

Confederation

The Newsletter of the BNAPS Large and Small Queens Study Group

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Canada – Argentina to 1901 (Don't cry, but there isn't much material)

Victor Willson (lloydwill@aol.com)

I recently purchased the cover below on ebay:



The back has a Buenos Aires AB (April) 5, (18)93 receiver. As I have only recorded a few UPU covers to Argentina heretofore, I thought it a good item for my 5¢ Small Queen accumulations on cover. Having long followed mails from Canada to South America, some rates I have listed to Argentina:

21 CENT PRE-UPU RATE: 15¢ + 6¢ Large Queens

25 CENT 4x UPU RATE TO ARGENTINA + 5 CENT REGISTRATION:

15¢ Large Queen + 10¢ Small Queen

UPU:

Buenos Aires 1882-1883 via Halifax, 5¢, 15¢ surtax rate (overpaid the 10¢ rate, apparently)

Buenos Aires 1887 onward via UK. 5¢, 10¢

Buenos Aires or other Argentina city, 5¢, 10¢, 15¢ triple rate post-1890

Other than the 5¢ UPU post -1890 rate (of which I can list perhaps 3 or 4) all the others are single cover examples. Even this is a large number compared to almost all the other SA countries. Only Brazil has a somewhat similar list, but a bit smaller. Most other countries are represented by at most a few 5 and 10 cent UPU rate covers. I have seen none to French or Dutch Guiana (although a post card is known to Dutch Guiana).

Know Or Look Up the Dates On Those Covers

John Burnett (jb45855@aol.com)

Pictured nearby are two small queen covers that look quite common and if you don't pay attention to the dates, you miss the true value.

Pictured in Figure 1 is a nice little cover franked with three 1¢ first Ottawa printed small queen stamps. The cover is date stamped at Halifax, Nova Scotia on January 2, 1873 and received at Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island on January 7, 1873. Prince Edward Island was an independent colony and did not join Confederation until June 22, 1873. She was granted a concession postal rate per the Post Office Act of 1868 giving her the same 3¢ per half ounce domestic letter rate as the remainder of Canada.



Figure 2 is a similar situation only franked with a nice copper red 3¢ small queen. The stamp has been killed with a single blow of an oval barred killer and then a single hand stamped dater from Baie-Verte, Nova Scotia dated July 18, 1870.

This makes these covers "pre Confederation" covers and as such are of much more value in your collection. It is critical when researching a cover not just to see the date and identify the printing but also know the date and if it is meaningful.

Parcel Post is Rarely Seen

John Burnett (jb45855@aol.com)

I have collected Small Queen stamps and postal history for the past forty years and have only seen this one piece of parcel post to an international destination. This item is believed to be from the 1896 / 97 timeframe, based solely on my identification of the shade on the 8¢ stamp which is used as a 'make up' stamp on the wrapper. Based on what I have been able to ascertain the wrapper would have been part of a parcel weighing 3½ pounds.

Has any other member of our study group have some examples of internationally destined parcel post?



Parcel Post Is Rarely Seen contd.

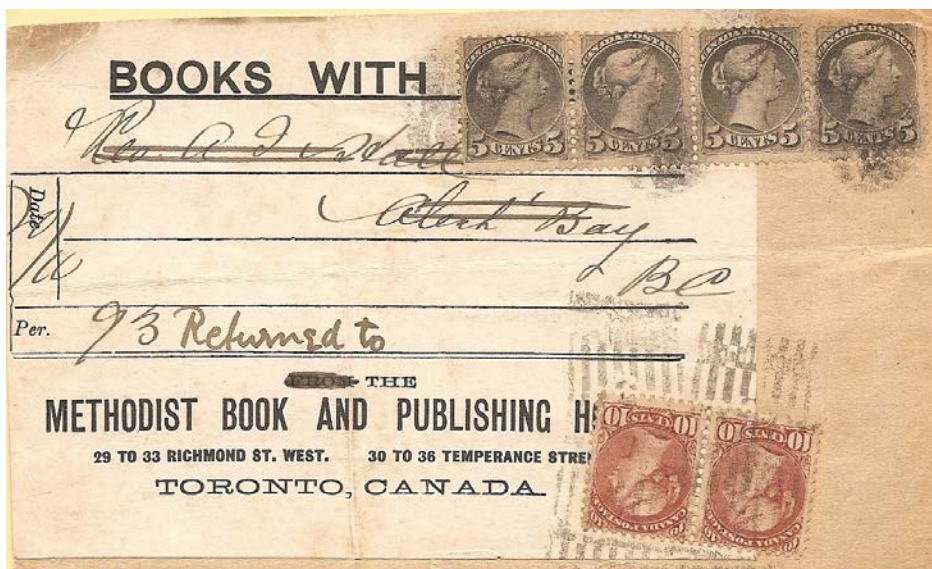
Another example of a parcel post item I have is shown in Figure 2. This is a Wells Fargo envelope with five 6¢ small queens used as a facing slip pasted to a parcel wrapper. The back of the envelope has heavy glue residue. The date is not discernible but I estimate its use circa 1897 as that is the timeframe of the Klondike Gold Rush and also when Wells Fargo was most active in Victoria.



If the destination was within Canada the rate would have been for a parcel weighing 1 pound 4 ounces (6¢ per 4 oz.) If the destination had been to the United States then a destination needs to be found as the rate for a parcel was based on distance.

My final example of a parcel item is an example of "Book Post" and this one is a pretty neat part of my collection. Books were sent as 3rd class postage at the rate of 1¢ per 4 ounces. This 1893 wrapper carries a strip of four 5¢ stamps paying for an 80 oz. parcel (i.e. a 5 pound parcel). The package could be tied with string but otherwise unsealed so the post office could inspect the parcel to ensure there was no written correspondence. Multiple books could be sent in the parcel. Postmasters were required to re-tie the parcel after inspection.

In this case the book(s) arrived all the way to Alert Bay, British Columbia where the recipient decided to return the books to Toronto and has affixed 20¢ in the form of a pair of 10¢ stamps.



Readers Write

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

This issue is a bit late coming out, we intended to have it before Christmas but for a number of reasons I'm putting the finishing touches to it on a Sunday morning in January. Thanks to everyone who contributed, though light on the research I hope this edition has a bit of something for everyone, so enjoy the read. Of course I look forward to adding more of your articles (please) to the next one! I wish you all a happy and prosperous 2013.

1. Dot Variety on Half-Cent Large Queen.

Paul Young of Bracebridge sent me a scan of this half-cent with a curious white dot to the left of "HALF". I have never seen it before, and he asks if it may be constant. Readers are of course invited to check their collections and advise if they have a similar example.



2. Perforations on the Half-cent Large Queen.



Jim McCormick of Ottawa sent me a scan of this strip of four of the half-cent Large Queen. What he thought was really exciting about the strip (and I very much agree) is that it proves the issue was often, if not always, perforated in *two* passes instead of one – even in the Large Queen Period! Jim writes:

"I wrote about perforations for the 1/2 cent Small Queen earlier this year, and how its small size required two passes vertically through the perforating machine. I thought this only applied to this one stamp. But I just bought a strip/4 of the 1/2 Large Queen ... that shows the wide / narrow spacing. See the enclosed scan. The alternating vertical perforations even (show) a slight angle, which further shows that two passes were used... Can you confirm this, and is it well known for #21? I guess this means that the perf machines used for the 1859 issue ...was different from the ones used for the LQ issue".



To the right is a portion of the SP 22 / 68 date stamp showing on the front. On a check of the available literature, I find little written on the subject and would welcome any reader input on this subject.

As a footnote, Jim has now pointed out other strips of the issue that show this wide / narrow perforation setting.

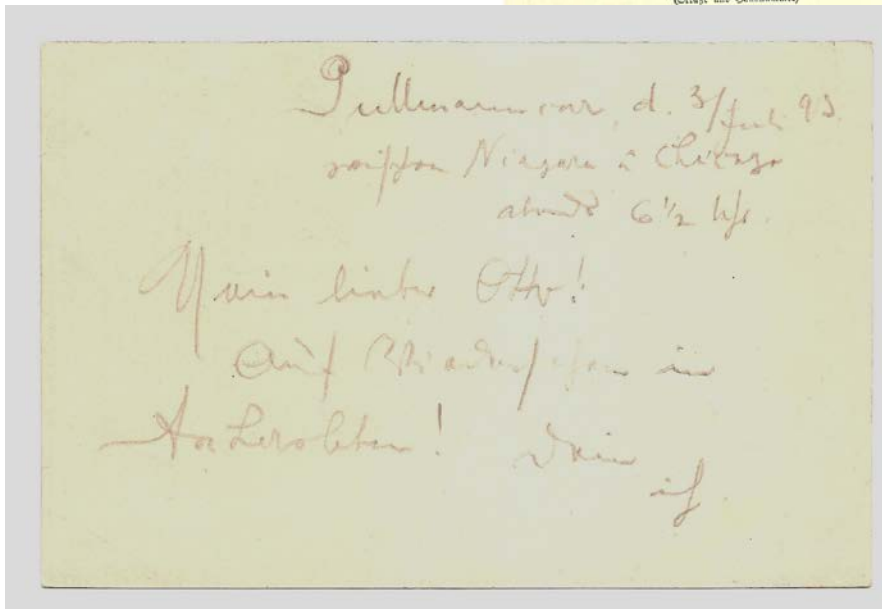
Readers Write contd.

3. A Mystery Card With A Tri-Nation Franking

Brain Hargreaves writes: "I acquired this item recently, simply because it had a lot of eye-appeal. However I think it has more of a story to tell. And members may well help me to fill in the blanks.

The basic item is a German pre-paid postcard that has been embellished with both US and Canadian frankings. In chronological order there is a faint cancel which just ties the 1 cent US item. I cannot read any of the letters. The card has then had three Small Queens added, and cancelled with an RPO strike from the London, Ontario railway station office. Finally there is no doubt a transit cancel applied later in the day in Hamilton.

The sender was obviously German, as will be seen from the reverse. My German is not particularly good, and hopefully somebody can translate more accurately. What the writing appears to say is 'Pullman car 3 July '93. From Niagara to Chicago. About 6 1/2 hours.' My geographical knowledge of that part of Canada does not permit me to know whether this explains the journey the card has taken. Perhaps members can enlighten me. Meanwhile it's a very pretty card!"



Some New Information on an Early Constant Plate Variety

Guy Jeffery

There are two illustrations of one of the earliest constant plate varieties on the three cent small queen. The first illustration shows the constant line in the letters N and T of CENTS. The second illustration is a scan of four different copies of the variety.



The first illustration shows the most pronounced or strongest line of the variety in the N and T of the four stamps. As the stamp was printed over time, the line diminished in size. The last copy of the four shows the line much lighter than the other three copies. What is not so obvious but is quite real, is that there is some additional damage to the plate in the bottom left side of the selvage of the stamps. This damage, which consists of a dot and a line roughly across from the top of the left three, is evident in the two stamps on the left. The two stamps on the right do not show the constant damage as the margins are not wide enough.



The known dated copies of this stamp are from 1872 to 1874. Bill Burden's excellent site says that a copy is known on thick soft paper. Please check out Bill's site www.wgburden.com where it is shown as plate flaw 3F3.1 in the three cent section.

The four individual stamps also show some of the colour variations in the early three cent printings. I think the stamp on the left is a rose red and the others are more orange reds. I won't pretend to be able to classify early three cent colours so any comments about that difficult subject are more than welcome.

The Importance Of Having Double Vision

Brian Hargreaves (bhargrea@email.com)



As a keen collector of numeral cancels on Large Queens - and other issues - I have had the illustrated item in my collection for many years. I had put it in amongst my other 3 cent LQ 2 rings (complete except for the #42), and there it has remained - a nice example of the #49 from Prescott. And nothing more, I thought.

Recently focusing more closely on the Large Queens, I have become interested in the many varieties that exist. Some seemed to be quite rare. But who knows, maybe I had some already without realising! Time to get out my high-powered glass!

Imagine my surprise - and pleasure - when this #49 revealed its secret. I had a lovely example of the cracked plate variety - this one with the line going through the C.

You can imagine that my other Large Queens have been subjected to detailed examination, but nothing has been as exciting the cracked plate. I've learnt a valuable lesson!

Chairman's Column

Bill Radcliffe (bsbvp88@hotmail.com)

I hope every one had a great 2012, and wish all a Happy 2013. I want to thank everyone in the group that supplied articles, and give our editor Glenn Archer special thanks for putting together all of the great newsletters this year.



As most of you in the study group know I collect 2 and 4 ring numerals. The cover I show below is one of my favorites. Before I found this cover in a dealer junk lot, 4 ring 7 was unknown on Small Queens. The cover was mailed from Collingwood MR 28, 1870 to Toronto. I consider this cover unique, but of course if any one in the group has a 4 ring 7 cancel on a Small Queen, on or off-cover I would like to know. You can contact me by email or phone bsbvp88@hotmail.com or 856-589-1945.

Chairman's Column contd.



Close up of faint 4R7 on Indian Red Small Queen shown at right, note the downward stroke of the faint strike is across Queen's hair and almost horizontal.

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