

Confederation

The Newsletter of the BNAPS Large and Small Queens Study Group

Volume 55

February 2014

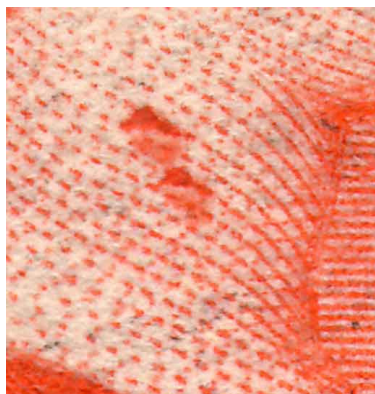
Small Queen-Constant Plate Varieties (CPV) – Part 5 Marks on the Queen's Head

Guy Jeffery (guyjeffery5@gmail.com)

There are many constant plate varieties which are marks on the queen's face. There are at least four more common and recognizable varieties which I will describe in this article. There are many more, but this is my "more likely to find" list.

The Vampire Bite, Burden 3F 18.1
The Little Vampire Bite, Burden 3 F 16.2
The Hickey on the Back of the Neck
The Hickey on the Front of the Neck, 3 F 16.10

The Vampire Bite is quite distinctive but it varies drastically over the period that it was printed. The early copies appear in 1892 and it is possible to find them late in 1895. I once looked through a friend's calendar collection and found four copies. They are out there, but they are not always "glaringly" obvious.



There are two triangular marks on the queen's neck. The very early copies look almost like diamonds composed like a mirror image of each triangle at the bottom of the triangle. Over time the triangular bites reduce until they are dots.

There is secondary damage on the vampire bite stamps. You will find it slightly above and to the left of the right numeral 3. It is actually three "blobs" buried and camouflaged in the engraving. You can see it in the full stamp above.



The Little Vampire Bites are two small bites on the queen's neck. This one is fairly short running in the early 1890s and I have dated copies in 92 and 93 but it is hard to spot. There is no other damage on the stamp.

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Small Queen-Constant Plate Varieties (CPV) – Part 5
Marks on the Queen's Head contd.



The Hickey on the Back of the Neck is very distinctive but far less common than the vampire bites. It is a late 41 printing but I do not have any dated copies. I believe it was a short-lived variety because I have found only three copies whereas I have found more than two dozen vampire bites.



The Hickey on the Front of the Neck is also a short-lived variety. It looks like a hole in the neck from something that fell on the plate. It changes to look more like a mark on the neck. I have a dated copy from 1894.

The 45 Cent Cover To France 1870

Vic Willson (lloydwill@aol.com)

In Lot 574 of the upcoming Brigham sale, the unique triple strip of three 15-cent Large Queens to France from Montreal March 21, 1870 is shown. This was owned by Ed Richardson and well known to me. We discussed it prior to his death. The rate description of this cover has not been vetted by folks that study the period, and the explanations given by Brigham Auctions are strained at best, the least likely to be correct in my opinion. I think the original British-French rate component per ¼ oz. rate structure was still in effect, since as of January 1st, 1870, the Canada-England rate dropped, but not that of England to France, so the approximate amount credited for the cross-Channel portion was 4 ½ cents, and the reduction of the Allan Line 12 ½ cent to 6 cents per half ounce created the following table, France not caring about what England charged Canada:

Weight	Canada to England	England to France	NY Additional	Total
Up to ¼ oz	6c	4 ½c	2c	12 1/2c
½ oz	6c	9c	2c	17c
¾ oz	12c	13 1/2c	2c	27 1/2c
1 oz	12c	18c	2c	32c
1 ¼ oz	18c	22 1/2c	2c	42 1/2c
1 ½ oz	18c	27c	2c	47c

Per Occam's Razor, a 1 to 1 ¼ ounce rate with overpayment is a much simpler explanation of the rate for this cover. I think the rearrangement of the rates in July 1870 fixed things exactly this way, always rating up to account for the currency differences and approximations here. Also, you will note, the rate changes mirror what was actually done sometime in July with the 10c / 6c alternating increments for the ¼ oz increases. Such rates were always uprated to cover currency differences so that the British Post Office was not shortchanged. Since the French were quite adamant and unyielding about anything shortpaid, it is unlikely that this cover went to 1 ½ ounces.

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Second Type, 2 Ring 6 London CW, Cancel Identified

Mike Halhed (mike2002@rogers.com)

In 1869, four ring cancels were replaced with sixty different town cancels based on the size of the city or town, in order from largest to smallest, according to Canadian Philately – An Outline published by BNAPS. For the cancel and numeral collector, two ring numerals are one area of specialization, be it in the large or small queen era.

According to Scott Specialized Catalogue of Canadian Stamps, it is possible that two different hammers were used in Fredericton for the 2 Ring 11. In Whitby, the 2R39 has been seen with both slim and wide numbers. There are also examples from the earlier generation of four ring numeral cancellations including the four-ring 13, 21, 27, 34 and 37. It is likely that more than one hammer was issued either as a result of a high volume of mail or to replace a broken hammer.

Having recently returned to collecting 2 and 4 ring numerals, I was moving my growing two ring collection into a new Lighthouse binder based on order of quality of each strike. The best 2R6 strike in my collection is an XF example on a 3¢ Large Queen. When organized beside the next 2R6, a VF example, it became quite obvious the strikes were made by different hammers. The XF strike was taller in appearance with a more elongated “0” in the centre of the 6, with a straighter or flatter back.

The rare “tall flat back” is 15mm tall, 9mm wide with an oval in the numeral 6 which is 7mm tall. The more common “short curved back” strike is 13mm tall, 9mm wide with an oval in the 6 which is 5mm tall and more rounded. The differences are quite obvious in this scan:



Are the differences a result of possible envelope irregularities or angle of strike? This does not seem possible because the outer rings are both perfectly proportioned with even application of ink and the bottom cut-out circle within the rings, which was added to differentiate between the London “6” and Kingston “9”, are both symmetrical. The two short curve back samples above show typical thickening of an aging, well used hammer strike, but would not account for a taller strike.

It appears that both hammers were used concurrently with the “short curved back” being the much more common hammer (7 short to 1 tall, in my collection). The short back is clearly identified into the small queen era in the above scan on the 1¢ SQ. No tall flat back versions have been seen on a small queen.

Bill Radcliffe and Brian Hargreaves have subsequently identified at least one “tall flat back” strike their own collections. There are “tall flat back” versions seen on cover: Jan. 1870 (Radcliffe) and April 23rd 1869 (Seigel Auction) while my own July 4th, 1869 cover is a “short curved back”.

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Second Type, 2 Ring 6 London CW, Cancel Identified contd.



The 2R6 is a common strike, RF 1 on Large Queens and RF 4 on Small Queens. The 2R6, which is known as early as March 31st, 1869, was replaced in 1870 by another "6", L85 which has strong resemblance to the actual "6" in the tall flat back 2R6:

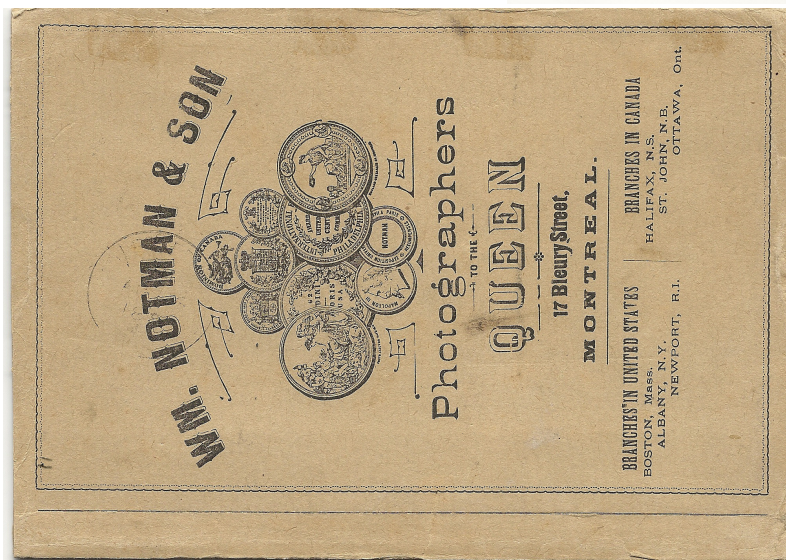
(Reference: Fancy Cancels, D. Lacelle)

If you have samples of the tall flat back 2R6 version, please feel free to send me a scan at mike2002@rogers.com.

Readers Write:

1. **Book Post Rerated to First Class Matter** – Terry Averbeck

Gentlemen: Attached are scans of a cover I recently purchased which I find quite interesting and unusual. It was sent from the firm of Wm. Notman & Sons, Photographers to the Queen, from Montreal. It appears to be sent at the 1 cent / 4 oz. book post, printed matter rate. However, a notation in pencil and partially hidden by the two one-cent and two three-cent Small Queens appears to be "Contains correspondence."



Therefore it should have been sent as First Class matter. There is a handstamp under the same stamps which reads "RETURNED FOR DEFICIENT POSTAGE" and a large "8" indicating 8 cents due. An additional handstamp at lower left "RETURNED FOR POSTAGE" sent the cover to the Ottawa Dead Letter Office. Sender was notified and additional postage consisting of the two one-cent and three-cent Small Queen pairs were added and cancelled with "DEAD LETTER OFFICE CANADA AU. 13, 1885".

*Readers Write contd.***2. Fresh Light On The Three Cent Large Queen Left Margin Plate Crack**

Brian Hargreaves (bhargrea@email.com)



As a recent enthusiast for the varieties of the Large Queen, I was aware of the so-called 'Severe plate crack in the left margin' mentioned by both Harrison and Duckworth. In 2009 further information came, courtesy of our Editor, of the existence of two examples which demonstrated that the variety occurred in two positions.

I recently acquired an example of this variety on eBay. This allowed me to go

back over my holding of three cents, this time knowing exactly what I should be looking for! I did indeed find two more examples, albeit rather faint.

However my eyes popped when I looked at my plate proof strip of three illustrated herewith. Not only is the plate crack amazingly sharp, it is clearly visible on all three of the stamps!!

I am not a great technical expert on the printing process, but I was more than surprised to find the same variety on all three stamps. It gives a new meaning to the description 'constant variety'! I would be very interested to hear members' reactions to this new discovery.

3. Additional Information re: Two-Cent Large Queen on Laid Paper – George Holschauer

Foreword by Glenn Archer, Editor: As you may know, BNA Topics asked me to write an article on the three known two-cent Large Queens on laid paper (#32). Mr. Holschauer kindly provided me the following after the article went to press, so I provide here with minor edits. This is the well-known example having a 2R5 numeral cancel. *Ed.*

“CANADA’S GREATEST RARITY
2C LARGE QUEEN ON LAID PAPER – SCOTT 32 (1 OF 3 KNOWN)

1. apparently discovered in a Persian stamp dealer's stock circa 1900
2. sold in the 1920s in a London auction
3. purchased by Robson Lowe in the above auction, reportedly part of a £5 collection balance lot (the find of a lifetime!)
4. sold (circa 1925) by Robson Lowe at Private Treaty to Gerald Firth
5. The Gerald Firth collection was auctioned by Sissons in Toronto in 1971... purchased by the famous stamp dealer and agent Robert Lyman for \$25000 on behalf of the world renowned collector Norman Hubbard
6. Later Mr. Hubbard sold the stamp privately to Mr. Dwayne Hillmer of Omaha, Nebraska
7. in 1984 the Hillmer collection was sold privately by Mr. Robert A. Siegel where the 2c was acquired by the noted British dealer Mr. Billy Lea who sold it to his great Canadian client “FOXBRIDGE” (Dupont)
8. in 1986 the Foxbridge collection was apparently privately acquired by Stanley Gibbons London
9. in 1986 Stanley Gibbons sold the 2c green laid paper privately to the Canadian dealer Mr. Danny Eaton of Vancouver, British Columbia
10. I acquired it privately from Mr. Eaton in 1986

I wish to acknowledge the invaluable assistance of the following important philatelists in my reconstruction of the history of this great rarity: Mr. Ariel Hasid, Mr. Norman Hubbard, Mr. Robert Lyman, Mr. Irwin Weinburg”.

A New Discovery in Old Canada

Geoffrey Browning and Daniel Cantor

A dramatic new variety in the Small Queen issue has recently come to light. As reproduced at right, it consists of a completely doubled impression on a used copy of an earlier printing (orange yellow shade) of the one cent denomination. Very little is known of the provenance of this item except that at one time it was apparently in the possession of a "Dr. Ferin", as evidenced by a notation in pencil on the reverse of the stamp. The item was purchased from a well-known Canadian stamp dealer but no additional information was forthcoming from the dealer. The stamp has been granted a certificate of genuineness by the Greene Foundation.



Unlike the other examples of doubled impressions associated with the Small Queen issue, this example exhibits an even doubling of the entire design. It is uncertain to the authors how this doubling could have occurred. From the sharpness of the doubled lines on the stamp, it has the look of a complete re-entry. However, given the nature of re-entering, this explanation would seem unlikely. Anyone with any thoughts on this matter that they would like to share are invited to contact the authors care of the editor of this newsletter.

Chairman's Corner

Bill Radcliffe (bsbvp88@hotmail.com)

I would like to thank some of the new contributors to this winter newsletter, as well as ask for new articles for the next one. If anyone has something for us please send it so we can get the spring newsletter out on time.

The newest interesting thing I found on ebay this year is what I believe is an early 10 cent sample rate to the US, based on the shade of the ten-cent as well as who the cover was addressed to, Messrs. C.G. & J.S. Voltz, well-known maltsters in Buffalo during this period of time. This rate went into effect March 1, 1888. I find it interesting to see how important the Post Office was to business at the turn of the century. I would love to know of any other sample rates to the US or other countries in the Small Queen period. If any of our members has one, please feel free to send a scan or, even better, write it up. Our contact information is included at the end of this newsletter.



New Brunswick Numeral Grid Cancels: Who's Counting?

Brian Hargreaves (bhargrea@email.com)

I was interested to read Bill Radcliffe's article on these. I too have an interest in numeral cancels of all descriptions. I agree that New Brunswick numerals (outside perhaps of the 1, 3 and 13) are rarely found on Large Queens. Hennok reckoned that just over half of the 39 listed NB numerals are to be found on this issue, and pretty well all of them have high rarity Factor (RF) numbers.

(Whilst my tally of 15 off-cover examples does not compete with Bill's, I do have some numerals that were not featured in the article. These are shown alongside.)

The most interesting question is perhaps why most LQ collectors' attentions are focused on the two-rings, leaving the NB numerals somewhat in the dark.

There have of course been references in books by Argenti and Robson Lowe. More recently Duckworth has provided considerable detail on Large Queen usage, based on a variety of sources. And of course in the Eastern auctions sale of 2005 we were able to see a RF table produced by Jim Hennok, copyrighted in February 1989.



Figure 1. NB Grid 18.



Figure 2. NB Grid 16.

I would have thought the rarity of the NB numerals (compared to the relative ubiquity of 2-ring numerals) would make these an attractive specialist collecting field. Or am I alone? One of the #16's shown here was acquired with an accompanying note – "Very rare "16" cancel. Only four such strikes recorded." Is anyone keeping a census these days? I would love to hear from you.



Figure 3. NB Grid 22 in blue.

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