

Confederation

The Newsletter of the BNAPS Large and Small Queens Study Group

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Editor's note: Details re: the May 3rd, 2014 study group meeting at ORAPEX can be found on Page 8.



Canada to India Pre-UPU Covers

John Talman (jtalman@interlog.com)

Amazingly, ten newly-discovered Small Queen covers bearing the rare 22¢ rate were offered in John H. Talman Auctions on March 30, 2014. In 1869 the Suez Canal opened and from February 1870 until October 1876 the rate for letters to India via the U.K. and Egypt was reduced from 30¢ to 22¢. Until our find, only two such 22¢ rate covers were reported and one of these sold in February, 2014 in Halifax for a reported \$6035 including the 15% buyer's commission.



When you have a store and office in downtown Toronto you never know what unusual or rare item might turn up. Such was the case when a person showed up with a collection of Canada and a box of odds and ends including a great deal of Canada face value. Flipping through the collection I spotted two of these rare Small Queen covers and informed the owner that these were rather good and I would illustrate them and feature them in my next public auction. The material was consigned for auction and I immediately posted the two covers on our website starting in February, mentioning that they would be sold in March. Little did I know, and the owner didn't mention it, but

lurking in a nondescript envelope in a box were eight more similar rate covers. The covers appear to have been addressed by Dr. J. R. Dickson, father of the addressee, and contain letters from him or members of the family.

Five of the covers in our sale had the 7 x 3¢ plus 1¢ stamp to make up the rate. This was the same on the cover sold in Halifax. Four of the covers sold on March 30th were paid with 3 x 6¢ and two 2¢. The last was paid with 3 x 6¢, a 3¢ and a 1¢. Eight of the covers were returned to Canada in March, 1873 and two returned on May 10, 1873. Various Dead Letter hand stamps on back of each cover as no return address on outside of cover.

The earliest cover, with letter from the father, was mailed "JY 5/72" and stamps were cancelled with fancy leaf cancels. This cover had "Deceased" written on the face of cover versus "Dead" on the others. The father writes "We were all delighted to hear that you continue in good health." but by the time the letter had arrived his son was dead. A message on the flap states "Died at Allahabad India, on the 13th August 1872". After less than a year in India, Staff Asst. Surgeon Dickson had died of cholera. This attractive and rare cover sold for \$5367.50 including the 15% buyer's commission. Several bidders loved the sad story associated with this rarity.

Obviously lovers of Dead Letter hand stamps will also learn much from this find.



Belleville Two-Ring 13 Numeral Cancel In Blue

Wayne Smith (waynesmithtor@yahoo.ca)

I picked up the above AP 19, 1869 registered domestic cover with its blue 2-ring 13 cancel of Belleville at a show in Toronto around the turn of the century. I had been collecting 2-rings on Large Queens off cover for about 20 years but on cover for only about 5 years at the time. It was the first time I had seen a coloured 2-ring on Large Queen cover except the 32 of Barrie of which several exist.

I saw Jim Hennok at the show and showed him the cover (I knew he also collected 2-ring Large Queens). He said he had seen it but turned it down, saying he did not think it was very special. I am not sure why – the cover is a bit reduced and the cancel light but I have recorded over 1,100 2 ring covers and this is remains the only known blue 2-ring 13.



Belleville had been using blue ink for many years prior to the Large Queens being issue. All Large Queen covers from Belleville I have recorded from September 1868 to April 1869 are cancelled with blue ink. A mix of duplex, solo CDS tying stamp, a single 4 ring 2 cover and then this 2 ring hammer cover. From May 22 1869 to April 12 1870, all are black two-ring with a black CDS.

I have recorded 5 Large Queens off cover with a blue 2 ring 13. The 2 ring 10 of Sydney is known on 1874 Small Queen covers. The 2-ring 3 of Quebec and 2-ring 5 of Hamilton are known off cover on Large Queens with red cancels but are also very rare.

I would appreciate scans from anyone with Belleville LQ covers.

One Cent Small Queen – Re-entry or Double Print? Readers Write...

Compiled by: Glenn Archer, Editor



The striking, possibly unique, One Cent featured in the last issue (v.55) prompted some interest and opinion.

Mike Halhed writes: Can you tell if the Queen's head has been reimagined or doubled like the "CANADA POSTAGE" and "ONE CENT" borders? I looks like the the centre was applied once and the balance doubled up - almost like the plate was in two pieces.

Regards, Mike.

Geoff Browning replied to this: "Mike, sorry for the delay in responding but the stamp has been out of my possession for awhile and I wanted to have it back before responding. You pose very interesting questions in that you would seem to be correct in that the Queen's head is not nearly as doubled as the balance of the design. In my mind, this makes this stamp even more intriguing in that I am unable to offer any explanation as to how this could have happened. I am attached a very high resolution scan for your inspection in the hope that this may help to solve the mystery. Geoff Browning".

Ron Leith offered his comments on the item.

"Hi Glen: Some interesting observations about this spectacular stamp includes the fact that if this is a major re-entry, there would have been at least 3000 of them printed before the weaker re-entry disappeared. The result would be 75-100 surviving examples floating around in Small Queen collections. With the diligence of BNAPS philatelists there should have been many more of these spectacular examples reported by now. This has not been the case.

In addition, there is only a tiny difference between the vertical and horizontal dimensions of the cameo indicating an unusually small 0.2% vertical paper shrinkage compared with the normal Small Queen paper shrinkage of 1%-3%. Although, the slight vertical shift of the double impression does make this analysis difficult, repeated measurements tends to confirm the observation. The slight shrinkage implies a very dry printing supporting a possibility that the first impression was weak enough to prompt the printer to re-ink the plate and apply a second impression. Of course it could also have been a completely accidental double printing by a forgetful or weary printer. There is evidence that the early single plates were used periodically well into the 1880's, thus we have no way of telling if the item came from a sheet of 100 or 200 stamps. For a 100 stamp sheet, we would expect 2-3 examples to have survived and 4-6 examples for a 200 stamp sheet. Consequently, for either plate size, a rare double printing seems to be the more likely scenario rather than a more common re-entry.

Other observations . . . The lower left double position dots show a slightly weaker left dot, and curiously, there are also double dots at the upper right corner of the stamp with the same weaker left dot. The lower left position dot gives the latest printing date as 1886. The paper has slightly "hairy" perf tips ruling out type A, B, and C papers used exclusively in 1870-1871. The perforations are 11.95 x 12.05 (perf 12) found on all 1870-1897 Small Queen issues; no help in establishing the printing date. The yellow-orange ink shade indicates a probable pre-1877 printing. The slightly shorter vertical cameo size means the paper has a horizontal mesh that must be either type D, E, or an early type F paper. This gives a likely printing date between 1872 and 1877. If the paper type is provided and the mesh direction confirmed, the printing date can be further narrowed. Regards, Ron Leith".

A New Constant Scratch Variety On The #23 Large Queen

Brian Hargreaves (bhargrea@email.com)



I recently acquired a nice deep yellow #23 on eBay - specifically for its date stamp. It was only when I examined it more closely under a glass that I spotted a hidden bonus. As can be seen from the close-up image there is an almost vertical line through the protruding lock of hair near the Queen's ear.

I had never seen this scratch variety before, and immediately wondered whether it was constant or not. Examining my holding, I was beginning to despair - until I came across a pair with the left hand stamp showing the same scratch (illustrated alongside).



15 Cent Covers to Austria

Vic Willson (lloydwill@aol.com)

I just acquired the cover shown below from an auction in the Czech Republic. The 15 cents pays the double rate UPU 1-2 oz. weight plus registration sent from Halifax Dec. 16, 1890, to Brunn. It is tied with both the grid cancel of Halifax and the Liverpool oval registration stamp. In my current census of 15 cent covers, totaling 364 at this point, only 3 have been recorded to Austria, and an additional one to Hungary if one wants to list this as the Austro-Hungarian Empire. The other two covers include a 39 cent incorrectly paid cover in 1898, 15¢ + 20¢ Widow Weed + 2 x 2¢ Leaf, and another single 15¢ paying the double

registered rate May 18, 1899, from Berlin Ont. to Vienna, exhibited in the Bunce collection. A .pdf of Art Bunce's piece is available from the San Diego Philatelic Library: www.sandiegophilatelibrary.org/pdf/ablqc.pdf.



Reply re: SQ Samples Post

Terry Averbeck

Bill: I was intrigued by your 10c. "sample" cover and comment on the importance of the Post Office to business at the end of the century. So I did look through my collection to see if I had such a rate. I have attached a scan from

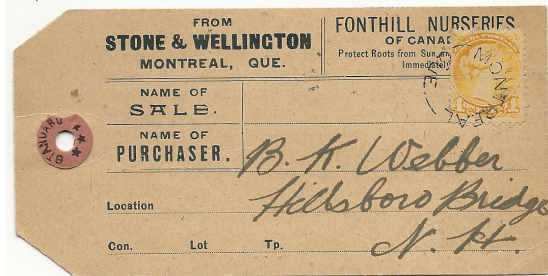


my collection of a piece of a wrapper paying a fifth class (samples) rate of 18c. for up to an 18oz. item to the US. The piece is clearly marked "Samples" and "No Value." It is from William Logan in St. John, New Brunswick, addressed to Max Cherwincky, Cambridgeport, Massachusetts who is listed in *The Western Druggist* magazine, Dec. 1893, as a druggist located on Leverett St. in Boston, with 252 Pearl St. being his home address. I didn't find any pertinent information for Logan.

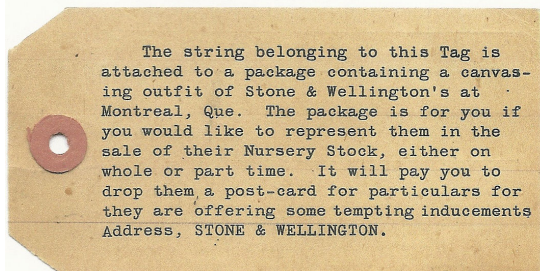
The date of the mailing cannot be determined but has to have been subsequent to August, 1893 as that is the date the 8c. Small Queen was issued. The 10c. value is rose pink and the 8c. blue gray, both from the second Ottawa printings.

Another example of the importance of the mails to business is the bag tag shown front + back in the second scan below. It is from the Montreal office of Stone & Wellington, soliciting agents for the Fonthill Nurseries who represented them in the sale of their nursery stock. An ad, reproduced in

Frederick Terrill's book, *A Chronology of Montreal & Canada, from A.D. 1752 to A.D. 1893*, reads as follows: "Established in 1842 - FONTHILL NURSERIES - 750 ACRES is the largest in Canada. Head Office, Toronto, ONT. - HARDY CANADIAN -NURSERY STOCK. WE WANT AGENTS TO SELL OUR STOCK. Steady employment at fixed salaries or commissions. Agents are earning from \$40 to \$75 per month, and expenses. Send photo with application, to Stone & Wellington, Montreal, Can. - JW Beall, Manager Branch Office. - Applications from P.Q., Vt, N. H. and Me. particularly solicited."



The tag is addressed to B.K. Webber, Hillsboro Bridge, N.H., identified in George Brown's 1921 *History of Hillsborough, N.H., 1735-1921* as an attorney, who also served as a town trustee, water commissioner and member of the Board of Education. He was active in civic affairs from 1879 to 1903. There is no indication if he was interested in representing Fonthill.



What is unclear is the class of mail and thus the rate at which this item was sent. If something such as a packet of some sort were attached, as the message implies, the one cent postage per oz. (5th class or "sample") rate would not be sufficient. Or the tag is just requesting interested parties to contact Stone & Wellington for particulars. In either case it is likely that it went at the one cent per 4 oz. printed matter (third class) rate. Any light you can shed on the matter will be appreciated. The split ring Montreal postmark has no date and the common yellow color of the SQ doesn't help to narrow the date of sending.

Drop Letter With Military Connections

Guy Jeffery

The above cover is interesting for several reasons.

For a small queen collector it is a very fine example of the one cent lemon yellow stamp perforation 11½ x 12 on cover dated November 1879.

To others who are interested in military history or military covers, it is a rare example of a letter to a member of the first class at the Royal Military College in Kingston, Ontario. Cadet Fairbank was Charles Oliver Fairbank born in 1858 in Niagara Falls and deceased in 1925. He entered Military College on 1 June 1876, one of the "Old Eighteen". The "Old Eighteen" were the members of the first class to enter Military College. Each entrant to Military College is given a college number upon entry. Fairbank's College Number was 12. Of the original 18 entrants, 14 graduated four years in 1880 and Fairbank was one of those graduates. The Military College in Kingston became the Royal Military College in 1878 when Queen Victoria granted the Royal nomenclature.



Fairbank was commissioned in the Royal Artillery but he resigned one year after graduation and went to Columbia University in New York City where he became a successful medical doctor. Fairbanks became the Commanding Officer of the 18th Battalion Canadian Expeditionary Force in World War I. When the battalion was broken up to provide replacements to units serving in France, Fairbanks took a demotion to Lieutenant and went to serve in France at the age of 57.

Charles Oliver Fairbanks was married and had four sons, the last one born in 1904.

Expertisation Issues Regarding Large and Small Queens

Ted Nixon
Chairman, Vincent Graves Greene Philatelic Research Foundation

Editor's note. We may wish to discuss these issues at the ORAPEX Saturday evening study group meeting, please see Page 8 of this newsletter. Again Guillaume will be hosting and details are available.

There are a few subjects relating to Large and Small Queens that have arisen in the past year or two during expertising at the Greene Foundation on which some discussion may be useful in the BNAPS study group.

Certification of Duckworth Paper Types

We are receiving more requests for certification of Duckworth paper types which is quite challenging. While some paper types are rather straight forward it almost seems like type 10 is the catch-all bucket. I feel this type of certification is a slippery slope. – one wonders how useful or meaningful some categories are when type 10 is so broad – e.g. “anything with mesh you cannot put elsewhere!” Certifying leads to new catalogue sublistings and value differentials and in this case the potential for considerable error or disagreement. Is this better left to specialist collectors to make up their own minds?

Bothwell Paper Appearing in the Mid-1870's

We have seen a very few examples of Half Cent and Fifteen Cent Large Queens perforated 11 ½ x 12, on vertically meshed paper with a request it be certified as Bothwell paper. Normally Bothwell paper in the late 1860's is easy to differentiate from other LQ papers – but in the mid-1870's maybe it is just a variation on the normal vertically meshed paper. Is it possible we should look for Bothwell paper on Small Queens perforated 11 ½ x 12 in the mid-1870's? We do need to be very clear about the specific characteristic of the Bothwell mesh.

Thick Hard vs. Thick Soft Paper

The Fifteen Cent Large Queen in a dark violet shade seems to be as common on thick hard paper as on thick soft paper. Some discussion on the time period of each of these varieties would be helpful. Should they still have the same catalogue listing. Small Queen collectors are realizing that some SQ copies in the mid-1870's are on a quite thick hard (.0038) paper. Should these be getting some recognition?

Stitch Watermarks on 2nd Ottawa Printings of Small Queens

In the past year or so we have received a few batches of “cheap” Small Queens of various values from of the 1890's with stitch watermarks for certification. To at least one of us (J.E.N.), glorifying these with a certificate seems a bit much! However others feel they are just as valid as a stitch watermark on the earlier printings of Small or Large Queens.

The stitch watermark on the 1890's paper is often weak and inconsistent relative to its clarity on the earlier better quality paper. Once again certification will lead to requests for more catalogue sub-listings.

Gum on Large Queens

Undoubtedly the most important and difficult issue in certification of Large Queens is the genuineness of original gum on unused copies. As time passes, this will simply become more difficult. Perhaps it would be helpful to record a description of genuine gum, done chronologically through the Large Queen period. This will include the Small Queen period where the half cent, 12½ and 15 cents are involved.

Chairman's Column, ORAPEX 2014 Meeting Details

Bill Radcliffe (bsbvp88@hotmail.com, confederationbnaps@gmail.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 the summer newsletter out on time.

The study group will be meeting on Saturday May 3rd at 7:00 p.m. 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 sixth year they have hosted this meeting. If you are interested in attending (and I highly recommend it if you are in Ottawa during ORAPEX), please contact him at guillaume@vadeboncoeur.ca or at (613) 818-0445 to get directions. Or you may contact me.

So far this year your chairman has found a few nice things. This is one of them; a Six Cent short paid Small Queen cover with a 2 ring 13. Malcolm Montgomery was able to explain to me the fine on the cover. Though paid six cents (the rate for a letter weighing less than half an ounce by Canadian packet), the British packet rate via the United States was eight cents, the extra two cents to cover US transit (Treasury Warrant, published in the London Gazette, #23575, Friday, 7th January 1870, pp. 134-136: Treasury Warrant effective 6th January 1870). This letter was directed by the more expensive route. Normally this would have involved only an extra charge of the difference (2c/1d) but the British Post Office had dictated that letters directed by the more expensive route, but paid only for the cheaper, should be charged and fined. (GPO Packet Book Minute #195-0, 23rd February 1863.)



The fine at this time was 6c / 3d, split equally between the two nations. This rule was probably enforced at the exchange office Kingston, thus the manuscript '2½' (pence Sterling) Canadian claim. The letter was probably carried by the Cunard Line 'Samaria' but this is difficult to state with certainty, there being three ships that meet the dates. The addressee was charged 4d (m/s), which included the other half of the fine. This is the first time Malcolm has seen this half fine on a Canadian outbound cover, and commented that it was disappointing that it was not known earlier so it could have been included in his book Fines On Transatlantic Mail Between British North America And The United Kingdom 1859-1899. If any members know of others, please contact me or our editor.



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