

Confederation

The Newsletter of the BNAPS Large and Small Queens Study Group

Volume 65

April 2017

5¢ Small Queen with Triangular Printing Flaw

Guillaume Vadeboncoeur (guillaume@vadeboncoeur.ca)

Every so often one gets lucky and the best laid out plans do come to fruition. This is one of these lucky stories, at least for me.

In the summer 2016, John Jamieson of Saskatoon Stamp Centre (“SSC”) offered a very enticing 50% off sale to celebrate SSC’s 50th anniversary. Upon receiving the email notice I quickly searched SSC’s for the Small Queen material that was on sale and purchased a couple of items. During this search I noticed, but did not purchase, the stamp illustrated in Figure 1. It was described as “5c Grey with *“Triangular printing flaw” at LR corner. A lovely wide margin single showing this unlisted variety. Ex Lindemann*”. I fondly remember Ian Bett (“Lindemann”) as I had the privilege of preparing his exhibit pages in the early 1990s when he first exhibited his outstanding collection of Pence and Cents issues. I remember having seen the stamp in a prior SSC pricelist, but due to non-constant appearance of the flaw, I did not give it too much attention.



Figure 1 – The Saskatoon Stamp Centre stamp



Figure 2 – The Eastern Auctions Ltd. stamp

A few days later, Eastern Auctions Ltd.’s (“EAL”) June 17-18, 2016 Public Auction catalogue showed up in my mail box. To use EAL’s description, this sale “*showcases stamps of the late Queen Victoria era in the highest attainable quality*”. These gems included several Small Queens with some “old friends” which I had previously attempted to purchase without success (and with the exception of the 5c stamp discussed in this article, are still on my list of unsuccessful bids). Lot 454 was a 5c single described as “*1896-1897 5c Grey Black (Ottawa Printing), Perf 12, a remarkably well centered mint single with deep rich colour and bold impression on pristine fresh paper, possessing full unblemished original gum, never hinged. An exceptional stamp in all respects, XF NH; 2006 PF cert*”. If you collect mint stamps, how can you not appreciate such a stamp? Well, the best part was yet to come as the picture of this enticing-sounding stamp clearly showed a printing flaw at lower right which looked just like the ex-Lindemann stamp offered by SCC. Could it be? EAL’s website provided a larger picture which confirmed that the stamp had what could be described as a “triangular printing flaw” at lower right corner.

Now that two examples of the flaw existed, I wanted to acquire at least one for my collection and hoped to unite the two stamps in order to examine and compare them “in the flesh”. Thankfully the ex-Lindemann stamp offered by SSC was still available and I quickly purchased it. I then had to wait what seemed to be an agonizing long time until the date of the EAL sale. Although my bids did not prevail on other gem stamps in the sale, I was successful in acquiring the 5c with the undescribed “triangular printing flaw” at lower right corner. It all worked out (for me) after all! As a bonus I realized shortly after the EAL sale that this stamp has a pedigree, having previously graced the Dr. Choi-Lok Tang collection of premium Canadian stamps sold by Shreves Philatelic Galleries Inc. in 2006.

Upon receiving the two stamps I was able to compare them side-by-side. The position of the flaw is identical (and I’m sure they are from the same plate positions), but the two stamps have differences. The flaw on the SSC stamp (Figure 3a) is somewhat more triangular in shape while the flaw on the EAL stamp (Figure 3b) is more oval and shows a slight deformation of the design at the edge of the shading to the right of the “5”.

5¢ Small Queen with Triangular Printing Flaw contd.

Figures 3a and 3b, detail of the flaw on the SSC stamp (left) and the EAL stamp (right)

Based on these two stamps, I believe this to be a short-lived flaw. It may be the result of foreign matter on the printing plate (although foreign matter usually results in areas devoid of ink rather than additional ink) but could also be the result of damage to the plate. Both of the stamps appear to be from the very last printings of the 5c Small Queen in a darker grey (tending towards black) of 1896 and 1897. If the flaw developed very late during the last printing of this value, it could explain why only two examples have been located. Alternatively, the flaw could have been quickly noticed and repaired, which could also explain why only two examples are turned up to date. There are several examples of short-lived flaws and varieties in the Small Queen issue, including the “blob on ear” on the 1c value and the late printing major re-entries and “hairball” variety on the 6c value. With only two examples, it could well be simply the result of foreign matter on the printing plate. I have looked at my other late printing 5c stamps and did not locate additional examples of this flaw. I hope you find examples of this flaw in your collection given that if additional examples are located; it would increase the likelihood that this was a short-lived plate flaw rather than a curiosity.

(Due to the subject matter, this article was submitted to Confederation and to Dots and Scratches)

Two Large Queen Covers with Plate Flaws

Vic Willson (LLOYDWILL@aol.com)

At the recent BNAPEX in Fredericton I spotted and bought a 12½¢ Large Queen cover with the position 52 flaw, a small circle between the P and O of POSTAGE.

The cover and stamp are shown below. I have not previously seen this flaw on cover,



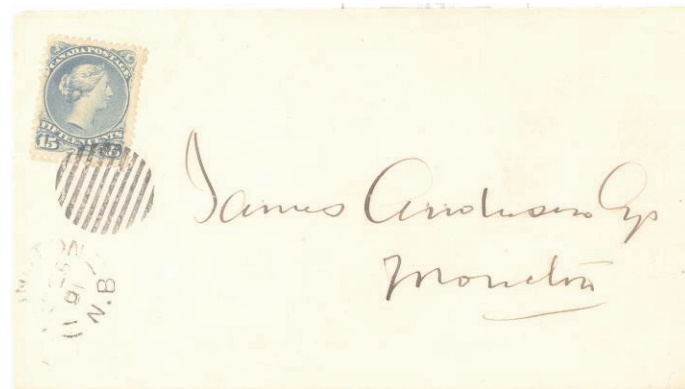
although it may be on the cover lot 504 of the Large Queen Brigham auction, the picture is not clear enough on the catalog or the pdf to verify that. It may also be on the left stamp of the pair on lot 507. It is not listed in Unitrade although it is as prominent and recognizable as the missing frame lines left and right around the value tablets. It was plated with a strip of three I purchased from a Longley auction some time ago with the plate flaws in positions 52, 53 (dot in lower right margin), and 54, flaw in the A of HALF. That is also shown here below.



The other cover shows the cracked plate flaw in position 81 of the 15¢ Large Queen. In Fred Fawn's exhibit book his sheet of the stamp has arrows indicating the location of a flaw at that position, but I had not previously seen what it looked like. I recently purchased a lower left 2 x 3 block of six specifically to get the flaw (and the flaw

at 91, which Fawn also indicated). Once I saw what it looks like, shown here, I went through my 15¢ covers and sure enough I found it on the cover illustrated here. The cover itself is probably a philatelic concoction as it pays a 5x letter rate or a 15x drop letter rate. The cancel is genuine and a remarkably perfect strike, but I have examples on post cards just as clear and complete. In any case, this plate flaw is harder to see on scans from auction catalogs. I understand it is listed in the latest Unitrade, which I have not yet seen.

One question about the



flaw in position 81 - I have located a number of these in my stock and viewing items on ebay (yes they can be found), and all are from the greyish stamps of the mid-1870s or later. I wonder if the crack occurred after the first printings. Perhaps a reader can show the flaw on an early printing to disprove this.



The Small Queen 6 Cent, Plate Position 96

Jim McCormick (jim@jimmc.ca)

I have written a number of hotly debated articles on plating the 6 cent issue. There is no debate that most of the 6 cents can be found with 1, 2 or 3 guide dots in the lower left corner, where the addition of a guide dot was the result of the re-entering of the plate position to the left. Exceptions are the left column of the sheet which show no guide dots, and the second column which did not gain a third guide dot. What remains controversial is the number of plates which were used for printing these stamps.

Two theories are presented in Hillson & Nixon's book "[Canada's Postage Stamps of the Small Queen Era, 1970-1987](#)". One theory has a single plate responsible for all of the printings with guide dots in the lower left corner, and the alternate theory sites at least two plates for these printings.

With thanks to the efforts of several Small Queen collectors, I now have a large number of high resolution scans of blocks and strips for study from which I am working on plate reconstruction for the various states (whether one or more plates) for comparison.

Here I present plate position 96 (bottom row, 6th stamp) from four different states of the plate (or states from two plates, if you prefer).

Figure 1 shows four stamps, each from multiples which clearly identify the stamps from position 96. In summary from left to right:

- 1-dot: From an early printing block/10 where each stamp shows a single guide dot. Note the unusual dot in the lower right corner, likely related to the imprint.
 - 2-dot: Note how the guide dot remains in nearly exactly the same position as the first stamp, and the addition of a faint second guide dot tight against the LL corner. The imprint and guide dot in the bottom right corner are also present in identical positions compared to the first stamp. But the stamp design has a more coarse look to it, with heavy inking around CANADA POSTAGE and thickening of the middle of the left 6. There is also a faint plate scratch in the LL 6.
 - 3-dot: This is from a strip of 3 where the three guide dots for each stamp are a perfect match for positions 95-97 when comparing against the full sheet. Note how the two bottom left guide dots remain, and a third guide dot was added to the right of them. The dot in the LR corner no longer remains. And the whole stamp design has shifted slightly upwards. The scratch in the LL 6 is gone, although evidence of re-entry is visible in the middle of the same 6, and in the "O" in POSTAGE.
- Final state: From the full sheet. Note how the three guide dots match the 3rd stamp, however the guide dots appear slightly lower again (because the stamp design shifted up again). The ink around CANADA POSTAGE is even heavier. The imprint in the bottom margin shows signs of wear, yet it remains in the identical position relative to the guide dots on the 1st and 2nd stamps.



Figure 1 - position 96 in four states from early to late printings

The Small Queen 6 cent, Plate Position 96 contd.

I suggest zooming in on the images to see the fine details, but I will provide full 1200 dpi scans of the multiples upon request.

It is possible that two plates were produced at the same time, using the same techniques to produce remarkable similarities for this plate position (rather than a progression as I suggest). But there are other remarkable similarities in many other areas of the plate when comparing 1-dot, 2-dot and 3-dot printings. In past articles I showed the transitions for positions 2 (dot-in-P) and 10 (twisted re-entry), and I intend to show the same for several other plate positions later this year. You be the judge!

As always, I am interested in seeing blow-up scans of any 6 cent multiples or re-entries. I would also be happy to work with someone on verification of the plate reconstruction project. Happy Hunting!

Fun Confirming the Use of an Ottawa Fancy Cancel

Ron Smith (rsmith0225@rogers.com)

Determining the legitimacy of a cover and cancel may require ‘time’ in addition to the usual suite of metrics such as matching inks and similar cancels from a given post office. This short article is one example.

The fancy cancel on the cover to the right is similar to a number of Ottawa fancies (closest to L1698 and L1699) but is not listed in Lacelle nor in Day & Smythies nor Jarrett. But as fancy cancel enthusiasts know, there are a number of fancies from Ottawa that are not currently listed.

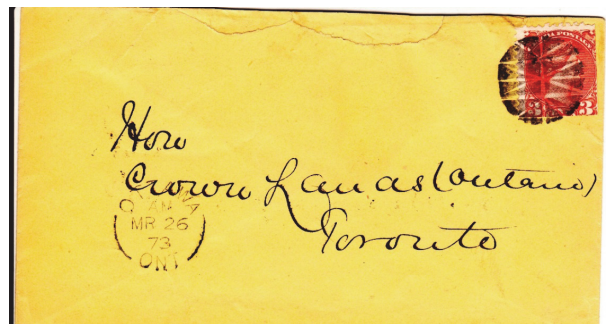
The cover potentially ‘fails’ the legitimacy test for two factors: 1) the cancel ink does not match the Russell CDS and 2) there are obvious ring cancels below the fancies on both stamps. Since it was not previously listed, its legitimacy can further be called into question. (Note: the backstamps are Ottawa (see scan) and Toronto (unclear date)).



Could it be legitimate? – Russell Ontario is located approximately 25 km southeast of Ottawa. It is feasible for the cover to have been re-cancelled in Ottawa as was done with Ottawa Crown cancels.

Here is where some patience has been required. Six years after finding this initial cover, a second cover and a single stamp were found. Shown at right and clearly mailed in Ottawa, it is dated two days after the one shown above.

This short article shows again how important it is to have multiple copies of cancels, and ideally covers in order to authenticate cancels. As a final note, the second cover and stamp were found by a friend, Guy Jeffery. We are a philatelic community and “comparing notes” is always a fun and productive exercise.



Two Cent Large Queen – Spur in Left Outer Frameline Plate Position 4

Jim Jung (fab4@rogers.com)

This large Registered cover has an impressive franking with a strip of 5 plus a single of the 2c Large Queen issue all tied to each other and the blue envelope by 7 ring targets. There are two straightline Registered cancels and a BERWICK MR 8 72 dispatch on the front, addressed to Lindsay with a PORT HOPE MR 12 72 transit and LINDSAY MR 12 72 receiver on the back.

There are two Registration numbers written at left for the delivery of the letter.

The rate could be the quadruple weight domestic rate of 12c (4 x 3c). In this case the 2c Registration fee



would have been paid in cash. In the Large Queen period, the 2c Registration was normally paid with a 2c stamp. Since the REGISTERED cancels were placed on the envelope before the single left stamp was added, the single stamp could be for the Registration fee which would leave the 5 x 2c stamps to overpay a triple weight rate. The manuscript "4" to the left of the stamps is interesting and I'm not sure what this is for. Registration is a fixed fee of 2c which did not increase with weight. It appears to be related to the rate.

Although the cover is folded and worn, the stamps bear an important story and that is why I am writing this article.

When we zoom in on the 2nd stamp from the right we notice this stamp has the known Major Re-entry from Position 7 of the plate with marks most noticeable in the ANAD of CANADA and PO of POSTAGE. This is catalogued in Unitrade as 24v. It is fortunate that the stamps are in a bright green shade which shows the details very clearly. It's nice to have the Major Re-entry in a multiple as well as having it on cover. The Major also clearly identifies the strip of five as being from position 4-8.

There is also a dot between the 3rd and 4th stamp. This is believed to be a positioning Guide dot for the Printer's Imprint.

After the recent new entry of the "Spur in Left Outer Frameline" variety in Unitrade (24viii), it was pointed out to me that the 2nd stamp from the left had this variety. This is exciting news because when we count back from the Position 7 Major Re-entry, we get the Plate Position of the "Spur" variety at Position 4.

This variety has been discovered previously by Lees-Jones and described as: "... a spur on the bone at left joining scroll of CANADA panel to foliage leaf above "2" in S. W. corner." Lees-Jones describes this stamp as coming from late printings and being the "fourth stamp in the top row of Plate 2." The strip of five on this cover certainly proves this statement and now Unitrade can add this small piece of information to their listing.

References:

The Large Queen Stamps of Canada and Their Use, 2nd Ed. – H. E. & H. W. Duckworth

Chairman's Notes

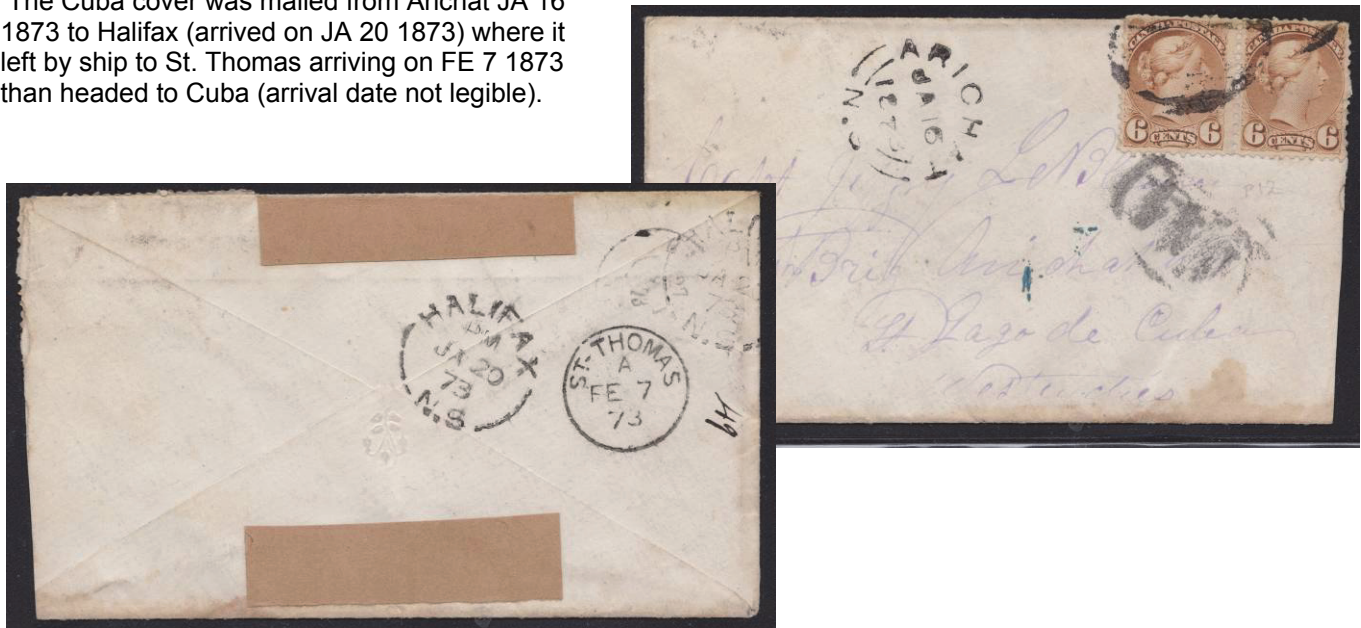
Bill Radcliffe (confederationbnaps@gmail.com for newsletter enquiries)

I would like to start this newsletter hoping that everyone had a happy and healthy New Year. This newsletter is late getting out because regrettably I took a bad fall and my article was late. We are still looking for articles so if anyone has something for us please sent it so we can get the summer newsletter out on time.

The study group will be meeting on Saturday May 6th starting at 7:00 p.m. the night of ORAPEX at Guillaume Vadeboncoeur's house in Ottawa. This is an informal gathering where most people bring stamps, covers , cancels and other material to discuss. The odd swaps and trades do occur. Guillaume indicated that he will be providing snacks and an assortment of beverages and wine. I would like to thank Guillaume and his wife Annelise for their hospitality; this is the ninth 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 by phone (609-617-0644) or email bsbvp88@hotmail.com .

The covers that are pictured below are two very rare pre-UPU rate covers to Cuba and British Guiana via Halifax. The only other covers that are recorded at this 12 cent rate that I am aware of are the three restored covers to St. Thomas that Arfken had (one overpaid by 1c).

The Cuba cover was mailed from Arichat JA 16 1873 to Halifax (arrived on JA 20 1873) where it left by ship to St. Thomas arriving on FE 7 1873 than headed to Cuba (arrival date not legible).



... continued on next page

Chairman's Notes contd.

The next cover piece was mailed from Halifax on May 13 1876 to British Guiana arriving in St. Thomas on May 28 1876.

If any other collectors have other 12 cent Halifax to the Caribbean pre-UPU rate I would like to know about it.

**Newsletter contact information:**

General enquiries: confederationbnaps@gmail.com

Chairman:

Bill Radcliffe, 478 Media Rd., Oxford PA 19363 U.S.A.
Email: bsbvp88@hotmail.com, Ph. (856) 589-1945

Editor:

Glenn Archer, 2114 Lawrence Ave. W, York ON M9N 1J1 CANADA
Email: glennarcher@hotmail.com