Proposed by Ben Cohen (largequeens@shaw.ca)

In the following issues of Confederation a series of questions will be presented to readers by a student of the Large Queens. As the Large Queens contain a myriad of paper types, usages, plate flaws and cancellations the number of topics is vast. The student questions will be those that arise from the author's own collection and will invite the discussion and response of readers.

Large Queen Student Questions #1 – Secret Message Cuts



Here is a small cover with the stamp containing a secret message cut. What are these secret message cuts and how common are they? This is the first one I have encountered in my Large Queens collecting experience.

The cover to Boston is franked with the Six Cent Large Queen in a Brown shade with the plate being indeterminate as the bottom plate dot is not visible. The stamp is damaged at upper right and lower left and there are no transit markings anywhere on the cover. In all not a very inspiring example of the USA rate during the Large Queen period.

But back to the small wedge mark removed at the right hand side. What does it mean? Who would send covers with these markings and why was the message not encoded somehow in the text of the letter?

I guess this was perhaps one of the quirks of communicating 135 years ago in the days before AOL instant Messenger.

Large Queens Student Question #2

Six Cent Stitch Watermark



Students of the Large Queen Issue knew about the Six Cent with Stitch watermark at least since 1986 when the Duckworths published their book and referred to it on page 66. In their review of this mark the Duckworths state that “the use of the word “watermark” for this unintended impression is colloquial and strictly inappropriate.”

This mark is more properly called a Paper Maker’s mark. The Duckworths go on to state, “In the manufacture of paper, the liquid pulp was poured on to a canvas surface.” Occasionally there were stitched joins in the canvas, which showed up as a faint impression. Duckworths mention that they saw only 2 copies in a sample of 2800 copies. I cannot recall seeing one come at auction.

The one I have is on a light brown shade with indeterminate plate as no plate dot is visible. The shade of the paper is an unusual white tone with horizontal mesh. The design is somewhat visible from behind. The actual “stitch” watermark actually looks like those fossil impressions left on rocks.

My questions is how common is it and why did it appear in the Unitrade catalogue only a year or so ago? I looked in a 2003 Unitrade and it is not mentioned, in 2005 the Six-cent is listed.

I would be interested in hearing from others with this stamp and seeing scans so as to catalogue the plate, shade and paper types.

Queen's Neck

Continued from Page 1

appears as the lower right stamp in the block. This would indicate that the plate variety does not occur in the first three rows of the sheet and is possibly a sixth-column stamp.

5. The variety does not appear to occur on the block of 12 (pos. 84-89, 94-99) known on cover (ex. Jarrett, Firth)(2).

Footnotes:

(1) I maintain examples on thin crisp vertical wove paper, thin and medium horizontal wove, and Bothwell paper.

(2) Still requires verification by personal inspection of the items in question, any further information verifying or refuting would be most useful.

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Canada Bank Note Essay



One of our members asked a question about this essay, wondering whether it belonged in a Large Queen collection or not. Since this may be a question others have, let's look at pages 300-301 in *Boggs*.

The Small Queens were being printed by the British American Bank Note Company. Their contract for these stamps came up for renewal in 1891.

The Canada Bank Note Engraving and Printing Company was successful in securing the new contract to print stamps. They provided stamps in the 1c, 2c, and 3c values in this design.

However, before the new stamps could be printed and issued, British American Bank Note purchased Canada Bank Note Engraving and Printing. BABN continued to print stamps in the "old" Small Queen design and the new design stamps were never issued.

Editor's Column

Roy Sass

I think we have some interesting items in this edition of the newsletter. When I received Glenn Archer's article on the flaw on the one cent Large Queen, I printed it out on high quality photo paper, which clearly shows the flaw. Then, Staples had a promotion for printing in color for 39 cents per page. The shop where I usually photocopy the newsletter charges \$1 per page for color. Let me know if you like it.

Ben Cohen has submitted two "Collector Questions" regarding the Large Queens. Ben has said he will submit more LQ questions for future newsletters, and I'll print them, subject to receiving answers to his questions that I can pass along to every one.

Mike Sendbuehler sent in diagrams of some constant plate markings and recuts on the One Cent Small Queen. I hope you find these interesting. There are two more pages of these markings that I can put into the next newsletter, if there is interest. If you would like to see the others, please e-mail me at roywcca@earthlink.net. We have 70 members in the study unit. I'll include the others next time if I receive 7 e-mails so requesting.

Finally, from the storage locker, is a cover with ICR perfins on both the 3c SQ and the 5c Registered Letter stamp. John Hillson reports that there are only 5 such covers known.



One Cent SQ Plate Flaws and Marks

from Mike Sendbuehler

2-17, 2-18, and 2-19 are a horizontal strip of three stamps on a cover from OÖburg to Sarnia Ont. Oct 5 81. These stamps come from the left side of the sheet because the left stamp has a tab with a side imprint on top. The perforations are 12 by 12.

2-20 both copies are orange and have a horizontal wove; the perfs are 12 by 12.

2-21



2-18

2-21 is noted on two copies. The first is dated Brandon Dec 5 191 and the second London Dec 15, 175. Both have a horizontal mesh and measure 12 by 12.



2-19

2-22 is dated Apr 21, 197 and has a part squared circle cancel. OÖnishe N.S.



2-1 This is strand #9 which is 2mm in length on horizontal wove paper 12 by 12. Just beneath the strand there are a number of short lines. From an Ottawa printing.



2-14 is from a Montreal printing, the paper is of a poor quality and has a horizontal wove with 12 by 12 perfs.



2-J This is strand #10 on Horizontal wove paper 12 by 12. The strand emerges from the last pearl of the tiara. The dates are Ju 14, 193 Lindsay Ont.: Aug 14, 196.



2-15 is from a Montreal printing; vertical wove paper with 12 by 12 perfs.



2-13 is on a Toronto cover from 1861. The perfs are 12 by 12.



2-16 is attached to an annual report from Saint John dated December 1875. The perfs are 12 by 12.

Answers

In the last newsletter, Robert Pinet asked a question about dateless covers. He did further research and found the answer.

“According to an article in the BNA Topics (Sept. 1957, p. 199) by Smythes, the duplex Montreal hammers disappeared from 1879 to 1891: ‘the year now disappears.. This was to be the standard for the next 12 years.’ “

Chairman’s Column

Ron Ribler

Small Queen Bar Precancels

In the last issue I discussed perfin. This time I want to talk about another often overlooked and even spurned element of Small Queen collecting – the precancel.

Like the perfin, the precancel is not considered worthy of the serious collector. I find this reasoning to be flawed because a serious Small Queen collection must include examples of at least some of these.

The Small Queen issue was the first to use precancels in Canada and some of them are difficult to find and to identify.

The *Standard Canada Precancel Catalog* lists 18 types (types A-N, R-U) of bar precancels for the Small Queens. Of these, there are sub-types of sideways, double, etc.

If you have never seen the catalog, you might be surprised by the prices. I believe the prices are as low as they are because the demand is low. The scarcity is extreme.

I have been searching for examples more than 30 years and have found very few. With the exception of the most common R, S and T types and the U on the one cent Small Queen, the others are rarely found and they are hard to recognize and identify.

Finding them on cover is even more difficult. If examples of these precan-

cels exist, they are held in collections that do not see the light of day.

When I was preparing my Three Cent Small Queen collection for international competition, I was advised by an international judge to omit the precancels because they were considered of little philatelic value.

I disagree wholeheartedly with such a conclusion and I insist that the first use of a postally authorized cancellation method is, in fact, an essential part of the postal history for the issue.

You may have a small gold mine in your Small Queen collections. Look for the precancels and try to identify them. It is harder than it might first appear – but it can be well worth the effort. As with so many other aspects of stamp collecting, the search is where the fun is.

