

Confederation

The Newsletter of the BNAPS Large and Small Queens Study Group

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Proposal to Start a Census on the 1888 Three-Cent Rose Carmine (RC) and Deep Rose Carmine (DRC)

Ron Smith (rsmith0225@rogers.com)

Introduction

In a recent issue of *Confederation*, buried deep within his commentary, Bill Radcliffe noted (in a gracious way) that there was interest at the last BNAPS Annual General Meeting in starting a census of the use of the 1888 Montreal printing of the three cent Rose Carmine (RC) and Deep Rose Carmine (DRC).

Bill – thank you for the friendly reminder.

In Ron Ribler's book on the three cent Small Queens, he provides an updated version of Shoemaker's table of papers and printings including ERDs for the 1888 RC/DRC printing. Oct. 6, 1888 is provided as the ERD for the rose carmine – with two different perforations noted and no distinction between RC and DRC. In the new Small Queens book by Hillson and Nixon, they state: "The earliest evidence of the rose-carmine may be October 6 and 8, 1888, which suggests the printings were done in September".

Hillson and Nixon provide some interesting supplemental information in that they note three different shades can be seen:

Rose Carmine and a Deep Rose Carmine
Scarlet-Carmine on poorer paper

Through November 1888
December 1888 into January 1889

Since I am not aware of a formal census ever having been done for this Montreal printing, perhaps we can start to document some of these observations.

Separating the DRC from the scarlet-carmine on cover may be problematic. I would appreciate it if any of our scholars out there have a simple way to do so and would be willing to share that information with us. However, in the interim, I will provide my "three cents" worth:



Figure 1. Early Cover Showing Use of Rose Carmine (41a).

I have a scarlet-carmine example, dated Dec. 16, 1888, that I would likely have inadvertently called DRC if I hadn't been looking at the paper. Looking at the back of the stamp, there is no mesh (one can see a quadrille-type mesh for the earlier RC and DRC stamps). While I might not have called this paper poorer quality, the design certainly shows through the back. This is likely the poorer quality paper described by Hillson and Nixon. Most of my copies dated in January and later support this.

Proposal to Start a Census... contd.

What to Survey?

The goal of the survey is to try to help quantify the period of use for the three shades. In order to start things off, I have completed a summary table of the examples I have in my personal collection. Hopefully using this as an example will help clarify the survey.

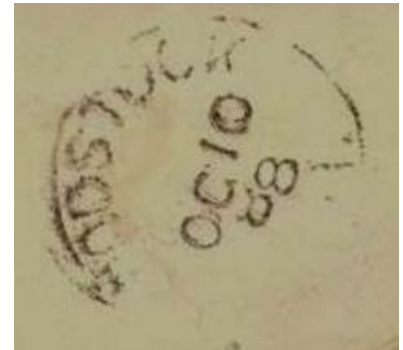


Figure 2. Backstamp of Cover in Figure 1.

Table 1. Initial Census of Known RC / DRC / Scarlet Carmine Stamps

	Earliest Date Recorded:	OCT. 1888	NOV. 1888	DEC. 1888	JAN. 1889	FEB. 1889
COVERS:						
RC	Oct. 9 / 88	3	2	1	1	1
DRC	Oct. 16 / 88	5	7	3	0	0
SC	-	0	0	0	3(?)	2(?)
STAMPS:						
RC	Oct. 16 / 88	10	12	12	5	0
DRC	Oct. 25 / 88	2	10	6	5	0
SC	Dec. 16 / 88	0	0	1	16	8

The table stops at February 1889, as that is when the vermilion stamps make a 'reappearance'. March 1889 and later dates may be considered holdovers, i.e. stock on-hand but not yet used for postage, I do have a June 27, 1889 cover and undoubtedly there are many used considerably later.

If you have any questions, comments or additions, please feel free to contact me via email, phone or snail mail. If there is sufficient interest and participation, we can expand upon the information compiled in a 'round two'. The kinds of information one could compile could include rates, registered covers (including combinations with the carmine shade of F1), fancy cancels, etc. Please consider this "testing the water" of study group interest for the time being, however.

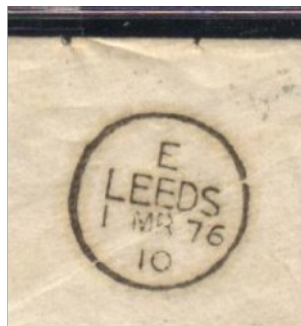
Ron Smith
 Tel: 506 453-1792
 Email: rsmith0225@rogers.com
 12 Chateau Dr.
 McLeod Hill NB

Earliest Recorded Cover Date for 5 Cent Small Queen

Vic Willson (lloydwill@aol.com)

The new Hillson & Nixon book, Canada's Postage Stamps of the Small Queen Era, 1870-1897, proposes a number of earliest recorded dates for usages of the stamps on and off cover. After purchasing my copy and lugging it home from Ottawa, I had a chance finally to spend some time with it recently, and reviewed their dates. For the five-cent Small Queen they show a cover dated Feb. 22, 1876, to a Mr. Brown in Leeds. It has a TOO LATE strike. Shown below is another cover from the same correspondence, same TOO LATE strike, dated Feb. 18, 1876 (it could be 19, but looks more like 18 to me). It has a docketed Feb. 19th marking at lower right (though such markings are not always convincing or consistent) and on the back a MAR 1 1876 Leeds receiver, also shown. As my various sailing books all stop at 1875, I cannot tell the routing or ship. Perhaps a reader has that information.

I picked up this cover on ebay some time ago, and was not sure of the early date but certain it was some time in February, 1876, so that this was at least one of the early dates of use. It never hurts to speculate a bit.



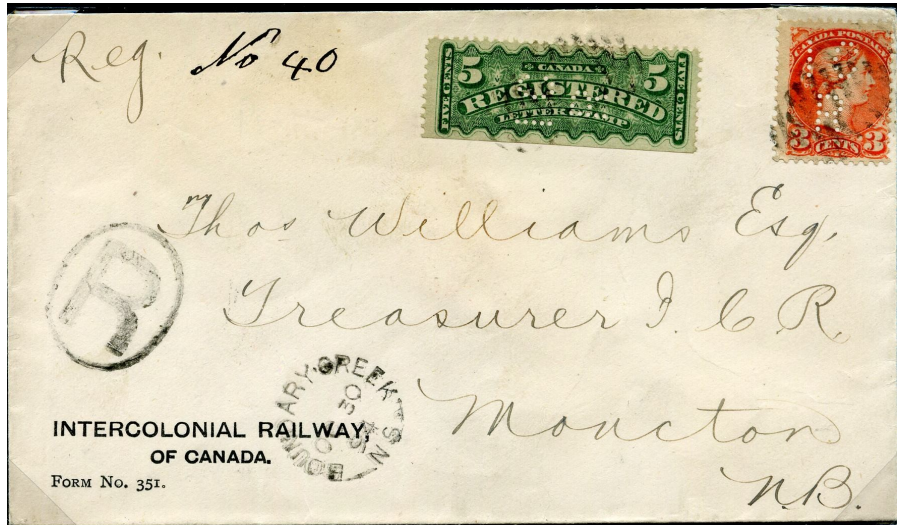
The Sometimes-Overlooked Perfins

(editor's note: John sent me this correspondence, and as it makes for an interesting article I asked permission to reprint it in the newsletter.)

John Hillson (stampbuffjohn@aol.com)

I noticed in Issue #40 you mentioned having seen a copy of the new book on Small Queens. Idling through it I noticed no mention was made of stamps with holes in them which some collectors think a lot of - perfins I believe they call them. Well as a child I always used to discard them as damaged, but then as they say ignorance is bliss. Just to show I do now recognise they have a place to play (!) I thought you might like to have scans of two covers that could have been in the Chapter on the 3c - as they were among those submitted - but for which there was, alas, insufficient room. Also it might prevent withdrawal symptoms from any interested members, particularly as they can now be displayed in full Technicolor (sic) but without, thankfully, stereophonic sound.

The first is a registered cover from the Intercolonial Railway - I believe only five have been recorded. The 5c RLS is from the defective Plate which was so badly registered that there was great difficulty in perforating the sheets, a good number of the subjects being too close together and one of the solutions tried, though not pursued for long, was to guillotine certain of the horizontal rows. The specimen on the cover shows the guillotined bottom edge; and may possibly be the only one recorded thus.



2

The other is a cover bearing a W J Gage perfin. It is as can be seen an illustrated cover showing the Gage premises, postmarked with a flag cancel. Well I like it a lot for my money!!



Editor's Column

Glenn Archer (glennarcher@hotmail.com)

I had occasion to attend the excellent Annual Convention, albeit briefly, held by our esteemed friends at the RPSC in St. Catharines in June 2009. Among others, both Wayne Smith and Jack Forbes had outstanding LQ / SQ exhibits that I thoroughly enjoyed viewing – I would have liked to congratulate them personally, but regrettably had neither the time nor occasion to do so. Conventions are an interesting mix of stamp-hunting / study / social interaction, and I am still unable to spend all the time I wish enjoying each. If all goes as I hope, I'll be attending the BNAPEX convention in Kingston in early September.

You may notice there's a bit of white space in this newsletter – had to call some favours to get eight pages for this volume but we try our best and welcome your contributions. Understandably, there are many distractions from stamp collecting in the summer. There are definitely some unusual collecting areas covered in this edition.

I was very pleased to meet up with Dick Lamb at the convention and say hello. He maintains his lifelong interest in classical stamp research and study. Generously, he asked to share the following mystery with the Study Group:

**Figure 1. Reconstructed
OCEAN MAIL SERVICE /
CANADA Cancel.**

Over the course of 40+ years of quiet and patient searching, Dick has found exactly five partial examples of this extraordinary cancel, all on stamps (four on one-cent yellow-orange LQ's and one on a 12 ½ cent LQ) and NONE on cover. I used two to largely reconstruct the cancel here.

Duckworth (p. 17) notes that there were seven Ocean Mail Clerks on record as of January 1869.



It seems unusual that the majority of strikes have been found on one-cent Large Queens – one would expect this to be a Transatlantic marking and the most likely stamps to carry it to be a fifteen-cent or twelve-and-a-half-cent LQ.

I'll add a few of my comments here – the unique 12 ½ cent example is on Bothwell paper, early deep blue shade. The four one-cent Large Queen examples show some possible wear and damage to the hammer – note the clearer strike of the right stamp and the edge dings to the hammer used on left example. If there are any Cents Issue examples, I am unaware of them. The absence of SQ period strikes suggests it had limited, if any, use by then.

Dick does not really bother too much with computers, so I would be only too pleased to forward any information readers may have on this cancel and document any further examples in Confederation.

The Canadian Bank Note Engraving and Printing Company Essays

John Burnett (Jb45855@aol.com)

In 1891 The Canadian Bank Note Engraving and Printing Company submitted a design to replace the Small Queen stamps being produced by the British American Bank Note Company. The bid was accepted and the CBNE&P Company was awarded a contract to produce the next generation of Canadian definitive stamps.

As one can assume, this did not sit well with the BABNC and so to thwart the loss of their contract the BABNC just went and acquired the CBNE&P Company. Once the acquisition was complete the BABNC just plain old killed the project and would continue to produce the small queen stamp design for another six years.

Below is illustrated all the known varieties of these essays.



Lemon Yellow
Thick Wove Paper



Orange Yellow
India Paper



Deep Yellow
Card

Figure 1. The three known varieties of the 1¢ stamp proposal.

Figure 2. The six known varieties of the proposed 2¢ stamp.



Blue
India Paper



Blue
Blue Glazed Paper



Brown
India Paper



Green
Thin Japanese Paper



Green
India Paper



Olive Green
India Paper

The Canadian Bank Note Engraving and Printing Company Essays contd.

Figure 3. The four known varieties of the 3¢ proposed design.



Reddish Brown
India Paper



Black Lithographed
Glazed Wove Paper



Red
Card



Vermillion
Wove Paper

None of the various designs appear to be more valuable than any other; each has escalated significantly over the past ten years and will set you back \$2-3,000 for a complete set.

I have often wondered about where in an exhibit of the Small Queens these essays belong? As you might imagine, I have heard "at the beginning, where all essays belong", "at the end where an unsuccessful design should be shown", and "it's not a Small Queen and doesn't belong in your exhibit!".

I have elected to show these essays at the front of my exhibit, where I believe all essays belong. I personally think all material that adds to the story of your exhibit is important and should be shown.

Chairman's Column

Bill Radcliffe (bsbvp88@hotmail.com)

I wish to thank those who showed up at ORAPEX in May; we had a good meeting. I brought my Large Queen covers, and as Glenn our editor was looking at them one caught his eye. He asked if I would write it up, so here it is.

This cover pays the 5X rate from Toronto to Wallbridge, ON. It was mailed May 27th, 1878 and arrived in Wallbridge on the 28th of May. This cover is a very nice single use of a 15 cent large queen, perforation 11 1/2 by 12 which is why I picked it up 3 years ago. But what Glenn liked about it, which I had noticed, it is not one of the standard 11 1/2 by 12 shades. According to Firth, they are muddy brownish purple, greenish-gray and bluish gray. This one almost looks like the thick paper shade of 1880 clear deep violet, so my theory is that this is the predecessor to that stamp. Glenn says he has (or has seen) has one or two similar examples of the same shade off cover but I'm still looking for one. I would be interested to know if anyone else has this shade / perf combination.



I would also like to let every one know that we are going to have a Study Group meeting in Kingston at BNAPEX on Friday or Saturday night after the show; I will keep you posted.

