

Confederation

The Newsletter of the BNAPS Large and Small Queens Study Group

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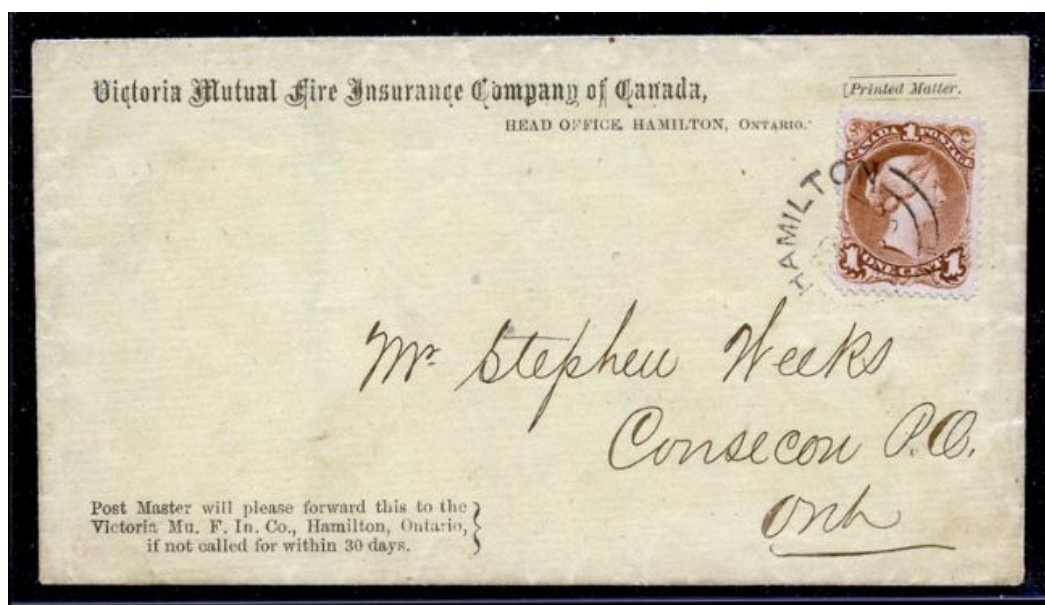
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Look Carefully At The Cover

Wayne Smith (waynesmithtor@yahoo.ca)

I thought I would show the value of checking your items carefully.

I have seen the cover below in several auctions being sold as a nice #22 on an Insurance Company advertising cover. These auctions include: Sissons Apr. 4, 1956, J. D. Smart collection \$13; R. A. Lee, May 2, 1987; Cherrystone June 23, 2002 \$130, Mar. 3, 2003 \$130, Nov. 3, 2005 \$130, and May 15, 2007 \$140 US.



It is now being offered by WIP Stamps as: "Catalog #31 1¢ Brown Red, Spectacular "October 1, 1868", One Cent Laid Paper (EARLIEST RECORDED date on a #31), on yellowish insurance printed matter advertising cover (with insert), cancelled Hamilton Oct. 1, 1868, paying the printed matter rate. Spectacular quality, a great philatelic rarity. The first time this cover has ever been offered. Price \$35,000 US".

This is the fourth single #31 I have recorded along with 3 covers with a #24, a cover with a strip of 3 and a cover with a #31 and a #22 (one stamp missing). Previous high auction hammer results are the strip of 3 in 1984 \$8,000 CDN and a 31/24 combo 2009 \$10,500 U.S.

The new discovery is the earliest date on cover I have seen, but off-cover a Montreal Aug. 15 / 68 has been offered several times and City Stamp in 2010 offered one dated July 27 / 68.

Readers Write

Compiled and edited for space by: Glenn Archer, Editor (glennarcher@hotmail.com)

1. Jack Forbes: Combination Rate With 10-Cent SQ on Cover

I'm attaching a scan of a 7 times rate cover to G.B., containing a variety of denominations including a block of 30 of the Half Cent (the reason it's in my exhibit). The shade of the 10 cents is very sharp, which may or may not translate to the scan. After including this item in the census of 10 cents covers, feel free to use it in the newsletter if desired.



I have only one other 10 cents cover - single franked - sent from Wolfville, N. S. on Feb 11, 1891, to Mrs. H. F. Laflamme, Yellamanchili, Madras Presidency, India. Redirected to: (gone to) Binilipatam. Backstamped: Halifax, N. S. 11.2.91, London, England 26.2.91, Sea Post Office 10.3.91, Yellamanchili 21.3.91, First Dely, Binilipatam 23.3.91.

... Does you inventory include any 10 cents BLOCKS on cover? I can't recall ever having seen one. Thanks for the latest issue of Confederation! Jack Forbes (jafibs@aol.com)

2. Ron McGuire: "SPECIMEN" Overprints

I intend to write an article for BNA Topics on the several types of "SPECIMEN" overprints of which I am aware that exist on Canada's stamps from the Large Queen to the Edward issues. Pictured is the largest group, of which I am aware, that I think is a 'set'. I believe they were officially overprinted for or by the Canada Post Office Department for presentation to members of foreign delegations attending the 5th UPU Congress in Washington, D.C. in 1897. From checking various auction catalogues and other sources, I am aware of another set of ten with this overprint. It is minus the 15 cent Large Queen.



"SPECIMEN" Overprints Contd.

From my research to date I am aware of other stamps which I believe were presented at other UPU Congresses held during the period concerned. If anyone has "SPECIMEN" stamps on these issues, I would welcome scans for a survey of what exists that I am also compiling. I will acknowledge all assistance received, unless I am told you wish to be anonymous. My thanks to Glenn for allowing me space in your excellent newsletter to request your input to this project. Ron McGuire (crm_cpmh5@sympatico.ca)

Used Multiples Of The Registered Letter Stamps

Jim McCormick (jim.mccormick@rogers.com)

The registered letter stamps were issued late in 1875 for clearly identifying mail that was prepaid for registration. The 2 cent stamp was for domestic mail, the 5 cent stamp for mail to the US, and the 8 cent stamp for mail to the UK (reduced to 5c in 1878). The correct registration stamp was mandatory for prepayment of registered mail, and was only to be used for that purpose.

But in 1889, the rules changed. The domestic registration fee increased to 5 cents, and postage stamps were allowed for partial or full payment. This change provided a means to use up the remaining stock of 2c stamps. It was only from this time on that multiples for these stamps were valid. While scarce, covers exist with a pair of the 2c registration stamp plus a 1 cent SQ to make the new 5 cent rate. Less common is a strip of 3 or 4 (I have seen an example that was rejected due to lack of postage stamps). Earlier multiples are generally in the Rose Carmine shade from the Montreal Gazette printing in 1888 / 1889, and almost all multiples are from the Ottawa printing.



Any pairs prior to 1889 would be very scarce. Similarly, any used multiples of the 5 cent or 8 cent stamp would also be very scarce due to incorrect usage.

I have no covers to show, but I do have a few pairs, including one in the Rose Carmine shade, and a strip of 4. The Harry W. Lussey exhibit for BNAPS in December 1998, "Registration Markings and The Registered Letter Stamps", is an excellent reference showing examples on cover (some that passed and some that were rejected). Boggs' "The Postage Stamps and Postal History of Canada" shows an 8c pair on an 1880 cover to France that was accepted.

Happy hunting!

Counter On the One Cent Red Brown Large Queen

Brian Duff Sloley (ffudly@gmail.com)

In their comprehensive study of the Large Queen issue, H.E. and H.W. Duckworth devote a portion of Chapter Two to a discussion of imprints and counters. They indicate that, on the one cent value, counters have only been observed on two examples of the orange-yellow shade. No examples of counters were reported on the red-brown shade. It was postulated that a first plate without counters was used to print the red-brown stamps, and a second plate with counters was used to print the orange-yellow stamps. I now give evidence that a counter was present during an extensive period of printing of the one-cent red brown.

Over several years I have accumulated three one cent red-brown LQs with a partial counter. These stamps are illustrated below. Each stamp has a series of parallel lines above the stamp itself generating the appearance of shaded letters similar to those observed with the two one cent yellow-orange examples recorded by the Duckworths.



The illustrated examples occur in three different shades on three different papers. The leftmost stamp is printed on what appears to be Duckworth Paper 8. There is a faint CDS on this stamp and the date FE 4 is discernible. Although the year is not obvious it is presumably 1869 as the stamp was not placed in use in February 1868 and most available examples were used prior to February 1870. The centre stamp is on Duckworth Paper 6 (the Bothwell watermarked paper). The right stamp appears to be on Duckworth Paper 2 (thin crisp horizontal wove). This suggests that the counter was present when earlier red-brown stamps were printed, and was in extensive use.

The left and right stamps have the lines of the counters starting above the "D" of "CANADA". This corresponds to the one cent stamp illustrated in Duckworth's Figure 17C and is presumably Position 2 where the word "ONE" might be expected to be observed above the stamp. The centre stamp illustrated has lines running across most of the top of the stamp but terminates above the "A" of "POSTAGE". This stamp is presumably Position 3 where the word "CENT" would be expected above the stamp.

In conclusion, it is obvious that a counter was used on the plate that printed the one cent red-brown Large Queen, and that this counter saw extensive use during the early printings of this stamp, as evidenced by the number of different papers associated with the presented examples.

The 1876 Concession Rate to France

Vic Willson (lloydwill@aol.com)

As of January 1, 1876, the letter rate to France was reduced to 10¢ per ounce from the previous 10¢ / 6¢ per sequential ¼ ounce rate in place since October, 1870. The new rate was in effect until the inclusion of Canada into the UPU as of August 1, 1878. From the census of 10¢ Small Queen covers, eighteen to France are listed. Three have pairs paying the double rate. One is either under-, or over-, paid at the old 16¢ rate for ¼ - ½ oz. The rest are single ½ ounce rates. From the Arken Small Queen book, another is shown paid with two 5¢ Small Queens. A 12¢ rate via Cunard (2¢ additional) was in the Nixon collection paid with four 3¢ Small Queens. Other frankings for this rate include one cover each with two 3¢ stamps and a 6¢, and a 10¢ and 2¢.

Below is a new example I recently acquired:



The cover was sent from Montreal, Nov. 23, 1876, to Vallane, in southeastern France. It is an ancient town. A London transit mark in red, date not clear, overlays the Montreal duplex. An entry cancel Dec. 8 is seen on the front, and several indistinct transits Dec. 8 and a Vallane receiver dated Dec. 9 are found on the back. Part of two of the back receivers are removed with the back flap.

This rate is only slightly more common than the earlier single rate and well worth acquiring to represent this short preferred rate prior to the UPU agreement date.

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. his 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 the spring newsletter out on time. The study group will meet at 6:30 PM May 5th, the night of ORAPEX at Guillaume Vadeboncoeur's house in Ottawa; here is his email to confirm or get directions: guillaume@vadeboncoeur.ca.

So far your chairman has started his year off well with two short paid covers which have been added to his collection this year. The first one is a pre UPU cover to France with a 5c SQ; the rate was 10 cents at the time so the cover not being fully pre paid was treated as totally unpaid. Great Britain claimed 30 centimes for sea transit, shown by the 30 in blue. France clamed 60 centimes (France's 30 centimes General Postal Union rate, doubled for the penalty on unpaid letter). The total 90 centimes (9 decimes) was to be collected from the addressee, the cover was marked with the characteristic 9 by the French post office.



The second short paid cover is ex George Arfken which I found on ebay. The cover has a 5c small queen on it from West Winchester Ont. Nov 30 1887 to Cocanada which short pays the 10c UPU surtax rate to India. If any one has any inquires I can be contacted by phone (856-589-1945) or email.



Plate Variety on Two-Cent Small Queen – Request for Assistance

Bill Burden (email on request)

Ed. Note. Bill provided me with an interesting four-page study of a Six-Cent SQ variety that I did not have space to include in this newsletter. Space permitting, I will try to publish it in the next.



Normally I would 'ignore' the beard and focus on the interesting markings in the left margin, but I am quite certain that I have seen something like this beard in the past few years. If anyone could let me know where that may have been, it might actually be possible to prove some consistency in this one..

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