

# Confederation

The Newsletter of the BNAPS Large and Small Queens Study Group

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## Reader Submissions Since Last Newsletter

Compiled by: Glenn Archer, Editor (glennarcher@hotmail.com)



Gary Steele submitted the following one-cent Small Queen for review and comments by readers. I've included a fairly large blow-up of it here. Note the extensive extra inking across the Queen's portrait and around lower left value tablet, among other areas. Gary would welcome comments as to whether it is a constant variety or not, and also solicits suggestions as to how it happened. Personally I have never seen it before

Gary can be reached at gwsteele57@gmail.com, or readers may feel free to respond to me or Bill for this newsletter.

Figure 1. Mint one-cent SQ showing interesting overinking to face and LL value tablet area.

Brian Hargreaves sent the following wrapper with an unusual franking – 2 X 2 cent Leaf plus a 15c Large Queen (late use), tied, sent probably from Greenwood, BC though the town strike is not perfectly clear, dated \_\_ / 98 to Charlottetown, PEI. I think it represents a convenience overpayment by one cent of the 3X parcel post rate but readers may to contact Brian (bhargrea@email.com) or me to forward their opinion.

This postal item is new to the 15-cent LQ cover census, and I have included it in same.



Reader Submissions *contd.*

Bill Burden (wgburden@me.com) sent the following item in response to Vic Willson's article on early uses of the half-cent SQ. Bill advises this was part of an extensive correspondence and even this one is probably not the earliest cover in the group. Dated HALIFAX / JA 15 / 83 and delivered locally in Moncton, it of course represents the 1/2 cent householder rate, correctly unaddressed and unsealed.

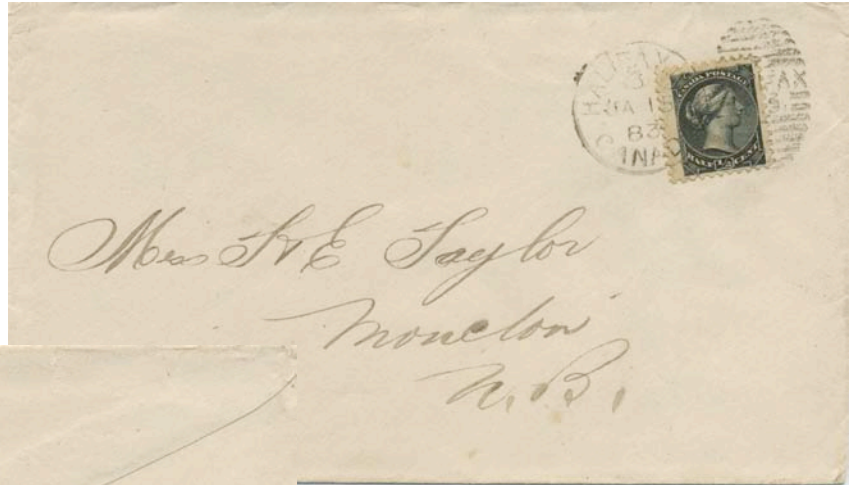
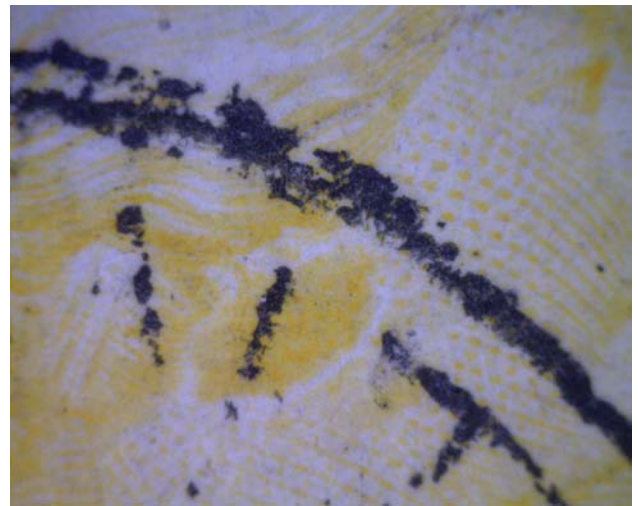


Figure 3. Half-cent single used for householder rate, cancelled JA 15 / 83 with JA 16 / 83 receiver on reverse.

I should of course mention that this cover is from the same correspondence, and written in the same hand, as Vic's from Confederation #45.

Howard Machin ([howardmachin@lamangaclub.ws](mailto:howardmachin@lamangaclub.ws)) sent the attached one-cent pair with the "blob below ear" variety. He asks how many are known, according to Bill Burden's website there are three recorded. I was not entirely familiar with the variety but was surprised at its similarity to the one on the one-cent LQ. The pair has a Toronto duplex cancel, helpful in narrowing down the period of existence, but the year of use was not captured.





Small Queen Two-Cent

Jim McCormick (jim.mccormick@rogers.com)

What is it about this fairly ordinary stamp that makes it interesting? Through their 25 years of printing they all look pretty much alike, at least to the untrained eye. Finding one that is different is worth getting excited over.

How many single dated copies can you find in your collection from the first Ottawa printing (1872-73)? Without the date, how can one identify a stamp from this period? Early dated singles are very difficult to locate. After years of searching, I have just one dated 1872 and one 1873 (illustration 1). I'd be interested to hear if there are other ways to identify the First Ottawa 2 cent printing.



Illustration 1: First Ottawa printings dated 1872-73.



Illustration 2: Early Montreal printings, p11.5x12, deep shades and crisp image

The early printings from the 1870's tend to show more detail, probably as a result of newer plates and higher quality paper. The shades vary from green to blue-green, and in rare instances a stamp jumps out with a deep shade on thicker paper (illustration 2). With some practice, it should not be too difficult to spot an early 2 cent on a page filled with late printings.



Illustration 3: Upper Latent re-entry

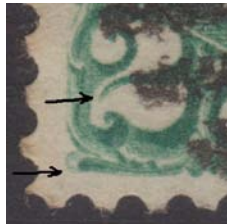


Illustration 4: Minor re-entry



Illustration 5: major kiss print

Of course, there are constant plate flaws to seek out. The two misplaced entries (upper and lower) are wonderful to find. Re-entries are hard to spot as most are so subtle on this issue. Printing flaws are more common, and I had to show the major kiss print in Illustration 5.

Most of the stamps pictured here may look seemingly ordinary, but to me, they are scarce and valued jewels in my collection. Happy collecting!

**A Major Plate Variety On the Six-Cent Large Queen, Plate II**

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

Most of the interesting varieties on the six-cent Large Queen occur on Plate I. These include of course the major re-entries, the numerous minor re-entries, etc. Plate II was probably never re-entered, and was allowed to wear with use until replaced by the Small Queen in 1872. Late yellow-brown examples of the stamp show extensive edge wear, with the scrollwork on perimeter practically disappearing by the end of plate use.



The pictured stamp is on soft white paper and is a reasonably early Plate II printing. Because the paper takes an excellent stamp impression, the variety shows up particularly well here.



Note the thick double line that starts at the LL leaf element and rises up the left border of the stamp. It disappears at about the middle of the left "6" and reappears beside the "C" of "CANADA". It may have been a plate scratch that was partially burnished out, or tooling marks missed when the plate was entered.

It took me a while but this is the second I have found, confirming constant.



Figures 1, 1a, 1b. The plate variety in question, with blow-ups shown at left. Note the position dot below "S" of "SIX" confirming a Plate II stamp.

There are some well-known varieties on Plate II – the "Cob of Corn", the "Bracket Scratch", etc. but this appears to be undescribed in both the Duckworths' and Reiche's books on Large Queens. I have not yet come up with a catchy name for it, though it is every bit a major variety as those listed above.

**A Pair of Covers with Bisected Stamps**

John Burnett (jb45855@aol.com)

Pictured are two covers from my Small Queen collection; both have bisected stamps and raise the question "Were they used properly?" The answer is "no", because bisecting stamps was not officially permitted by the Post Office.

Figure 1 shows a circular rated cover from Economy, Nova Scotia, it was probably used with full acceptance by the Post Office because Economy and other small post offices in Nova Scotia at that time were on record as being short of stamps, and the Postmaster sanctioning the bisecting of 2¢ stamps to make up the 1¢ rate. This makes such a cover really quite scarce and a hard find at the bourse.

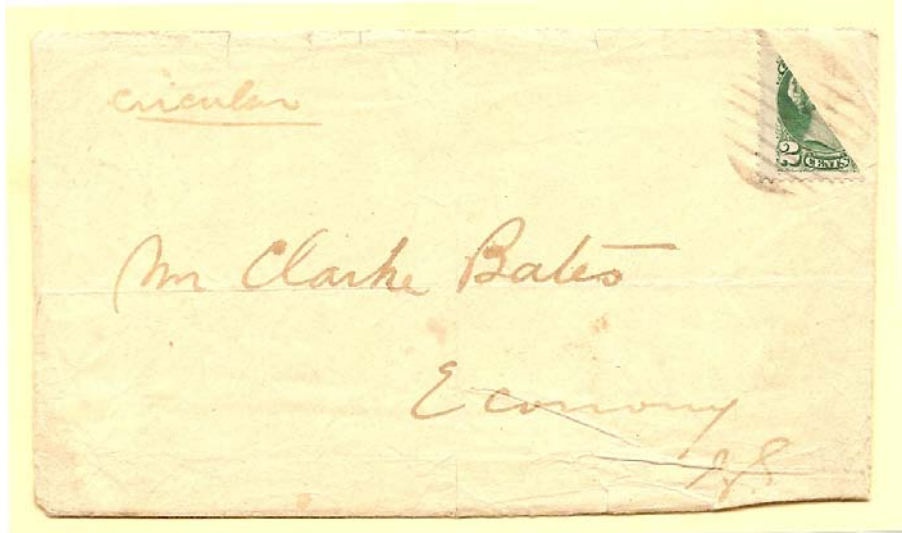


Figure 1. Bisect 2c used at Economy, NS paying 1-cent circular rate.

Figure 2 is another question mark. The cover, mailed at Smithville, Ontario, has two distinctly different 2¢ Small Queens. The full stamp appears to be a Montreal printed light blue green of 1888 while the bisected stamp appears to be a Montreal printed "dark blue green" of 1888. It is conceivable to me someone got the last stamp on one sheet and the post office started another sheet of the darker shade, or that the post office had bisected a stamp earlier and had kept that sheet isolated for a future bisect requirement. My problem with this cover is the time frame - there were no reported shortages of stamps I could find, especially from Ontario. Most reports of stamp shortages came from the small communities in the Maritimes. Ontario would be the one place I would not expect a post office to run out of stamps!



Figure 2. Unusual use of a bisect in combo making 3c rate.

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The two covers do occupy a page in my exhibit and until such time as I can clarify the Ontario cover's authenticity I will assume it to be accepted usage by the post office, heck for all I know it might have been done as a favor by a postal clerk for an early postal historian.

If any member of the group has an opinion or more information on my Ontario bisect please share it with me.



The Soldiers Letter Rate

John Burnett (jb45855@aol.com)

Among the more desirable items of 2¢ Small Queen postal history is the 1885 soldiers' letter-rate cover as shown in Figure 1 below. To date only 24 such covers have been identified and documented.

Enlisted military personnel were given a concession on postage rates for letters they wrote while serving in the field. The existing letter rate was 3¢, but an enlisted man got a 2¢ rate from the field.

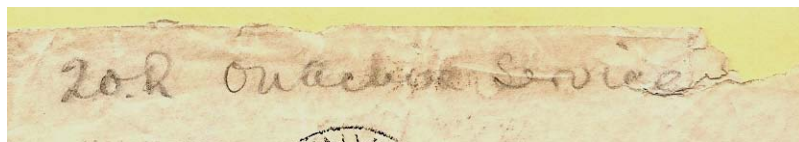
The letter was required to show where the soldier was. Note that "QOR on active service" is written across the top and shown in Figure 2. The "QOR" means "Queens Own Rifles."



Further restrictions were placed on the letter, it had to be certified by the commanding officer as an enlisted man's letter. On the right side of the cover is that certification in the signature of Lt. Col. A.A. Mallor. A rotated closeup is shown in Fig. 3.

Figure 1. Two-cent Single Franking Showing Soldiers' Rate.

Figure 2. "Q.O.R On Active Service" Notation.



This letter originates from a soldier on duty to quell the second Métis uprising led by the infamous Louis Riel who would be hanged later in the same year.

It is really important to understand the history of the times you are studying because this ratty, torn cover might just exist in some dealer's junk box because of its condition. Great finds have been made just because the collector has the knowledge.

Figure 3 (right). Authorization of commanding officer, enhanced to show signature / stamp.



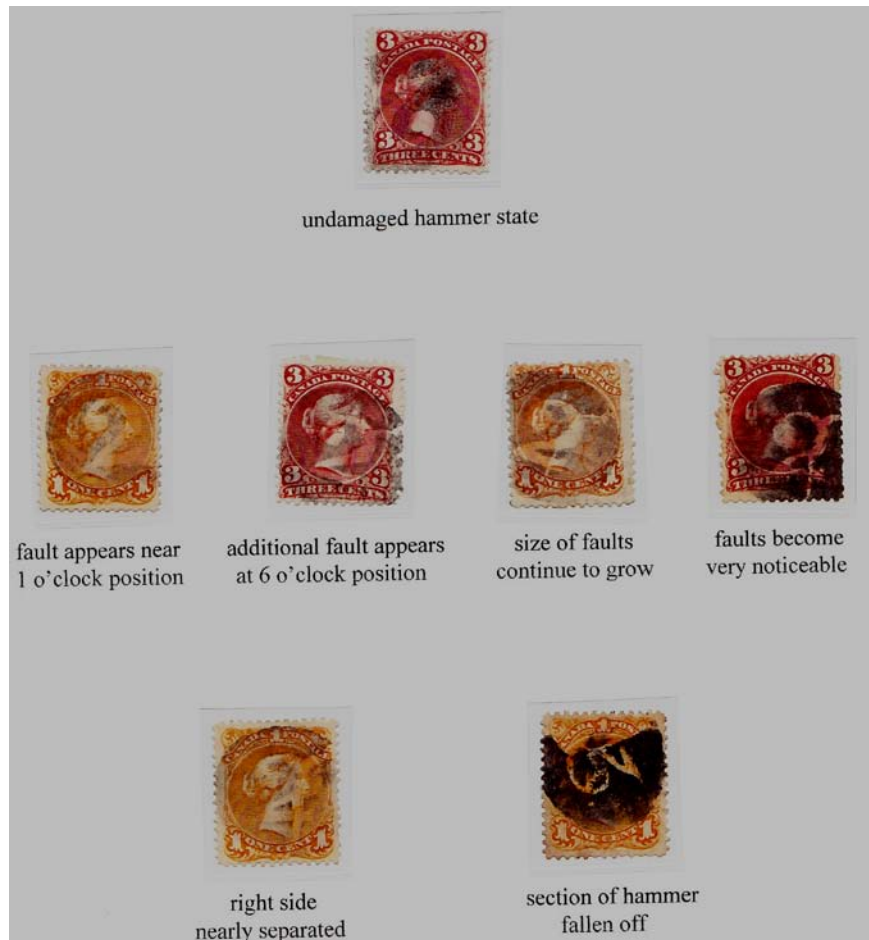
## The Evolution of a Toronto Fancy "2" Hammer

Wayne Smith ([waynesmithtor@yahoo.ca](mailto:waynesmithtor@yahoo.ca))

The fancy 2 hammers used in Toronto have long held interest for Large Queen collectors. Their use extended just into the very early Small Queen period. There have been various articles in the past that cover the creation and range of hammers created so I will not go into detail here but wanted to cover this particular hammer and what was the first hammer created. The examples on this page show the deterioration of this hammer as a crack starts to develop and increases until a large section breaks off. This hammer (D&S Type 1) is possibly the first of the hammers created with a true fancy design.

I record 74 Large Queen covers with a fancy 2. The earliest are D&S Type 47 on a 3c dated MY 28/69 and then type 43, dated MY 31/69. Both of these types have the normal 2-ring design but with a different '2' in the center. These may be a distorted '2' or an early attempt to make a new hammer - if so, they would be unofficial but not really fancy.

I record 4 examples of Type 1 on cover. These are a #23, internal date AU 25/69, in the Salonen exhibit as well as 3 in the Hennok exhibit - a 3c dated AU 16/69, 3c dated AU 27/69 and 2X3c dated AU 26/69. I do not have enough detail from these exhibits to match against the various states shown above. The Duckworths' Large Queen book lists the 3 Hennok covers as well as a SP 6/70 cover listed as Type 1A. (This must be a year error). Type 1A would be like the 2nd, 3rd or fourth example on my page. Off cover the undamaged and the broken state (1C) are rare while the mid stages (1A and 1B) while certainly not common, they are what is normally found.



Other early use fancy 2s include:

- A #23 on a circular internally dated AU 11/69 cancelled by Type 37 in the J Hennok exhibit
- A 3c with AU 23 date, cancel described as Type 12 from the Bertram and Cohen collections
- A 3c pair also with AU 23 date, cancel described as Type 60, from the Smart and Brassler collections

For the two AU 23 covers, from what can be seen in the auction catalogue the cancels look quite similar. The Duckworth book does not list Type 37, lists 4 covers with type 12 from NO 25 - NO 30 and for Type 60 lists AU 22 and 23. Due to low numbers of covers for each, including undated circulars, it is uncertain which type was used first but clearly that Type 1 was near the beginning and multiple hammers were in use at the same time.

Use of the 2-ring-2 hammer is quite common from April to July 1869. The latest recorded 1869 dates are AU 2, AU 26 and SE 10. September and October 69 have the highest number of fancy 2 covers.

Any additional information would be appreciated.

Chairman's Column

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

We still need articles for future newsletters. For this one, I needed to make phone calls to group members who came through for us so we would have a newsletter before the BNAPEX convention. Thank you to the people who supplied the articles.

I look forward to seeing a lot of you in North Bay for the convention, we should have a good turn out for our meeting there on Saturday, scheduled for 4:00 to 5:00 p.m. Vic and I will be giving a show-and-tell, and anyone who has something they want to show or any questions just let me know. The post card I'm showing here is the earliest registered city drop rate card known. The card is requesting dues and was received on the same day that it was sent, July 10, 1894. The one-cent card pays the drop letter rate and the 5-cent Small Queen pays the registration rate; this is the only one I have seen in the Small Queen period.



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