

# Confederation

The Newsletter of the BNAPS Large and Small Queens Study Group

Volume 47

December 2011

## BNAPEX 2011 Study Group Meeting

Compiled By: Glenn Archer, Editor

We had a well-attended meeting at the annual Convention, held this year in North Bay. First let me thank the Committee for planning and hosting an excellent event. Close to 20 members and guests attended the meeting, and several group members brought items of interest for show-and-tell. I may have missed a member or two in this summary so please excuse me in advance.

Jim Watt showed several items. The first was a minor constant plate variety found on the one-cent brown red Large Queen, two small dots in the N of "CENT" (shown at right). He and Paul Chiles also showed a potential new variety on the ten-cents, a slash in the "1" of the *left* value tablet; other members have offered to check their multiples / holdings to determine if the variety is constant and can be plated. The third variety, with unfortunately no picture available at this time, is a (probably) constant prominent plate scratch found at UR



1. Slash in N. a minor var. on the one-cent LQ.

on the 20 cent Widow Weeds. Jim also initiated a conversation about the gumming and perforating of Large Queens; he notes the 12 ½ cent stamp can occasionally be found perf 11.6 X 11.9 in the 1873 and later period. Further to this observation he stated he thinks it deserves a separate catalogue listing. I concur that the hold-over sheets of stamps (mainly 12 ½ and 15 cent LQs) were probably stored un gummed and unperforated until needed for distribution.

Vic Willson showed a rare combination Decimal / LQ cover. Paul Young showed an 1872 cover franked with a single 2c LQ with 3 cents paid in cash, registered as an afterthought by sender. John Burnett showed a rare Soldier's rate Riel Rebellion cover.

## Reader Submissions Since Last Newsletter


Dave Lacelle (fancycancel@hotmail.com) commented on the half-cent SQ cover pictured in Confederation 45. He notes the addressee is named Taylor and suggests a possible connection to the known forger S. Allan Taylor, thus perhaps a philatelic concoction. He also comments on the article on Toronto Fancy 2 cancels (please see Page 8).

Guillaume Vadeboncoeur writes: "In the May 2011 newsletter (Vol. 45), Vic Willson illustrated a ½c single use cover from the Taylor correspondence dated May 7, 1883, identifying it as the earliest recorded usage of the ½c value. Then in the August 2011 newsletter (volume 46), Bill Burden illustrated another cover from the same correspondence but dated earlier, January 15, 1883. Well, an earlier cover from my collection, also from the Taylor correspondence, was illustrated in the May 2002 newsletter (number 21), available at the following link: <http://bnatopics.org/hhlibrary/newsletters/lsg/lsg-2002-05-w021.pdf>. This last cover is dated October 23, 1882 and based on my records, currently predates any other early ½c use. It was also illustrated in on page 81 of Hillson and Nixon's *Canada's Postage Stamps of the Small Queen Era, 1870-1897*, which also details the issuance of the ½c Small Queen in or about spring 1882. Due to the intended use of this value on "junk mail", few early covers have survived. Most of the recorded usages from 1882 to 1884 are on covers from the Taylor correspondence. Based on the October 23, 1882, there remains a pretty sizeable period of time for which an earlier usage could be located. Keep your eyes out and report any earlier usage to this newsletter!"

Terry Averbeck writes that he now owns the one-cent SQ with strong kiss print, submitted by Gary Steele for Confederation 46, and that it now has a good cert as same.

A Special Note to Small Queen Collectors

Courtesy Eastern Auctions




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10 Cent Small Queen With Other Stamps

Vic Willson ([lloydwill@aol.com](mailto:lloydwill@aol.com))

I now list 548 covers with the 10 cent Small Queen. While the majority are singles (323) or multiples (33) only of the 10 cent, 192 have other stamps on them. The stamps that can be found in the pre-Leaf era are as follows:

Used With:	Multiple of Rate							Destination	
	8x	6x	5x	4x	3x	2x	1x	Domestic	Foreign
1/2c SQ			5				1		
1c SQ	1		1		1	11	42		
2c SQ					2	10	37		
3c SQ			1	4		5	28		
5c SQ		2		1	2	5	46		
6c SQ							13		
8c SQ						1	2		
10c SQ									
5c LQ							2		
12 1/2c LQ						1	1		
15c LQ				1		1	11		
20c WW							9		
50c WW							3		
2c RLS						1	16		
5c RLS								6	34
(Solo)								0	23
8c RLS							1		
Totals:	1	2	7	6	5	35	211	6	57

An example of the multiple usage is the 18¢ triple rate 6¢ per 4 oz. parcel post rate below. From the Fawn collection is the 75¢ 15x rate to Ceylon that includes a 10¢.



I have not seen stamp or stamp issue exhibitors comprehensively show how their stamps are linked to each other on cover in the sense of makeup usages. If you have the material (or enough to justify chasing some items you might otherwise ignore) you might persuade judges that it is a different way to consider how the stamps were used. The 10 cent listing here would be a tremendous challenge to put together with even one example of each or with some covers that had several. Obviously the 8¢ RLS, 5¢ or 12½¢ LQ covers are not likely to be available, nor the Widow Weeds, but the rest are possible over a few years' time. The same thing

can be done with any one stamp. Showing an entire issue comprehensively would be an enormous project, and completion perhaps impossible, for either Large or Small Queens.

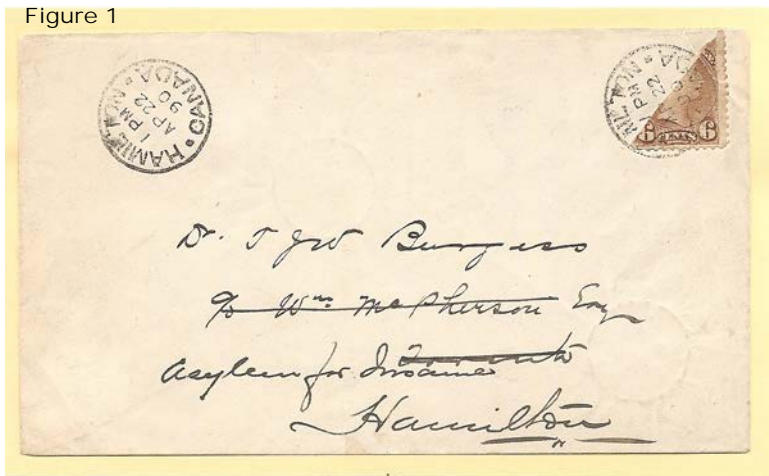


**A Pair of Covers with Bisected Stamps**

John Burnett (jb45855@aol.com)

I got a call from our Chairman requesting an article for our newsletter. Like always the request came at a most inopportune time but I felt it is a "must do" request. I wish all of you felt that way also, because I too like to read of other collectors' findings! I urge you to support the newsletter. Try this: let your album fall open or choose a page at random, then write it up by asking yourself to write about who, what, when, why and where. I'll explain **who** are you writing about, small, large queen, **what** denomination, single, block, postal history piece, strange or different use, **when** was this produced, used, sent received etc., **why** is this being written about, why does it interest you and finally **where** was this stamp printed, where did this cover go, where is this location. After you have answered these questions you have an article, if you only round off your answers with some use of the English language.

I happened to be in the middle of a remount of my small queens and had my 6¢ material out of the bank and so I figured there was something in this folder I could write about. Lo and behold I found a couple of covers with bisects and like always it's important to try and figure out "is this an approved use of a bisected stamp?" We all know using bisects was officially not allowed but sometimes Postmasters turned a blind eye when they didn't have the proper postage available for sale. This happened in small towns in the Maritimes more than anywhere else.



My first example doesn't fit into that "Maritime" region, it comes from Hamilton, Ontario. Shown in Figure 1 at left, the letter went through the mails arrived in Toronto and was redirected back to Hamilton. Mailed on April 22, 1890 this letter had numerous opportunities within the Post Office system to be turned back. The envelope carries an April 23, 1890 Toronto receiving strike on the back and another April 23 Hamilton receiver. The stamp is one of the Montreal printed 6¢ stamps which I think is defined as a Dark Yellow Brown shade of the printing.

My first inclination was to say this was philatelic because it was hard for me to imagine Hamilton

being short of any stamps. Perhaps it was created by/for a philatelist, nevertheless the thing went through the mails and a half of a 6¢ stamp equals 3¢ which was the cost of a first class letter. I keep it in my exhibit for that very reason. I would love to hear opinions from members on the validity of such a cover.

My second example concerns two bisected 6¢ covers. The story of these covers belongs to former BNAPS'er Ed Richardson, and here I quote: "Back in 1893 there was a young lady who had her 'eye on' and her 'cap set' for a certain young man, whom she later married. The young man lived in Wolfville, Nova Scotia situated on the Windsor and Annapolis R.R., with excellent post office facilities. The young lady lived in the small town of Gaspereaux, some four or five miles to the south with no rail and poor postal facilities".

The young lady in Gaspereaux was going to mail a rather important invitation to her heart throb but



A Pair of Covers with Bisected Stamps contd.

somehow it got transported to Wolfville (assumed to be a neighbor going there). The letter carries a Wolfville cancel and it is of the red brown shade of the second Ottawa printing.

Ed Richardson commented on how lucky he was that their son would grow into being a stamp collector who saved his mom's letters, and little did the lady know she was creating a much sought after piece of Canadian philately. Ed was glad he was able to trade the son for this cover. And little did Ed know at the time one cover was created she created a second. In the 19th century it was not uncommon to write more than one letter, especially when you were dealing with a small and sometimes inefficient post office. I was able to persuade Ed Richardson to sell his cover to me, which added a much needed rarity to my Small Queen collection but I was able to obtain the other matching half on cover when a good friend from Texas saw my Richardson purchase and said "I have something you need in your collection". He gave me the other cover to help create a killer page in my exhibit. To date I know of only one other set of matched pair bisects. This cover is another one I deem as "not philatelic", simply because of the provenance and the Maritime location.



Figure 3

Figure 2 shows both covers and Figure 3 (at right) shows a close up of the two stamps photographically put together just to show they are a pair.

**Chairman's Notes**

Bill Radcliffe (bsbvp88@hotmail.com)

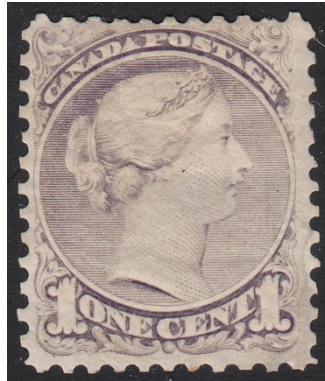
First I would like to start out by thanking the members of our group that showed up at our meeting in North Bay, which I think was a good attendance for the BNAPS convention. We need articles for future newsletters. There were many interesting topics which our editor took notes on, which I'm sure he will go over. Below is proof you never know what will show up at one of these shows; it a used strip of six of the one cent Large Queen in yellow orange, tied for the largest known used multiple, if any of you have larger please let us know. Please contact me with any inquires I can be contacted by phone or email.



### One Cent Small Queen Unusual Perforated Proof

Guillaume Vadeboncoeur ([guillaume@vadeboncoeur.ca](mailto:guillaume@vadeboncoeur.ca))

About a year ago I acquired the proof illustrated below. It is printed in a delicate shade of violet, on what appears to be an India or bond paper. The proof has been perforated all around (perf 12 gauge all around, or more precisely 11.9 all around based on my old *Instanta* gauge), as well as gummed with an old-style gum but unlike that of any of the issued stamps.



**Figure 1. One Cent perforated proof in violet**

This is an unusual item for several reasons. I don't recall seeing another perforated proof of any Small Queen value. The closest thing that comes to mind is an example of the 1¢ essay in the unaccepted design printed in yellow with crude perforation (not similar to the above pictured proof). My research on this item has left me with the following questions:

1. I was not able to locate it in previous auction sales or private treaty sales. Does this item have a known provenance? Does anyone remember seeing this item previously?
2. What is the "source" of the proof? What is made from a cut down die proof, a trade sample proof or something else? I noted the following on page 30 of Hillson and Nixon: "*There are two small die proofs in yellow on wove paper, and a blue copy on india, as well as a stamp-sized violet copy – a die proof, since only one is known*" [emphasis added]. Does anyone have a picture of this stamp-sized die proof in violet? If this item is different than the item referenced in Hillson and Nixon, we would now have 2 items in violet. Does it still mean that it was made from a die proof or is it more likely to come from the trade sample proof sheet?
3. Are there any ways of differentiating die proofs and trade sample proofs solely based on the designs?
4. For the Large Queen experts – are Large Queen proofs known in this shade of violet on India paper which would lead credence to the source of it being the trade sample sheet?
5. When and where would the perforations and gum been applied to this proof?

I think the key lies in questions #3 and #4 which would each provide good support for identifying the "source" of this proof. Notwithstanding what it is, this interesting item currently stands proudly as part of my proofs and essays of the issue.



**A Prominent Plate Scratch on the One-Cent LQ**

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

Figure 1. Plate Scratch Through C of CENT. Note it extends from inner vignette oval through bottom margin of stamp.

There is an old saying that “even a blind squirrel finds a nut once in awhile”. I feel that way about auction websites like ebay. Most of the time there is little of interest, but if you keep looking, something interesting invariably turns up. The scanned stamp here (Figure 1) turned up in Portugal, of all places.



If you look at the C of “CENT” it should be obvious what intrigued me about the stamp. The scratch extends all the way through the bottom margin and should appear on the stamp below (unless it is a bottom row stamp, of course). There is no mention in the literature of such a major flaw, and I believe it safe to say this major scratch on the printing plate was quickly detected and corrected.

I asked my collecting friend Jim Watt if he had comparables to it; to my pleasant surprise, the answer was both yes and no. Jim had never seen the strong state of the flaw, but he had saved a few examples over the years showing a constant plate scratch through the C of CENT. In a nutshell, the flaw was skillfully burnished out but enough of it remains that we can assert it is constant

Many nicks and scratches exist in the margins of the one-cent LQ stamp; if you look at a handful you will almost always find a few with tool or scratch marks. In the future, should I find infinite free time to research the issue, the stamp can be plated based partly on these.

I would be most interested to see examples of scratches in the top margin of the one-cent, to see if they align.



Figure 2. Corrected State of Scratch. Note the scratch no longer extends into margin. Courtesy Dr. Jim Watt.

Additional Notes re: Toronto Fancy 2 Cancel

David Lacelle

The Fancy "2" described in Confederation # 46 is L18 in the BNAPS Handbook "Fancy Cancels on Canadian Stamps 1855 – 1950". It is known on cover Aug. 16, 26, 27 and Sept. 6<sup>th</sup>, 1869. It has also been seen struck on top of an otherwise unreadable two-ring numeral cancel, possibly a late use of the 2R2.

The cancel was probably carved by a D.P. Ross, a clerk in the Inspector's office in Toronto (ref: PMG report, Jun. 1870, p. 174, where there is a notation for a \$10 payment to him for carved cancels).

An additional strike (perfect, heavy, Socked-on-nose) is known noted with "new Issue" penned on back by an early stamp dealer.

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Your Contribution here?

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