

Confederation

The Newsletter of the BNAPS Large and Small Queens Study Group

Number 35

March 2008

Soft White Paper – Towards a Harmonized Description

Richard Thompson

I recently discovered an interesting six-cent Large Queen showing a very thick version of soft white "almost blotting" paper (reperforated but otherwise genuine) that piqued my interest and prompted me to write this article. Several students have attempted a description of the paper; these are given below.

Pack: A smooth white wove paper with no distinguishable mesh.

Firth: Medium thickness, soft, smooth and entirely lacking in grain direction. It has a felt-like texture that may have come from felt-covered rolls on the papermaking machine.

Martin: The paper is thick, soft, very white and by comparison with other papers of the issue, quite absorbent. The mesh pattern is ... horizontal but is difficult to see due to the chalky opaqueness of the paper. On account of its absorptive quality, it took the ink better than any of the other papers, and as a result, produced beautifully printed stamps ... it is difficult to find them in sound condition, since the paper being weak, creases badly and thins easily.

Duckworths: Soft white amorphous paper, allocated as "Duckworth Paper 8".

Harrison: Soft white absorbent paper.

Menich: Reported two thicknesses of soft white paper.

Archer (personal communication): Reports this paper has a sparkle effect due to embedded minerals.

Unitrade: Thick soft white blotting paper. No grain, soft, white paper, is not particularly thick but appears so because of its high opacity.

As can be seen from the above, there is not complete agreement among authors how best to describe the paper. I have provided my findings on the paper below in an attempt to better define it.

Appearance: This is among the whitest of the Large Queen papers. It shows a smooth surface. Though described as opaque, I find it of comparable translucence to other Large Queens. When viewing from reverse it is easily identified as a Large Queen and the value tablet is usually legible.

Surface properties: Paper usually has no obvious grain direction at surface. On magnification it shows paper fibers in a vague spidery-web horizontal structure, similar in appearance to the vertical-grain Duckworth Paper 7 but rotated 90 degrees. Most examples show an embedded silt / mineral content, resulting in a sparkle effect due to light refraction.

Thickness: I have not found two distinct thicknesses of Paper 8 but rather a range of medium thicknesses from 0.0027" to 0.0036", with one copy 0.0044".

Impression: Very sharp and even relative to the other Large Queen papers. Shades are generally deeper due to its excellent printing characteristics.

Other properties: Paper is soft, fragile and is generally observed with thins, tears and/or creases. I believe it better described as a NON-absorbent paper as there was little spreading of the ink upon printing. There is no obvious grain direction but, when inspected in fluid or with good backlighting, one typically observes a horizontal mesh.

It should also be noted that the "almost blotting paper" found on the half-cent LQ is a different paper altogether, as is the soft white paper on the one and three cents Small Queens.

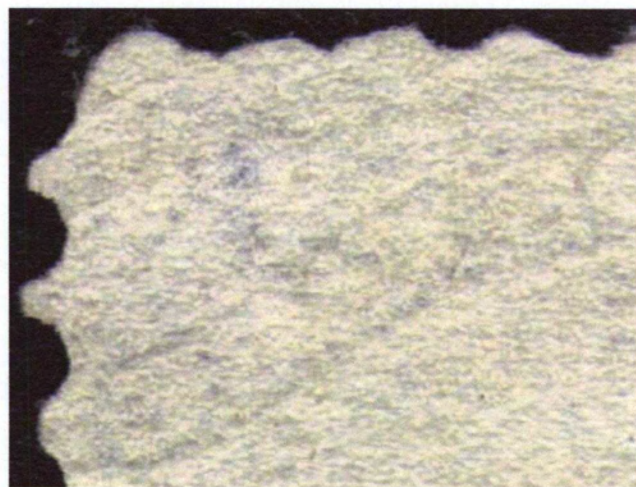


Figure 1. A 12 1/2 Cent LQ on Soft White Paper, About 5 X Magnification.

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A Small Queen Plate Scratch

Ron Ribler

In the few short years that have passed since I produced my Three Cents Small Queen book, desktop publishing technology has improved substantially. Scanners are better and the image manipulation software is also much improved. I reworked some of the images that were blurry and difficult to see in the black and white edition of the book and discovered that the color images were excellent - even the black and white ones were greatly improved.

The plate scratch that appeared in the bottom row of the pane is difficult to see in the book. The illustration below is the enhanced version. I have been told that very few copies of the original 500 printed remain in stock in Canada. I have always felt that printing the book in color would be a big improvement, but that the cost would be prohibitive. I am contemplating a second edition to be done in color.



Reader Correspondence

Glenn Archer, Editor (glennarcher@hotmail.com)

I respond personally to readers' questions, remarks etc. but many are worth posting here for discussion. I am encouraged by the increase in newsletter correspondence. Your contributions get priority over mine or Bill's.

Jack Forbes sent a scan of a cover (more forthcoming?) and reports he has found compound perfs on several half-cent Large Queens. This is of course consistent with Reford's suggestion (vol. 33) that perforating wheels were interchanged on a demand basis and that consistent vertical or horizontal perforations were not of great concern to the stamp printers.

John Jamieson forwarded me an email from a collector in Saskatchewan who reports finding a one-cent red brown LQ with perforations 11.75 X 11.75. Though Large Queens are not usually classified by perforation, I can assure you this is not a common one. Menich ([BNA Topics](#), v. 50 no. 5) reports perhaps a 2% frequency.

Art Bunce reports twenty-nine additional covers. A consolidated update in Word 2003 format is available on request (glennarcher@hotmail.com). Wayne Smith advises he maintains a census of LQ covers and has offered to cross-check with Art's list. We will resolve possible duplications / errors etc. as time to research permits.

John Burnett deserves special thanks as he is always generous in providing good articles and suggesting creative ways how to draw readers into contributing to the newsletter. I occasionally get an email where the humble writer tells me they don't have much of interest to share etc. but I must say that John's article (which will appear in two parts) aptly shows that condition is not so important when the cover tells a great story.

Confederation

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Small Queen Era Territorial Covers – Part 1 of 2 or ... "Look Carefully at the Cover"

John Burnett

It seems to me I have collected Small Queens forever and it continues to amaze me how I continue to learn more and more about the subject. I am a postal history buff and here is an area that the small queen can offer some serious challenges. The small queens were issued in an era of changing geographic lines and knowing some history about the area the letters were addressed to is important.



My first example is shown in Figure 1 nearby is a letter to Prince Edward Island; it is mailed from Baie-Verte, New Brunswick on July 18, 1870. Initially to me, it was a nice example of an early use of a 3¢ small queen. Later a good friend of mine told me, "Look here dummy, this is a pre-Confederation concession rate cover, and it's a heck of a lot more than an early example of the 3¢". So the lesson I learned was to pay closer attention to the cover, the destination and the date.

Figure 1. A 3¢ small queen pays the concession rate of 3¢ per ½ ounce to the British colony of Prince Edward Island.

Another Canadian destination is shown in Figure 2, it shows a letter addressed to Bow River in the North West Territories with directions to go via Ft. Benton in Montana. Why the southern route? Because the Trans Canada train link had not yet passed Winnipeg and overland travel from end of line was treacherous to say the least. The letter has added importance as it is addressed to Major James Walker who was the Superintendent of the Northwest Mounted Police at Ft. Calgary on the Bow River. Originating in Ingersoll, Ontario, the envelope carries a transit strike from Windsor, ON indicating it crossed into the USA at Detroit, then on to Omaha in the Nebraska Territory via Chicago and St. Louis. At Omaha it would have boarded a river barge for Ft. Benton and then onto an ox cart or coach for the trek north to Ft. Calgary. This cover looks a bit worn and tired, but wouldn't you be after such a journey?

Figure 2. It may be ratty, but this territorial cover is an important piece of Canadian postal history.



Confederation

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SQ Territorial Covers (Part 1 of 2) contd.

Another cover in my small queen territorial collection is shown in Figure 3. Here a cover mailed from somewhere in Ontario (*ed. note: probably South Zorra ON, though there is no return address*) on November 2, 1883. There are no transit strikes and so I am guessing that the cover traveled via rail through Detroit, Chicago, St. Paul and then overland to North Dakota. It is also possible the cover traveled in Canada to Winnipeg via rail and then overland to North Dakota. The cover is addressed to Ayr which is, even today, a very small town in western Cass County northwest of Fargo. Whichever route it took, it still traveled via coach or horseback to Ayr.

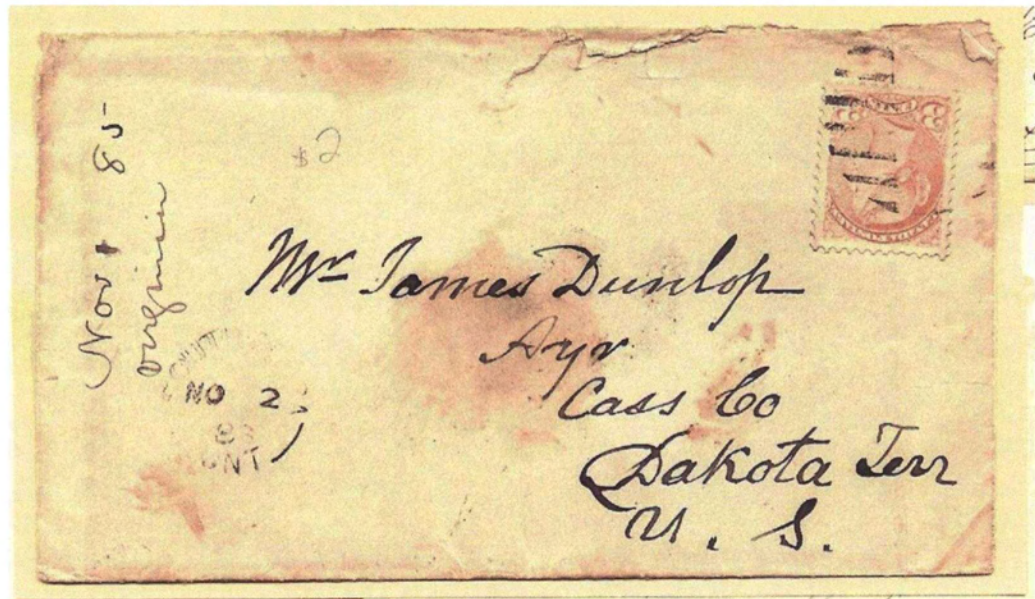
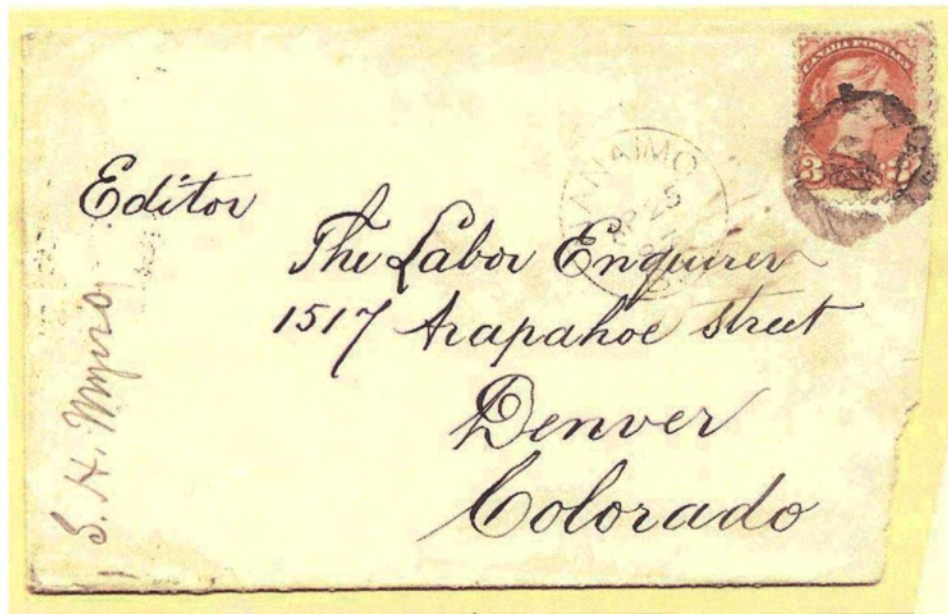


Figure 3. Another well traveled and ratty cover to a USA territory. Don't let ratty fool you! (ed. note: don't let a pencil notation of \$2 let you decide its value either.)



Western Canadian mail from the Small Queen era is a little difficult to find and I feature a neat little cover in my next example (Figure 4).

Mailed from Nanaimo, British Columbia on April 25, 1887 and addressed to Denver, Colorado, this letter traveled from Vancouver Island in a coach and then crossed into Washington Territory at Port Townsend traveling by coastal steamer.

Figure 4. From Nanaimo BC to Denver via Washington Territory.

Confederation

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SQ Territorial Covers (Part 1 of 2) contd.

There was regular coastal steamer between Victoria and Port Townsend. At Port Townsend the cover would have caught the American coastal steamer to San Francisco where it would have traveled via rail to Denver. The back of the envelope has two nice transit strikes (Figure 5) and a neat receiving strike (Figure 6).



Figure 5. The Victoria BC transit strike and the Denver Colorado receiving strike.



Figure 6. The Port Townsend WT (Washington Territory) transit strike.

Chairman's Column

Bill Radcliffe (bsbvp88@hotmail.com)

I am looking forward to seeing anyone from our group who is planning to attend ORAPEX in May as I plan to hold a

group meeting there late Saturday or early Sunday. In this newsletter I wish to share what I feel is one of my better finds on Ebay lately, a one-cent journal or newspaper rate to the USA mailed in January of 1882, which I feel is pretty rare itself. But what really caught my eye is that it is Vol. 1 No.2 of Henry Hechler's "The Philatelic Courier". As most of us know, Henry was one of the more famous early stamp dealers of Canada. The first edition of this Canadian stamp journal may well exist with franking, but so far this is the earliest I know of.



Confederation

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Additions To List Of 15¢ Large Queen Covers

Art Bunce (vfognh@aol.com)

The attached table records twenty-nine *additional* covers made known to me by contributions of readers after publication of Confederation v.34. I thank all for their input, and will continue to update this census as new covers are made known to me.

Year	Date	Description	Reference
1868	March 16	15c pair, St. Catherines, ON to Welland, ON, registered wrapper	Maresch, 314, 5-12-1976
	June 25	15c pair x 2, Ottawa to London, UK	Maresch, 263, 8-27-80
	July 4	15c x 2, St. John NB to Bangkok, Siam	Dale-Lichtenstein, 653, 12-7-70
	July ?	15c, Peterborough, ON to Cobourg, ON	Not cited
	September 15	15c + 3c LQ x 3 + 1c yellow LQ, Three Rivers, CE to Quebec, PQ, parcel post	Not cited
	November 16	15c, London, ON to Ellington, UK	Firby, 1655, 11/20/02
1870	January 26	15c + 6c LQ, Berthier-en-Haute, PQ to Italy	Maresch, 260, 8-27-80
	March 21	15c x 3, Montreal to France	Maresch, 261, 8-27-80
1871	November 3	15c (replaced) + 1c SQ, Montreal to Munich, Bavaria	Firby, 865, 6/20/02
1872	June 18	15c, Peterborough, ON to Cobourg, ON	Maresch, 265, 8-27-80
1876	December 15	15c, Montreal to London, UK	Maresch, 266, 8-27-80
1877	December 31	15c + 1c SQ x 4, + 2c SQ + 2c RLS, registered, Halifax, NS to Port la Tour, NS	Robert A. Lee, 180, 10-25-03
1879	?	15c pair + 6c SQ, Bruce Mines, ON to Toronto	J. Hennok, 1362, 04-25-87
1880	June 26	15c + 5c RLS x 3, Bradford, ON to New Zealand	<i>Canada's Registered Mail</i> , p. 317
1883	May 15	15c + 3c SQ + 5c RLS, registered parcel post, Port Arthur, ON to Toronto	Not cited
1887	March 3	15c x 2 + 10c SQ x 2, Montreal to Italy	<i>Canada's Registered Mail</i> , p. 317; Maresch, 316, 3/5/97
	March 30	15c, Guelph, ON to Auckland, NZ	Maresch, 267, 3-22-1979
	April 27	15c pair + 15c x 2, Guelph, ON to Auckland, NZ	Maresch, 268, 3-22-1979
	July 21	15c strip of 4 + 15c pair, Guelph, ON to Auckland, NZ	Maresch, 269, 3-22-1979
1888	October 15	15c, Forest, ON to Kaikoura, New Zealand	Not cited
1891	July 15	15c, local to Moncton, NB	Sissons, 300, 12-1-1976
	September 7	15c, Montreal to Paris	<i>Canada's Registered Mail</i> , p. 316; Maresch, 159, 9/27/83
1892	January 30	15c, Halifax to France	<i>Canada's Registered Mail</i> , p. 316
1894	March 12	15c + 10c SQ + 20c and 50c WW + 5c RLS, Hamilton, ON to Colombia	<i>Canada's Registered Mail</i> , p. 315; Eaton, 2171, 6/17/95
	June 9	15c + 5x SQ, registered, St. John, NB to Colchester, UK	Robert A. Lee, 501, 10-25-03
1897	June 4 (?)	15c + 1c SQ, to London, UK	J. Sissons, 301, 12-1-76
1898	September 16	15c + 10c Leaf, registered, Truro, NS to London, UK	Robert A. Lee, 503, 10-25-03
1901	November 2	15c, Toronto to Germany, registered	Maresch, 264, 8-27-80
Not known		15c pair + 2c SQ x 3, parcel post	Sissons, 302, 12-1-1976

Confederation

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A New Printing for the 3 Cents Small Queen, or a Rare "Missing Link" in a Complex but Constant Chain of Evolution?

Yannick Cartier (yjc@hfx.eastlink.ca)

Following the first printings of the Three Cents Small Queens in the well-known Copper and Indian Red shades, there was a significant transition of paper types and printing colors for the issue. To briefly outline, the early high-quality paper (often identified as Hillson and Shoemaker Paper "A") was progressively replaced sometime around Dec. 1870 with both a thick, soft and opaque paper (Hillson paper "B" and Shoemaker paper "C") and a hard smooth surface vertical mesh paper (Shoemaker paper B). This article illustrates an important new find.



Figure 7. Thick Soft Paper examples. First two stamps: "Copper Pink" / "Copper Rose" or "pale rose". Right stamp: Typical shade, Red Carmine, or sometimes called Deep Carmine Red (JA/9/1871).

After many years of collecting Small Queens, it is only recently that I discovered by chance two amazing stamps which, to my knowledge, have never been reported. Both stamps are undoubtedly on the thick soft paper (Hillson paper B / Shoemaker paper C) but in a completely different shade than the classic and quite distinctive carmine red shade usually observed on the scarce Thick Soft Paper. I think that the shade could best be described as "copper rose" or "pale rose", and matches the shades observed on some later copies of the earlier printings on paper A.

It is useful to compare the shade of the stamps on Thick Soft Paper with several of the so-called "copper pink" or "pale rose" examples on Paper A. Two dated reference examples on paper A are shown in Figure 2. The first example on paper A is dated JU/??/1870 and slightly closer to the classic copper red shade. The second stamp is one of the newly discovered examples on thick soft paper. The third stamp is a later shade on paper A dated NO/10/1870 and is possibly best described as "pale rose".

Figure 8. Copper Rose / Pale Rose Shades.



This discovery is important in two ways. Firstly, this combination of shade and paper has not been reported even after extensive prior research on the Three Cents Small Queen issue. Secondly they seem to fill a gap or "missing link" in a complex but constant pattern of evolution for the shades and papers of this stamp. This pattern of evolution is somewhat reflected by Shoemaker in his classification of papers and shades. In my opinion, the classification of this issue into "printing orders" is possibly useful in an effort of simplification but would not reflect entirely the complexity of this issue. In a future article I hope to express some of my theories on this topic.

Confederation

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Stitch Watermarks on Large Queens - a New Discovery on the Two-Cent

Ben Cohen (ceo@axehoughton.com)

A few years ago stitch watermarks were finally listed in the Unitrade Catalogue. The half cent to six-cent values are listed, the latter with both horizontal and vertical stitch watermarks.

Stitch watermarks are not really watermarks at all, but rather the result of papermaking and may appear on many paper types. The Duckworths in their book "The Large Queen Stamps and Their Use 1868-1872" describe the stitch watermark arising from the paper making process: "Liquid pulp was poured onto a canvas surface which supported the fine wires that imparted the texture to the paper. Stitched joins in this canvas occasionally showed on the stamps as faint impressions or stitches." In my own view the stitch looks more like fossil impressions left on rocks, a series of close squiggly lines made by something that was once there.

They are no doubt very scarce. The 2006 Unitrade Catalogue listed only one mint and one used for the 2 cent value. A new discovery pictured here is in an emerald green shade and has a two-ring numeral #36 on it. Since both other previously known examples have faults and this new copy is genuine with no noted flaws, this may be among the finest known.



Figure 9. Stitch Watermark on Two-Cent. VGGF Cert. 13782.

This would then make three known copies, 1 mint and two used.

But the plot thickens. At Longley Auctions sale #9 (April 22 / 06) lot 576 was presented with the following description: "24vi 2 cent Large Queen with vertical Stitch Watermark, appears unused but with pen cancel removed and two small perf tears at top. ... This stamp was the basis of the mint listing in Unitrade which must be removed...". At the same time as this catalogue was out, I had submitted the newly discovered stamp to the VGGF and received a clean cert on June 14. The 2007 Unitrade Catalogue now states 3 known copies, all used. I would of course be interested to hear of additional examples of these stamps.