

Confederation

The Newsletter of the BNAPS Large and Small Queens Study Group

Number 32

August 2007

Rates to Great Britain during the Small Queen Era 1870 – 1897

John Burnett

I was looking through my copy of "*Canada Domestic and International Rates and Fees 1870 – 1999*" by Dr. Robert C. Smith and Anthony Wawrukiewicz and published by The Press for Philately, Snow Camp, North Carolina. I noticed some interesting rates and started looking through my own material. I decided to write about the various letter rates to Great Britain during the small queen era as a start to what I hope will be regular contributions to our newsletter.

On January 1, 1870 the letter rate to Great Britain was set at 6¢ per ½ ounce. Figure 1 shows a cover franked with a pair of 2¢ and a single 2¢ small queen stamps making the 6¢ letter rate.

The stamps are the green shade of the Montreal printing and are perforated 11½ x 12. This letter was sent "direct" from Canada with the Saturday sailing of the Canadian Packet from Montreal. When Montreal was closed due to ice then sailing left from Halifax.

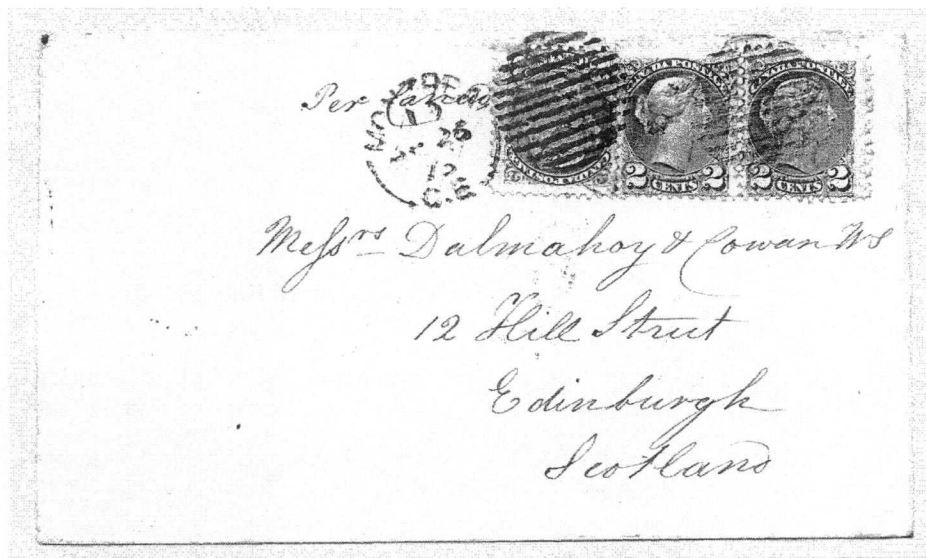
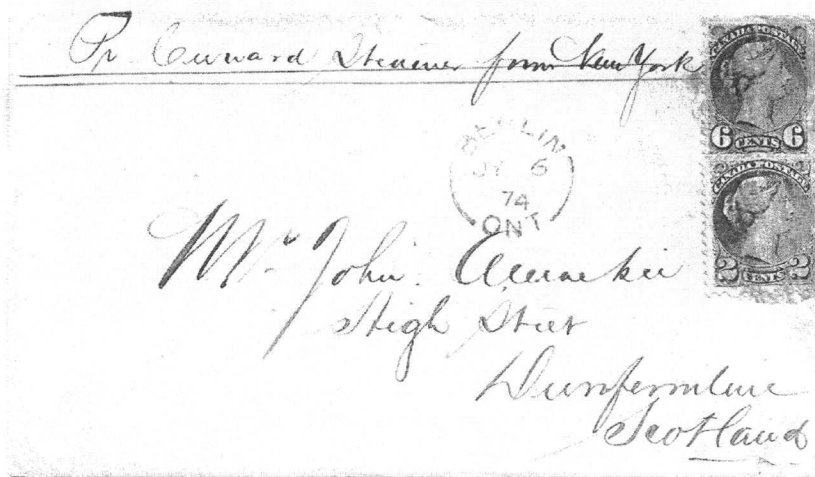


Figure 1. Three 2 cent SQ stamps pay the 6 cent letter rate to GB.



For speedier service one could post a letter choosing a routing via New York to pick up the Wednesday sailing of the Cunard Line and is often referred to as the "Cunard Rate". This service cost 8¢ per ½ ounce and was available until December 31, 1874. Figure 2 shows a nice cover franked with a 6¢ and 2¢ small queen paying the 8¢ per ½ ounce rate. Mailed from Berlin, Ontario on July 6, 1874, the envelope is marked in manuscript on the front "Per Cunard Steamer from New York".

Figure 2. Eight Cent Cunard Rate to GB.

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A difficult rate is an overweight letter as shown in Figure 3. Here a pair of 2¢ and 6¢ small queen stamps pays for a double Cunard rate. Mailed from Montreal Quebec on February 23, 1874 the letter carries no directional markings nor are there any transit markings to indicate the envelope passed through New York and traveled to Great Britain via Cunard.



Figure 3. Double Cunard Rate to GB.

Effective October 1, 1875 the rate to Great Britain was set at 5¢ per ½ ounce and stayed there until the evolution of the Imperial Penny Post rate of 1898. Figure 4 shows a cover paying this rate. This cover is from my collection and is one I am particularly fond of.

The cover bears a dark grey shade of the small queen of 1889 – 1890. The stamp is barely visible from under two of seven British "Officially Sealed" labels.

This letter has been treated quiet poorly en route to England. It was marked "NOT CALLED FOR" on the front and sent to the Liverpool Return Letter Office, as shown by the strike at front. On the back of the envelope is the somewhat understated message "Edges frayed in Post".



Figure 4. Five cent rate to GB effective Oct 1st, 1875.

One can have a lot of fun putting together a single destination postal history study. I think Great Britain would be one of the easier destinations to study.

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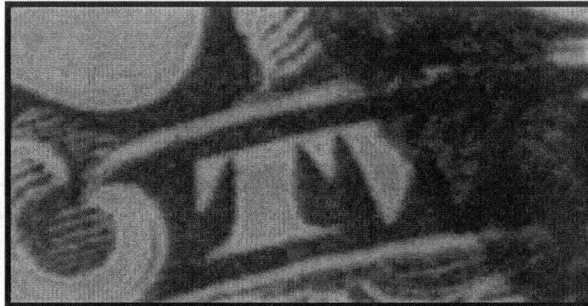
The Two-Cent Large Queen: A Remarkable Strip of Three Showing Plate Scratches and How They Are Related

Glenn Archer

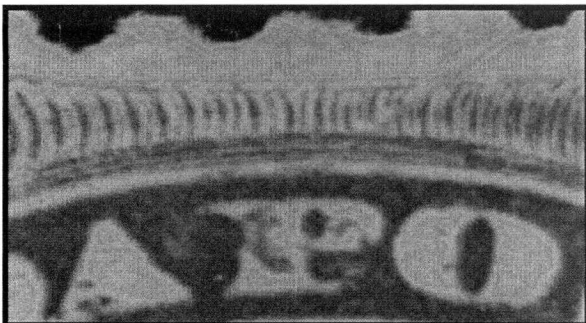
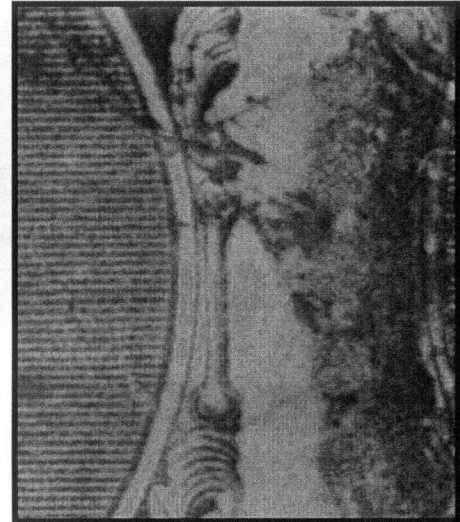


The strip of three pictured is on a thinner Duckworth Paper 8. The paper takes an excellent stamp impression and as such is a choice paper on which to study varieties. Though faulty it has fortunately survived as it shows three recorded constant plate varieties and how they interrelate as to plate position.

The leftmost stamp shows a scratch in the "T". This is constant but is not the scratch in "TWO" variety which is positioned lower and is more prominent.

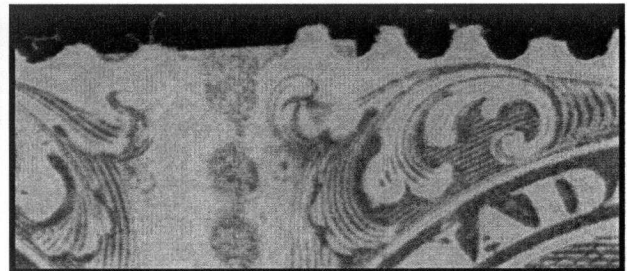


In between stamps 1 and 2 there are two prominent margin scratches present. The lower of these two is a continuation of the scratch in the "T" shown above.



On the rightmost stamp there is a prominent scratch in the "D", and the upper right corner of the middle stamp also shows the continuation of a scratch.

The center top of the middle stamp shows a prominent scratch through the "P" that extends into the top margin. The flaw is constant; I have a second verifying example of the scratch. It is a continuation of the upper marginal scratch from above.



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1c Yellow Large Queen Varieties

Vic Willson



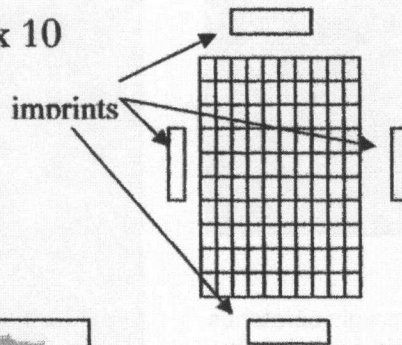
At Washington 06 I acquired from Bill Coates the stamp shown to the left. It has original gum and has perforations cutting diagonally from the top through the top third of the stamp. I believe it to be genuine, as the perf gauge is 12 (actually appears to be closer to 11.9+) and matches that of all sides. I would appreciate hearing about any other examples of such misperfering.

The second picture shows a used 1c with bottom of imprint showing. Any representation of the imprint is rare. Brigham exhibited the only recorded block with imprint at Washington 06.

There is also a mint single known with selvedge containing part of the imprint, and Bill Radcliffe has a cover that includes a 1c with part selvedge and bit of the imprint.



Plate layout- 10 x 10



Type A imprint



The imprint for the 1c yellow was Type B, which can be seen on the somewhat more accessible 3c (not common either). The plate layout is seen in the third picture. The differences in the two types are shown by Duckworth and Duckworth.

Type B imprint



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General Inquiries and Comments

Glenn Archer, Editor

Thanks to all who have provided their kind compliments and suggestions to the newsletter. In response to a number of requests for our mailing addresses we provide same herewith and apologize for the oversight.

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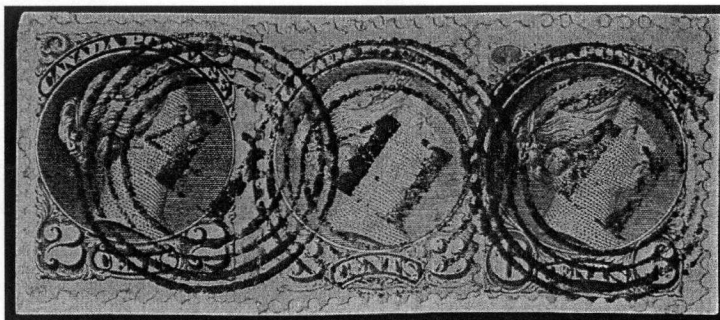
This edition has been awhile putting together – it is a challenge to get articles of appropriate size and content. Your submissions are always welcome! To paraphrase a colleague, an article need not contain the “last word” on a given subject nor even perfect information; we are all learning in the hobby, and it is through sharing our interests and opinions that the hobby grows. If you enjoy reading this newsletter, we would be only too happy to have you share your interests with others through this forum. John Hillson’s article is an excellent example of one containing ideas that are well-argued but open to discussion, and I must say I was especially thankful to receive it.

Regrettably a heavy workload and financial constraints prevent me from attending BNAPEX this year, but I hope not to be a stranger in the future.

Four-Ring Cancels on Small Queens

Guillaume Vadeboncoeur (gvadeboncoeur@videotron.ca)

It is with great interest that I read Wayne Smith’s article on Two-Ring Numerals Cancels on Large Queens. The information included is of great interest and one can only imagine the amount of labor involved to achieve such a survey. His article rekindled an idea I have had in the back of my mind, namely to start and maintain a survey of Four-Ring Numeral Cancels on Small Queens. I have accumulated (some would say collected) a number of Four-Ring cancels on Small Queens. My interest in the survey would be similar to Wayne’s, namely to provide a better idea of what material exists, what numerals exist and on which denominations, and track the provenance of items where possible. I have already started to accumulate this information in a table format (which may be viewed at www.vadeboncoeur.ca/4rings.pdf). Once additional information is obtained, I plan to write a summary of the findings for publication in this newsletter and have the detailed information available online for anyone interested.



As Four-Ring Numerals on Small Queens are not overly common, I would appreciate receiving input from anyone who has either stamps or covers in their collections, or have pictures of same. Colour illustrations would be greatly appreciated but black and white is also fine. Electronic images are preferred, but photocopies are also of great use for this project. I have already included the main sales of Four-Ring Numeral Cancels on Small Queens I could identify, namely the Senator Hicks, Norman Brassler and Jim Hennok sales. I have not gone systematically through any run of auction catalogues. Of course, any contribution can be specifically attributed or remain anonymous in the detailed information. I thank you in advance for your cooperation in this project.

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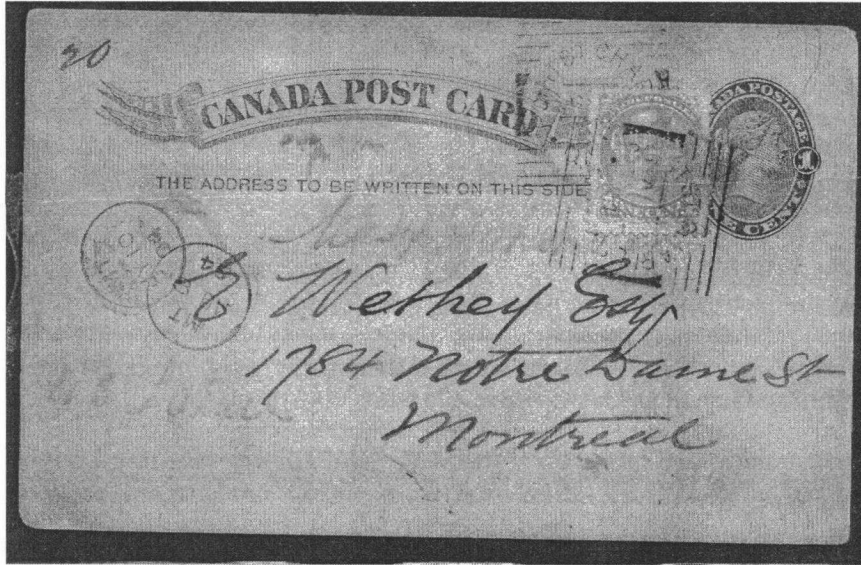
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Chairman's Column

Bill Radcliffe

I apologize that I was unable to attend ORAPEX this year. For personal reasons I will also be unable to attend BNAPEX either; fortunately Vic Willson has graciously offered to chair the meeting for me.



As I wrote in the previous newsletter, I collect numeral cancels and squared circles. Below is an example of a twice-used post card used for a lodge dues notice. It was mailed out of Point St. Charles using a type I squared circle to Montreal around July 10 1894; you can see the Montreal carry strike with that date. Somehow the cover got back to Point St. Charles, maybe brought back to the lodge in Point St Charles, and mailed a second time back to Montreal. The cover shows a second strike of the Point St. Charles square on the one-cent small queen, as well as a second carrier strike dated August 8 1894. There are only six strikes of Point St. Charles on non-map covers - I dare say this one is the most interesting.

(ASSESSMENT SYSTEM)

A. O. U. W. ASSESSMENT NOTICE.

Grand Lodge of Quebec and the Maritime Provinces.

Assessments Nos. 6 & 7. Montreal, July 2nd 1894.

DEAR SIR AND BRO.—You are hereby notified of the following deaths, necessitating two Assessments of One Dollar, which assessments you are liable for, and are required to pay to your Financier **STANLEY** Lodge, No. 5 on or before 23th July, 1894. Unless paid on or before 23th July, 1894, you stand suspended.

MONTREAL Yours Fraternally, H. BRAGG, Grand Recorder,

D. No.	NAME	AGE	LODGE No.	LOCATION.	CAUSE OF DEATH	JOINED.	DIED.
6	T. Nisbett	52	Chambers	1 St. John, N.B.	Cancer of Liver	14 Aug. '89	25th Apr '91
7	W. A. Morrison	41	Federation	2 Montreal.	Appendicitis	10 Nov. '87	5th May '91

H. Bragg,
21 Canning St.

July 23rd 1894. Received Cash \$2.00, for the above Assessments.
Rec'd \$2.00 dues to Stanley Financier

N.B.—If not paid before 23th you will rec. Notice per Regis'd Letter for which you will have to pay Ten Cents.

This Lodge meets 1st & 3rd Monday each month. Your presence is especially requested.

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The Rejected or 'Ghostly Head' Six Cents Small Queen Plate

John Hillson, FCPS

In 1871, two Two Cents Small Queen plates were made, neither of which were given identification letters though subsequently they were lettered 'A' and 'B'. We know it was these plates because one had its top imprint incised with an obvious slant and pieces from it in both states still exist. Demand for two cents stamps at the time was much the same as for the six cents, so it seems reasonable to assume that if two Two Cents plates were called for, then two Six Cents plates would also be required.



I have long contended that two Six Cents plates were made in 1871. Large Queen enthusiasts know that two Large Queen Six Cents plates were made, and that the stamps can be distinguished by the position of the lower left guide dot. No check letters were ever added to these plates as this was probably deemed sufficient to identify which plate was which. The identical was likely followed with the Small Queen Six Cents. The 1871 plate had its guide dot at the lower left corner, the usual position for Small Queen plates made during the 1870's. The second plate had its guide dot immediately below the left numeral '6' - more or less corresponding to the position found on the

second Large Queen Six Cents. But something went wrong. Impressions from it vary from the barely acceptable to the downright awful.

It may be that pushing the side point to the left stretched it too far, and it became loose with consequences not apparent on this but on what followed. (The side point was a device attached to the transfer roller, the point of which was placed into the punched guide dot to ensure accuracy in laying down each impression on the plate.) It may also be that somehow the odd position made it difficult to impress the roller on to the plate sufficiently. We don't know, but what is known is that the plate was not used until after the move from Ottawa to Montreal, and then only for a short time - most extant covers bear dates around February 1874. There may have been some short-term crisis which made it imperative to use; perhaps both other Six Cents plates were temporarily out of use.

What two plates? - some of you may ask. There are serious collectors who still believe that the 1871 plate had the letter 'A' added to it. If this were so it was repaired

only twice during the Montreal period and not only managed to have 25 million stamps printed from it - remember the 5c Beaver was repaired at least 9 times for its 30 million - but was still in good enough condition to produce



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The Rejected or "Ghostly Head" Six Cents Small Queen Plate contd.

stamps after 1890 in Ottawa before its final repair in 1892. Also one must wonder why the printers ever bothered to letter it if there was only one serviceable plate - to distinguish it from what?

I contend that a third plate was made, probably early in 1872, to make up for the 'Ghostly Head' plate's deficiencies. Because of the strain on the side point, as happened with the 1859 12 ½ Cents, it sprung under pressure and in its original state, this, the real 'A' Plate had two dots from the outset - but no re-entries. Of course when the 1871 plate was repaired in 1873 or 1874 it acquired its second dot from the same cause. As to proof, there are a number of important differences in the plate layout vis-à-vis relation of the Counter to the Imprint to the printed area, and the position dots, including the well known 'dot in P' variety. Furthermore, there is one perforation combination unique to first Ottawa printings - 11.75 all round (or, if you have the old thick *Instanta* perforation gauge which measures only up to 16, 11.85 all round). Examples with 2 dots are not that hard to find with this perforation, I have several.

As to the 'Ghostly Head', all examples measure perf. 11 ½ x 12 as they should. And it was never seen again.