

Confederation

The Newsletter of the BNAPS Large and Small Queens Study Group

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St. Pierre & Miquelon to Japan Through Canada 1876

Vic Willson (lloydwill@aol.com)

The cover shown here was provided courtesy of Mr. Horst Mueller of Japan. It is part of his collection titled "Koban Collection" of Japan and is particularly interesting to Japanese postal history collectors, as it is the earliest Advertised letter. The website is

http://www.geocities.com/horst_mueller_geo/koban.htm

He writes:

Before undeliverable mail was returned to the sender it was advertised in newspapers, a custom still practised today. Advertised letters used to receive the hand stamp 'ADVERTISED'. Several types are known from Yokohama, Tokyo and Nagasaki.



Figure 1. St. Pierre & Miquelon to Japan Through Canada.

Postal stations and time:

- *St. Pierre et Miquelon 19.11.1876*
- *Halifax 22. 11. 1876 on back*
- *Montreal 25. 11. 1876 on back*
- *Detroit PAID ALL in red 29.11.1876*
- *San Francisco PAID ALL in red 1.1877*
- *Yokohama PAID ALL in red 24.1.1877*
- *Tokyo N2B2 24.1.1877 on back*
- *Yokohama KB2 27.1.1877 on flap*
- **YOKOHAMA ADVERTISED, 2. 4. 1877**

Mr. Georges Hilaire Bouscet (1846-1937) from France was legal adviser to the Japanese Government and the author of the book 'Japon de Nos Jours'. Recently I received information on the red 2 cents mark from a French specialist: internal rate in Nova Scotia. The letter was carried between Saint Pierre to Sydney by boat and after by postal car with horses through Nova Scotia to Halifax and from there by train to Montreal.

St. Pierre & Miquelon to Japan Through Canada 1876 contd.

The 2 CENTS mark surely is recorded somewhere, and perhaps readers of the newsletter will point to it, but it is not in Jephcott, Greene & Young or Argenti, nor Boggs or Jarrett. In the Pence period in Nova Scotia the fee for a cover from St. Pierre to NS was 2d per oz. I infer (do not have documentation) that when the conversion to cents occurred, the rate would have been 4¢ per oz, or 2¢ per half oz., such as with this cover. An additional 3¢ would have paid the rest of the rate to Canada in 1876, and the fee to Japan through the U.S. would have been another 8¢ (see Arfken's listing in the Small Queen book). I conclude the fees would have been additive as there was not likely an agreement for a rate between St. Pierre and Japan, although there was apparently between France and Japan. Mr. Mueller has a cover to France from Japan dated 1880 with "via San Francisco."

Another 8¢ rate from Canada to Japan, shortpaid at 6¢, was in the Robertson collection, lot 201, from Halifax MR 31, 1873. Before 1875 all such mail was sent to the U.S. consulate in Japan. This cover is at present the earliest recorded item to Japan. I have recorded later covers at the UPU rate in 1885.

By Favour Cover

Wayne Smith (waynesmithtor@yahoo.ca)

Editor's note: Wayne will be unable to reply to correspondence until the New Year as he is on a well-deserved vacation.

Sometimes the covers we come across call out for help in explaining the method and route it took to reach its destination. The cover here, Figure 1, is such a cover.

The cover has a scarce strike of the 2 ring #34 hammer assigned to Chatham, New Brunswick in 1869¹. Except for circulars, covers should have a CDS on the front to indicate time of entry into the postal system. Why was no such CDS applied to this cover?

In addition to the p(er) Steamer notation, the cover has an example of the Miramichi-NB / SHIP LETTER hand stamp. When and why was the hand stamp applied?

The cover has a JU 10 1869 P.O. Chatham N.B. and a JU 12 1869 Dalhousie N.B.² CDS on the reverse. What do they tell us?



Figure 1. An Unusual "By Favour" Cover Through Chatham NB.

The cover has the embossed imprint of a Quebec (City) merchant business (Figure 2). Does this have any relevance to a cover apparently mailed to and from New Brunswick towns?



Figure 2. Embossment on Backflap of Cover.

After a very good discussion with Denis Albert, a long time Victorian period N.B. postal history collector, the likely scenario is:

The merchant imprint is very helpful in this case. Normal mail from Quebec to Dalhousie would first go Quebec to St. John. There were no railway lines linking the two cities at this time. At St. John, the mail would be sorted and then sent back north to Dalhousie with 1 or 2 additional transfers and sorts. The total trip took as much as 8 to 10 days. A Quebec merchant wanting faster service and knowing the sailing of private ships on the St. Lawrence could save several days by using a shorter route taking 5 to 6 days.

This cover is a combination of private courier and public mail. It was sent via private ship sailing from Quebec to Chatham. A fee was likely paid for this 'special delivery' but there was no postal marking added. Once the ship arrived in Chatham, someone on the ship took this cover and any others to the local post office and explained their ship origin. The 3c stamp could have been added by the sender in Quebec (most likely) or added in Chatham and included in the fee. The postmaster in Chatham used the 2 ring hammer to cancel the stamp **but** to make it clear the cover came to the Chatham PO as an 'in transit' item, he used his CDS

¹ Based on 30+ years of record keeping by the author, 4 covers bearing Large Queen stamps are recorded. Earliest is Ju10/69.

² Chatham is on the Miramichi River just before the river flows into Miramichi Bay on the east coast of N. B. Dalhousie is at N. B.'s most northern point just across the border of Quebec (Gaspé Peninsula) at the western end of Baie des Chaleurs.

By Favour Cover contd.

hammer as a backstamp as would be done with other in transit mail. The postmaster, to further indicate the type of in transit receipt applied the SHIP LETTER hand stamp to show it arrived by private ship mail.

While not particularly unusual for private (no post office contract) ships to stop at various ports and off load mail to the local post office, it is the steps taken by the Chatham post office to show this cover's origin was not Chatham that makes it unusual. Without the merchant imprint the origin would be unknown. Without the hand stamp the cover would appear to have originated in Chatham with the postmaster using the CDS as a backstamp in error. It appears other towns receiving mail this way did not treat the items any different than mail originating there. Without the other evidence, the 'p steamer' notation could mean that the letter was to be sent from Chatham to Dalhousie by steamer but it was added by the sender (same ink/handwriting style) to show how it was to be sent from Quebec.

The book 'Postal History of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick – 1754 – 1867'³ notes the hand stamp was used from 1841 to 1867, but has a rarity factor of 10 indicating only a few are known. This example is believed to be the only post-confederation usage. The increase of railway routes in the 1870's would improve mail delivery times thus take away the private ship advantage.

The post office in Chatham was originally called Miramichi, hence the name on the hand stamp. The change from Miramichi to P.O. Chatham occurred in 1843.

The Left-Margin Plate Crack(s!)

Glenn Archer, Editor (glennarcher@hotmail.com)

I attended the 2009 BNAPEX Convention in Kingston. Usually I find a lot at shows, but must have arrived a day late as my collector friends had found (and bought) almost everything of interest to me! At the study group meeting I fielded questions mostly about Large Queen papers, a subject of perpetual complication and confusion. Perhaps in the future I will prepare a brief talk on these, but I feel the subject is overdone and would probably prepare a talk on something else given some time and a good overhead for display.

I did find one great stamp of interest, though. I recently discovered that the "25v" left-margin crack/scratch variety must occur in two positions, and that both are remarkably similar. Note the stamp at left has the guide dot at LR - indicating it is not a first-column stamp - , while the right example lacks a position dot.

Both are constant, and the stamps come from early printings, i.e. probably first plate of the three-cent LQ. The left column crack/scratch is typically weaker and less continuous. I suppose it is *possible* that the crack came from a transfer roll during preparation, given that the marks are remarkably similar, but would need to do a lot more study to state it for certain.

The scans at right are probably more easily viewed on a computer screen, and if anyone is interested I can provide scans on request.



³ By Vincent Greene, C.M. Jephcott, J.H.M. Younge – 1964, page 189

Who Got Bitten By The Vampire?

Yannick Cartier (yaca@sympatico.ca)

Aside from breaking my head with studying papers and shades on the SQ and LQ issue I sometimes collect items that I find scarce and interesting even though they have no particular place in my collection. I recently came across a beautiful and dated strip of six of the three cents SQ issue demonstrating very well the constant plate flaw known as the **VAMPIRE BITE** or **SCARS ON THE NECK** (Figure 1).



Figure 1. Fully dated (Peterboro October 15 1892) strip of six of the Three Cents SQ issue with fifth stamp demonstrating the plate flaw known as the vampire bite or scars on the neck.

The fifth stamp from the left is affected and the bite is quite strong. The additional flaw around the right three is still present (Figure 2). According to the beautiful and useful site of Bill Burden this additional flaw disappeared early and the bite itself or the neck flaw slowly vanished from about **Sept 16 1892 (ERU)** to **Dec 20 1895 (LRU)**. Despite being a relatively common and popular flaw the exact plate position is still unknown as far as I know.

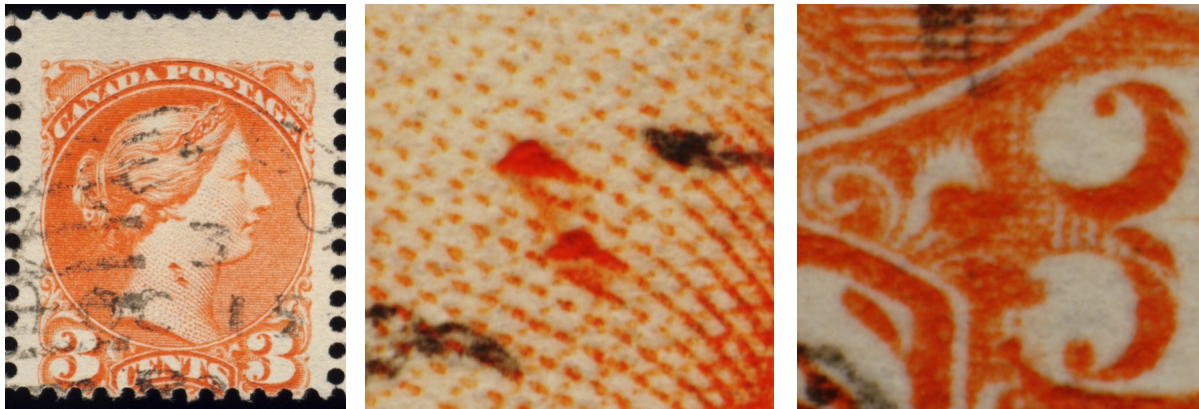


Figure 2. Fifth stamp of the strip of six and magnified views demonstrating typical neck flaw which mimics a vampire bite and additional flaw around right lower three.

An unknown plate position for a relatively common and popular flaw usually implies that not that many multiples are known. So far I have seen a strip of five and that particular strip of six. Has anyone seen larger? I would greatly appreciate your input as always.

Small Queen Fakes and Forgeries

John Burnett (jb45855@aol.com)

I recently wrote an article on the Henry Hechler postal history and in it I showed both a "SERVICE" and "OFFICIAL" overprinted stamps. I mentioned that these stamps were subject to being questioned as true Hechler overprints as there was no way of telling an original Hechler from a contrived overprint by a less than honest 19th Century stamp dealer. As is so true when one writes up material for others to critique, it leads us into another article that plays off the first. I think it is critical to mention that material published at the "study group" level of BNAPS is always subject to interpretation and correction. We so called experts are looking for members to jump on our articles with any corrections they might have, that's how study groups work, we share what we know and we build real information with the feedback we get. Knowing this I decided to pursue some information on small queen fakes and forgeries.



In his opus "Reference Manual of BNA Fakes, Forgeries and Counterfeits", Ken Pugh, Publisher 1977, the author Ken Pugh shows one 5¢ small queen forgery shown in Figure 1. A second very rough forgery I have in my collection is shown below in figure 2; this is a 10¢ stamp in black.

Figure 1, 2. Five Cent and Ten Cent Forgeries of Small Queens. The Five Cent is one of the few recognized forgeries of a small queen stamp and is written up in Ken Pugh's work in 1977. To date, this is the only known forgery of the 10¢ Small Queen.

Both the 5¢ and 10¢ facsimiles are extremely rough or crude in their production; they appear to be lithographed on medium buff wove paper and were produced imperforate. The impression is "flat" and the engraving lines are big and coarse. I have had a few people comment that they didn't think these stamps were forgeries but were "facsimile stamps" for some sort of promotion. I certainly can't argue that comment but it seems to me there is a great deal of work done by an engraver to produce a promotional item for some business purpose. I also think any reputable business would be aware of the laws of the land concerning counterfeiting.

Now to look at my "SERVICE" and "OFFICIAL" overprinted small queen stamps. Pugh lists two bogus "Service" overprints, measuring 16.7 and 16.1 mm in length and 4.1 and 3.7 mm in height. Careful measurement of my own overprint shows a length of 13.5 mm and a height of 3.0 mm of the capital "S".

Figure 3. Still believed to be a Hechler overprint, as the measurement of the overprint is not listed by Pugh.

I still can't conclude my service overprint is a genuine Hechler but I can say it is a measurement not recorded by Canada's recognized expert on forgeries.



Small Queen Fakes and Forgeries contd.

On the other hand Pugh convinces me my "OFFICIAL" overprinted stamps are bogus.



Figure 4. Believed to be bogus overprints as "Official" was never used in British North America.

He makes a strong argument that although "official" overprints were common in the British Empire they were never used in British North America.

In my exhibit I will relegate my Official overprints to my page on fakes and forgeries but plan to leave my Service overprint on my Henry Hechler page. I think it very important here to mention the value of a good library and networking system when you work this hobby of ours. Don't be afraid to write up your material and receive valuable negative feed back because that's how we all learn.

A Brief-As-Possible Note re: Altered Stamps

Glenn Archer, Editor (glennarcher@hotmail.com)

I wish to keep this newsletter positive and an enjoyable read. The example at right is a rare exception, information provided to me by a member of this study group. The majority of sellers online conduct fair trade, regrettably there will always be a few dishonest sellers out there. *Caveat Emptor.*

The seller at right lists items on a periodic basis. For the record, I blocked him buying stamps from me years ago once I was made aware of his activities.

I had a fairly long exchange of emails with the provider of this evidence and agreed that, only for educational purposes and with some reservation on my part, we should at least provide members of our study group with the attached image. (ed. note: I had a half-page to fill and would have much preferred to publish your article here).



Before: eBay #110264412858
 Purchased by jimmy11191
 Note perf issues / tear at bottom. In a lot of 6 stamps purchased for \$26.86

After: eBay #140262247999
 Sold by apmoney1957 for \$20.49
 Bottom margin re-perforated to clean up tear and blunt perfs.
 Listed by seller as VF.
 Closer inspection, the bottom perfs do not align with the top perfs ... good job, but not his best work

We have plenty of space for your articles in the next newsletter; if you have an afternoon free please put something together. We are always interested to hear what readers think, and hope what we publish prompts you to contribute.

Chairman's Column

Bill Radcliffe (bsbvp88@hotmail.com)

First I would like to start out by thanking the twenty members of our group that showed up at our meeting in Kingston. This was the largest turn out at any study group meeting I have chaired. We had a show-and-tell, as well everyone met our editor who brought some lovely Large Queens to show. We also discussed the possibility of a summer weekend meeting in Milton or Montreal depending on where more members could attend. So please contact Glenn or me with any feed back of where the best place to meet would be.

The first item I am showing below is one of my better finds at Kingston which is the ½ cent Large Queen pair, Pos. 1 and 2 – Pos. 1 with the Major Re-entry as well as the counter attached. Finding any counter has proven quite challenging; for the 26 years I have been looking I have only found four other Large Queen counters. The second one, on the one-cent, is the third example seen according to Duckworth who cites two others. The next counter, barely showing on the three cent LQ, is only the second example recorded. It is strange that more examples of this counter have not been found for this is the most heavily used value. The fourth counter I'm showing is on a five-cent large queen. I am not sure how many of these still exist as Duckworth only mentions a proof block of four. The last item is a six cent on cover; according to Duckworth there are seven known, four on Plate 1 and three on Plate 2. Since I cannot see a plate dot on mine, I am not sure which one I have and if anyone could tell me I would be most grateful. I would also like to know if any one else has any plate counters on any LQ's. If any one has any inquires I can be contacted by phone (856-589-1945) or email.



Newsletter contact information:

Chairman: Bill Radcliffe, 500 Columbia Ave., Pitman NJ 08071 U.S.A.
 Email: bsbvp88@hotmail.com

Editor: Glenn Archer, 295 Sunnyside Ave., Toronto ON M6R 2R1 CANADA
 Email: glennarcher@hotmail.com