

# Confederation

The Newsletter of the BNAPS Large and Small Queens Study Group

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## The One Cent Small Queen: The Thick Soft Paper

Yannick Cartier

I have been able to find very little in the literature on the one cent small queen on thick soft paper or TSP (Fig. 1). It is a scarce stamp, possibly five or ten times scarcer than the Three Cents on TSP. Over the years I had been able to accumulate only 4 copies of this rare stamp as opposed to about fifty for the three cents. It is only recently, through a friend collector, that I have been able to increase my number to 10 copies, including two dated.

### Earliest reported date

As for the three cents SQ, the exact date of issue is uncertain. The earliest reported date on cover for the Three Cents SQ TSP is December 22 1870. So far I know of only three dated copies for One Cent TSP, including the two I recently found. I know of no other reports. I will set a temporary earliest reported date to October 25 1871 and I am anxious for earlier reports (Fig. 2). The two others are dated early 1872 which may indicate a slightly later date of usage than for the Three Cents. I personally think they may have been printed around the same time, though it is hard to say for sure though with so few dated copies known.



Figure 1. One cent small queen on thick soft paper (TSP).



Figure 2. Dated example of the one cent small queen on thick soft paper or TSP. Earliest recorded date I know of, October 25 1871.

### Paper

The paper is the same thick, fibrous, slightly toned and opaque paper we recently described for the Three Cents SQ in Confederation #37. The grain is sometimes faint but most often visible. The horizontal mesh, however, is very hard to see being almost invisible on thicker examples. The TSP tends to be relatively thinner for the One Cent examples. A range of thicknesses are found on both denominations. Measuring examples from a large lot I recently purchased, the Three Cents on TSP range from .0031" to .0042" in thickness as opposed to .0035" to .0040" for the One Cent. Most Three Cents examples are around .0038" to .0040" and most of the One Cents around .0037". I prefer relying on experience and comparison rather than scientifically measuring stamps for thickness, but my measurements seem to corroborate these observations. Characteristics are essentially the same for both values, including the typical beveled perforation holes very rarely found on other papers (Figs. 3 and 4, shown on Page 2).

### Shade

The shade is best described, I think, as bright orange yellow and so far the copies I have seen are of very similar shade. The range of shades I have only recently observed for the three cents SQ TSP is yet to be clearly demonstrated for the one cent SQ TSP. The shade of the one cent SQ TSP is slightly paler than the earlier deep red orange printings on Hillson paper A and Shoemaker paper B. Some slightly later printings on Shoemaker's paper B are a perfect match, however (Fig 5). I wouldn't be surprised if deeper, earlier examples come to light.



Figure 3. Typical beveled perforations holes found on the TSP for both the three cents and one cent small queen issue. These are very rarely encountered on other Small or Large Queen papers. Note as well the large number of fibers between the perforations and the retained partially cut discs.

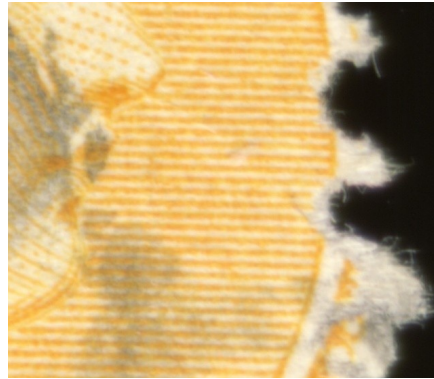


Figure 4. Comparison of the Three Cent and One Cent TSP. Left stamp, a deep rose carmine, measured at .0041" and second, a bright orange, at .0037". Despite a deeper shade the design is less visible on the Three Cent. Note the papers have same properties, such as irregular perforations and retained perforation discs.

In summary, the One Cent SQ on TSP was printed on the same paper and possibly at the same time as the Three Cents TSP. However, a tendency of the paper to be thinner, a lesser range of thickness and fewer known copies of the One Cent TSP may indicate that a small number were printed and issued slightly later.



Figure 5. First vertical row - early Deep Red Orange printings on Hillson paper A and Shoemaker paper B. Middle stamp - slightly later shade from 1871 on Shoemaker paper B. Third vertical row - two TSP examples.



### An Early Essay Or Trial Roller?

Brian Hargreaves (bhargrea@email.com)

The two items shown here have been sitting in my roller cancel collection for many years. I know they are unusual, but have never got round to exploring exactly what they are. I invite members with an interest in this field to contact me with their thoughts.

As one can see, both items are printed in the rose carmine shade – one lighter than the other. The roller cancel is clearly the same on both - Hull Canada - but with different dates. And here's the striking thing: I am not aware of any roller cancel containing the date of posting. By the way, the date is the correct contemporary use for the rose carmine period. Both have a NO 88 (Nov. 1888) date, with the pair on the right having a '6' in front.



My only source of information about roller cancels is [Canadian Roller Cancellations](#) written many years ago by Smythies and Hollingsworth. In it, they clearly state that the first brass revolving cylinders were supplied by Pritchard & Andrews to the Canadian Postal Department in 1894-5. Thus, these canceling devices predate the introduction by some seven years. The book does refer in an Appendix to 'an early essay or trial with the word CANADA only, and no date, on the rose carmine shade.'

Therefore it would appear that my two items provide a fuller picture of what this experiment may have originally looked like. So what are they? An official trial carried out for the post office seven years before the rollers were properly introduced, or was the postmaster in Hull an innovator who showed the Postal Department a way of canceling stamps in volume quickly and efficiently? I would be fascinated to hear from members who have the answer.



## An Update On The Three Cent Small Queen Perforated 12 ½

Jim McCormick

A small quantity of the 3c SQ from the first printing is known to be perforated 12.6 on all sides. One theory is that the perforating machine in Ottawa had broken down, and to keep things moving they used an old machine that was used for the First Bill Stamp issue of 1864. This machine was in Montreal, where several sheets may have been perforated while on their journey to the east coast.

Almost every known copy of this stamp (Unitrade #37d) was used in the Maritimes. The most common post mark on this stamp is from St. John, the 2-Ring #7 numeral. Several are known from Halifax, Fredericton, and Truro. And then there are many from "Jesse Hoyt Acadia Mines" covers which are believed to be return envelopes mailed along with invoices. Postmarks on the Jesse Hoyt covers are from various post offices that likely were not issued the 12 ½ perforated stamps. I highly recommend the BNAPS gold medal exhibit by John Keenlyside for more information.



Illustration 1: 37d on cover that is not from the Maritimes

There has been a new find of a #37d on cover postmarked in Bowmanville, ON (see Illustration 1). The stamp is tied to the cover with the correct 2-Ring #38 cancel. The Keenlyside exhibit (with over 80 copies of this rare stamp) had an illustrated cover postmarked in Toronto, and a stamp with an Ottawa star cork obliterator (see Illustration 2). Mr. Keenlyside indicated these are the only two known, and the new find brings out a third. The theory is the stamps were purchased in Saint John, and made the trip to various destinations before being mailed. Or perhaps a few sheets were delivered to Ontario post offices.



Illustration 2: 37d with Ottawa obliterator

Estimates are that the quantity of 37d that survived is likely in the 150-200 range. That is about as "common" as the 12 penny black (#3). However, my belief is that many times that remain in existence. I base this on the relative ease to which the stamp can be found. Relative anyway to finding a 12 penny black! I have seen about a dozen copies previously thought to be the more common 37b (perforated just under 12). The Bowmanville cover is one more example. I would be very interested to hear of other copies used outside of the Maritimes.

Many thanks to Allan Maki for scans of the Bowmanville cover.

Happy hunting!



For a Few Cents...

John Hillson (stampbuffjohn@aol.com)

I have possibly mentioned before that postal history is not really my thing - probably just as well as the happy aficionado who now possesses the 5c Large Queen dated on a Montreal cover on 29 Sept 1875 would probably not have had his (or her) chance as I spotted it in an English provincial auction sale a few years back at the princely

estimate of £40 - a far cry from the £4000 it was knocked down for at the Spink "Jura" sale. I did think about it at that time, I honestly did, and had I been interested would have put in an aggressive bid, but it to my mind was such an eyesore that I did not even bother. That is the trouble you see, I am a stamp collector, and stamp collecting is a visual hobby, postal history isn't... so tatty covers to far flung and exotic places leave me cold. And nice looking ones are too darn dear.

But I could not resist this well traveled item - From Canada to London (the English one) to Italy, to Switzerland and finally to Paris, in 18 days, and all for five cents. As wine connoisseurs say "Its impudence may amuse you".



## Editor's Column

Glenn Archer ([glennarcher@hotmail.com](mailto:glennarcher@hotmail.com))

First off I would like to make a correction to Newsletter #39. Dave Lacelle, who had a very nice collection of foreign cancels on early Canada stamps (including Large and Small Queens), asked me to advertise same and, embarrassingly, I got his email contact address incorrect in the final edit. Dave's email address is for newsletter correspondence is [fancycancel@hotmail.com](mailto:fancycancel@hotmail.com). I do not know if the collection is still available but it includes some very exotic items and I was somewhat tempted myself as it represents years of searching for one-of-a-kind items!

There are two excellent references now available through the RPSC and some stamp dealers. The first is a hardbound second edition of "The Large Queen Stamps of Canada and Their Use" by H. E. and H. W. Duckworth, with updated information (including several new colour photo plates) and some improvement of scans. The second is a joint effort by two eminent senior students in the Small Queen field, John Hillson and Ted Nixon, "Canada's Postage Stamps of the Small Queen Era 1870-1897". I had a preview of the book back in March; it is replete with colour plates and the shade reproduction is absolutely superb.

There are plenty of constant plate varieties yet to be researched and documented in the Large Queen area. I think in many instances they have been known by a few collectors for decades. I will show one nice CPV here, I call it the "S Flaw" on the Three Cents Large Queen. Yannick Cartier was kind enough to share with me a number of confirming examples of the variety. It is not listed in Reiche's "A Large Queen's Report", nor in Duckworth.



Figure 1. The "S" Flaw on Three-Cents LQ, Example on Bothwell Paper.

The variety is generally found on early to mid-issue examples of the issue. Of the four examples I have documented, three are on Bothwell paper and one is reportedly on medium horizontal wove Paper 10. The variety differs in intensity from faint to strong. It bears no relation to the well-known plate crack in "NTS" of "CENTS" as that plate crack is a first-column stamp lacking a position dot lower left.



Figure 2. Close-up of "S Flaw". Example shows a partial CDS, NO '68.



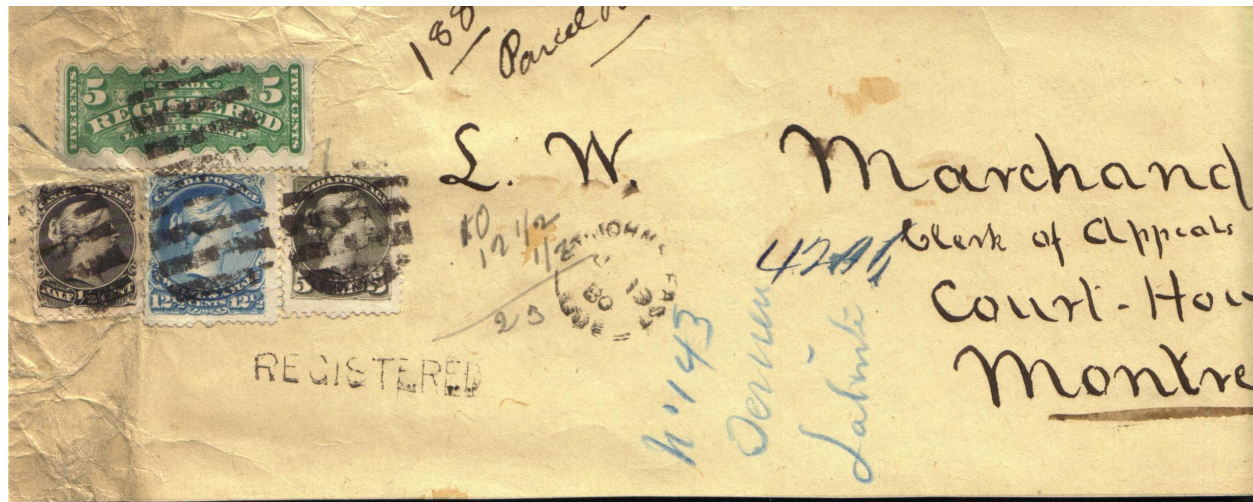
**Large Queen- Small Queen Stamp Combinations on Cover**

Victor Willson

Shortly I will be releasing to the Confederation Study Group a comprehensive listing of all the recorded rates and frankings with Large Queen stamps that I have researched over the last 25 years. As with the 15¢ census recently released to the group, this listing is intended to gather further information. My intent is to place it on the BNAPS website eventually as a searchable database and electronically accessible .pdf file. This is the 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition of the Canada Posted Letter Guide (1996) originally published by Charles Firby and myself. I am first editor of the revised version. I will shortly release the Pence and Decimal sections if BNAPS is agreeable.

As part of that work I thought it might be interesting to examine the combinations of Large and Small Queens that I have recorded to date. The table below gives my list. Any additional known combinations you could report to me would be greatly appreciated. Please give details to determine the rate if not obvious.

LARGE QUEEN - SMALL QUEEN COMBINATIONS ON COVER											
Victor Willson											
	Small Queen Values										
Large Queen Values	½	1	2	3	5	6	8	10	2¢RLS	5¢RLS	8¢RLS
½	x	x	x	x	x					x	
1R				x							
1Y		x									
2		x		x		x					
3		x	x	x							
5		x	x	x		x				x	X
6	x	x	x	x		x					
12½		x		x	x	x				x	
15	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	X



**Registered Parcel Post Rate Showing ½ Cent and 12 ½ Cent LQ in Combination With 5 Cent SQ.**

Chairman's Column

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

I am looking forward to seeing anyone from our group who is planning to attend ORAPEX on May 2 and 3 as I plan on holding a group meeting there on Friday, May 1 at the RA center at 3:00 after the BNAPS meeting. In this newsletter I want to share what I feel is one of my better auction purchases lately. I bought a large group of Large Queen covers jointly with two other collectors. I ended up with 24 covers, some of which you will see over the next few newsletters.

The one I show here is a 3c rate to Sir Sandford Fleming from Craigeith, UC with a 2 cent Large Queen and a 1c Small Queen with a very fancy cancel on it, not tied to the cover, but the stamps are tied together. I think it is a legitimate strike but I am curious to see what others think.

