

Confederation

The Newsletter of the BNAPS Large and Small Queens Study Group

Number 36

August 2008

Small Queen Territorial Covers – Part II (Continued from No. 35)

Or: Look Carefully At The Cover

John Burnett

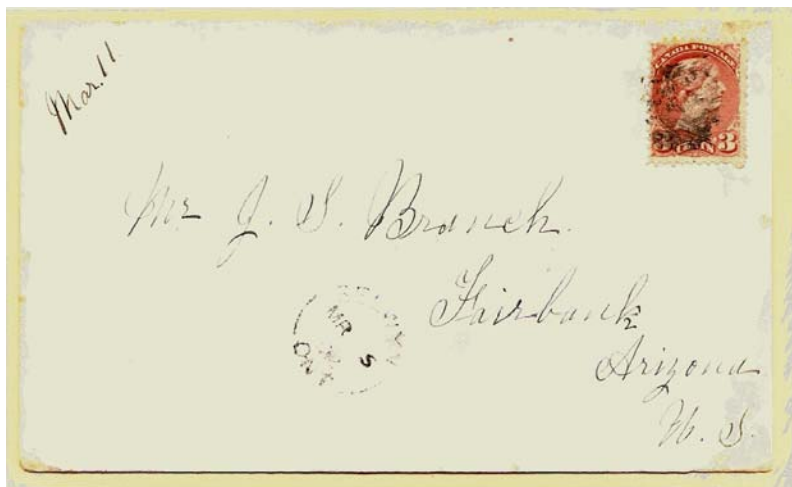
Idaho Territory is one that you don't see too often; shown in Figure 6, this cover was sent from Ottawa, Ontario on November 5, 1884 and traveled on rail through Detroit to Omaha and from there to Promontory Point where it was carried via coach to Challis, Idaho.



Figure 6. A scarce early United States destination is Idaho Territory.

The next two covers are two I take particular pride in owning because two small queen collectors saw a need in my collection and gave these to me. The first shown in Figure 7 was a gift from Gray Scrimgeour after he had seen my 3¢ small queen exhibit in Victoria this past fall.

The cover, sent from Selwyn, ONT March 5, 1892, is addressed to Fairbank, Arizona. I had some difficulty finding Fairbank, and was surprised to find it was a railhead serving southwest Arizona Territory. A similar cover was



written up by Vic Willson in his "Canadian Postal Rates and Routes to North American Destinations", BNAPS Exhibit Series No. 14, Sept. 1999. He saw the route as "via rail through Detroit to El Paso and Phoenix, stage onward". There may be a second possible route; it would be the same, except via rail from Phoenix to Fairbank. I must research Arizona rails better before saying anything definitive. What makes me say this is that Fairbank existed as a rail head and something I read about "narrow gauge" rails in New Mexico and Arizona that connected to El Paso and eventually became the Southern Pacific route. It's amazing isn't it that after 108 years we can still question or discover new stuff!

Figure 7. Is there a new description on the rail route for this cover?

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Shown in Figure 8 is a gift from Vic Willson who, upon seeing my Arizona cover, said "Here you need this to pair up with that lone soldier" (Vic hates to see one cover on a page). Mailed from Woodstock, ONT on Dec. 20, 1893 and addressed to New Mexico Territory, the cover most likely traveled via rail through Detroit and El Paso and onward by one of the small narrow gauge rail systems that terminated in El Paso from New Mexico.

Figure 8. Cover to Albuquerque, New Mexico Territory.



My final example brings us back to Canada. I am amazed at how many people forget that Newfoundland was England's oldest colony and during the Small Queen era (and later) enjoyed what is known as a concession rate. Shown in Figure 9 is a particularly pretty cover sent from Montreal, Quebec on April 15, 1897 and addressed to Open Hall, Newfoundland. The stamp has been killed by a very nice copy of the Montreal Flag cancel with indicia "B". The cover has a nice receiver on the front showing it arrived at Open Hall on May 4, 1897 and on the back are two nice clear transit strikes shown in Figure 10.



Figure 9. Fine flag cancel and front receiver.



Figure 10. Transit Strikes, Halifax and St. John.

There are many more territorial covers to be found. Just because the cover looks a bit ratty doesn't mean it's not an appropriate cover for your collection. Be sure to study the cover and its date. If it's bound for the USA start studying the rail systems for some potential routings and don't forget Canada's cross country rail system was years behind that of the USA so a Canadian route may well take you through the United States.

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The “Spur” Variety On The One Cent Large Queen

Yannick Cartier

Very few constant plate varieties have been reported on the one cent large queen. The purpose of this short article is to report an interesting and recently discovered constant plate variety (CPV) on that particular stamp.

The variety consists of a spur or projection arising from the bottom margin below and slightly to the right of the “E” of one. The flaw is readily visible without magnification and was initially observed on a deep orange example. It has been subsequently confirmed as a CPV on a stamp which comes in a paler yellow orange shade. Additionally it shows the beginnings of a plate crack in the “C” of “CENTS” and a small marginal scratch below the “E”. To date it has not been observed on the one-cent brown red. The exact position and/or nature of this flaw is still uncertain but is felt to represent a graver’s slip. I would be pleased to hear of additional examples of this variety.



Miscellaneous Stuff

Glenn Archer, Editor (glennarcher@hotmail.com)

I thought this edition was a little heavy on the Large Queens but that is the way it has worked out. It's not my favorite but there is very good new information here, and a good read. I am pleased that we are getting interesting correspondence from a number of people.

We do need to ask for yearly \$10 dues again. For small-circulation newsletters such as this, printing shops charge about 40 cents a page (colour over \$1.00). We would now like to compile a substantial e-mail list of people interested to receive electronic copies; please advise by email if this is your preference. You will get the best possible copy this way.

BNAPS would like to put the newsletter online for electronic viewing by all. Bill and I agree this is a good idea, but with a four-issue lag. Please feel free to comment on this.

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Readers Forum – Questions, Answers and Comments

1. "WAR TAX" Overprint on Small Queen

I received the Confederation newsletter ... and it prompted me to write to see if anyone knows about the overprint on the stamp "WAR TAX" attached. I have been curious for a long time and wonder if it is for real or a fake? Help!

Sincerely,

Chuck Hirschert



2. Perforation Variations on the Eight-Cent Small Queen

(To)The Editor: Compound perforations are relatively common on the eight-cent Small Queen, and I would have to assume that it is the same for all denominations. The most likely explanation for them is maintenance. We know that the pins on the perforation wheels broke off, leaving blind holes on the stamps. The problem would have been reported, and after the shift a worker would substitute the damaged wheel and platen with another. If a matching one wasn't available another would be used. I expect the original would be installed as soon as it was repaired, otherwise we would have a lot more compound perforated stamps.

For the eight-cent SQ, there are at least 19 different compound perf arrangements, and they comprise about 1.5 % of the stamps issued. Most of the breakage occurred on the 12 and 12.1 wheels, many of which were replaced by 12 ¼ wheels mid-1895.

Bob Cumming

3. Fifteen-Cent Large Queen Covers – Update; and Further Info re: Stitch Watermarks

(Editor's note: We have consolidated Wayne Smith's and Art Bunce's lists, but the list has expanded beyond the capacity of this newsletter. An electronic copy in Word 2003 format is available free on email request to BNAPS members. We can also provide printed copies on request, but at mailing plus printing costs. G.A.)

Gentlemen: I have created a list of 15c Large Queen covers that I have in my census and have compared it with the two lists of 15c covers that Art produced. This was a very worthwhile project for me. With so many covers in my census, some covers end up in 2 categories so this project helped me find several duplicates in my census. My list has 329 covers.

Two things that I find interesting in this number of covers - there is no mention of any having the "pawnbroker" variety and no 30c (thick carton paper, 1880 period). It's hard to go on ebay at any time without seeing one off cover, but it seems to not exist on cover... Art's list documents 11 covers that are new to me; these eleven give a total of 340 covers with a 15c.

Re: Confederation number 35 stitch watermarks: I have photocopies of several more 2c stitch watermarks. I have a single vertical unused and an unused block of 4 with the top pair with horizontal watermark. Including the Longley auction item, I have one horizontal used and four vertical used as well as 3 with no direction indicated.

Regards, Wayne Smith

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4. Small Queen Cover to France – Reader Help?

I'm puzzled by the cover (scans attached) to Paris, France from Hochelaga, dated May 15, 1889. The address is crossed out, but no forwarding address shown. What I don't understand is the French manuscript rate marking which resembles a 3 or 9. Or is it not a rate marking but something else?

Can you or some other member of the study group give me some help here?

Terry Averbeck



Fig. 1. Cover Front, Hochelaga to Paris, France.



Fig. 2. Reverse side of Cover.

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5. The Elusive and Rare Firth Group VIII(B) on Medium Horizontal Wove

Most collectors of Large Queens are certainly aware of Unitrade 30c, a 15 cent Large Queen printed on very thick paper in the Clear Deep Violet shade. Four examples are presented here, all with slight variations of the shade and all having the very thick carton paper. The first two have been certified by the Vincent Graves Greene Foundation.



So when looking for a 30c one looks for both the distinctive Deep Violet shade as well the very thick carton style paper. Some examples are so deep violet so as to be almost black.

Now cross reference to the Firth book

(Duckworth does not address this stamp, as it is outside of the period of 1868-1872). There, under the entry for 1880, you will find Firth Group VIII, printed at Montreal and under the characteristic of colour, paper and gum column you will see Deep Dull Violet.

You will see, though, that there are two paper types - an (A) and a (B).

(A) is described as "very thick white carton paper, faint vertical grain",

(B) is described as "medium wove with definite horizontal grain. *Rare in this shade.*"

A closer look at Firth takes us to page 24 where the discussion of the 1880 printing takes place. Firth states, "At the same time a small amount of paper of medium thickness was used. This comes in the identical shade of carton paper and is quite rare. The writer has a copy dated Feb 15, 1882 and other undated ones. All of these copies show a definite horizontal grain..."

I present here my copy of VIII(B), horizontal wove and definitely the correct deep dull violet. Since Firth references that he had several copies, I would be interested to know of others.

Further I would be interested to know of nuanced certified 30c's that are described by the certifying body as 30c on medium wove. Below see a scan of the obverse of the stamp above.

A word of caution: there is a blind alley in searching for this elusive stamp; it is easy to mistake a very dark slate violet for a deep dull violet. The slate violet comes on medium (vertical) wove and so one might then mistake it for the rare and elusive Firth VIII(B).

Ben Cohen (ceo@axehoughton.com)



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The Fifteen-Cent Large Queen – Two Re-Entries

Glenn Archer, Editor (glennarcher@hotmail.com)

There is useful research done on the fifteen-cent Large Queen (e.g. Firth, Watt and Fawn's article in the Canadian Philatelist CAPEX 1996 issue, Trimble's re-entry newsletters and further documentation on his excellent www.re-entries.com website). The following is new information and is intended to stimulate some further thought / study on the variety.

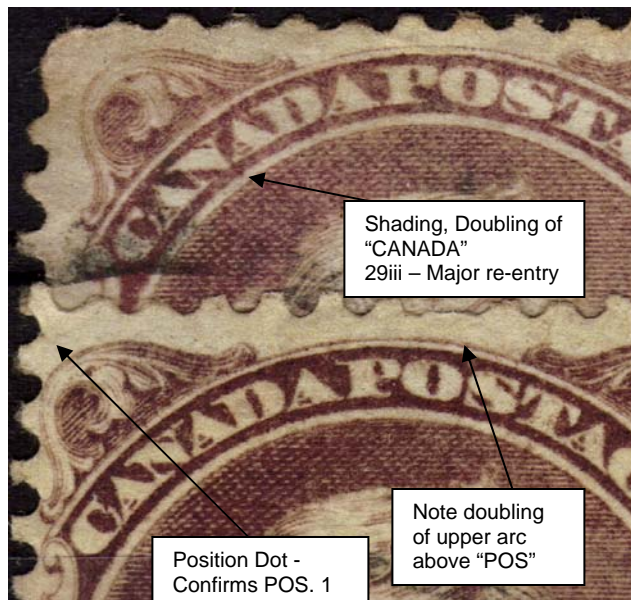


Figure 1. Reddish purple shades showing re-entries. Not from the same position on the sheet.

I am also of the opinion, these stamps being in my own collection, that the darker reddish-purple example comes from an earlier printing than the major re-entry shown. I have personally seen the Pos. 1 stamp retouched as early as Firth Group IV.

Of course I dream about finding marginal pieces to nail down the plate position of the major re-entry but alas these have not turned up yet in my hunt. Any further opinions or feedback would be appreciated.

Pictured to the left are two early shades of the fifteen-cent. The top stamp is the major re-entry, 29iii, showing the doubling in "CANADA" and the telltale shading elements at lower left. Convention is that the stamp is found on Position 1 on the plate.

The bottom stamp refutes this finding – it shows a different re-entry, with doubling of the oval above "POS" of "POSTAGE" and other minor retouches. If you look carefully, it also shows the UL position dot confirming it as Position 1. The key point is that it is a deep early shade, and that the plate position was later retouched (later printings show retouch, a scratch in the second "A" of "CANADA" and a bur under the left scrolling). Note also that the major re-entry shows NO position dot at UL.

My personal opinion is that the 15-cent major is a left-column stamp but probably Position 11 or 21 rather than Pos. 1.



Figure 2. Left stamp - Major re-entry. Right stamp - NOT the major, but Pos. 1.

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Chairman's Column

Bill Radcliffe (bsbvp88@hotmail.com)

I am looking forward to seeing anyone from our group who is planning to attend BNAPEX in Halifax this August. I plan on holding a group meeting there late Saturday or early Sunday. In this newsletter I want to share what I will be exhibiting, my Four and Two-Ring cancels collection. The Four-Ring page shown has the only known 4 Ring 7 from Collingwood on a Small Queen cover to Toronto dated MR 28, 1870, as well as some very rare Four-Ring cancels on Small Queen stamps, namely a 4R15, 24, 022, and

627. The sample from the Two-Ring page is a 2R60 cover from Newmarket to Poughkeepsie, NY, as well as six stamps with 2R60's on them. The Four-Ring exhibit will be made up of five frames and the Two-Ring exhibit will consist of seven frames.

