

# Confederation

**The Newsletter of the BNAPS Large and Small Queens Study Group**

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## More on Plating the Six Cent Small Queen

Jim McCormick ([jim@jimmc.ca](mailto:jim@jimmc.ca))

Before showing some new discoveries, I present the table below as background information on the Small Queen Six Cent issue, based on observations mostly from my own collection.

Shade	Visible Guide dots	Dates observed	Plate	Notes
Yellow brown	1	1872 to mid-1874	1871 plate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clear impression.</li> <li>• Guide dot typically close to lower frame line, or hidden in it.</li> <li>• Some copies show a weak impression at top.</li> <li>• Major/strong re-entries in pp 10, 48 and 67</li> </ul>
Yellow brown	1	Early 1874	Rejected "ghostly head" plate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Weak impression in Queen's head</li> <li>• Guide dot under center of left 6.</li> <li>• Guide lines often seen through the dot.</li> <li>• A small percentage have a second guide dot in the bottom left corner.</li> </ul>
Yellow brown	2	Mid-1874 to mid-1884	1871 plate or A plate?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Guide dots typically close to lower frame line.</li> <li>• Some copies show a weak impression at top.</li> <li>• No sign of major re-entry in pp 67</li> <li>• Introduction of "neck flaw" in pp 5</li> <li>• Introduction of minor re-entries in low left and lower right frame lines.</li> </ul>
Yellow brown	3	Mid-1884 to 1890	A plate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No sign of "neck flaw".</li> <li>• Significant re-entry in pp 10.</li> <li>• Impression strong, but not as clear as early printings.</li> <li>• Guide dots are lower relative to stamp design.</li> </ul>
Chocolate brown	0	December 1890-1892	B/C plate, 200 impressions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Different plate characteristics including major "5 on 6" flaw, some minor "5 on 6" flaws, pitting in the top row, and different major re-entries prominent in CENTS.</li> </ul>
Red brown	0	mid-1892 to end-1894, then returns in 1897	B/C plate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As above</li> </ul>
Red brown	3	Mid-1894 to the end of period	A plate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Re-entry in pp 10 has been repaired.</li> <li>• New major re-entry in pp 24.</li> <li>• Minor "5 on 6" flaws on pp 20, 11 and 21.</li> <li>• Other minor re-entries visible in the yellow-brown 3-dot state have been repaired.</li> </ul>

More on Plating the Six Cent Small Queen *contd.*

The focus here is to compare large blocks from early printings (single guide dot, 1871 plate) and late printings three guide dots, "A" plate). I have discovered several new correlations. This would not be possible without a high resolution scan of the full sheet of the late printing repaired "A" plate, courtesy of Ralph Trimble. I also thank Guillaume Vadeboncoeur for a high resolution scan of an early printing margin block of ten, and Ted Nixon for a high resolution scan of the well known early printing block of eighteen which shows the major re-entry.

What revived my interest was Jim Watt's & Glenn Archer's article from the April 2015 edition of Confederation, and the section "Understanding the Travelling guide dots". Plate repair in 1884 resulted in the addition of a 3rd guide dot. The first two guide dots remain, however they are shifted down, and a little to the left when compared against the 1-dot and 2-dot states. But the guide dots did not travel. Rather, the stamp designs were burnished, and re-entered higher, and a little to the right. The guide dots were fixed. I discussed this recently with Jim and Glenn, and they had already drawn the same conclusion. But how did the guide dots survive the burnishing? The guide dots made a deeper impression into the plate, and therefore remain largely unaffected by plate repair.

Proving the fixed guide dot theory

Simply, we need to overlay a set of single guide dots from an early printing multiple onto the guide dots from the same plate positions on the full sheet. If the guide dots align, we have proof that the 1871 plate went through several repairs as it transitioned over more than 20 years to the repaired "A" plate.

But, overlaying position dots is not simple. The sheets were damp when printed, and the paper shrunk when drying. One printing may show a slightly squat queen, while another may be stretched tall. Shrinkage may not even be uniform across the sheet if a bit dry near the edges. To further complicate things, perforations add to the distortion, especially in old blocks with mild separation and folding along the perforations.

Some of these challenges can be overcome with scans, computers and a photo editor. The photo editor is necessary to align the two images, and then to stretch them horizontally and vertically until the aspect ratio of the stamp designs match.

I originally tried this comparison for all 18 positions on Ted Nixon's 1-dot state block with the same plate positions from the late printing full sheet. However, perforation issues on both the sheet, and the block/18 made this near impossible to do. But a block/6 with strong perforations was simple enough to use. I transposed all 6 position dots from the early printing onto the late printing, just below the middle position dot. See Figure 1 for the result (zoom in by pressing the Ctrl key and turn the mouse wheel). Amazingly, they align with near perfection!

More on Plating the Six Cent Small Queen *contd.*

**Figure 1 – Comparison of guide dots for pp 56-58/66-68 between early and late printings**





More on Plating the Six Cent Small Queen contd.

The imprints

Figure 2 shows a beautiful mint block/10 from the 1871 plate (1-dot state) for comparison to the same plate positions from the repaired A plate (3-dot state). First, take note on how similar the imprints are, and their positioning relative to the stamp design.



**Figure 2 – Comparison of 1871 plate and A plate, pp 83-87 / 93-97**

Figure 3 compares the imprints up close, and it is clear that the late printing imprint shows a worn impression, however there are subtle characteristics that match the early printing. These can be seen in the ovals on the image. This is evidence that the imprint was not re-entered during plate repair. Remember, the stamp designs shifted upon repair, but the position dot from 1871 remained as the middle dot in the 3-dot state of the A plate. Considering that, the middle guide dot is the reference point to measuring the position of the imprint. Remarkably, the imprint aligns perfectly with the middle guide dot on early & late printings!



**Figure 3 – Comparison between imprint + guide dots on 1871 plate and A plate**

A Strong Correlation - Plate Position 10

See Figure 4, showing plate position 10 from the 1-dot state, 3-dot state (A plate), and 3-dot state (repaired A plate, final state). The re-entry in the 1-dot state shows a strong horizontal shifted re-entry through CANADA POSTAGE and the top frame. The yellow-brown 3-dot state shows a similar re-entry, although not as strong (and note how the stamp design is shifted up relative to the 1-dot state). The red-brown 3-dot state was again repaired. The stamp design shifted up again and a little to the left (observed by comparing with the fixed position dots). All that remains from the yellow-brown 3-dot impression are small markings in the lower right corner, and a small dash in “O” of



More on Plating the Six Cent Small Queen *contd.*



POSTAGE. The re-entry on the 1871 plate is identified from position based on a margin block/10 (with selvedge) in the Brigham collection.

Not critical but of interest, plate position 20 in the final state of the A plate shows the strongest of the minor "5 on 6" entries. This was likely done as a result of over-rocking the transfer roll while repairing plate position 10. Fun!

**Figure 4 – Re-entry progression on pp10**

Upwards shifts for plate positions 48 and 67: Plate position 67 had the major re-entry, and position 48 the "demi-major" re-entry. Both stamp impressions on the 1871 plate show a strong upwards shift relative to the stamps to their left and right. No trace of those re-entries can be found on the "A" plate, however the strong upward shifts exist for both positions. No other positions on the A plate full sheet display similarly strong upward shifts. Figure 5 demonstrates this for pp 67. This does not prove anything, but it is a strong correlation that can not be ignored.

Narrow spacing between vertical rows 3 and 4: Upon producing the plates, the siderographer made an attempt to space the stamp designs evenly across the sheet up/down and left/right. However from the full sheet of the repaired A plate, there is narrow spacing between the 3rd and 4th vertical rows. It is no coincidence that vertical rows 3 and 4 are also close together on Ted Nixon's early block/18 from the 1-dot state. Figure 5 shows the comparison of the spacing for pp 63-68.



**Figure 5 – narrow spacing between vertical rows 3 and 4 on 1-dot and 3-dot states**

More on Plating the Six Cent Small Queen contd.

How many plates were produced?

1 – 1871 plate / A plate

(one and the same)

2 – Rejected “ghostly head” plate, probably put into service briefly during the first major repair of the 1871 plate

3 – B/C plate of 200 subjects put in service in 1890.

When was the “A” added to the plate? A question was raised about the point of adding the “A” if there was nothing to distinguish it against. I have only seen it in margin blocks in the 3-dot state. It is possible that the “A” was added in the late 1880’s when the B/C plate of 200 was created.

Conclusion:

The links between the 1871 and “A” plate are too strong and numerous to be coincidence. The matching of imprints is the strongest link. So the one 1871 / A plate was responsible for most of the 25,000,000 yellow-brown 6 cent stamps, and perhaps half of the red-brown 6 cent stamps from the 2nd Ottawa printings. It seems reasonable that the BABNCo would invest in plate repair rather than new plate production as a cost savings measure.

References:

Ralph Trimble's <http://www.re-entries.com> site

John Hillson's article for Confederation September 2014

Glenn Archer's / Jim Watt's article for Confederation April 2015

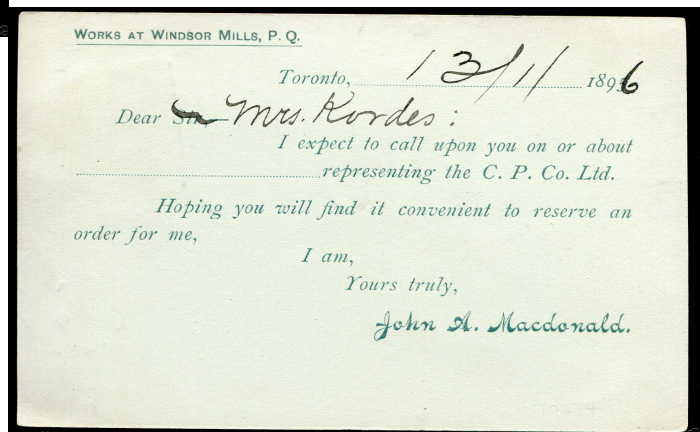
**Earliest Date for a Private Post Card**

Vic Willson ([LLOYDWILL@aol.com](mailto:LLOYDWILL@aol.com))



I have for quite a few years been searching for an early date of use of a private post card, the use of which was made officially legal on January 1, 1895. While private cards were used as far back as the 1860s, they were either sent as printed matter or as a form of letter and did not have the words “Post Card” printed on them as required by the new law. So, a 1¢ Small Queen, or perhaps pair of ½¢ Small Queens would necessarily be the franking for the new private post cards. Some years back I recall having a January 1895 card in my collection, but at some point it vanished, sold or traded or just lost. So, recently on eBay showed up the card

now shown here front and back dated January 14, 1895. I have not recorded an earlier date reviewing cards back to the late 1980s, so I put it for you readers to send in an earlier date, which will break my tiny heart as this is a pretty card for an early date.





**2¢ Small Queen with “Extra Nostril” variety**

Guillaume Vadeboncoeur ([guillaume@vadeboncoeur.ca](mailto:guillaume@vadeboncoeur.ca))

I want to thank everyone who attended the informal Large & Small Queen Study Group and Re-Entry and Constant Plate Variety Study Group gathering during ORAPEX. It was well attended with a total of 15 people this year. It seems that every year a discovery is made within the material discussed, and this year was no exception.

Illustrated below at Figure 1 is a single 2¢ Small Queen from the 1<sup>st</sup> Ottawa printing period (perf 11.85×11.85 using the yellowish Instanta gauge) which I have had for several years. It was included in my exhibit of the Small Queen issue described as “extra nostril variety”. I had always assumed that it was a non-constant ink blob.



**Figure 1: 2¢ with “extra nostril” variety (and detail)**

During the informal ORAPEX gathering, I usually set up a television to display scans of stamps and covers in a slide show format. While going through scans of 2¢ Small Queen items, the item illustrated at Figure 2 came up on the screen. This block of 6 was offered by Eastern Auctions as part of the Ted Nixon collection. I acquired it as a nice mint multiple from the 1<sup>st</sup> Ottawa printing (is anyone aware of a larger intact mint multiple of the 2¢ value from the 1<sup>st</sup> Ottawa printing?). What everyone overlooked, myself included, is that the lower middle stamp shows the exact same “extra nostril variety” as the single stamp illustrated at Figure 1 – wow!

As luck would have it, I ran into Michael Rixon the next day at the stamp show. Michael was at one time a serious collector of the 2¢ Small Queen. Michael had a look at the single from Figure 1 and confirmed having previously seen this variety as he apparently owned “two or three” examples. Michael does not know where these stamps now reside, but he indicated they were used examples. Given the two examples illustrated here, and Michael’s recollection of having seen this variety, there is thus little doubt that this is a constant variety.



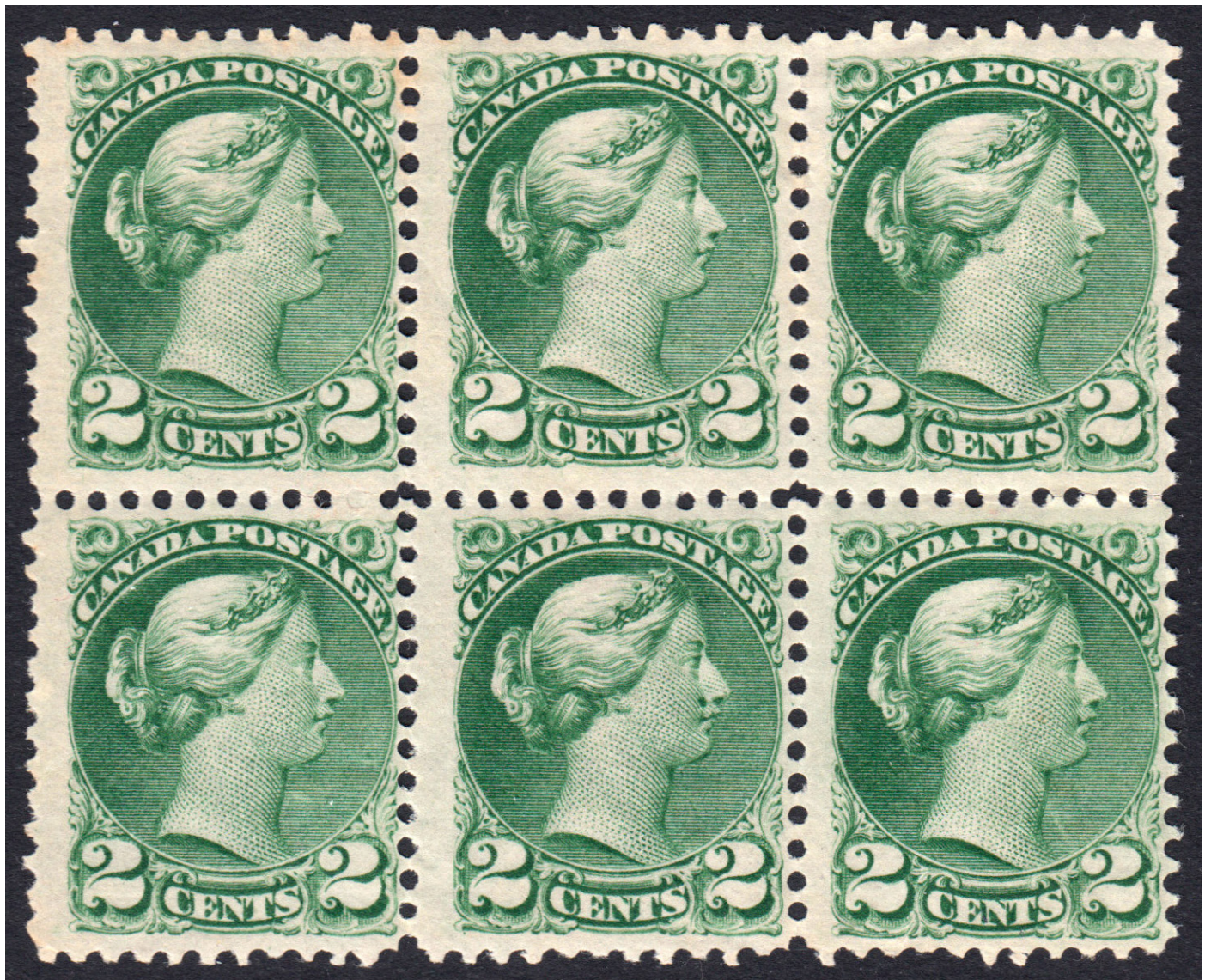


Figure 2: 2¢ block of 6 showing “extra nostril” variety on lower middle stamp

After doing a little more research, I noted that this variety is actually listed in *“Plate Varieties of the Canada 2 Cents Small Queen”* by Ron Waldston as #2PF835, but without any information other than a drawing of the variety. It was not included in *“Constant Plate Varieties of the Canada Small Queens”* by Reiche & Sendbuehler, or on Bill Burden’s website. The variety is similar in size to the “goatee” and “shaving nick” varieties on the 3¢ Large Queen or the “vampire bite” on the 3¢ Small Queen.

The limited awareness of the existence of this variety means one thing, and that it is a scarce constant plate variety. The primary reason is that it is from the 1<sup>st</sup> Ottawa printing period. According to Nixon and Hillson, only 3.3% of 2¢ stamps were printed during this period and that *“First Ottawa printings are noteworthy for their relative scarcity”*. So the basic stamp is already a challenging stamp to find in any condition (mint or used), and it would not be unusual for the plate flaw to only appear in the later portion of the 1<sup>st</sup> Ottawa printing period, which would further limit the number of examples printed. This should provide you with one more reason to re-check your 2¢ stamps as other examples are out there. Let’s see how many other examples we can find!

*(Submitted for publication in both Confederation and Dots and Scratches newsletters)*



**Readers Write**

Richard Hautala: [Request for comment re: ½ Cent SQ Variety](#)

Bill: I recently purchased this stamp as it was listed on eBay (chignon variety was not noted, so got it for a good price). Based on Unitrade it is either position 33 or 43 (since it also has the spur variety). It also has a previously unlisted plate flaw. This black mark on the neck is fairly large, so I wonder if you think it is a one of, or if it may be constant?

Also, can you tell me if you can confirm the position? Any other comments would be welcome. It seems like a large flaw to have gone unnoticed for so long, especially since this position is well known. Any idea of value? Thanks, Richard



Guillaume Vadeboncoeur: [Additional destinations, uprated one cent postcards](#)

With respect to Vic's article about postcards uprated with 1c Small Queen, I can add the following which you can add to the next newsletter, or Vic can add them to the list and simply say that additional reports as a result of the article include the following:

Vic Willson's article on uprated provided a good overview of these highly collectible postcards. For cards from 1890 onwards, I can confirm the existence of cards to the following additional destinations:

1. Australia – New South Wales
2. Australia - Queensland
3. Bulgaria
4. Cuba
5. Ecuador
6. Finland
7. Greece
8. Guadeloupe
9. Guatemala
10. Hungary
11. Mexico
12. Newfoundland (I believe Vic omitted this one on purpose in his article)
13. Panama (United States of Colombia)
14. South Africa – Natal (just like the Australian States, South Africa should be split up in my opinion – there certainly were multiple stamp-issuing entity at the time)
15. Trinidad
16. Uruguay
17. Venezuela

Cheers, Guillaume.

Wayne Smith: [Latest known usages of two-ring numeral hammers](#)

It has been quite a few years since I have seen an attempt to list the latest recorded dates for use of the 2 ring hammers. With the help of some fellow collectors and a lot of auction catalogue viewing below is the list of latest dates I have found. Any updates would be appreciated ([waynesmithtor@yahoo.ca](mailto:waynesmithtor@yahoo.ca)).

Cont'd Page 10...

Readers Write contd.**Latest Known Date 2 ring numerals**

1 – Sp 8/70	31 – De 23/80
2 – My 29/84	32 – Ja 31/70
3 – Jy 27/97	33 – My 5/76 (is blue ink)
4 – Au 27/72	34 – My 23/79
5 – Oc 10/71	35 – De 17/75
6 – Jy 5/82	36 – Ju 13/76
7 – Oc 25/76	37 – Fe 10/77
8 – Ap 30/70	38 – Oc 18/79
9 – Sp 4/69	39 - Sp 25/69
10 – Nv 24/76 (is blue ink)	40 – Nv 27/84 (Cornwall)
11 – Au 17/80	40 – Ap 1/36 (St. Regis)
12 – My 31/75	41 – Mr 27/99
13 – No 19/74	42 – Mr 26/70 (only 1 known cover)
14 – Ap 30/90	43 - Ju 30/87
15 – Au 2/73	44 – Ap 7/70
16 - Mr 2/82	45 – Ja 25/75
17 – none known	46 – Mr 3/76
18 – Mr 27/75	47 – Mr 4/74
19 – Ap 12/73	48 – Ja 28/74
20 - none known	49 – Mr 25/89
21 – Ap 9/80	50 – Au 21/00
22 – only 1 undated LQ cover known	51 – My 20/79
23 – Ap 29/72	52 – Mr 10/86
24 – Ju 14/76	53 – Ap 6/93
25 - Au 11/73	54 – No 8/75
26 – Jy 20/71	55 – Jy 30/85
27 – Au 11/80	56 – Nv 27/78
28 – Oc 21/75	57 – My 22/78
29 – No 11/70	58 – My 31/77
30 – Oc 8/81	59 – Jy 20/80
	60 – De 1/69

- 1 - very common until summer 1870, seen on pair of 6c SQ off cover so must have been used at least until sometime in 1872, also seen report of 1880's use on post card but cancel was not clear enough to me to confirm
- 2 - no use after introduction of fancy 2 in Spt 1869 (latest SP 10/69) until reuse in 1876 (very occasional after that)
- 4 - Au 27/72 is an internal circular date, also known on 5c SQ which would be 4+ years later
- 4 - there is an unofficial #4 from Watson's Corners (taller numeral) with date range SP 21/69 to MR 30/76
- 5 - seen on a 6c early 1872 printing off cover
- 6 - latest use from London - MY 15/72 after a long period of no use, this hammer was used again in 1882 – three covers from Petersville, a suburb of London, known with stamp cancelled by 2 ring 6 - MR 22/82 to JY 5/82 (hammer possibly transferred to sub-office or used in transit)
- 9 & 39 - no positive strikes on SQ off cover
- 16 - previous latest date was AU 4/70 – this new date is much later and may represent a short term re-use
- 17 - known on 1c and 3c SQ off over – some 3c stamps appear to be 1872 printing
- 22 - known on 3c SQ off over
- 25 - sending date not clear, backstamped Au 11
- 32 - known on 3c SQ off cover in black ink
- 60 - known on 3c SQ off cover

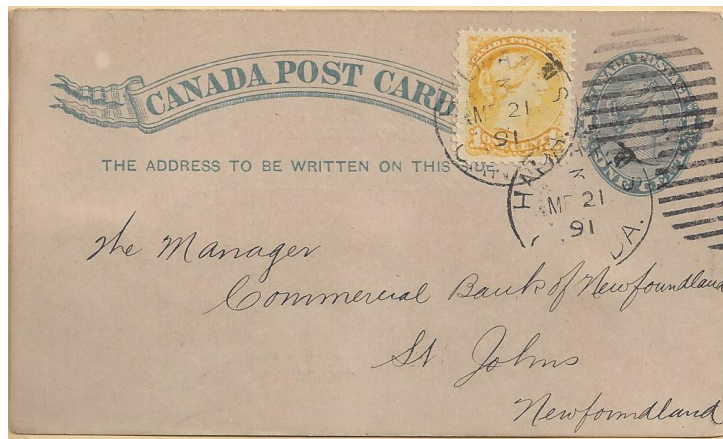


**The 1¢ Small Queen Used to Raise the Rate on Post Cards**

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

I was glancing through a number of Small Queen albums that hold just odds and sods looking for something to write about for the Newsletter when I saw a recent purchase and around it were a number of similar items. So an article was born.

Starting in 1879 the post card rate to UPU countries was 2¢ and for many that meant adding a 1¢ Small Queen to a preprinted 1¢ post card. As I looked at my examples I was amazed at how many destinations I had with a 1¢ Small Queen added to make up the rate. All of my examples are from the 1890's and are of the second Ottawa printing of the stamps.

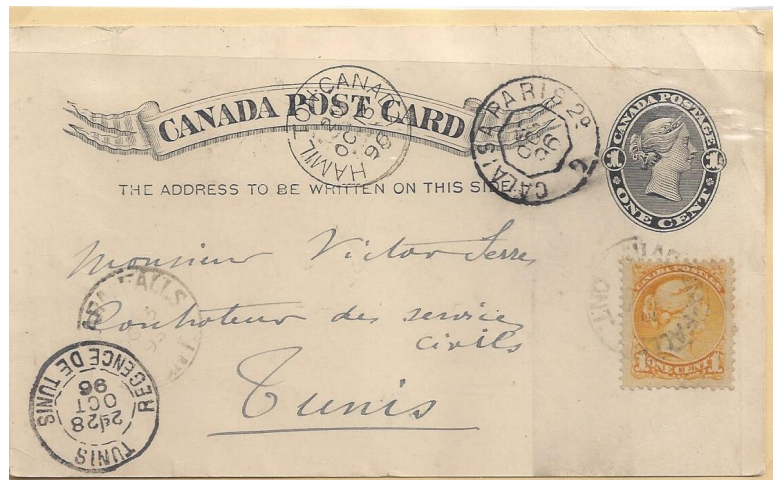


One that I think a lot of people miss is that the rate applied to Newfoundland as she was a colony of Great Britain during the entire Victorian era. This sometimes is missed by American judges looking at Canadian exhibits. I show an example to Newfoundland in Figure 1. I also note that a number of my post cards are in my collection because those post cards hold such nice copies of cancels and are often part of a separate cancellation collection.

**Figure 1. Dated March 21, 1891 this post card is rated 2¢ to a UPU country and is part of a Duplex cancel collection.**

Another post card raised to make rate is shown in Figure 2. This lovely card is addressed to Tunis, Tunisia and has all the marks on the front, a black ink Paris, France transit strike and a black ink Tunis receiving strike.

**Figure 2. Mailed from Hamilton, Ontario on October 16, 1896 and addressed to Tunis in North Africa.**



Figures 3 and 4 are scans of the transit and receiving strikes. I have always liked just how well a post card will show a cancellation and I assume it is because of the thickness and therefore softness of the card stock and the relative porosity of that card stock, which takes ink very well.



**Figure 3. Left Image: Canada to Tunisia, transit through Paris, France.**

**Figure 4. Right Image: Canada to Tunisia, Tunis receiving strike.**

The 1¢ Small Queen Used to Raise the Rate on Post Cards contd.

A favorite of mine is pictured below in Figure 5 and that is a post card to Australia. Like my Tunis card it carries all the right information right on the front, originating in London, Ontario and mailed with written instructions on the front "Via Frisco" just under the medallion. The likely route of this card would be via rail to Detroit and then rail across the USA to Sacramento, California and coach to San Francisco. This card comes out of my squared circle collection and carries a nice, but light London squared circle cancel as the sending strike. My example departed London on June 15, 1893 and passed through San Francisco on June 21, 1893 (Figure 6).



**Figure 5. Mailed from London Ontario to Wollimbi, New South Wales**

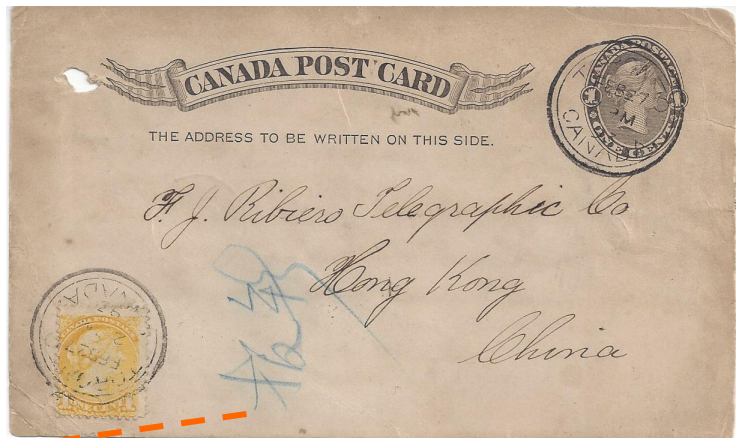
Another transit strike applied at Sydney, Australia (fig. 7) dated July 18, 1893 and a receiving strike at Wollimbi, (fig 8) dated July 20, 1893. I note that this is just over a month in transit in 1893, I have a friend in Melbourne and we regularly correspond and my mail to him passes through our mail system today at about the same speed, even though all my mail uses air transit.



**Figures 6, 7, and 8. L to R: Transit thru San Francisco, Sydney, received Wollimbi, NSW.**

This post card displays a lot of postal history information up front and that Sydney transit strike interests me as it appears to be a duplex cancel.

My final example of a post card having its rate raised comes with a bit of a story and maybe some whimsical wishful thinking. Figure 9 is a post card I recently purchased at auction. I didn't need another post card with a raised rate to an international destination but this one was different. The card was mailed at Toronto in February 1893 and addressed to Hong Kong. The card carries a receiving strike on the back showing arrival in March of 1893.



**Figure 9. Sent to Hong Kong when George Burnett was Post Master.**



The reason this card caught my attention was because my Grandfather was the Post Master of South China, headquartered in Hong Kong in 1893 and my brain just wondered if possibly my Grandfather (who I never met) handled this piece of mail and placed the Chinese chop mark directions on the front.

Your collecting interests can take you in many directions and my Small Queens are just an example where many items fit into many other collections and exhibits. The biggest issue seems to become "just where the heck do I have that cover"

when you decide to use it.

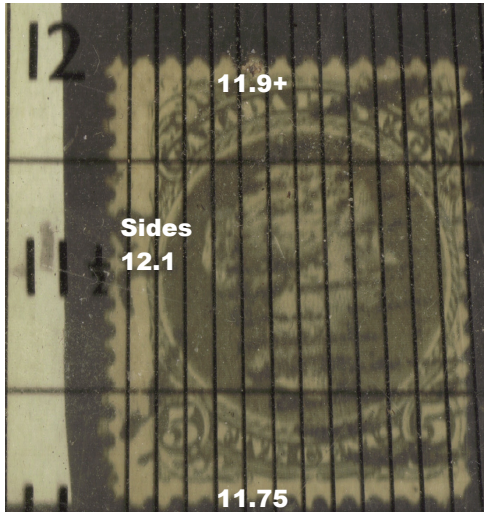


### Complex Perforations on the Five Cent Large Queen

Glenn Archer ([glennarcher@hotmail.com](mailto:glennarcher@hotmail.com))

The attached stamp is just one example of several oddballs I have seen over the years. The five cent Large Queen is a vexing stamp, and the rare perf 12 is elusive. It is one of the more frequently submitted stamps to the Greene Foundation, and usually the request is to examine the perforations. My understanding is that the VGGF accepts both the rare 11.9 X 12.1 and 12.1 X 12.1 perforations as a 26a.

The two commonest perforations on the stamp are 11.6 X 11.9, and 11.75 X 12.1. I haven't seen hardly any 11.6 X 12.1 stamps, nor 11.75 X 11.9 stamps, so I think there were two line perforators used in 1875 for this stamp.



Please excuse the image quality; it is difficult to scan clearly with a yellowed and scratchy old Instanta gauge! The stamp has what I would call a "complex" perforation – 11.9 at top, 11.75 at bottom and 12.1 both sides. I have just aligned the top perforations in this scan.

The complex perf shown here suggests that perforation wheels were interchangeable, and it is evident from studying perfs on stamps from the period that bent and broken pins were commonplace. I doubt the stamp makers were overly fussy about what replacement wheel they used – especially if they were behind schedule - and if two perf 12.1 wheels made it side-by-side onto the same horizontal line perforator you would get a perf 12.1 X 12.1 stamp. Admittedly I wasn't there to see the stamps made, so if anyone else has a deeper knowledge on the subject I'd be happy for the education.

The sad reality is that, because perf 12 stamps sell for such a premium, the five cent is a target for re-perforating and a true study of the perfs on this issue is almost impossible today. I'd be interested to read or hear if anyone else has found an unusual perf measurement on the stamp.

### Small Queen 3 Cent "Flaw in N of Cents"

Jim McCormick ([jim@jimmc.ca](mailto:jim@jimmc.ca))

This one is described on Bill Burden's web site as plate flaw 3F3.1 with an earliest usage of NO 21 1872 on cover, and a late usage of some time in 1874. He also mentions that it has been observed on the thick soft paper, which when dated is normally seen between late December 1870 and February 1871. Plate position is unknown.

I started the search on my first Ottawa 3 cent printings, and was pleasantly surprised to find one in an early block/4. The shade is "dull red", the paper has a horizontal weave, and the perforations measure 12x12 on my clear Instanta gauge. Matching it to a dated reference collection, typical usage for this shade and paper is between late 1871 and early 1873.

This block has some interesting features. The vertical perforations at left and middle steer to the left as they move down the sheet. This leaves a left margin wide enough that this block must be from the left side of the sheet. The margin at bottom is just tall enough that if there were stamps in the sheet below the block, a trace should be visible in the attached perforation chad at bottom. It is pretty clear to me that the block is from the bottom left corner of the sheet. Some might call this a stretch. Yet, take note of the faint position dot in the lower left corner of the lower left stamp (see illustration 3). Position dots are not found in the first vertical row, as they are an artifact from entering the stamp to the left on the plate. But during initial layout of the plate, dots are punched in the four corners (the outer corners for positions 1, 10, 91, and 100). On some plates, the dot is burnished and not visible, while on others it can be visible along with guide lines.



Small Queen 3 Cent "Flaw in N of Cents" contd.

This should be sufficient evidence to conclude that the block is from the lower left corner of the sheet, placing the N flaw at position 81.



**Illustration 1: N Flaw in upper left stamp**



**Illustration 2: Closeup**



The final question to answer is when the N flaw was introduced. The Hillson / Nixon book on Small Queens states that seven plates of 100 covered the printings between 1870 and 1873. The flaw will exist on just one of the seven plates, but which one? With the flaw reported on thick soft paper (#37i, late 1870 printing) and the 1874 dated copy on cover, I would expect that the flaw was introduced early on one of the plates and that plate was in service for at least 3 years. There is evidence that plates 1 and 2 were used well into the 1880s, so perhaps the other plates were also in use for several years.

If the readers have more copies of this flaw available, I would appreciate high resolution scans of front and back (showing paper grain). It would be interesting to know if the flaw could be found on paper A (1870 printings), or later Montreal printings.

References:

Bill Burden's web site: <http://wgburden.com>

Canada's Postage Stamps of the Small Queen Era, 1870-1897, Hillson and Nixon, 2008

Eastern Auctions Ltd, The Ted Nixon Collection, 2012

**Auctions of Note: Eastern, Sparks**

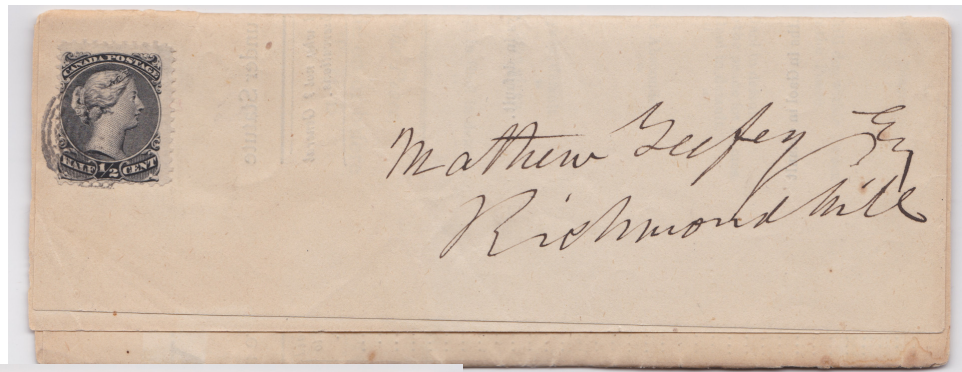
Eastern Auction's October 23-24th sale included a fine selection of Large and Small Queen material. Sparks Auctions held the sale of Daniel Cantor's fine Small Queen collection November 24<sup>th</sup>. I don't care to make a summary of the sales for this newsletter, but advise that the catalogues are fine references in and of themselves and that the complete sales with PR's may be viewed at the [www.stampauctionnetwork.com](http://www.stampauctionnetwork.com) hub. *Ed.*

## Chairman's Column

Bill Radcliffe

First I would like to start out by thanking the 18 members of our group that showed up at our meeting in Niagara, which I think was a good attendance for the BNAPS convention. We got a lot of articles for future newsletters but could always use more. There were many interesting topics which we went over. I suggest if you can attend a BNAPS convention it is well worth it.

Below is proof you never know what will show up at one of these conventions. I picked up many nice things; here are two of the nicer ones. The first is a Return of Convictions sent to Richmond Hill, Ont. dated June 9th 1875 and paid with a single ½ Large Queen.



The other is a parcel post tag to the United States, paid with three 10c Small Queens. This pays a 30 cent rate, twenty ounces or six cents per 4 oz. It was mailed to Sunny Cliff, Aiken, South Carolina April 14, 1896. Please contact me with any inquires, I can be contacted by phone (856-589-1945) or email [bsbvp88@hotmail.com](mailto:bsbvp88@hotmail.com).

Best wishes to all for the holidays and for 2016.

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