

Confederation

The Newsletter of the BNAPS Large and Small Queens Study Group

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To Russia With Love

Guillaume Vadeboncoeur (guillaume@vadeboncoeur.ca)

I recently acquired the postcard illustrated in Figure 1 to add to my collection of foreign destination covers and postcards. It now forms half of an attractive page with an 1886 5c UPU rate cover to Moscow, Russia.



Figure 1: Up-rated 1¢ Postcard to Russia

The postcard is from the “black rosette” issue of 1893-1896 and was up-rated by a single 1¢ Small Queen in order to pay the 2¢ UPU letter rate. It was sent from Niagara Falls on January 2, 1895, via Hamilton, to Russia, arriving on March 4, 1895 – a 2-month journey. After some searching on Google, it appears that the final destination of this postcard is a town named Nikolskoye, located approximately 50km southeast of St. Petersburg (There is also a Nikolskoye located on a small island in the Bering Sea, an unlikely destination). If someone can confirm or refute my assessment of the destination, it would be greatly appreciated!

Now, I purchased the card based on a picture in a catalogue, since it was a clean card showing both departure and arrival cancels on the same side – a definite plus. What I didn’t realize is that the card, having been sent from the popular tourist destination of Niagara Falls, is part of what some consider to be the earliest series of picture postcards in Canada. Yes, the reverse shows a picture of the famous attraction. Now if you are familiar with these, you will automatically think of the view of the fall from the “cracked plate” with a white diagonal line affecting the lower right part of the picture. This postcard again provides a nice surprise.

To Russia With Love contd.

I am not sure about the written message (see Figure 2 – Russian anyone? Again, I would appreciate someone’s help in translating the message side), but it does appear to be a “wish you were here, love you and happy new year” message. But the nice surprise was the winter view of Niagara Falls, apparently virtually frozen over, with people casually walking on the ice and snow that formed and accumulated at the bottom of the falls. I had never seen this view before, but after reviewing my Webb catalogue¹, I found a detailed listing of the various Niagara Falls scenic views. This particular view is unlike any other (all other being simply showing the falls). Again, a bit of Google searching seems to indicate that this picture may have been taken in 1890, which is consistent with the 1895 usage of this postcard. A blow up of the “frozen falls” is depicted at figure 3.

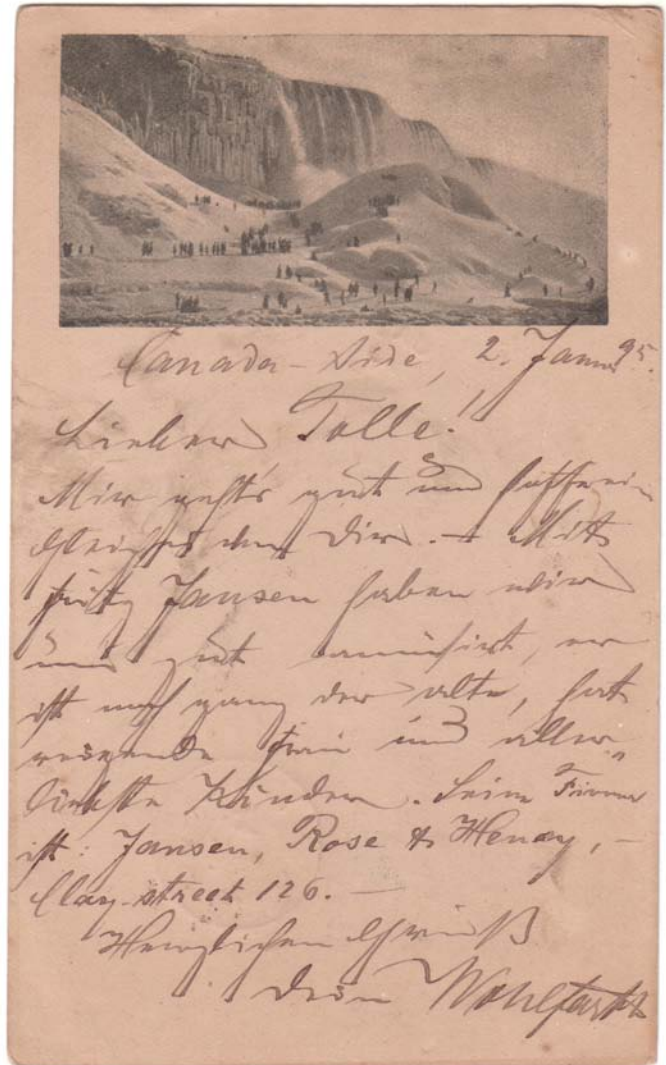


Figure 2: Message side (or picture side) showing “Frozen Falls”

¹ The Webb’s Postal Stationery Catalogue of Canada and Newfoundland, 7th edition, Editors: Earle L. Covert and William C. Walton, 2001, pp. 166-167.

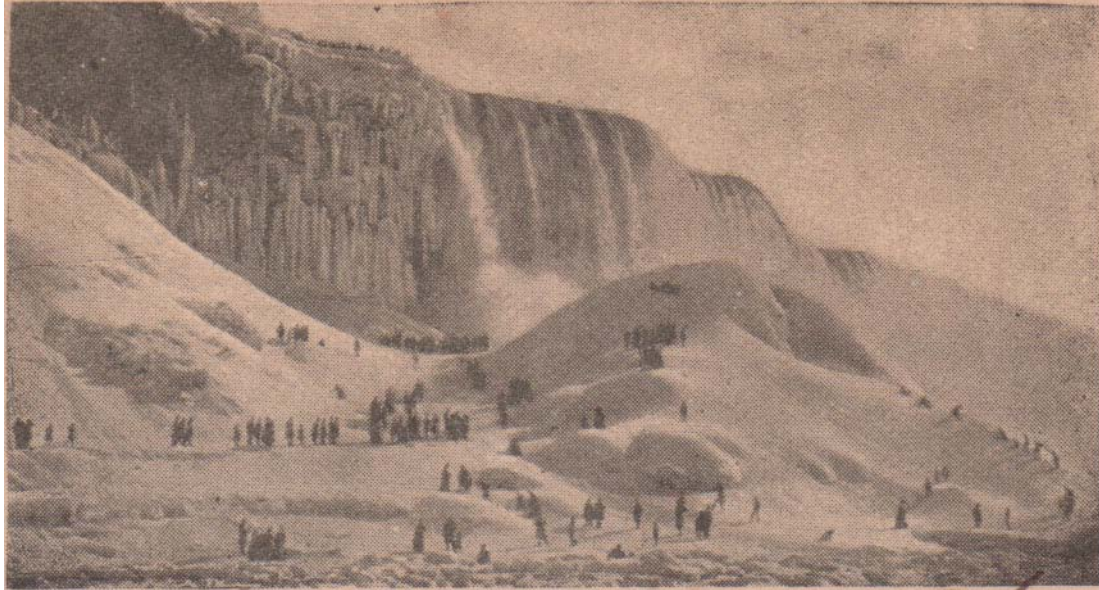


Figure 3: Blow up of the “Frozen Falls” and people touring the site

The listing in Webb provides 25 different varieties of cards showing Niagara Falls scenic views on “Small Queen era” postcards. Interestingly, the Webb catalogue mentions that *“used cards are most often addressed to Europe, with Germany a common destination. Cards used at the 1¢ rate to Canada or the U.S. are less common”*. The purchase of this item has created yet a new collecting area – yes, I’m tempted to try to locate each different card available! I thought I already collected “Everything Small Queen” – but you never know when a new addition to your collection will create a new collecting field or area.

Chairman’s Column

Bill Radcliffe (bsbvp88@hotmail.com)

I would like to start this newsletter hoping that everyone had a happy and healthy New Year. This newsletter is a little late getting out because of a shortage of articles so if anyone has something for us please sent it so we can get another spring newsletter out on time. The study group will be meeting at 6:00 PM April 30th the night before ORAPEX at Guillaume Vadeboncoeur’s house in Ottawa. His email to confirm is guillaume@vadeboncoeur.ca, or to get directions. Or you may contact me.



So far I have had a good year stamping, acquiring a registered cover to England used in period - May 15 1876, from Ottawa to Portsmouth where it arrived in Liverpool on May 27th then London on the 28th and finally in Portsmouth the 29th of May. This is the 17th confirmed cover using the 8 cent registered stamp and the third earliest. The dates on this cover don’t fit the Allan Line sailings so if anyone can help me find out how it traveled I would appreciate it. If any one has any inquires I can be contacted by phone or email.

Combination Covers- Large and Small QueensVic Willson (lloydwill@aol.com)

Combination covers for Pence and Decimal issues often command high prices due to rarity, as do Decimal-Large Queen covers. Little has been made to date, however, of Large-Small Queen cover combinations, mostly because of the long overlap between some of the values, since other than the 1¢ yellow, all Large Queens were held over into at least the early 1870s. The 3¢ LQ clearly sold out first and was replaced by the 3¢ SQ within a few months. Usage beyond mid-1870 is unusual. Even the 1¢ yellow LQ is easily found until the end of 1870, even though the 1¢ SQ was issued by March 1870. The 2¢ and 6¢ LQs lasted until early 1872 when the new versions were issued. The ½¢ was used well into the 1880s, although on cover usage is not that easy to find. The 12½¢ was used for parcel post and make-up rates until the late 1880s, and the 15¢ into the 1900s, finally overtaken by the Widow Weeds and Edward higher values for make-up rates. I have been putting together the Large and Small Queen rate tables for the *Canada Posted Letter Guide, 2nd Ed.*, and have kept track of the various combinations available. These are listed below.

Domestic Letter Rates:

1¢ + 2¢ LQ
 2¢ + 2 x ½¢ LQ
 1¢ + 4 x ½¢ LQ
 3¢ + 1¢ + 2¢ LQ
 3¢ + 3¢ LQ
 1¢ + 5¢ LQ
 3¢ + 6¢ LQ
 2 x 2¢ + 5¢ LQ
 3¢ + 2 x 6¢ LQ
 3¢ + 15¢ LQ
 6¢ + 15¢ LQ
 2¢ + 10¢ + 15¢ LQ
 2 x 1¢ + 2 x 12½¢ LQ
 3 x 3¢ + 6¢ LQ + 15¢ LQ
 6¢ + 4 x 6¢ LQ
 6¢ + 2 x 15¢ LQ
 3 x 3¢ + 6¢ LQ + 3 x 15¢ LQ (1¢ overpaid)

Domestic Reg'd Letter Rates:

1¢ + 2¢ LQ
 3¢ + 2¢ LQ
 1¢ + x 2¢ LQ
 2¢ + 6¢ LQ bisect
 6¢ + 2¢ LQ
 2 x 3¢ + 2¢ LQ
 3¢ + 5¢ LQ
 3¢ + 2¢ LQ + 6¢ LQ
 4 x 3¢ + 2¢ LQ
 2¢ + 3¢ + 15¢ LQ
 5¢ + 15¢ LQ
 3¢ + 15¢ LQ + 2¢ RLS
 1¢ + 5¢ + 15¢ LQ + 2¢ RLS
 3¢ + 15¢ LQ + 5¢ RLS
 3¢ + 3 x 6¢ + 2¢ RLS
 3 x 3¢ + 15¢ LQ + registration paid in cash
 10¢ + 2¢ LQ + 15¢ LQ + 2¢ RLS (piece)
 3¢ + 2 x 15¢ LQ + 2¢ RLS
 2¢ + 3 x 3¢ + 2 x 15¢ LQ
 2 x 2¢ + 9 x 5¢ LQ + 2¢ RLS (1¢ o/p)

3¢ + 15¢ LQ + 5¢ RLS
 2 x ½¢ + 1¢ + 2¢ + 3¢ + 5¢ + 6¢ + 8¢ + 10¢ + 15¢ LQ
 + 50¢ WW + 20¢ WW2¢ RLS + 5¢ RLS

Parcel Post Rates:

2 x 6¢ + ½¢ LQ
 3¢ + 2 x 5¢ LQ + 5¢ RLS (½¢ overpaid)
 2¢ + 5 x 3¢ + ½¢ LQ
 1¢ + 2¢ + 15¢ LQ
 5¢ + 12½¢ LQ + 2 x ½¢ LQ + 5¢ RLS
 3¢ + 15¢ LQ + 5¢ RLS
 10¢ + 15¢ LQ (FRONT)
 1¢ + 4 x 6¢ LQ
 2 x 2¢ + 2 x 12½¢ LQ
 5¢ + 2 x 15¢ LQ
 3 x 2¢ + 2 x 15¢ LQ
 2 x 3¢ + 2 x 15¢ LQ + 3¢ JUB
 1¢ + 3¢ + 6¢ LQ + 3 x 15¢ LQ

Bulk Newspaper Receipt:

2 x 1¢ + 15¢ LQ
 3¢ + 2 x 15¢ LQ
 2¢ + 20¢ WW + 15¢ LQ
 2 x 6¢ + 7 x 15¢ LQ
 4 x 50¢ Widow Weed + 2 x 15¢ LQ

Combination Covers contd.**RATES TO US –****Letter Rates:**

3¢ + 3¢ LQ
 ½¢ + 5 x ½¢ LQ
 2 x 1¢ + 2 x 2¢ LQ
 2 x 1¢ + 2 x 2¢
 2 x ½¢ + 4 x ½¢ LQ
 WELLS FARGO PASTE-UPS: 6¢ + MULTIPLE 6¢ LQs

Registered Letter Rates:

1¢ + 6¢ + 2 x 2¢ LQ
 3¢ + 6¢ + 2¢ LQ
 3 x 3¢ + 2¢ LQ
 2¢ + 3¢ + 2¢ LQ + 12½¢ LQ
 2¢ + 3¢ LQ + 5 x 6¢ LQ
 1¢ + 2 x 2¢ + 6 x 6¢ LQ

RATES TO THE UNITED KINGDOM –**Letter Rates:**

3¢ + 3¢ LQ
 2¢ + 3¢ + 2¢ LQ
 6¢ + 2¢ LQ
 3¢ + 5¢ LQ
 3¢ + 12½¢ LQ
 4 x 3¢ + 2 x 2¢ LQ
 3¢ + 15¢ LQ
 5¢ + 15¢ LQ
 10¢ + 15¢ LQ
 5¢ + 2 x 15¢ LQ
 2 x 1¢ + 2 x 2¢ + 4 x 3¢ + 2 x 10¢ + 12½¢ LQ

Registered Letter Rates:

2 x 1¢ + 3¢ + 15¢ LQ
 2¢ + 3¢ + 15¢ LQ
 6 x 3¢ + 2¢ LQ
 3¢ + 6¢ + 2¢ LQ + 12½¢ LQ
 5¢ + 15¢ LQ + 5¢ RLS
 2 x 5¢ + 4 x 15¢ LQ + 5¢ RLS
 10¢ + 16 x 15¢ LQ + 5¢ RLS

Printed Papers Via Cunard:

1¢ + 3¢ + 6¢ LQ + 4 x 15¢ LQ

RATES TO OTHER COUNTRIES –**Letter Rates:**

1¢ + 2¢ + 5¢ LQ to Bermuda

To France:

1¢ + 3¢ LQ + 2 x 6¢ LQ
 1¢ + 15¢ LQ
 2 x 2¢ + 6¢ LQ

2¢ + 5¢ LQ + 3¢ PSE
 1¢ + 3¢ + ½¢ LQ + 12½¢ LQ
 5¢ + 15¢ LQ to France
To Germany:
 6¢ + 2 x 2¢ LQ
 3¢ + 6¢ + 15¢ LQ (replaced)
 1¢ + 15¢ LQ to Bremen
 1¢ + 15¢ LQ to Bavaria
 1¢ + 2¢ + 3¢ + 5¢ + 10¢ + 15¢ LQ + 1¢ US
 Columbian + 10¢ US PSE sea post (philatelic
 overpayment 1893)
To Switzerland:
 3 x 3¢ + 2¢ LQ
 3¢ + 2¢ LQ + 6¢ LQ
 3¢ + 6¢ + 2¢ LQ
 2¢ + 3¢ + 15¢ LQ
To Italy:
 2 x 1¢ + 3¢ + 5¢ LQ
 2¢ + 3¢ + 5¢ LQ
 1¢ + 1¢ LQ + 3¢ LQ + 5¢ LQ
 2¢ + 3¢ LQ + 5¢ LQ
 2¢ + 2 x 5¢ LQ to British Guiana
 2¢ + 15¢ LQ (2¢ overpaid) to Sweden
To New Zealand:
 3¢ + 2 x 6¢ LQ
 1¢ + 3¢ + 15¢ LQ
 1¢ + 15¢ LQ to Shanghai
To Australia:
 6¢ + 2 x 5¢ LQ
 1¢ + 15¢ LQ
 1¢ + 15¢ LQ to Norway
 1¢ + 2 x 2¢ LQ + 6¢ LQ + 12½¢ LQ to India (½¢
 overpaid)
 7 x 3¢ + 2¢ LQ to ?
 3 x 3¢ + 15¢ LQ to Bahamas via US
 3¢ + 6¢ + 15¢ LQ to Brazil

Registered Letter Rates:

½¢ + ½¢ LQ + 3¢ + 8¢ RLS + 1¢ PSE to Germany
 1¢ + 5¢ + 15¢ LQ + 2¢ RLS to China
 10¢ + 15¢ LQ to Argentina
 2 x 5¢ + 15¢ LQ + 5¢ RLS to Sweden
 2 x ½¢ + 1¢ + 2¢ + 3¢ + 10¢ + 15¢ LQ (overpaid 2¢)
 to UK forwarded to Austria with 6d Victoria stamps,
 forwarded to Canada with 25kr)
 10¢ + 2 x 15¢ LQ + 8¢ RLS (overpaid 3¢) to Portugal
 2¢ + 3¢ + 2 x 10¢ + 15¢ LQ + 5¢ RLS to New South
 Wales
 ½¢ + 10¢ + 15¢ LQ + 20¢ W + 50¢ W + 5¢ RLS to
 Colombia

Pre UPU Rates to the United Kingdom

John Burnett (jb45855@aol.com)

During the 19th century mail could be sent to the United Kingdom from Canada or be sent via New York in the United States.

In Canada the mail was carried on the Allan Line from Montreal or Halifax (depending on the time of the year). The Allan Line mail packet left on the Saturday of each week. If an earlier sailing was desired then a letter could be sent to New York to catch a Wednesday sailing with the Cunard Line.

The rate, during the Small Queen era, for mail from Canada via the Allan Line was set at 6¢ per ½ ounce on January 1, 1870 and held at that rate until October 1, 1875 when the rate went to 5¢ per ½ ounce.

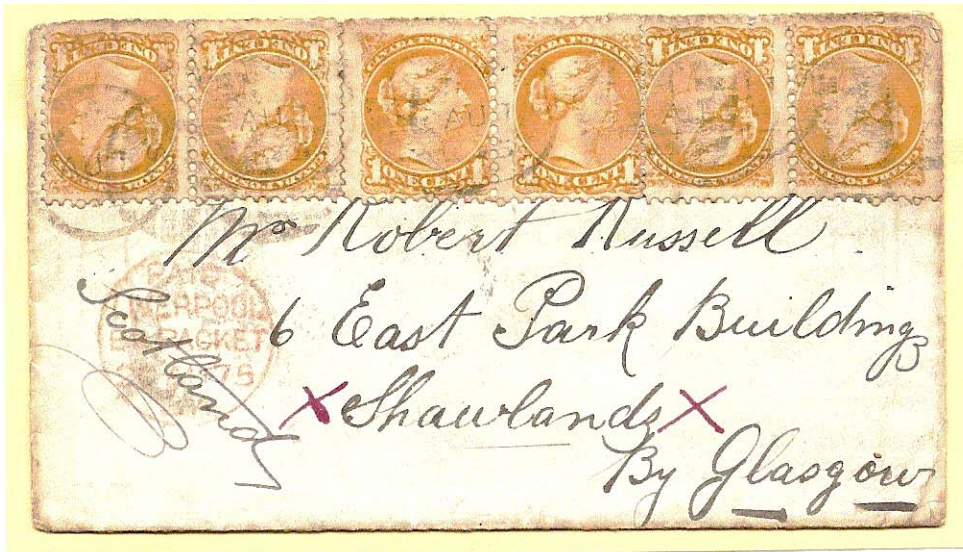


Figure 1 shows a cover with three pairs of 1¢ Small Queen stamps mailed from Halifax (return address on the back of the cover) on August 7, 1875. The letter is addressed to Glasgow, Scotland. On the front of the envelope is the hand stamp "PAID/ LIVERPOOL/ COL PACKET/ AU 7 1875" in red ink.

Figure 1. Six-Cent Rate To UK.

The rate for mail going to the United Kingdom via the Cunard Line (and New York) was set at 8¢ per ½ ounce on January 1, 1870 and it also continued until October 1, 1875 when the universal 5¢ per ½ ounce took effect.

Shown beside is a cover mailed from Berlin Ontario (present day Kitchener) on July 6, 1874 with a nice manuscript notation on the top left of "Pr Cunard Steamer from New York". The letter is addressed to Scotland.

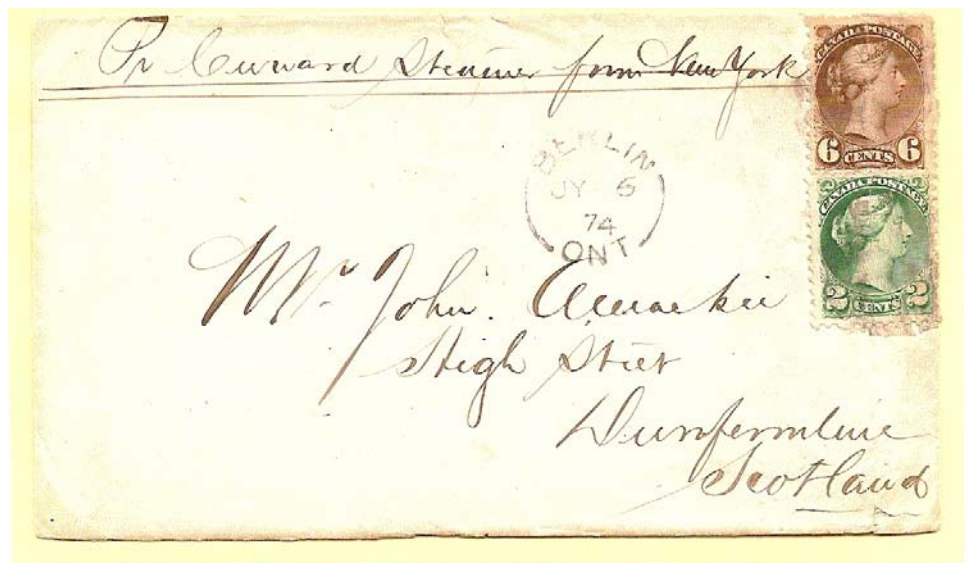


Figure 2. Eight Cent Cunard Rate to UK.

Pre-UPU Rates To The UK contd.

One of my favorite examples of the 8¢ rate is shown below, this is a nice double rate cover. Mailed from Montreal on February 23, 1874 and addressed to Edinburgh, Scotland. The one ounce letter has the postage paid with a pair of six cent and two single copies of the two cent Small Queen stamps.



Figure 3. Double Cunard Rate to the UK.

Each of us who study the postal history of a given era have to be very careful when trying to ascertain just exactly what we have and how it got where it was going. I recommend that you load up your library with some of the BNAPS reference books that are available to us members with a big 40% discount.

From The Editor

Glenn Archer (glennarcher@hotmail.com)

It's been a while since the last newsletter, this one has taken more time than usual to put together simply because we continue to have a shortage of articles, and had to beg a few favours to fill the eight pages with interesting new reading. Still I think interest in the newsletter is strong, as the circulation list steadily grows. Thanks again to everyone who supports the newsletter, and a special thanks to those of you who take the time to put something to "paper". I did have an article to contribute but held it back this issue, being left with a third of a page after adding research that our contributors generously provided. In a future article we will show a major, rather stunning new Large Queen constant plate variety, that's all I will say for now.

Hopefully there's something here for everyone, this edition is a bit "cover-heavy" but that is what we have. Articles on stamps, I think, are more time-consuming as they require a long time to research and further work to summarize. Better covers usually tell their own unique story, and it is easier to fill a page or two talking about them.

There's a 75% or so chance I'll be at ORAPEX, hopefully this newsletter will be in your hands or emailed to you by then. We'll probably have a few extras available for distribution.

The Double Major Plate Crack on the 5 Cents SQ Issue. An Update?

Yannick Cartier (yaca@sympatico.ca)



I don't have all the books of knowledge and I am not that old but the only reference I have seen on this stamp is on Bill Burden's site where it is described as the *Plate Crack at upper right. ERU, LRU and POSITION unknown* and so far no multiples have been found. A few months ago I got the chance of purchasing not one but two examples of this rare constant plate variety (CPV) shown in Fig. 1! Both copies are very lightly cancelled and allow an unobstructed close up inspection.

Very quickly I noticed that there is more than one plate crack! In addition to the known plate crack at upper right, there is also a major plate crack to the **lower right** of the stamp (Figure 2).

Interestingly both stamps demonstrate a prominent guide dot under the left numeral which does not indicate a particular position on the five cents SQ issue but a particular printing. I know I read it somewhere in an old newsletter! This may help narrow the period of use.



Figure 1 (above). Two examples of the variety, showing constancy of the double plate crack.

It is possible that these findings have already been reported and if so I apologize in advance. If not there you go. Please let me know.



Figure 2. The major crack at lower right, in closeup.

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