

Confederation

The Newsletter of the BNAPS Large and Small Queens Study Group

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Start of the 10 Cent ¼ oz. Rate to France

Victor Willson and Bill Radcliffe

Toms and Arken (1987) argued that the rate reduction of letters from Canada to France from 17¢ per ¼ oz. to 10¢ first ¼ oz. occurred on October 1, 1870, because the July 1870 "List of Post Offices – Tales of Rates of Postage" was not published until October 1870. Since the order in parliament in Great Britain was approved in June 1870 for the reduction to take place, the potential start dates are July 1, August 1, and September 1. The October start date presupposes that no other directives, supplemental orders, or lists were distributed to post offices in Canada after June. Empirically, a distribution of covers in the July to October time span would support the better start date, since a short-paid letter to France was assiduously charged as a completely unpaid letter by the French at this time.

The cover shown here is paid 10¢ and dated Sept. 20, 1870, from Montreal to Bayonne. It is part of a well-known correspondence in this period. The cover was sent via Halifax with a Sept. 22 oval on the back, indicating the cover went via the Allan Line ship *Etna* from Halifax on the 23rd. The London transit of Oct. 3 indicated PAID, as well as the PD in oval. The Calais transit is also Oct. 3. The cover was received at Bayonne on the 7th. There are no due markings at all, which otherwise would likely be 17 decimes seen on unpaid mail if the previous charges were in effect.

Since the only other cover we have seen in the July / October 1870 period is the prepaid 17 cent mixed Small-Large Queen cover in the Toms and Arken September-October 1987 *TOPICS* and in Arken's Small Queen handbook, we request anyone having paid or unpaid stampless Canada-France covers in the period to contact us to further this inquiry.



While one could argue the rate effect is inconclusive given the transition time around October 1, and that the British would have let it go, we find that unlikely given the sailing date. So, we conclude the transition occurred at least as early as mid-September or perhaps September 1, 1870.

Philatelically, this is also the first all-Small Queen paid cover to France. Since the rates overseas were so high in 1870 generally, it also may well be the first all-SQ paid cover trans-Atlantic or trans-Pacific as well, so a challenge for readers to beat it. Germany's rate dropped to 10¢ per ½ oz. in February 1870. As Arken noted, however, no stamped covers to Germany have yet been recorded before the cover shown here in the February to September 1870 period.

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A fabulous Government Official postmark collection, with many elusive to rare Legislative, Senate, House of Commons, Departmental handstamp types, sub-types, coloured markings, combinations, etc.

This three-day sale will feature two additional auction catalogues the "Libra" Collections of King George V Admiral & Scroll Issues and XIX Century Legislative Postmarked Covers, as well as a General Sale.



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Sometimes Other Collections Can Fill Holes

John Burnett (Jb45855@aol.com)

I don't know if you can call me lucky or if you should feel sorry for me because I have a lot of collecting interests all within the bounds of "Collecting Canadian Stamps and Postal History".

One of my collections is a reasonable duplex cancellation collection and I have used covers from it to feed my small queen collection and vice a versa.

Recently I was going over my small queen collection with a couple of accredited judges and asking them for a critique and I got some really valuable hints, but like every time you get one of those critiques along comes a remount of the whole darn collection. After finishing my remount I found myself with a lot of material that was going to have to be consigned to another collection or become part of something new.

I ended up with a lot of advertising covers and decided they would become a new collection expressly geared to more local level shows, heck they were all good looking and hopefully would attract new folks to our society when seen locally. The one thing I noticed in the small queen material was that the vast majority of the really complex advertising material came later in the small queen era. My first Ottawa printing stuff were all pretty plain envelopes; the material starts to crank up in the Montreal printing time and gets really good in the second Ottawa time frame.

With this article I thought I would show four covers that had to come out of my small queen exhibit but were of such good quality I decided to put them in a new and still being formed "Advertising Covers of the late 19th Century"

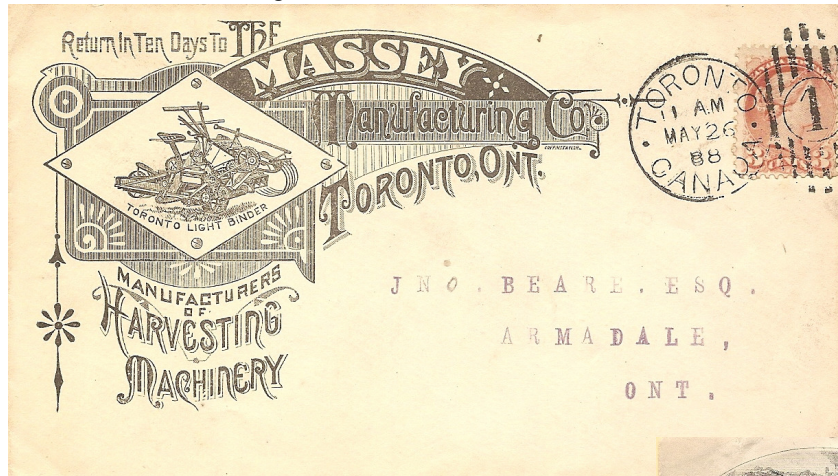


Figure 1. Massey Advertising Cover.

In Figure 2, also being set up in my Farm Implements section is a very nice cachet from the Cochrane Manufacturing Company, Limited. This cover could also go into my duplex collection as it has a reasonable duplex cancellation from St. Thomas dated March 25, 1885. This is one of those covers where I had some difficulty identifying the shade of the stamp. I finally decided it was late use of the orange red color of the 3¢ stamp.



Figure 2. Cochrane Mfg. Advertising Cover.

Sometimes Other Collections Can Fill Holes contd.

From the Second Ottawa printing time period I chose two other covers in my farm implements section, Figure 3 shown close by has a nice Toronto duplex cancellation dated march 23, 1890 and has a cachet again from The Massey Manufacturing Co. This advertisement is a little bit more spartan than the one shown in Figure 1. I have noted the shade of the stamp as a pale vermillion.

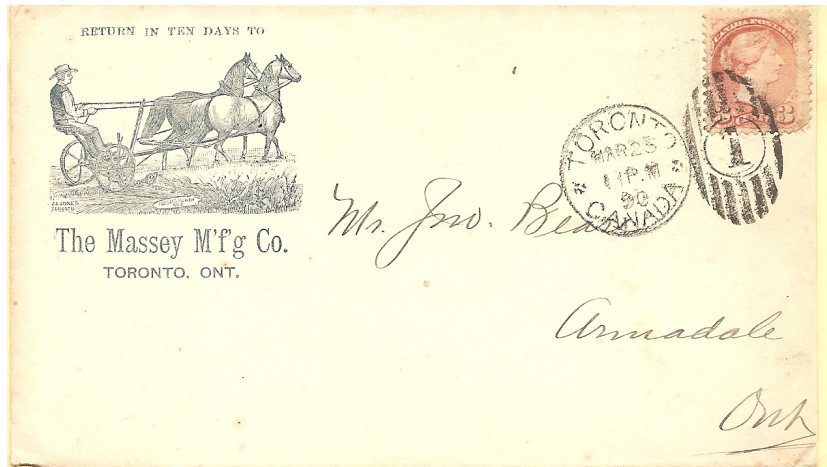


Figure 3. 1890 Massey Cover.



Figure 4. 1891 Massey Advertising Cover.

My final cover is another Massey Manufacturing co. cover, a little fancier than the one in fig. 3 This stamp is a bright vermillion shade and dated May 31, 1891.

All of these Massey covers has me wondering if there is a "Massey Manufacturing" exhibit in all my material? I have a number of friends who have put together very impressive collections of just one manufacturer's cachets, I have no idea how many varieties of advertisements the Massey Co. put out over the years but I can guess it's a lot. The Massey Manufacturing Co. would become the Massey Harris Company eventually, and I believe they continue to build farm machinery to this day.

Newsletter Contact Information:

Chairman: Bill Radcliffe, 500 Columbia Ave., Pitman NJ 08071 U.S.A.
 Email: bsbvp88@hotmail.com, Ph. (856) 589-1945

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

Ten Cent Small Queen Montreal Printing Block

Guillaume Vadeboncoeur (guillaume@vadeboncoeur.ca)

Illustrated below is a block of six of the Ten Cent Small Queen from a Montreal printing from c.1882 to 1885, perforated 12, in a lovely bright rose-lilac shade (although many would call it magenta – I don't intend to get into a colour naming debate in this article). I was pleased to acquire this item as my exhibit lacked a mint block of the Ten Cent from the Montreal printing period. Mint blocks from the Montreal printing period are quite elusive, with very few blocks larger than four stamps being recorded. The block is not well centered, but that's likely one of the reasons that it still exists as a block instead of having been broken down into single stamps.



Figure 1. Ten Cent Small Queen Montreal printing block of 6

The wide wing margin at right is a dead giveaway that this item is from the right side of the sheets, which means one thing for the Ten Cent value – it needed to be checked for varieties. I was delighted when I realized this block contains 2 of the 3 major constant plate varieties recorded on this value, and the only 2 constant plate varieties recorded during the Montreal printing period. The block is from positions 78-80 / 88-90 with the bottom left stamp [position 88] showing the “*gash in right 1*” variety and the bottom middle stamp [position 89] showing the “*re-entry of top frameline*”. The re-entry is quite minor and almost never shows clearly except on the 1897 brick red shades. The well-known “pitted right 0” [position 21] is the other constant plate variety that exists on this value, but the variety did not develop until later during the Ottawa printing period.



Figure 2. Detail of position 88 – the “*gash in right 1*” variety



Figure 3. Detail of position 89 – the “*re-entry of top frameline*”

This block is now proudly displayed in my exhibit and is a favourite item as it is next to impossible to duplicate. I am only aware of one other mint Montreal printing block showing both of these constant plate varieties. It is worth examining your Ten Cent stamps to see if you have these varieties lurking around unidentified as these were.

One Cent Small Queen on thick soft paper – a fiscal usage

Guillaume Vadeboncoeur (guillaume@vadeboncoeur.ca)

Illustrated below is a rather sorry-looking piece bearing two examples of the One Cent Small Queen. What attracted me to the piece was that it is an unauthorized fiscal use of Small Queen stamps, along with a 3¢ green Bill Stamp – an unusual combination. The price was right at only a few dollars. The piece is strongly creased – a bit of an understatement as each stamp is almost severed into two pieces. The shade and feel of the One Cent Small Queen stamps was also of interest.



Figure 1. Unauthorized fiscal use of One Cent Small Queen on thick soft paper

After receiving the item, I wasn't ecstatic about the crease (a buyer is always hoping for something better than it looks!) but I was pretty sure, although not convinced, that the One Cent stamps were on thick soft paper. December 1871 was certainly within the acceptable timeframe for this paper variety. Due to the poor quality of the item, I decided to soak the middle stamp. After a long soaking in order to remove any gum residue from the paper and especially the perfs, the One Cent stamps can finally be confirmed as being on thick soft paper. I don't recall seeing another fiscal use of this paper variety – a neat item despite the dreadful condition... Just another reminder that finds are still being made. Hopefully your next find will be as interesting as this one, but in a better quality!

Mis-perforations in the Small Queen era

Jim McCormick

Collecting errors is a fascinating part of the hobby. Constant plate flaws get the lion's share of the attention due to the ability to collect many samples and produce a detailed study. Meanwhile unique errors can be collected in groups that are similar and studied to determine reasonable cause.

A mis-perforation is an example of the latter. Major errors are scarce as the printer cared about his reputation. Although paper and ink was expensive, there can be pressure to get the job done leading to risks taken and oversights made. Here are a few examples. Note that I included the 6c LQ stamps for good measure, however they are not discussed here.



Illustration 1: Mis-perfed Small Queens (plus two LQ for good measure)

The first example is from the first vertical row of a sheet. The perforation machine was set up correctly, however the sheet was mis-placed.

The second example demonstrates a problem with the placement of a perforating wheel.

The third error resulted from a fold in the paper.

The fourth shows what can happen with a loose perforating wheel that drifted.

The fifth probably started with the sheet in the wrong position, and was backed out and re-done.

The sixth is a mystery to me, and I would like to hear your opinion. Could two perforating wheels be placed that close together, such that the two stamps to the right would be vertically imperf between? Or could the sheet have gone through the machine twice without additional rows of vertical perforations? Happy hunting!

Large Queen Cover Census – Wayne Smith

Edited By: Glenn Archer

If you receive the electronic copy of this and check your email regularly, it should arrive before BNAPEX. It has been a struggle to compile as we always have a shortage of contributors, and have to pull favours to get a newsletter together.

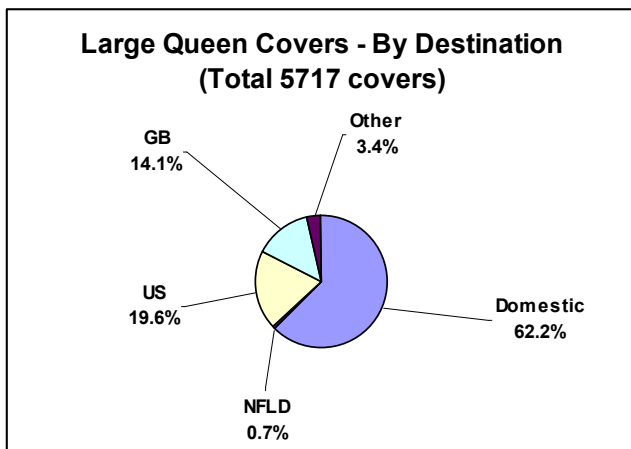
Wayne Smith sent me perhaps the most generous article I have ever received, but I cannot really put it in this newsletter as it is a 25-page census of all the 5717 Large Queen covers he has catalogued over the years. They can be sorted by rate, stamp, destination etc., the possibilities are many. It is an ongoing project and I am not sure if and when it will be published. I'll preface this brief synopsis of it with Wayne's own summary:

"The above is the result of many years of recording covers. An additional 100+ covers continue to be added each year. The list includes all covers recorded to the end of 2011. A list such as this can never be complete but the list provides a good overview of the relationship between various rates and how they were paid."

Covers that were philatelically inspired (use of imperf stamps or wide range of stamps) were not included as some were faked, or where auction lots did not provide enough details.

While most covers recorded with a 15c stamp are recorded as #29 or #30, since some auctions or other sources have not made the distinction, I have noted all covers as just having 15c stamps."

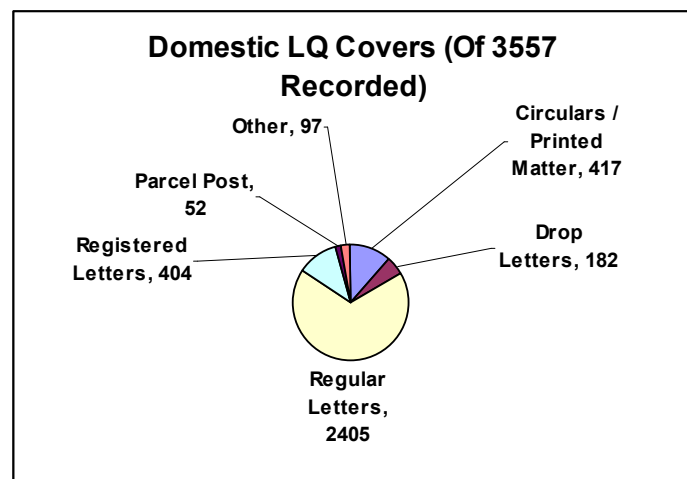
To show you just a bit of the information collected in the census, I compiled a few pie charts to give you a sampling.



The chart at left is a basic study of the destination of letters bearing a Large Queen, regardless of franking (a minority are mixed frankings and some extend into the Small Queen period).

It is mildly interesting to note the mail to the US and mail overseas is about equal. The "Other" category includes a few dozen exotic destinations.

The chart at right is a breakdown of the usages of domestic mail in the LQ period. It is interesting to note how little parcel post exists, Wayne noting that many of the parcel post items are large pieces rather than covers. To clarify, the "Other" category lumps in several rarities including Soldiers' rate, Photographers' rate, Newspaper rate, "Next County" rate, also revenue usages and mail to territories (e.g. BC) prior to their joining Confederation.



I will be in touch with Wayne and will discuss with him how we can best present this detailed database over the course of a few newsletters.