

# Confederation

The Newsletter of the BNAPS Large and Small Queens Study Group

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## The Two Cent Registration Rate To The United States Effective 1 March To 30 April 1888

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I have long been interested in what I refer to as 'The History of Canadian Philatelists and Dealers'. My seven part series in the RPSC *Canadian Philatelist* [Jan-Feb 2013 to Jan-Feb 2014] covers and illustrates some of my collection on the subject. To my surprise this series and the first on another has received more response - all good - than anything else of a more serious/specialized philatelic content that I have written over the past 40 years.

Henry Hechler [HH] is one of Canada's early and important dealers. Thanks to him and his competitors, much interesting material has been created and survived over the years. Many collectors do not like things from / to collectors or dealers, referring to them as 'philatelic' covers / souvenirs, but I like this material. For example, illustrated here is the first I have seen containing his letter. It outlines HH's terms which included a 25% discount and included the list of stamps that he sent on approval - both written in his very distinctive handwriting.

I recently acquired it from the on line list of a knowledgeable dealer who missed a very important point about the envelope. In early January 1888 the Canadian Post Office (CPO) and US Post Office Departments signed a new postal treaty. Canadian postmasters were informed of one of the most important changes in Departmental Order [DO] #31 dated 13 February. It was the reduction of the registration fee from five to two cents, effective 1 March. Harrison, Arfken and Lussey (HAL), in their comprehensive handbook *Canada's Registration Mail 1802 - 1909*, covers this on five pages because it was soon rescinded by the next DO, # 32 dated 26 April, stating that the effective date the reinstatement of the 5 cent fee was 1 May 1888, making this two cent rate in effect for only 2 months.

The lads list 14 covers known at the time. I learned about this short lived rate about 1965 thanks to Clayton Huff who, among many things, introduced me to the invaluable CPO Postal

Guides and their monthly amendments. It took me nearly 20 years to find my first and later a second example of this 'must have', particularly for exhibitors, Small Queen rate cover.

You will see HH posted his envelope in Halifax on 3 Mar 1888 with the 5 cent RLS, over paying the registration fee by 3 cents. When I spotted this, it made my day because I like covers that are not complying with a CPO regulations - as well as those that do - and knew it would make a nice pair with my correctly paid 2 cent RLS cover in illustration 2, posted with a "ST. JOHN N.B. / CANADA / AP 6 / 88. It made me even happier after I checked to see what HAL had to say about overpaid covers. They state on page 284, 'In our experience, covers showing use of the five cent registration stamp to the U.S. in this two month period are scarcer than the two cent RLS covers.'



### Small Queen - Constant Plate Varieties (CPV) - Part 6 A Few Scratches on the Three Cent

Guy Jeffery (guy.jeffery5@gmail.com)

For this article I thought that it would be interesting to look at a few of the lesser-known scratches on the three cent Small Queen. Where possible, I have referenced Bill Burden's numbers from his site at <http://www.wgburden.com>.

1. Here is a constant scratch in the left 3 on a 37. This is a new find but with two copies I am confident that it is a constant plate variety.



2. This is a line in the right 3 of the left stamp in the pair which Bill Burden calls 3S 2.5. This scan is a very strong dated copy dated from 1896. This scratch is difficult to find and it doesn't seem to have been in print very long. It may have worn away fairly quickly.



3. The next scratch is not common. I do not have any dated copies but it is on a number 41. There are two diagonal scratches in the letter T and one in the S of CENTS. In addition, there are two lines extending on the bottom 1/3 of the right side of the engraving. The bottom line slants up and the upper line slants downwards. I have three copies of this stamp and Bill Burden has them on his site as 3S 2.7.





A Few Scratches On the Three Cent Contd.

4. The final scan in this series is more well-known. This is Bill Burden's 3 F4.10, also R&S 4-51. I have one cover dated May 30, 1881. For some reason this is difficult to find, perhaps because it blends in so well with the design. This is one of my personal favourites because it took me so long to find my first copy.



**Readers Write (1)**

**Counters on Large Queens – New Information**

Duff Sloley sent to me (GA, editor) several images of Large Queens with portions of the imprint and/or counter. The three cent Large Queen to the right has both. Any representation of the counter or imprint on a LQ is pretty rare, if you look at the extreme UL and UR of the top-margin stamp to right you see it has both. What is new here is confirmation that the counter is to the left of the imprint on the Three Cent (the stamp shown must be Position 4 on the sheet based on extreme left of imprint). This was unreported in Duckworth.

Duff also advises that he thinks, based on several examples, the counters on the one cent red brown and orange yellow are approximately laid out in the same position.



### Small Queen Six-Cent Major Re-entry

Jim McCormick (jim@jimmc.ca)

The major re-entry is from early state of the initial Six Cent plate from 1872 in position 67. The position of this stamp is shifted sharply up in comparison to the adjacent positions 66 and 68, with the doubling showing that the original impression was nicely aligned.

**Figure 1: strip/4 with the second stand showing the major re-entry, and sharply shifted up**



A wonderful find is documented on Ralph Trimble's [www.re-entries.com](http://www.re-entries.com) site showing a pair on a MR 74 cover from the repaired "A" plate, showing a very small trace of the re-entry in DA of CANADA. This proves that the original plate was repaired and continued to be used through much of the life of the stamp. Even a full sheet of the 6 c from the 1894 second Ottawa printing shows position 67 to be shifted up (see Hillson / Nixon's excellent Small Queens book).

A copy perforated 11.5x12 is also known, indicating it was likely from an early Montreal printing from late 1873.



**Figure 2 – early AP 5 72 dated copy showing strong detail**



**Figure 3 – probably 1873 worn plate printing, difficult to see doubling in 6's, CENTS, bottom frame line**

It is safe to conclude that the major re-entry is present through the first couple of years of printing, including perhaps an early printing in Montreal (explained by the compound perforated stamp). Shortly thereafter it was repaired and tagged with an "A" in the top margin, the "A" plate with the re-entries (mostly)

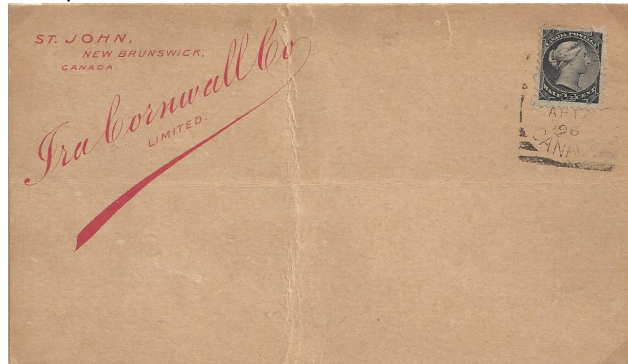
The 6 cent is a joy to collect with so many varieties. You may browse 1200 dpi scans of several copies and other varieties at [http://jimmc.ca/stamps/SQ/6c\\_plating](http://jimmc.ca/stamps/SQ/6c_plating) Enjoy!



Illustrated Mail Utilizing Small Queens

John Burnett ([Jb45855@aol.com](mailto:Jb45855@aol.com))

I was looking through my small queens with the idea of finding some subject matter for the Illustrated Mail Newsletter when our Chairman called with the now familiar "I need an article, John!" I thought "why not try to incorporate the illustrated mail items I had found into a Small Queen article but with the added twist of having



something philatelically noteworthy in my example. I will start with the 1/2¢ and progress to the 10¢ with individual items for each denomination.

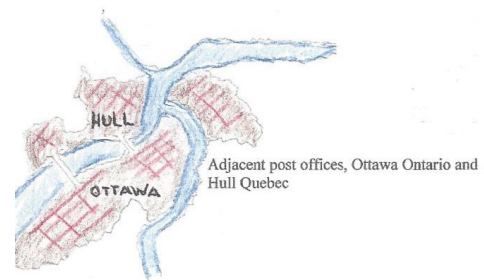
Figure 1 above shows a very nice use of the 1/2¢, here is an example of a "To Every Householder" or "Unaddressed Circular" rate, which was a simple 1/2¢ each. The illustration (Figure 2 at right) is a simple **Ira Cornwall Co., Limited** folded post card like item with a tremendous art drawing of their special designed ball bearing inserts in two colors. The post office was not required to cancel the stamp but in this case a very nice St. John, New Brunswick squared circle cancel dated April 17, 1896 kills the stamp. These all make this piece a more value added exhibit piece!



My 1¢ example represents a nice little illustration of the "William Howe Company of Ottawa (if you look closely at the side of the building you will see they are in the wallpaper and both the window and plate glass business). The cover is the improper (but off-seen) drop letter rate between Ottawa, Ontario and Hull, Quebec. This has been

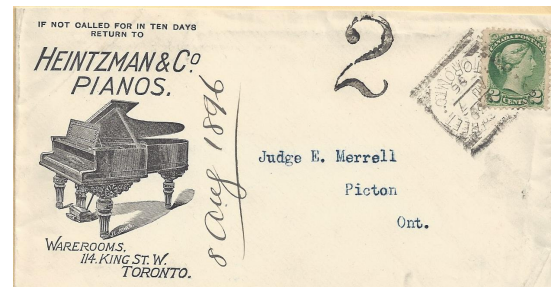


referred to by many BNAPS members as the "Adjacent Post Office Rate" where the Postmasters of adjacent cities accepted each other's local post as if it were posted in their city. This was contrary to postal rules but there are enough examples of this that one



must surmise they just turned a blind eye to the whole issue in Hull and Ottawa. The stamp has been killed with a very nice Imperial, blank indicia, flag cancellation which again just adds to the cancel.

My example of the 2¢ Small Queen is a very nice illustrated "Heintzman & Co. Pianos" cover which has the obvious added postal history value of being short paid by 1¢ and hence the large 2 due marking indicating that the recipient must pay double the 1¢ postage deficiency. I often have thought how unimpressive it would be for me to receive business correspondence with postage due, especially a high end company selling pianos. The cover is further enhanced with the use of the PETER STREET / TORONTO squared circle cancellation.





Illustrated Mail Using Small Queens contd.

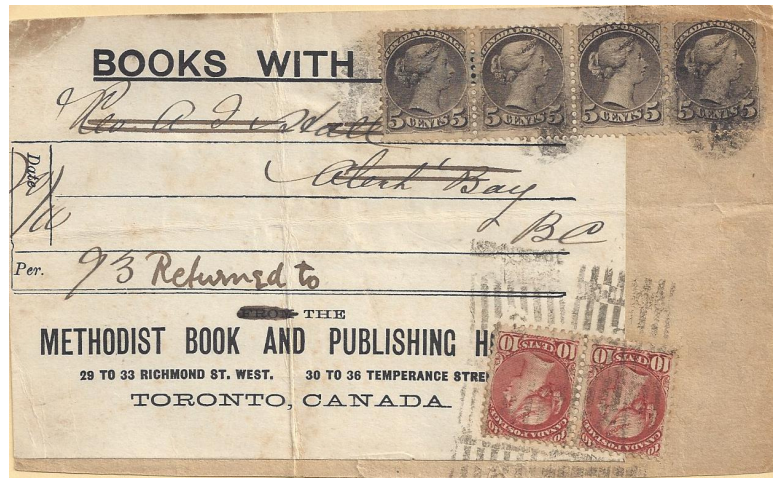
I had originally thought this cover might have been printed matter where the envelope got sealed by mistake and deemed to be a first class letter but the printed matter rate was 1¢ per 4 ounces and this envelope carries no evidence of having been stuffed to that degree.



My example of the 3¢ on an illustrated cover with added philatelic bonuses is the ratty cover shown in Figure 5 to left. This is one of my favorite covers and could be titled "what a journey". This Ingersoll Foundry from John Russell & Co. illustrated cover has a smudge cancel on the stamp but I assume it originates in Ingersoll, there is a transit strike from Windsor dated March 17, 1882. From Windsor the letter travelled by rail to St. Louis via Detroit, Chicago, and Omaha. At St. Louis the letter travelled to Ft. Benton, Montana on a river barge up the Missouri River, then transferred to a coach or ox cart for the trek north to a small settlement somewhere on the Bow River in Canada. The bonus on this cover is the

addressee, Major James Walker, the Superintendent of the North West Mounted Police (later the RCMP) in Assiniboia. At the time of mailing the end of track on Canada's transcontinental railway was near Ft. Garry (present day Winnipeg) and travel via the USA was mandatory.

My example of the 5¢ usage is also my example of the 10¢ usage. This is a wrapper from the "Methodist Book and Publishing House". Look closely at the return address; one of their locations is on "Temperance St.", how very appropriate for this company! Books were sent via third class mail, they could not contain any written message beyond the return address. The package could be tied but the Post Office could cut the ties to inspect the parcel, they were required to retie the parcel after inspection. The rate was 1¢ per 4 ounces, making this package 80 oz or 5 pounds. At that weight I would assume there was more than one book in the package. The sender used a strip of four of the dark grey shade of the 5¢ to pay the postage outbound. The recipient has then franked the parcel with a pair of the 10¢ small queen stamps and returned the package. The fact that the recipient could use the same packaging again is most unusual as most parcels got pretty well beaten up en route. To date this is the only wrapper of a pretty heavy item I have seen used in both directions using Small Queens.



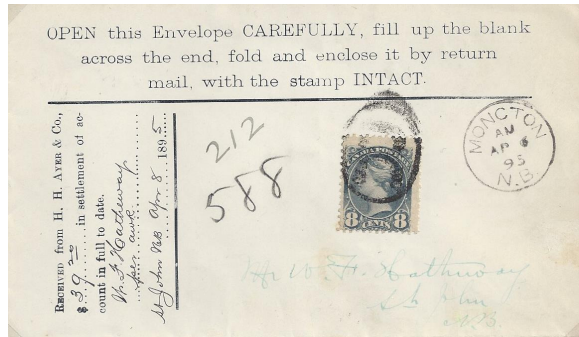
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My 6¢ example is not difficult to find but they do get pricey. Wells Fargo covers are one of those covers the judges seem to look for (especially in USA shows) and one of my examples of a Wells Fargo cover carries an astonishing 30¢ in postage made up with five 6¢ dark brown stamps of the 1888 printing. The stamps do have a Wells Fargo cancellation but the date is not readable. I put the date in the 1896/7 era making it late use of the stamps, this is understandable as Victoria was a long way from stamp supplies and I would bet Wells Fargo simply had a big stock of the stamps.

Illustrated Mail Using Small Queens contd.

The envelope does not have an address and I think the auction house I bought it from missed the fact that there is a great amount of glue residue on the back leading me to conclude that this envelope was used as a facing slip on a parcel. Working out the rate is simple if the parcel was sent domestically, it would have been 6¢ per 4 ounces making the parcel a twenty ounces. If the parcel was addressed to the USA (as a lot of Wells Fargo correspondence was) then we would need to know the destination as the parcel rate was a function of distance.



I show an example of my 8¢ Small Queen mainly because it offers a small wrinkle I had never seen before from this time frame. You can easily read across the top the instructions on how to handle this item. This is a registered envelope in which the return address wants to receive the stamp back intact, I wonder if we are dealing with one of the first vest pocket dealers in Canada? As best I can determine, this envelope is the manner in which the recipient confirmed that he had received the funds in settlement in full for a debt, which by his note indicates a week salary, a very interesting approach. It was mailed on April 8, 1895 from Moncton.

We all happen to collect an era in Canadian Postal History which is full of great illustrated mail covers. The question I struggle with is how to exhibit them and stay within the 1870 - 97 timeframe. Does one pick a particular theme (ie: hotels, farm machinery, etc.), does one try to use all SQ covers, or only one value? Whoever takes up the challenge, you will be a pioneer but you better have thick skin because I believe the judges will vary in opinion on the merits of your approach.

At BNAPEX 2013 I was asked to take on the Newsletter for the new "Illustrated Mail" study group. I learned that editors have a tough job and so I would encourage all members to help with small articles and scans of interesting things. If you are reading this you have material that can add to our newsletter. try this let your album fall open and write about that page or as we do you have a favorite cover or stamp write about it and why it's a favorite of yours. Little articles make for a great newsletter, don't forget to give the Editor some words to work with, he will make them fit the newsletter but he can't write the article for you.

**Readers Write (2)**

**A New 15 Cent Cover, And Possible 2c Imperf**

Brian Hargreaves ([bhargrea@email.com](mailto:bhargrea@email.com)) sent me (GA, Editor) the two following items. The first, pictured at right, is a new cover to the 15 cent LQ cover census, a rather spectacular use in the perf 11.6 X 11.9 period though the fifteen cents pair is apparently perforated 12X12. It does not appear to be registered so presumably it is a 7 X letter rate to the UK.



The second item has a story behind it. Brian and I sniped each other on ebay for it, I was too cheap so Brian was the winner... at least I made him pay a bit extra...

What makes this otherwise average-looking early printing two-cent interesting is the bottom margin, which shows no sign of perforation whatever. Whether it was truly once an imperforate vertical pair is lost to history. Still, the extreme margins do suggest it could be nothing but. Imperforates exist already on the three and 12 ½ cent values contemporary to the period.



**Chairman's Corner**

Bill Radcliffe ([bsbvp88@hotmail.com](mailto:bsbvp88@hotmail.com))

We had a great meeting at ORAPEX in May. Eighteen Large and Small Queen collectors convened after the Saturday show in Ottawa. My thanks to Guillaume and his wife, he was a great host as always.



As most of you know I am a collector of Canada two-ring numeral cancels. I have been collecting these since 1983. In all the years of collecting I have seen many cancels and talked to many collectors. I wish to disagree with the Unitrade catalogue, which assigns rarity factors and suggests you can find examples of every numeral 1 to 60 on Small Queens. In my opinion, numerals 9, 31 and 39 do not exist on Small Queens; all of the examples I have seen are bad fakes. For example, if you study the 2R9 of Kingston, the cut-down 2R9 hammer (Lacelle 99) is known dated on cover Sept. 10, 1869 and the later version (Lacelle 108) is dated Nov. 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1869. I believe these to be alterations to the original hammer. Both dates are months before the earliest known issues of the Small Queen stamp, January 1870.

If anyone believes they have "good" strikes I would love to see them. Pictured is the only known two-ring hammer still in existence, a Clinton 2R59. If such a brass hammer was filed down, it would not likely be repaired to make a legitimate two-ring cancel.

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