

Confederation

The Newsletter of the BNAPS Canada Large And Small Queens Study Group

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Third Copy Of The Two-Cent Large Queen, Laid Paper (Unitrade/Scott # 32) Found!

Glenn Archer, Editor

I first heard rumours of this stamp's existence in early May of 2013. The Greene Foundation approached me, and several others, to provide input to their expertizing process; I had the privilege of seeing this stamp in person in late May of this year and offering my opinions / advice on it.



I have always felt, since becoming knowledgeable about the issue, that one or more were/are waiting to be discovered. Arguably this is the most exciting find in Canadian philately in perhaps seventy-five years, though others in recent memory come to mind. Seeing the stamp in person, I am not sure the scan captures the sharpness of the printing, nor the deepness of the shade. It is distinctly different from the early blue-greens on Bothwell and so-called "thin" Paper 1. I also have a backlit scan showing laid lines, but it does not reproduce well.

The late date is intriguing, perhaps later than one might expect to see, but definitely is in period for the shade, comparable to the deep greens on soft white paper in the late 1869 period.

The anonymous discoverer / new owner of the stamp contacted our newsletter directly after receiving his certificate; I have edited his article for brevity and to keep his identity as private as possible, but hopefully you get a sense of the excitement he must have felt when the surprise-of-a-lifetime presented itself.

The Third Reported Copy Of Canada's Rarest Stamp (*author's name withheld*)

"Early this year a stamp circuit arrived. The stamp offerings... were examined to see if re-entries or other varieties were present. A Proscope was being used to look for the re-entries and as the books were examined, a group of Large Queens was found. There were no re-entries... The Large Queens have a number of different papers... so they were also backlit to check for watermarks. A nicely canceled but damaged two cent Large Queen was present. Backlighting it revealed horizontal dark and light parallel lines in the paper. In disbelief of what was seen, the stamp was immediately turned back over to see if a faint bar cancellation was present... only a split-ring CDS from Hamilton, CW dated MR 16 70.

Laid lines still showed clearly... when a scan of the back was done. A hinge was soaked off... with no ill effects. A One Cent and Three Cent laid paper were also compared... the One Cent being a close match.

At this point advice was sought on what should be done to get a certificate on such a rare piece, this being a possible third reported copy. A good friend recommended... sending it by Fed-Ex for overnight delivery to the V.G. Greene Foundation. The stamp arrived safely but had to be held until the fee arrived about two weeks later through regular mail as it was missed when packaging the stamp for shipment.

The Foundation found the stamp genuine and issued a certificate June 24, 2013. Vincent Graves Greene Philatelic Research Foundation Cert. # G 20118 Comments: "Canada Scott No. 32, used, on horizontal laid paper, 0.0036 in. thick, genuine, two diagonal creases, internal tear on right side, dated Hamilton MR 16, 1870." A full report on the processes used to achieve this determination can be found at www.greenefoundation.ca/index".

Request For Information – Dead Letter Office Labels And Covers

The forthcoming 3rd edition of Brian C. Plain's "The Dead Letter Office in Canada 1830 - 2012" will contain, for the first time, a chapter on Canada's Dead Letter Office Officially Sealed labels. These 'stamps' are catalogued by Unitrade as #OX 1 to 4 and the Walsh British North America Specialized as #OS 1 to 3. The new chapter will be prepared by C. R. [Ron] McGuire, OTB, FRPSC. For this chapter Ron is conducting a census of existing used examples of these labels with full or partial postmarks, and of covers sealed with these labels. Ron is requesting readers to send him scans @ 300 DPI of examples they own, of which they are aware and/or may have seen in old auction catalogues. He would also like to make contact with anyone who has a specialized collection of the labels themselves.

Despite several decades of searching, Ron has not been able to locate any Canada Post Office Department regulations for the criteria to be followed by DLO employees for the use of these labels. If anyone knows of or has a copy of such a regulation, he would welcome information and/or a scan of it to include in this chapter.

For a future article he also requests the same input for used examples with postmarks and on cover, of Newfoundland's Dead Letter Office 'stamps': Unitrade - #OX - 1 and Walsh - #OS - 1.

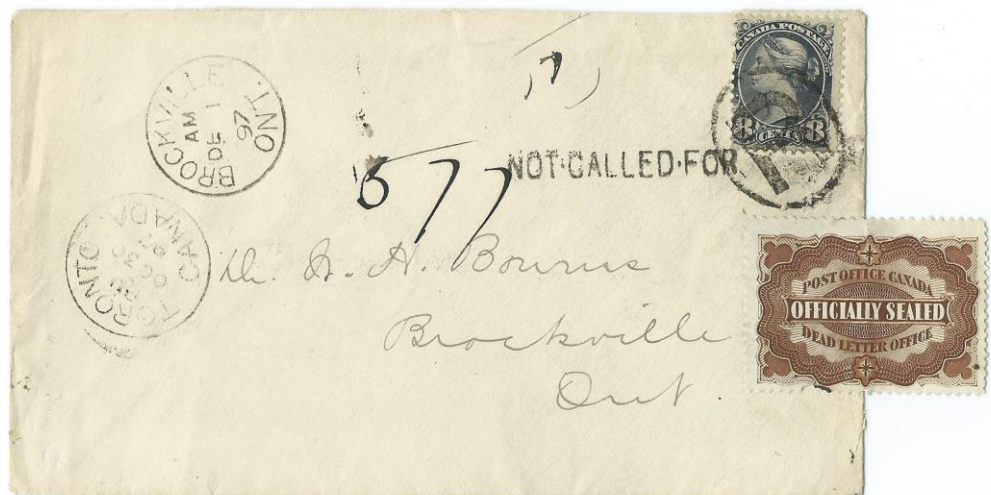
Ron's e-mail is crm_cpmh5@sympatico.ca. Colour photocopies are also welcome. They can be mailed to 485 Hillcrest Ave., Ottawa ON K2A 2M8. He will gladly reimburse photocopy and postage costs, if requested. All assistance will be acknowledged unless otherwise requested by a contributor.

The First Canada Post Office Department 'Officially Sealed Dead Letter Label'

C.R. McGuire (crm_cpmh5@sympatico.ca)

This envelope was posted with a 'TORONTO / PM / OC 30 / 97 / CANADA' CDS, with two more strikes added over the back flap. The 8 cent Small Queen paying the domestic first class registered rate was tied and cancelled with the 'R' in oval handstamp. It was received in Brockville the next morning, confirmed by the BROCKVILLE / AM / OC 31 / 97 / ONT. CDS receiver on the reverse.

When the addressee did not claim the cover, the 'NOT-CALLED-FOR' handstamp was added and it was sent to the Dead Letter Office [DLO] in Ottawa, on 'AM / DE 1', confirmed by the same Brockville CDS on the front. This was in compliance with point 4 of the 'Dead and Undelivered Letters, &c.' regulation in the 1897 *Canada Official Postal*



Guide which states: 'The reason for the non-delivery of every letter or other article of mailable [sic] matter must be stamped or written on the address side thereof before being sent to the Dead Letter Office.' It arrived at the DLO, confirmed by the very poorly stuck 'RECD AT DEAD LETTER OFFICE / 1 / DE 11 / 97 / CANADA.', where it was opened to determine the name of the sender.

The First Canada Post Office Department 'Officially Sealed Dead Letter Label' contd.

The DLO record number '92170' was added, along with a copy of Unitrade OX-1 / Walsh OS -1, unfortunately it was not tied, by the well stuck, but different to the previous DLO CDS with the same text but no number, on 'DE 15'. Note the distance between the 'e' of 'OFFICE' and the 'A.' of 'CANADA' is much closer. December 15 was probably the date the envelope was put into the so-called 'ambulance' envelope to be returned to the sender, who was required during the period 1 October 1875 to 31 December 1898 to pay a returned letter fee of three cents. The introduction of the reduced domestic rate on 1 January 1899 reduced the charge to two cents.

As a registered letter, it may have contained something of value, probably a cash payment for Dr. Bourne's medical services, and the reason the DLO label was used to seal the envelope. Like many covers with the DLO label, the label is creased. However, unlike the majority, it is not severed in half.



Fortunately, the addressee opened it along the top and, not down the side like the DLO employee did.

After decades of searching I have never found the CPOD criteria for the use of the four different types of labels by DLO employees to seal an envelope after they opened it. While I assume there must be such criteria, until I see it, I will continue to believe that something of value must have been found to justify their use. When nothing of value was in the envelope, it was simply returned unsealed to the sender in an 'ambulance' envelope."

A Couple Interesting Uses of the 1¢ Small Queen

John Burnett (jb45855@aol.com)

I have long said look carefully at what you considering, if you don't understand it and can afford it, buy it! I also say use your knowledgeable friends in the hobby to help you understand the piece.

In Figure 1, I show a simple cover mailed from Halifax, Nova Scotia using a strip of three First Ottawa printed 1¢ Small Queen Stamps. This was not an expensive cover but I knew enough about the date to see it had an added dimension.

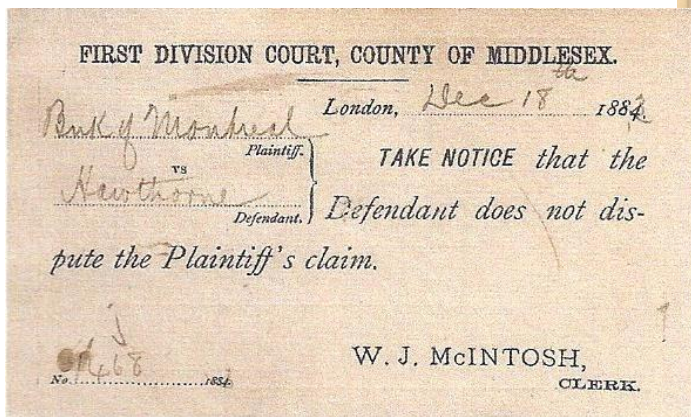


Note sending date is January 2, 1873. That date makes this cover a pre-Confederation rate as Prince Edward Island did not join until June 22, 1873. I now have this cover in my Small Queen collection under the title "Pre-Confederation Colonial Mail" so I get to show use of 1¢ stamps from the 1st Ottawa printing with added spice on the page.

My next item required me to get some help and once again BNAPS Chairman, Vic Willson came to my aid. Vic may be the most knowledgeable member in what he refers to as "Non Letter Mail", an exhibit he has put up that is well worth your time to see.

Here in Figure 2 is what appears to be a registered postcard, in fact it was presented on Ebay as just that.

I did not have a registered post card so I bought it at a small premium. After receiving it I noted it was sent from London, Ontario to "City" and that the reverse, shown below in Figure 3, was a preprinted, fill in the blanks, report from the courts in Middlesex County.



After showing a scan of the card to Vic he told me something I should have known (it's interesting that after collecting these stamps for forty years I still miss stuff), "John, you couldn't register a post card, it has been sent as a drop letter, which is first class mail and then it could be registered".

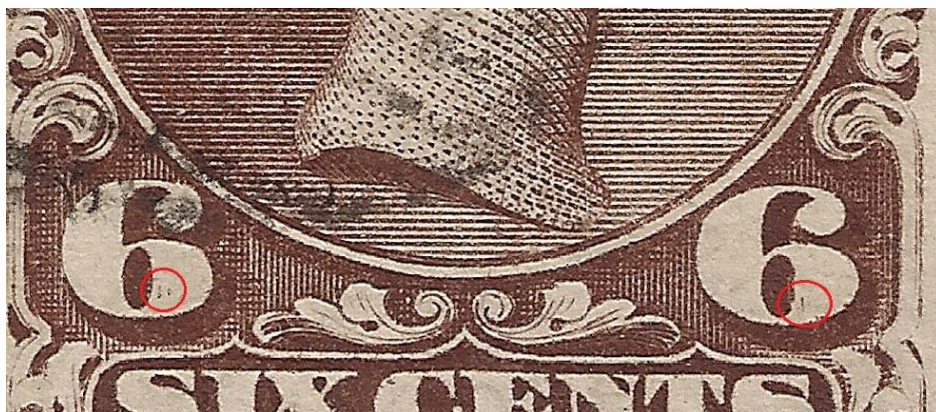
My message to you all, always check the facts, study the piece and use the members of this study group to help you identify that questionable item.

The Tiniest Re-entry in the 6c Large Queen

Jim Jung

Just after Ralph Trimble started his well-known website www.re-entries.com, I searched through every stamp looking at each line, dot, dash and scroll through a 16x lens. I then started scanning stamps and looking at them on a large computer screen which really makes all the difference in seeing tiny marks clearly. I found this damaged 6c stamp (Plate 1) with what appears to be the tiniest re-entry. There are two tiny dashes in the left 6 and one tiny dash in the right 6. These look like they are a partial duplication of each of the 6's. I sent this off to Ralph in an email and he said that I should look for a 2nd copy to verify that this was a constant plate variety. In my mind, I knew that this was an unlisted marking, and it is so small, it may just be some extra ink or a kiss print. I also realise that there have been so many collectors before me that have searched far and wide for Large Queen varieties. Is it possible that they could have missed this one?

Since these marks are so small, I think that they could have been missed. The small size would also be worn off the plate very quickly so only so many sheets would have been printed before those tiny dashes would have disappeared. I kept the stamp hoping that one day I would find that 2nd stamp. No one would buy a damaged 6c Large Queen for much anyways. So it has sat among my 6c Large Queens for about five years.



Recently, the day came, after years of collecting and searching, I came upon this 2nd copy which has the exact same marks, slightly weaker but in exactly the same position within the 6's as my first copy. It is just one of those small thrills that makes collecting interesting to find a stamp such as this and verify one of the tiniest constant plate varieties. Being the finder, I'm naming this the "Dash 66" variety.



Large Queen, Single Three-Cent Domestic Rate: Census of Known Covers

By: Glenn Archer (with data provided by Wayne Smith (waynesmithtor@yahoo.ca))

About a year ago we were soliciting articles for this newsletter and Wayne Smith kindly provided us with a mind-boggling thirty-page list of all the known Large Queen covers he had recorded seeing over the years. The database has so much information in it I hardly know where to start - it is certainly too long to publish in this newsletter – so on the rare occasions I have time to analyze it, I try to break it down into manageable pieces.

The following article deals only with the known LQ covers paying the single domestic rate (three cents) to Canada. While certainly incomplete, the list indicates relative use of adhesives throughout the Dominion in the 1868 to 1870 period and should give one a good idea of the relative scarcity of given usages.

Paid With *Other* than Three Cent LQ, #25:

Franking (B = #22, Y = #23)	Total No. Covers	Franking	Total No. Covers
½ c (2) + 2 c	14	1 cY + 2 c	90
½ c (6)	21	1 c (Laid) + 2 c	3
½ c (4) + 1 cY	1	3 c (Laid)	32
1 cB (2) + 1 cY	2	2 c (2) (one cent O/P)	8
1 cB (3)	49	Missing stamps, shortpaid etc.	12
1 cY (3)	49		
1 cB + 2 c	93	Total:	374

Paid With Single Three Cent LQ, #25:

Ontario:					496
Barrie	19	Hamilton	47	Port Hope	33
Belleville	15	Ingersoll	13	Prescott	12
Brantford	8	Lindsay	20	St. Catherines	8
Brockville	15	London	43	Sarnia	11
Cobourg	7	Kingston	19	Simcoe	8
Galt	7	Napanee	9	Toronto	157
Guelph	8	Ottawa	28	Waterloo	9
Quebec:					143
Montreal	104	Quebec	33	Trois Rivieres	7
New Brunswick:					180
Chatham	7	Fredericton	34	Saint John	128
				E. & N.A. R.	11
Nova Scotia:					128
Halifax	77	New Glasgow	8	Truro	18
		Windsor NS	10	Wolfville	15
Other (smaller or unidentified towns, any province)					651
Total Three-Cent Single franking covers:					1598

For a total of **1,972** covers recorded. I would note that this data includes covers with ONLY Large Queens; of course there are rare Decimal/LQ frankings in 1868 and more numerous LQ/SQ mixed frankings seen from 1870 when the one and three-cent SQs replaced their larger counterparts (the two-cent LQ remaining in use to 1872).

It is interesting to note the relative scarcity of mixed franking covers, which comprise less than 20% of the total. Also, Ontario covers seem to comprise over fifty percent of the total recorded and identified.

Chairman's Column

Bill Radcliffe (bsbvp88@hotmail.com)

We had another great meeting at ORAPEX. I would like to thank Guillaume again for his hospitality. We had at the meeting Ron Majors, Vic Willson, Jim McCormick, Richard Thompson, Wayne Smith, Jim Watt, our editor Glenn Archer, and myself. The meeting went late into the night and was and was enjoyed by all. Guillaume has graciously volunteered him home once more for a next year's meeting.



Most of our members know I'm a Canadian numeral cancel collector in the Large and Small Queen period so what I would like to show you this time are New Brunswick numeral grid cancels. The only two references I have found on these cancels are the Duckworths' book and Eastern Auctions October 28, 2005 catalog of the Hennok collection which in my opinion is the closest to getting the rarity factors right. I have been looking for these cancels for 20 years and have only found 27 off-cover and 6 on-cover examples. I am curious to see what if any examples other collectors in our group have. Below are three of my better covers which are a

grid 13 which is Fredericton on a one cent printed matter cover, a grid 10 from Whites Cove on a double weight cover to Saint John, and a cover proving that the grid 18 moved from Kingston to Upham (single weight cover to Mechanic Settlement), The stamps I'm showing are a grid 1 from St John on a 2c which is RF10 on Large Queens, a grid 3 from Woodstock on a 1/2 c, 1c, and 2c LQ (RF7), a grid 9 from Grand Falls on a 5c LQ (RF8), and a grid 17 from Hillsborough or Hopewell (the first report of grid 17 on a LQ).



Ted Nixon (tednixon2@gmail.com) also requested we contact the membership to solicit any data, recommendations, corrections etc. for revisions to the Hillson/Nixon Small Queen book.



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