

# Confederation

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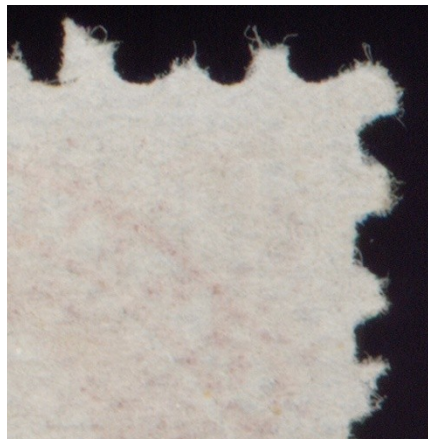
## The 3 Cents Small Queen: The Thin Soft Paper

Yannick Cartier (yaca@sympatico.ca)

In comparison to its better-known “big brother”, the “thick soft paper” or “TSP”, the thin soft paper is a relatively poorly known paper which was used during late 1871 and most of 1872. Described by L.D Shoemaker as a “poorer quality horizontal mesh paper with the design showing through”, it was subsequently classified as paper group “E”.

The thin soft paper shares several similarities with TSP. Both are wove papers and almost always display a horizontal grain. The hairiness found on the TSP is also found on the thin soft paper but not quite to the same degree. Irregular perforations, as well as a large number of retained perforation discs, are also features common to both papers. This should come as no surprise since most of these attributes are characteristic of softer papers (Fig.1). An experienced collector should, however, have no problem distinguishing these two papers. As noted by Shoemaker, the design is clearly visible from the back examples found on the thin soft paper as opposed to TSP which is a highly opaque paper.

The thin soft paper is also usually much whiter in tone than the TSP appears softer to the touch, partly because the paper is much thinner. The grain is also easier to appreciate than on the TSP. The mesh, the internal structure of the paper visible through light, is readily visible on the soft paper but virtually impossible to detect on TSP.



**Figure 1. Three cents SQ on thin soft paper. Magnified view of gum side demonstrates an abundant number of fibers at the edge of the stamp. The paper is quite white and the design clearly shows through.**

on

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Copies of the 3 cents SQ on TSP are usually found in a beautiful deep shade described as “dark rose”, “deep rose”, “deep rose carmine”, or “deep red carmine” by various authors and/or collectors. Examples on the thin soft paper are not found in such a deep shade. The thin soft paper was originally described by Shoemaker as “rose orange” shade. Some copies are indeed found in a shade which could be described as such, however most copies are found in a shade which varies from a light rose to a faded rose red (Figure 2).



**Figure 2. First stamp: Typical deep shade on thick soft paper or “TSP”. Second and third stamps are examples on the thin soft paper, perhaps best described as “rosy orange” and “light rose red”. Note also that the paper tone is much more yellowish on the thick soft paper example.**

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Examples on the thin soft paper are often poorly centered. However, well centered copies are slightly more common than on the TSP.

It is also worth noting that this paper is sometimes encountered on late issues of Large Queen denominations and included in the paper 10 variant described by Duckworth (Figure 3).



In conclusion, the thin soft paper is perhaps not as well known as the "thick soft paper" but is a distinct paper found on early examples of the three cents SQ and other denominations of the same era. Identifying this paper is crucial for accurate classification and dating of early shades of the 3 cents SQ.

**Figure 3. Gum side of a 1 cent yellow orange Large Queen on thin soft paper. Note that the stamp demonstrates a fairly large number of retained perforation discs. The design is clearly visible from the back and the paper quite white in appearance.**



**A Puzzling Cover to Norway**

Brian Hargreaves ([bhargrea@email.com](mailto:bhargrea@email.com))

Covers to unusual destinations are always interesting, and I hope this will be no exception. I have another motive for sending this to the Editor. I am not a postal history specialist, and cannot totally understand what is going on!

As can be seen, this slightly distressed cover was posted in Toronto on October 5, 1871. It was addressed to Christiania in Norway, and was expected to travel via Quebec and Liverpool. In Toronto - or Quebec? - it was returned for additional postage. As the reverse makes clear, it had 12 cents worth of stamps applied for a cover that

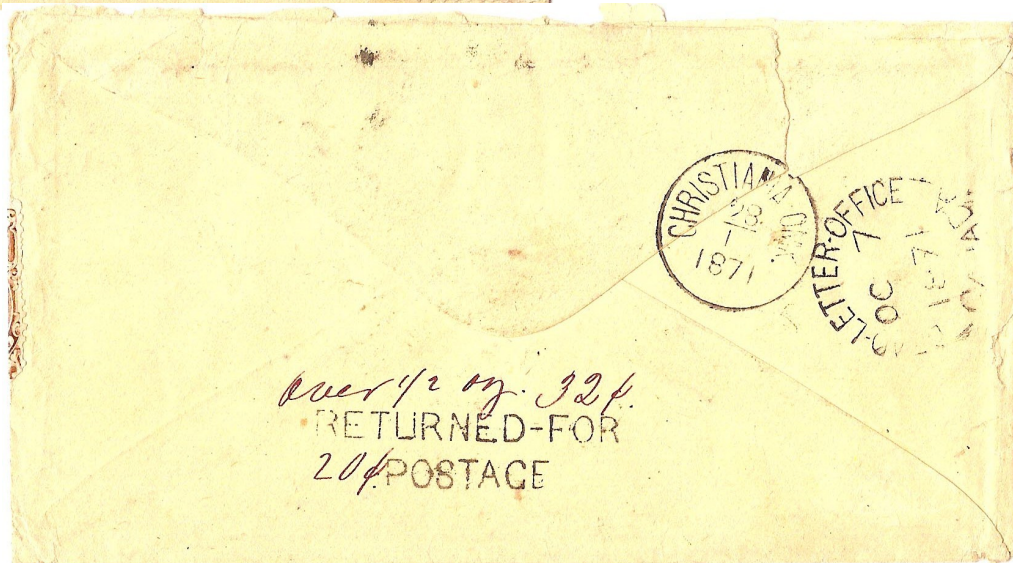
weighed over ½ ounce, and, as Duckworth confirms, should have required 32 cents.

This notation was either applied by, or was returned to, the Dead Letter Office on October 7th. Obviously the correct postage was eventually added, because there is a London Paid mark for October 25th, and a receiver from Christiania for the 28<sup>th</sup> of October (second digit missing).



I have several questions. The cover now carries only 24 cents of postage. The stamp on the lower left doesn't seem to quite fit the cork cancel next to it. There are gum remnants above that stamp, but close examination would suggest a Small, rather than a Large, Queen. The 8 cent was of course not yet issued.

Regarding the stamps on the right, which were the original two 6 cents? The middle stamp has been applied above the bottom stamp. And finally the markings - are the red numbers saying '16', and what has that got to do with the underpayment? I would be extremely glad if any members could help dispel my ignorance.



**Multiples of Large Queens on Cover**

Vic Willson (lloydwill@aol.com)

While the topic of this paper is probably too large to cover in a single article, I thought it might be worth talking about, given the recent sale at Talman of the 12 copies of 1¢ Yellow LQs on cover paying a quadruple domestic rate. I am going to list some multiples and rates they pay below by stamp value, which might be worth adding to by readers for eventual census work. Clearly, while pairs may be of interest for some rates, there may be too many of some of the lower values to be listed separately unless paying an unusual rate or going to an unusual destination. To start, I am only going to list single value frankings I have recorded or seen. In future I will start on multiples on cover with other stamps. I am tentatively rating them, rare meaning 2-5 examples. Please add items to this list either to the editor or to me at [lloydwill@aol.com](mailto:lloydwill@aol.com) to begin developing a census of such material.

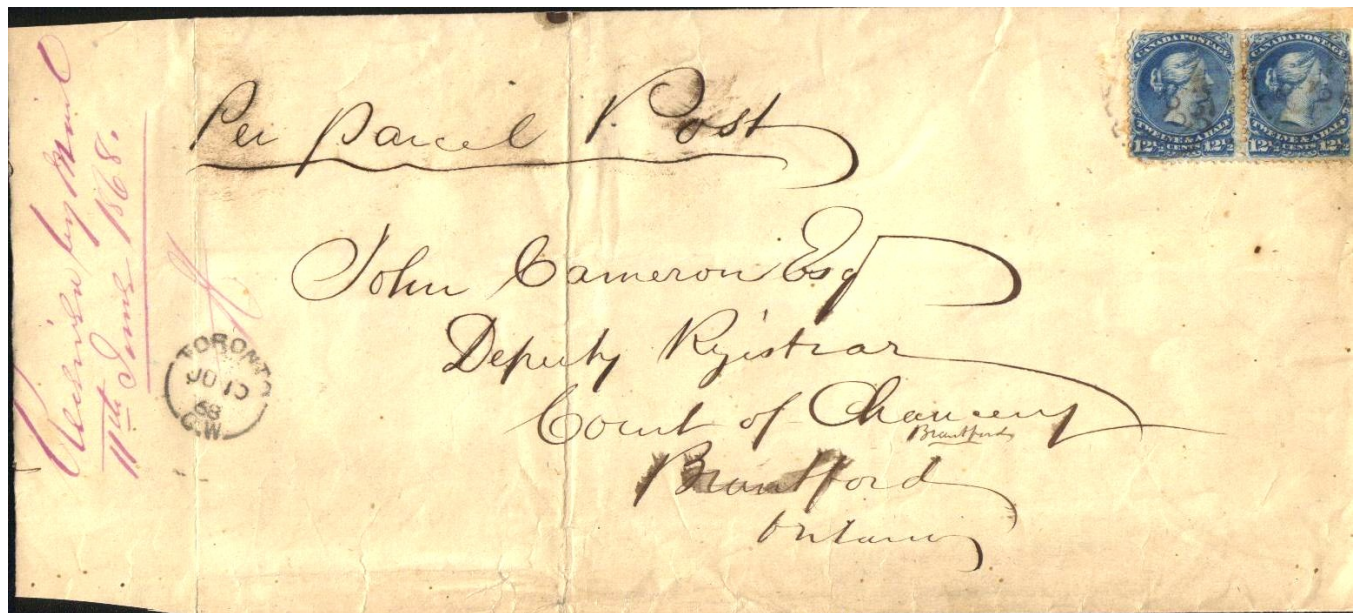


| Denomination | Rate paid   |
|--------------|---|
| ½¢ Black     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• pair paying drop letter or printed matter (relatively common)</li> <li>• 6 paying letter rate (rare)</li> <li>• 12x paying double domestic letter rate (unique)</li> <li>• 12x paying letter rate to US (unique)</li> </ul>  |
| 1¢ Red       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2x paying double printed matter rate (rare)</li> <li>• 2x soldiers letter rate (unique)</li> <li>• strip of 3 paying letter rate (relatively common)</li> <li>• Strip of 3 paying drop registered cover (rare)</li> </ul>  |
| 1¢ Yellow    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2x paying double printed matter rate (rare)</li> <li>• pair paying county rate (rare)</li> <li>• 2 paying circular rate to British Guiana (unique)</li> <li>• Strip of 3 paying letter rate (relatively common)</li> <li>• 6 paying rate to US (rare)</li> <li>• 12 paying quadruple domestic letter rate (unique)</li> </ul>  |
| 2¢ Green     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• pair overpaying letter rate (rare)</li> <li>• 2x paying registered drop letter, supposed with carrier service (unique)</li> <li>• 2x quadruple book post (rare)</li> <li>• 3x or strip of 3 paying letter rate to US (uncommon)</li> <li>• 3x or strip of 3 to UK (uncommon)</li> <li>• -underpaying letter rate to UK (rare- see previous Confederation newsletter)</li> <li>• Pair, one bisected, paying letter rate</li> <li>• 4x paying Cunard rate to UK (rare)</li> <li>• 6x paying quadruple letter rate (rare)</li> <li>• 8x to France (unique)</li> </ul> |



Multiples of Large Queens on Cover contd.

| Denomination | Rate paid  |
|--------------|--|
| 3¢ Red       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pair paying double domestic letter rate (common)</li> <li>• Pair paying letter rate to US pre 1875 (common)</li> <li>• Pair paying letter rate to UK after 1870 (scarce)</li> <li>• Pair paying letter rate to PEI pre-1873 (rare- see illustration)</li> <li>• Strip of 3 or 3 singles paying triple letter rate (uncommon)</li> <li>• 3x overpaying Cunard rate to UK (rare)</li> <li>• 4 paying quadruple letter rate (rare) or double US rate (rare)</li> <li>• 4x laid paper to US (unique)</li> <li>• 5 paying 5x letter rate (rare)</li> </ul> |
| 5¢ Olive     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2x or Pair paying double letter rate to Prussia (rare)</li> <li>• 2x or Pair paying double letter rate to UK (rare)</li> <li>• Pair paying double letter rate to France (rare)</li> <li>• Pair paying letter rate to Switzerland (unique)</li> <li>• 2x to Norway (unique)</li> <li>• 2x to Italy (unique)</li> <li>• 3x to France (unique)</li> <li>• 3x to India (shortpaid, unique)</li> </ul>   |
| 6¢ Brown     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pair paying quadruple rate (scarce)</li> <li>• Pair paying letter rate to US (scarce)</li> <li>• 2x to Bermuda (rare)</li> <li>• 2x or pair to UK post 1870</li> <li>• 2x on Wells-Fargo paste-up, 3, 4, block 4, 5x (mostly all rare)</li> <li>• 3x to US (rare)</li> <li>• 4x on part cover 8x domestic letter rate</li> <li>• 5x paying registered parcel post 1# rate (rare)</li> <li>• 4x to US (rare), block of 4 to US from Red River (unique)</li> </ul>  |



Multiples of Large Queens on Cover contd.



| Denomination         | Rate paid  |
|----------------------|--|
| 12 ½¢ Blue           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pair to UK (scarce)</li> <li>• Pair paying double parcel post rate (unique- see illustration)</li> <li>• Pair to Malta (unique)</li> <li>• Pair to India</li> <li>• 4x paying domestic registered letter ( ½¢ overpaid, unique)</li> <li>• 6x paying 75¢ registered domestic cover (unique)</li> </ul>  |
| 15¢ (Various Shades) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2x or pair domestic 10x rate (9 recorded)</li> <li>• 2x or pair to US (1 recorded)</li> <li>• 2x or pair to UK (10 recorded)</li> <li>• 2x or pair to NZ (8 recorded)</li> <li>• 2x to Siam (1 recorded)</li> <li>• 2x to Sweden (1 recorded)</li> <li>• 2x to India (1 recorded)</li> <li>• 2x to Australia (1 recorded- see illustration)</li> <li>• 2x to France (2 recorded)</li> <li>• 3x to UK 2 recorded)</li> <li>• 3x to NZ (3 recorded)</li> <li>• 3x domestic (1 recorded)</li> <li>• 3x to France, double Cunard 22c overpaid 1c (1 recorded)</li> <li>• 4x to NZ (5 recorded)</li> <li>• 4x to UK (1 recorded)</li> <li>• 5x to NZ (2 recorded)</li> <li>• 6x to NZ (4 recorded)</li> <li>• 7x to NZ (1 recorded)</li> </ul> |

### A Partial Double Print of the Six-Cent Small Queen

Jim McCormick

I recently had one of those rare moments of finding something special. It was a six-cent from the 2<sup>nd</sup> Ottawa printing, and I wasted no time on this purchase. The doubling at the bottom looked familiar, so I opened Eastern's December 2006 catalog and there was its sibling in Lot 569. The stamp has some interesting characteristics. About ¼ of the stamp shows doubling, with no trace of doubling above that. Is it a plate flaw or a printing error? The answer is clear when examining the two copies. Both stamps show the same flaw, however, the doubling on the Eastern stamp is slightly different around CE of CENTS, suggesting the two stamps are not from the same plate position. The two stamps are equal in height, vertically centered the same, even the vertical perforations align - but the perforation tears do not match. They both were postmarked in Collingwood, one on JA 4 94 and the other JA 6 94. So I'd say the two stamps came from the same sheet, delivered to Collingwood.

Now that we have determined there was a single sheet, with possibly the whole bottom row showing the doubling, the question is how did the error occur during the printing process? The doubling is not as heavy as the rest of the stamp impression. I have received several opinions, and am currently consulting by mail with a retired siderographer to further my understanding of the printing process.



**Figure 1. Partial Double Prints. Left Stamp - New Find, Right - ex. Eastern Auctions, Roberts Collection, Dec. 2006.**



**Figure 2. Closeup of Bottom 1/4 of Stamp.**

I welcome any theories, and would be interested to know if other copies exist. If there are more, do they have a Collingwood postmark and similar centering and perforations?

Happy hunting!



Chairman's Column

Bill Radcliffe ([bsbvp88@hotmail.com](mailto:bsbvp88@hotmail.com))

Here is a rather nice cover I found in Halifax at the BNAPS show. It is a parcel post rate paying the 12 1/2 cent rate per 8 ounces (up to 3 lb.) which went into effect March 1<sup>st</sup>, 1868. The cover shown here was 8 oz or less of legal correspondence mailed from Simcoe, Ont. on JA 28, 1873. As you can see, it is franked with a six-cent, two three-cents and a one-cent Small Queen and overpays the rate by 1/2 cent. It has a Toronto receiver on the back dated JA 29 1873, but as you can see what attracted my attention was the 2 ring 48 cancels on the cover which fits well with my two-ring numeral cancel collection.

