

Confederation

The Newsletter of the BNAPS Large and Small Queens Study Group

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An Unusual Use of the 8 cent Small Queen

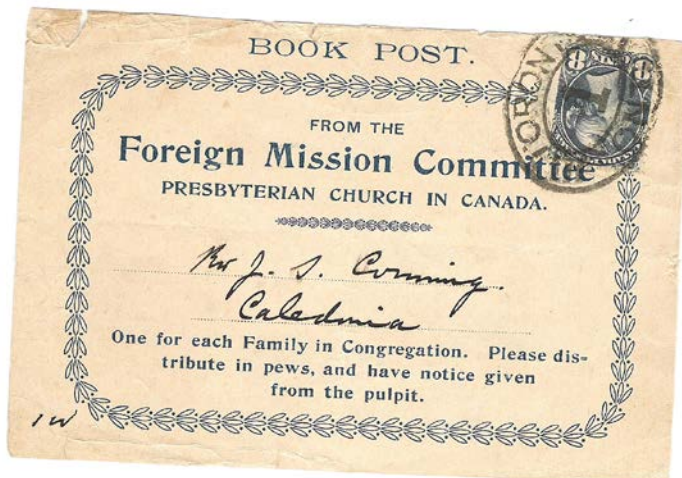
By C. R. [Ron] McGuire, OTB, FRPSC (crm_cpmh5@sympatico.ca)

The normal use one finds for an 8 cent Small Queen is the registered domestic and registered rates to the United States. My unusual, possibly unique, example in illustration one is paying the book post rate of 1 cent per 4 ounces. While on only a small portion of the original wrapper it is all that is necessary to confirm it is the 'BOOK POST' rate and that it contained between 28 and 32 ounces of Presbyterian church-related publications, complete with instructions that there is 'One for each Family in the Congregation.', and that they should be distributed '...in pews, and have notice given from the pulpit.'

There is 'I W' written in the lower left corner in the same ink as the addressee's name and 'Caledonia' [Ontario]. It probably identifies the type of publication that was enclosed.

I am no expert on the shades of this stamp but it appears to be Unitrade 44, violet black appropriately cancelled with a 'TORONTO / 1 / ONT' parcel post oval sometime in the 1890s.

Some reader may have another example but the Firby - Willson *Canadian Posted Letter Guide*, under the 'Special Non Letter Rates', does not list this single use existing for 'book post', only for 'bulk newspapers'.



The Canadian Philatelic Society of Great Britain – Invitation for Membership:

Richard Thompson (rpthompson1574@shaw.ca) contacted me and asked if he might solicit some member interest in joining the CPS of GB (Canadian Philatelic Society of Great Britain). They of course have an excellent periodical (Maple Leaves) and there is much benefit to being a member including a semi-annual auction, and contact and discourse with the many fine students of Canadian philately on the other side of the Atlantic. Members who are interested are welcome to contact Richard at their convenience. G.A.

More on the Half Cent Large Queen

Geoffrey R. Browning

This is the first of what I hope will be a series of articles on the half cent Large Queen – a stamp which I believe to be one of the more interesting, and yet relatively neglected, in Canadian philately. The half cent Large Queen was officially issued on April 1, 1868 and continued in service until 1882 when replaced by the half cent Small Queen. It was thus in service for about fourteen years and approximately 6,700,000 copies made their way from the printers, the British American Bank Note Company, to the Post Office Department of the Government of Canada and thence to the public.

According to the annual reports of the Postmaster General, after an initial burst in production of 1,500,000 during the fiscal year 1867-68 (July 1 through June 30), no further deliveries from the printers took place until the 1871-72 fiscal year when production assumed a relatively even rate until the introduction of the half cent Small Queen. The annual figures are reproduced below as Table 1.

Table 1: Quantities of the Half Cent Large Queen Received and Distributed

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Received from Manufacturers</u>	<u>Distributed to Postmasters</u>
1867-68	1,500,000	508,750
1868-69	0	343,950
1869-70	0	355,000
1870-71	0	271,600
1871-72	500,000	434,400
1872-73	400,000	401,800
1873-74	450,000	484,600
1874-75	900,000	732,800
1875-76	500,000	563,800
1876-77	400,000	424,600
1877-78	450,000	478,100
1878-79	400,000	422,200
1879-80	450,000	361,100
1880-81	400,000	465,800
1881-82	<u>350,000</u>	<u>437,894</u>
Total	6,700,000	6,686,394

While it is technically possible that the original plate could have produced the entire number of half cent Large Queens produced, it is clear from evidence already published that the half cent Large Queen plate was far from perfect as originally laid down and that work was done to the plate on perhaps several occasions. It has already been reported that the half cent Large Queen exhibits a number of re-entries and other varieties. What I intend to show in this and subsequent articles is that the half cent Large Queen exhibits many more varieties than has heretofore been reported and/or exhibited.

Horace Harrison in his work on the Large Queen issue reported a number of half cent Large Queen varieties and Fred G. Fawn, in his Gold Medal exhibit of the Large Queen issue, has exhibited these and more. Of the re-entries in particular, three have been reported and exhibited – positions 1 and 11 where the left edge of the design shows significant doubling and another, as yet unlocated, position showing a doubling of virtually all of “CENT”.

A number of years ago, I was fortunate to purchase a rather obscurely described mint block of nine (3 x 3) of the half cent Large Queen at a major auction house. The description was not only obscure but also discouraging in that the block was described as being poorly centered and with serious gum problems. The auctioneer apparently thought so little of the block that, as I recall, he did not even provide an illustration. The block was, however, described as having full left and top selvedge. On this basis, and knowing about the re-entries in the upper left corner of the sheet, I placed a bid and was successful. Upon receiving my purchase and inspecting it, I was ecstatic as not only did the block show the already known re-entries at positions 1 and 11 but also a similar, but not identical, one at position 21.

More on the Half Cent Large Queen contd.

I reproduce below as Figs. 1 through 3 scans of portions of positions 1, 11 and 21.

I would describe the re-entry at position 1 as follows: particularly noticeable in the ornament on the edge of the left side of the central oval and below the “C” of “CANADA” but not in the ornament containing the “reversed C”-shaped curl above the “H” of “HALF”. I would describe the re-entry at position 11 as follows: particularly noticeable in the ornament containing the “reversed C”-shaped curl above the “H” of “HALF” but not in the ornament on the edge of the left side of the central oval and below the “C” of “CANADA”. I would describe the re-entry at position 21 as follows: particularly noticeable in the ornament on the edge of the left side of the central oval and below the “C” of “CANADA” and in the ornament containing the “reversed C”-shaped curl above the “H” of “HALF”.

As is evident from these descriptions, the re-entries are all related but also distinct when their characteristics are compared. And, as for the block, it certainly begs the question of what if had been larger and what would this have showed with respect to positions 31, 41, etc. Perhaps the answer still lies undiscovered somewhere.

Over the years I have acquired enough material to reconstruct the entire sheet of the half cent Large Queen. In the process of this endeavour, I have encountered a considerable number of unreported varieties which I would like to discuss in future articles. If you would like to see more, please contact the editor or chairman of this newsletter.

Fig. 1: Left Portion of Position 1



Fig. 2: Left Portion of Position 11



Fig. 3: Left Portion of Position 21



Chairman's Notes – Bill Radcliffe (bsbvp88@hotmail.com)

I would like to start this newsletter asking for articles so if anyone has something for us please send it so we can get a summer newsletter out on time for BNAPEX. The study group will meet at 6:30 PM May 4th the night of ORAPEX at Guillaume Vadeboncoeur's house in Ottawa. I would also like to thank Guillaume and his wife Annelise for their hospitality - this is the fifth year they have hosted this meeting. Here is his email address to confirm guillaume@vadeboncoeur.ca or to get directions. Or you may contact me.

So far this year your chairman has found a few nice things. Shown is a 25 cent registered rate to England, paid



with a five cent Small Queen and a twenty-cent Widow Weeds on a #8 envelope. The cover is mailed from Ottawa on Oct. 1, 1896 to a stamp dealer in Colchester England, arriving in Liverpool Oct. 16 1896 forwarded to London the same day; the Colchester date is unreadable. What makes this cover significant is that it is the only #8 envelope with a commercially used twenty cent WW that I know of. I think this cover mailed approvals back to the stamp dealer thus the reason for the 4 oz. weight. If any members know of others please contact me or our editor. If any one has any inquires I can be contacted by phone (856-589-1945) or email.

An Unusual Small Queen Item – Printer's Ink Trial

Ross McElroy, the owner of this historical document contacted our newsletter requesting further information on the possible insurance value of this item; it has been handed down through his family.

It does not represent a rate or conveyance; it is a trial run done in 1896 by the Phoenix Printing Ink Co. seeking a supply contract with the Post Office. The purpose of the document was to determine, using representative stamps and the same hammer, the suitability of Phoenix's product for postal use.

The trial appears to have been successful, as a manuscript notation at top indicates (I think) a pass for use of a trial lot.

The owner would be grateful to get further information on the document and can be contacted at ann@shepherdsspringfarm.ca.

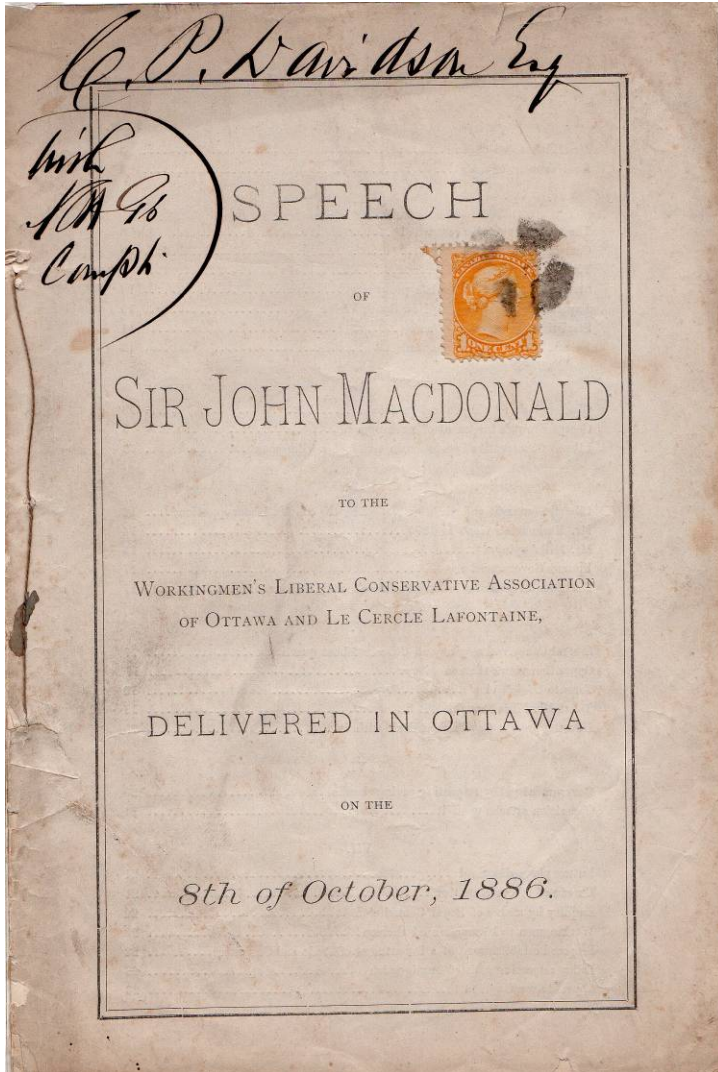


What a Way to Show the Printed Matter Rate

By Geoffrey R. Browning and Daniel Cantor

An item recently surfaced in the philatelic trade which is both a philatelic gem and a rare historical artifact, possibly a unique one. Reproduced below as Figure 1, is an original copy of a speech sent through the mail as printed matter – a speech delivered on October 8, 1886 by the then Prime Minister of Canada, Sir John A. Macdonald, to the Workingmen’s Liberal Conservative Association of Ottawa.

Fig. 1: Original Copy of October 8, 1886 Speech by Sir John A. Macdonald



The copy of the speech was franked with a one cent Small Queen stamp, which is tied by “segmented” fancy cork cancel, and apparently dropped into the mail with the only indication of point of delivery being “C. P. Davidson, Esq” inscribed by hand in the top margin of the covering page. No city or street address or even a full name was provided. (One can only wonder how such an item would be treated by a post office today).

As it turns out, however, there was one person in the Dominion who was widely known as “C. P. Davidson”. He was a well-known lawyer practicing in Montréal, Québec. Reproduced below as Figure 2 is a photograph of C. P. (or Charles Peers) Davidson taken in 1875 by William Notman and preserved by the McCord Museum in Montréal, Québec.

Fig. 2: C. P. (Charles Peers) Davidson, 1875



What a Way to Show the Printed Matter Rate contd.

The only other notation on the front of the speech is in the same hand as the name but is not easily decipherable. To the authors it reads “with PMG’s compliments]” with PMG indicating the Postmaster General of Canada. In October 1886, this would have been Sir Alexander Campbell who served as Postmaster General of Canada (his fourth such appointment) from September 25, 1885 to January 26, 1887. A sample of his handwriting has not been obtained to confirm this suspicion. However, this suspicion is certainly in keeping with the very minimalistic address provided on the copy of the speech which would seem to support a contention that the sender would need to be someone with an important connection with the post office. Also of interest is the fact that Sir Alexander Campbell and Sir John A. Macdonald were closely associated. In fact, Sir Alexander was a partner in Sir John A. Macdonald’s law firm in Kingston, Ontario.



Reproduced to right, as Figure 3, is a photograph of Sir Alexander Campbell taken at an unknown date but also by the renowned William Notman of Montréal, Québec.

Fig. 3: Sir Alexander Campbell, Postmaster General of Canada from 1885 to 1887

Shortpaid Cover To India During UPU Surtax Period

Vic Willson (lloydwill@aol.com)

The cover shown here was recently acquired, and it seems to illustrate something I have not previously seen. Sent to India from Wolfville, NS on Nov. 6, 1889, it was intended for an address in London. Forwarding instructions indicated Miss Fitch was at the Canadian Mission in Madras, India. While forwarding was free under UPU, the difference when the rate was higher should have been paid an additional 5 cents per



ounce under the surtax allowed by the UPU for difficult destinations. The large number of 10 cent covers in the Baskerville correspondence attests to the prevalence of this rating. This cover, paid only 5 cents, transited London

UK on Nov. 25, the transit mark tying the stamp to the cover. The back, also shown, indicates Halifax transit Nov. 6, London receiver (in red) Nov. 25? likely, Dec. 5 SEAPOST OFFICE transit, and a “SECOND DELY/ BINNILPATAM 29 DEC 89”. This indicates that the surtax was ignored by the BPO. Was this permitted because it was an Empire destination? That is the most likely reason. I have not previously seen such an example, which would not be covered for most Empire destinations after 1890, but might be seen for Australian States through the 1890s. Anyone having a similar example, please comment or contact me.

Postmarks on the 3¢ Small Queen Make Interesting Collecting

John Burnett (Jb45855@aol.com)

Of all the Small Queen stamps the 3¢ is the most abundant and can be found with some of the most interesting and challenging postmarks.

When the 3¢ Small Queen was in general use from 1870 - 1897, Canada was growing at an unprecedented rate. Not every city post office had a basic canceling device, so the local Postmasters were left to their own devices and many decided to make their own. These devices were quite unofficial, but postal authorities allowed their use by turning a blind eye to them. These unofficial post marks make a very interesting collecting area for a SQ specialist.

Canceling devices were made of any number of materials and usually had a pretty short life. Some of the more popular materials carved were bottle corks, wood, and even gutta-percha (a linoleum-like material). They existed for a very short period as the impression would degrade with use very quickly. Good clear copies of fancy cancels really quite rare, especially on cover where the date and town name can be discerned. These post marks are very well researched by the BNAPS Fancy Cancel Study Group (*ed. note: Dave Lacelle (fancycancel@hotmail.com) edits this and is always looking for contributions and new members!*). Here I show a number of examples of known cork style fancy cancels on the 3¢ stamp.



Above: Left to right, Figures 1 to 6, fancy cancels.

1. First seen 1871 at Notre Dame, Quebec, this solid thick union flag would also add to a collection of flag cancels.
2. This 10 segmented cork also from 1871 was reported from Durham, Ontario.
3. All the fraternal organization's symbols are known as fancy cancels, here a pair of 3 cent SQs are "killed" by a Masonic square and compass.
4. Bogey faces and skulls are also known in various forms, this one is from St. Catherines, Ontario in 1882.
5. The big "H" is actually from Weymouth Bridge, Nova Scotia and I believe to be the initial of the Postmaster in 1882.
6. In 1883 the town of Arkona, Ontario used this stylized "AK" to kill stamps.



Not all fancy cancels were made of cork, in one recorded case a Postmaster is believed to have used the rubber stamp from a child's play set that contained the coats of arms of various countries, shown below one from St. Genevieve Batiscan, Quebec that shows the coat of arms of Nicaragua killing a Small Queen.

Crowns also show up on Small Queens, these generally were made of metal and the quality of the strike did not degrade with use. Care must be shown when presenting the crowns as there have been a number of forgeries seen as these cancels tend to add value to a cover, especially one that has no other markings.



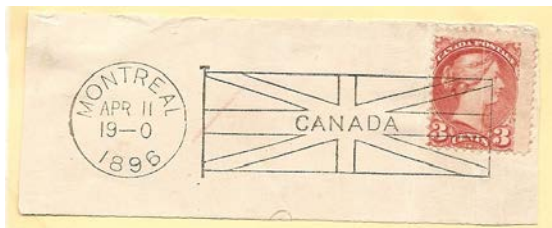
8. (left) The 1880 Victoria, (Esquimalt) crown with a very nice array around it.
9. (right) The heavier Ottawa crown cancel of 1880.

Postmarks on the 3¢ Small Queen Make Interesting Collecting contd.



Finding a good example of a dated cover really helps to establish the timeframe of use for a fancy cancel and I show two examples nearby, the first shows a nice readable PEMBROKE ONT., circular strike dated MR 16, 1891, with a nice clear copy of the "Pembroke 4" fancy cancel and one of the few colored strikes I have with a capital N within a circle stuck in blue at Newville, Nova Scotia on December 3, 1889.

Toward the end of the Small Queen era we started to see the use of flag cancels and one in particular (pictured below) is hard to find, referred to as the "Union Flag" cancel. This cancellation was only in use for eleven days during April of 1896 and is one of the gems of a flag cancel collection. This is an example of a machine cancel being used to create a fancy cancel.



Even though the SQ stamps officially ended in 1897, many were used for awhile after their replacements appeared. Here I show an Imperial flag cancel dated 1898, with indicia "E". There are many examples without indicia and one with a "K" indicia, this one is scarce!



In this article I have not even mentioned subjects such as two and four ring cancels, squared circles or duplexes. When you include all the examples that might be found on Small Queens you would need a two inch thick ring binder just to list the cancels and God only knows how many albums you could fill with just cancellations on the 3¢.

I recently created a small exhibit of the stamp and, with very few pages devoted to the fancy cancels, it ran for eight frames. I do believe I could do eight frames of just fancy cancels. I have a number of unidentified cancels, but do know the printing of the stamp and therefore can zero in on the period of use. Please send scans of envelopes that identify the location and show a fancy cancel, you will be helping your fellow collector.

Small Queen Constant Plate Varieties (CPV) - Part 2 – Scratch In E Of Cents

Guy Jeffery (guy.jeffery5@gmail.com)

For many years I have been a serious collector of small queen CPVs. I have examined many hundreds of thousands of them always seeking the ones that were “different” in some way. When I found one that was “different” the challenge was to find a second copy so I could call it a constant plate variety and add it to my official CPV collection.

Shortly after I began the collection I decided that I had to have a couple of rules to focus my interest or I got distracted from what I was trying to do. Rule One was that three copies of a CPV were much better than two copies, so I had to have a third copy of every “different” small queen. Rule Two was that I had to find the varieties myself. I was not allowed to purchase a stamp if it was identified as a CPV. Rule Three was to search used stamps only. Rule Four was never to look for CPVs on cover.

Over the years I have broken all my rules for collecting CPVs, which just goes to show that you shouldn't make dumb stamp collecting rules.



This is an early constant plate variety on the 3 cent small queen from the Montreal printing from 1873 to 1878. All the copies which I have are perf 11 ½ by 12. The paper is a medium to thick horizontal weave that is typical of that period. I do not have any dated copies but Bill Burden lists the dates as from the mid 1870's. He does have one copy on cover dated 1888.

On Bill's site (www.wgburden.com) this CPV is 3S17.1. Shoemaker lists it as a number 6. Reiche and Sendbuehler have it as 4.55. It is from position 6 on the plate as one can see on Bill's site. Of interest, three of my eight copies have a portion of the imprint on the top of the stamp. If any of you have the stamp with an imprint it might be worthwhile taking a look.

Like all cracked or scratched plate varieties, the size of the scratch diminishes with wear over time. I would describe one of my copies as almost a hairline it is that narrow. But, even as a narrow scratch, it is the CPV.

The key to finding this stamp is the diagonal line which runs diagonally from the top left of the letter E to the bottom right of the letter in CENTS. The line runs up into the background to the left of the queen's head. On my strongest copy the line runs for about 9 mm but it shortens down to 3 or 4 mm on the later copies. On late printings the line is only visible in the E.

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