

# Confederation

The Newsletter of the BNAPS Large and Small Queens Study Group

Volume 54

October 2013

## Two Cent "Prices Current" To England 1868 – 1878

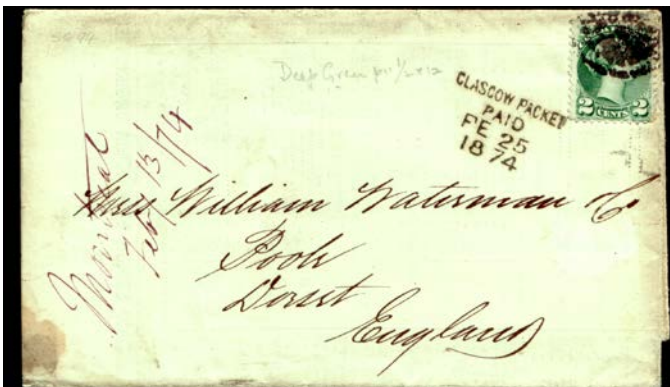
Vic Willson (lloydwill@aol.com)

Prices current had a specific meaning in 1851, intending to be a listing of goods being sold at a particular date. Companies selling agricultural products, raw materials, and the like quoted prices for a period of time, such as a month or week. These could be sent to England for 1d, which on July 1, 1859, became 2 cents. This remained the same until Canada joined the UPU in August, 1878, when they were lumped with all printed matter at 2 cent per 2 oz., reduced to 1 cent per 2oz. in March, 1879.



In the Decimal period there are perhaps 6 or 7 examples of the rate, indicating great rarity. This is also true for the Large Queen period, with perhaps 3 or 4 examples paid with the 2 cent LQ. I show one in the first figure, dated September, 1871. Menich showed one from July, 1871. Virtually all the Large and Small Queen prices current up to UPU are from the same correspondence to the Wm. Waterman and Co. in Poole. The second figure is perhaps the greatest rarity of the period, a pair of 1 cent Small Queens (no printed date) received November 23, 1871. It is the only example not paid with a 2 cent stamp I have ever seen. The third example shows the

commonest use with a 2 cent Small Queen, with a nice Glasgow Packet Paid Feb. 25, 1874. Arfken had a similar example sent in 1876. The 2 cent Small Queen usage shows up occasionally, but is scarcer than I think most collectors think. I don't think there are more than 20 examples.



### Editor's Note:

We rushed this edition a bit as Eastern Auctions asked us to carry an advertisement for their fine October auction. Please see Page 2 for this, in case you didn't already know. The sale contains exceptional Small Queens as well as Vic Willson's NonLetter Mail holdings. Vic has always been a good friend to this newsletter, and to Bill and I personally, so I was happy to move this edition forward a bit. I think you will all enjoy the read.

We are always looking for your articles, so please, please feel free to send us something interesting to read. G.A.

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# Auction Announcement October 24<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup>, 2013

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**Small Queen-Constant Plate Varieties (CPV) – Part 4  
BLOBS on the Three Cent**

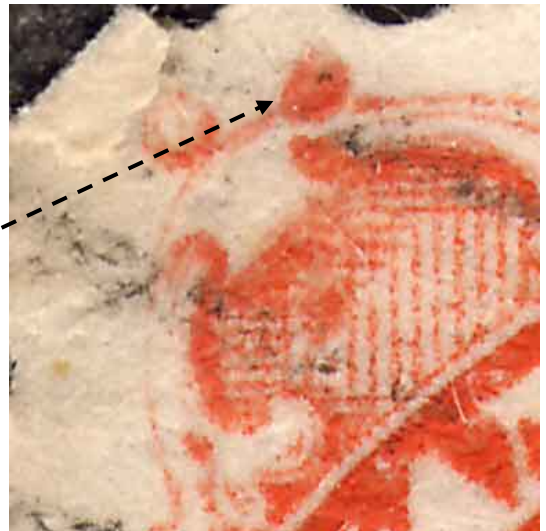
Guy Jeffery (guy.jeffery5@gmail.com)

I call this selection of constant plate varieties "The Blobs". To me there are at least three constant blobs but I am hoping that others out there can add a few more. I call these the bottom left blob (Burden 3F 1.3), the top left blob (Burden 3F 8.1) and the bottom right blob. (Burden 3F 2.2.)



The bottom left blob. The earliest blob is from the early to mid 1870s and it can be difficult to spot as the blob faded with printing. Dates are known from Feb 77 to Mar 79. The blob is the only constant damage on the stamp. The perfs vary on my stamps and most stamps are perf 12 x 12 but I do have a few 11 1/2 by 12s. I have one cancelled copy of a cut Hamilton 5 which puts the date from Oct 75 to May 77 according to Dave Lacelle's fancy cancel book.

The next blob is the top left blob. This one is beside the roundel on the top left of the stamp. There is another blob on this stamp which may not be obvious, just to the upper right of the left three in the bottom engraving. This stamp does not always have visible damage in the



3. I have this both on perf 11 1/2 by 12, and 12 by 12. I have seen one of these blobs on cover dated Nov 30 1880. Bill Burden has a strip of 3 dated Oct 30 80.



The third blob is the bottom right. This one is from the end of the #37 printings and I have two copies dated 1886. It is fairly easy to spot and I have it in a pair and a strip of three. Boggs said that this stamp was from position 3 of the H plate of 1886.



Some Recent and Some Old Purchases of Non Letter Mail

John Burnett ([jb45855@aol.com](mailto:jb45855@aol.com))

At the recent BNAPEX in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island I was able to purchase some very interesting postal history pieces for my small queen collection. These items are what our fellow member Vic Willson calls "Non Letter Mail", that is, items that used the services of the post office but were not letters. I thought I would write up a couple of these just to show what can be added to a postal history collection.

The first item I want to show is seen in Figure 1, below left, not a particularly great looking piece, a UPU printed matter rate with a 1¢ Small Queen used to raise the rate to 2¢ for an postal stationery envelope (U-5) going to Cyprus and that is what attracted me to the piece. I had never seen another Small Queen item going to Cyprus, have you? The rate for this mail was 1¢ per 2 oz. and here I was looking at a 2¢ franked cover. I think the back shows the reason, shown in Figure 2 (below right) is the back of this envelope, it is unsealed as required for printed matter but there is evidence of a wax seal (that wasn't used to seal the envelope) and I think this took the weight up to something greater than 2 but less than 4 oz.



Another example of a printed matter rate that caught my attention is shown in Figure 3. Here is a pretty ratty piece that I would normally have passed on except for the knowledge that it is one of only two known examples of a registered printed matter item, this one is double weight (under 8 oz.) with a registered letter stamp applied. On the back in a manuscript note is the date July 1, 1882. I believe the only registration of printed matter was for "voter's lists".



You know dog gone well the judges will throw up all over this as such a ratty piece but it being one of only two known you have to take what you get and it is up to me to ensure the judges know of its rarity. I can do that with a well described item in my synopsis.



Some Recent and Some Old Purchases of Non Letter Mail contd.

Yet another item that caught my attention was the one shown in Figure 4. This is a letter sent to Pennsylvania in the USA and marked 5th class. Try as I might the only definition of 5th class I have been able to find is as an answer to the question "What the heck is 5th class" and the response was along the lines of "it's Parcel Post, and the catch all phrase for something that doesn't strictly meet the various parcel post requirements". I am wide open to any member jumping in here and improving my definition!



The envelope is presently sealed but I do believe this has occurred after the fact as half the receiving strike is under the sealed down flap. As a parcel post item this envelope was not entitled to forwarding, it has been forwarded and a USA 1¢ Scott 219 has been added to accomplish this.

Another purchase with more questions than answers is shown in Figure 5. Here is a 1¢ wrapper with a 2¢ Small Queen added to make rate, but what the heck is the rate. A newspaper (assuming it wrapped a newspaper) and assuming a date of pre 1878 was 2¢ per each 2 oz., but this turkey has 3¢ so I'm now going to assume the rate to be 3¢ because of the instruction that it be sent via New York and the SS Majestic and not via the Canadian Packet.



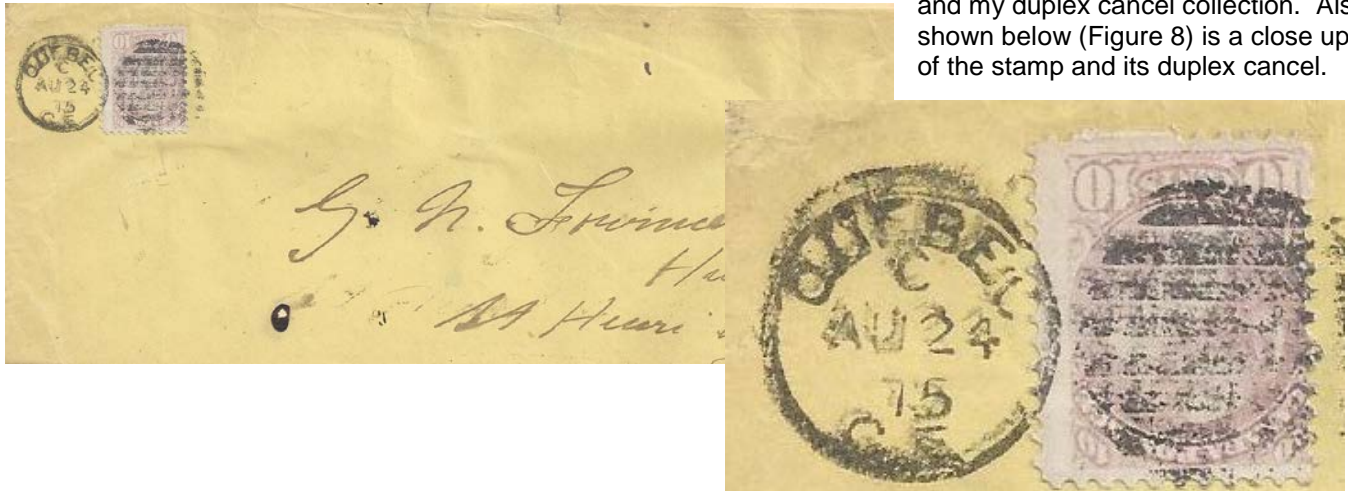
I don't know this to be true but there was a premium for first class letters sent via New York at this time so until proven wrong that will be my assumption. If the item was sent after August of 1878 and before April of 1879, then it is addressed to what Canada referred to as an "A" country and the rate was also 2¢ per each 2 oz. This rate dropped 1¢ on April 1, 1879 making my discovery of the correct rate even more difficult. Once again I must assume that the directional manuscript marking requires the additional 1¢ in postage. Does anyone else have any better ideas on the rate for this piece?

Figure 6, shown to right, is a gem! I bought it because it's scarce if not rare and because it is ex Harrison. Horace Harrison was one of the most knowledgeable BNAPS members on the subject of registered mail, an author on the subject and former President of BNAPS, he was also my friend and having a piece from his gold medal exhibit is meaningful for me on many levels. This is a wrapper that has been marked "Book Post" and has been registered. The rate was 2¢ per 2 oz. and the registration fee was 5¢ making it a double rate registered book post item and extremely scarce. The 5¢ registry rate was applicable from May 8, 1889 through the remainder of the SQ era, in fact it held there until July 14, 1920. The item was mailed from Granby, Quebec and is addressed to Montreal, leaving Granby on September 3, 1896 and per the back-stamp arriving in Montreal on September 4.

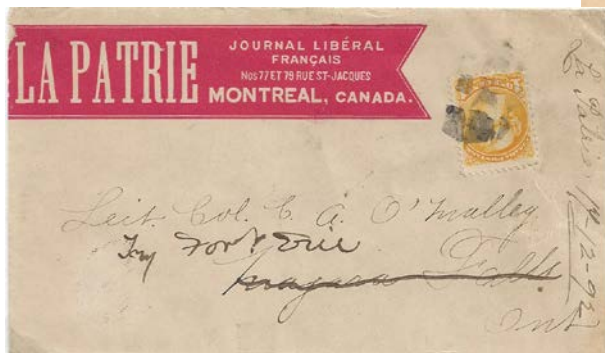


Some Recent and Some Old Purchases of Non Letter Mail contd.

The next item I have had for quite some time and is shown in Figure 7, it is a parcel post wrapper addressed into Quebec from Quebec City. What attracted me to this item years ago was it is franked with a Pale Milky Rose 10¢. The stamp is also killed with a duplex cancel and that makes this piece fit in two of my collections, the small queens and my duplex cancel collection. Also shown below (Figure 8) is a close up of the stamp and its duplex cancel.



An item I have long prided myself in owning and what was believed to be unique for many years is shown in Figure 9. A second International Parcel post has been found and so this is now one of two known. It is a wrapper from a parcel addressed to France and carries 28¢ in postage. Many of us still are trying to establish the rate.



The final Item in this article is shown in Figure 10. It is just a third class mail item but it shows one thing that makes it rare. You see, third class mail could not be forwarded free *except if addressed to a military officer* and this LA PATRIE Journal was addressed just so, how many of these have you seen? Sometimes you have to pay attention to the addressee and the little nuances of the rules.

I hope this little article has stirred up some juices in you, there is a bunch of very good and sometimes rare material coming up for auction Oct. 24<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> at Eastern Auctions. Maybe there is that one piece that will help make your collection just a little bit better.



Chairman's Notes

I would like to start this newsletter asking for articles so if anyone has something for us please sent it so we can get the winter newsletter out on time. So far this year your chairman has found a few nice things this is one of them. A 5 cent pre U.P.U. to Belgium or is it a first day of U.P.U. You decide the cover was mailed from Brussels Ontario on July 29 1878 to Belgium which the pre U.P.U rate should have been 10 cents, two days before the U.P.U. rate went into affect. The cover arrived at Montreal on AU 1, 1878 which is the first day of the U.P.U. rate. In my opinion because it did not arrive until the first of August in Montreal the 5 cent U.P.U. was accepted and it was not considered short paid. There for it the first day of used for the U.P.U. rate to Europe. The only one I know of unless someone else has one I would love to know about it. 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 [bsbvp88@hotmail.com](mailto:bsbvp88@hotmail.com).



Newsletter contact information:

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

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