

# Confederation

The Newsletter of the BNAPS Large and Small Queen Study Group

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## **“Faux Offset” of the One Cent Small Queen**

**Dr. Darin P. Cherniwchan, Chilliwack, BC Canada**

The Small Queens (SQs) Issue remains an intriguing study on a variety of fronts. In the process of evaluating a collection of One Cent SQs, I have noticed something that I would like to share with this Study Group.

For the purposes of this article, an offset printing “occurs when sheets of stamps are stacked while the ink is still wet. An offset shows a reverse impression on the back of the stamp, i.e. everything is backwards.”<sup>1</sup> Of the lower denomination SQs (1/2, 1, 2, and 3 Cents), the One Cent SQ seems to have the lowest frequency of offsets. Offsets amongst the One Cent SQs are more commonly seen, however, on and after mid-1895 and are frequently associated with the poorer “J” paper group (medium weight, poor quality, toned yellowish paper). When I noticed a stamp labeled as an “offset” amongst a recently purchased collection of One Cent SQ fancy cancels, my curiosity was piqued as this particular stamp’s paper is whiter, minimally toned and with better quality compared with “J” paper offsets.

### **Characteristics:**

On first inspection, this stamp has a relatively nice appearance (Fig. 1). The most obvious feature is the “quartered” cork cancellation – Jarrett No. 1351<sup>2</sup>; Day & Smythies No. 848<sup>3</sup>; Lacelle No.1176. “Napanee ON DE75-?80”<sup>4</sup>. Quartered corks were popular in other post offices during the SQ era, not just Napanee<sup>5</sup>.

The variation in paper thickness is not unusual for this Issue: Top Left (33/10000”), Top Right (31.5/10000”), Centre (31/10000”), Bottom Left (33/10000”) and Bottom Right (33.5/10000”).

The Richard M. Morris Color Guide System reveals the shade as *Orange Yellow*<sup>6</sup>.

Digital perforation determinations using an Epson™ Perfection V600 Photo Scanner at 1200 dpi and Adobe Photoshop™ are Top 12.32, Bottom 12.31, Left 12.33, and Right 12.36.

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<sup>1</sup> Reiche, Hans *Offsets*, **BNA Topics**, March 1971. p 98.

<sup>2</sup> Jarrett, Fred. **Stamps of British North America**, 1929. Quarterman Publications, Inc. pp 536-7.

<sup>3</sup> Day, K.M. and Smythies E.A. **Canadian Fancy Cancellations of the Nineteenth Century**, 2e, 1981. Mission Press pp 112-3.

<sup>4</sup> Lacelle, D.M. **Fancy Cancels On Canadian Stamps 1855 to 1950**, 2e, 2007. The British North American Philatelic Society Ltd. pp 108-9.

<sup>5</sup> Pugh, K and Leith, R. Expert opinion. Discussion. October 25, 2019.

<sup>6</sup> Morris, Richard M. **Color Guide System for Large & Small Queens & Widow Weeds & Registration Stamps of Canada**, 2000. Pittsboro Philatelics.

The paper seems to have characteristics of both Shoemaker<sup>7</sup> E and F Groups – “Design shows through” consistent with Group E and “Toned white pebbly surfaced” consistent with Group F. The overall paper quality is far superior compared to Group J types where virtually all true offsets are seen in this issue as discussed above.



Fig. 1

On closer inspection, the stamp has a left centre guide dot<sup>8</sup> (Fig. 2). In my collection, the earliest recorded left centre guide dot is JA 4 1880. Left centred guide dots rarely are accompanied with lower left guide dots.



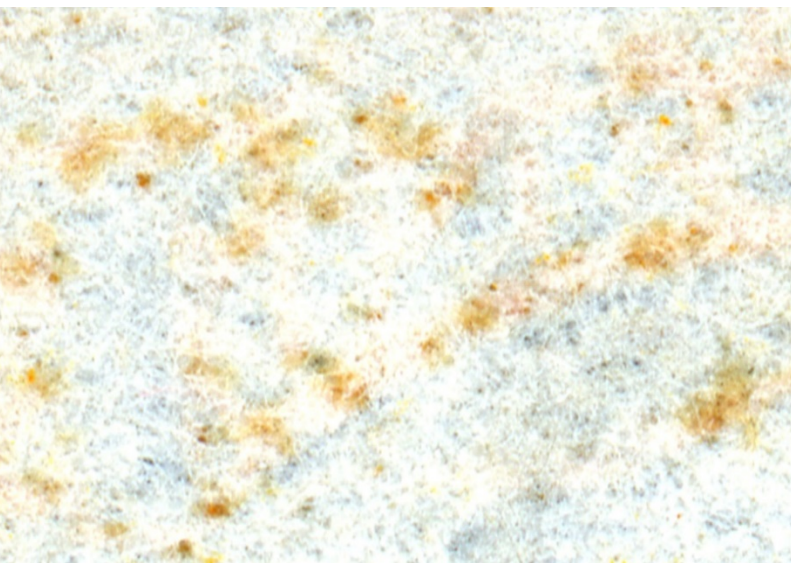
Fig. 2

These pieces of evidence are helpful in dating this stamp. I would surmise this stamp is a Montreal Printing from the 1880's.

Fig. 3

### The “Faux” Features

When the stamp is turned over, there appears to be a relatively strong offset throughout consistent with the previous owner's opinion (Fig. 3). However, on closer inspection, and especially under scanned magnification (Fig. 4), the appearance of colour is only seen on the indented areas from mesh (horizontal in this circumstance) used in the paper manufacture. The ink bleeds in and around these individual areas and, in many areas, blends with adjacent colour to give the appearance of a striking offset. This phenomenon is somewhat more pronounced in the embossed areas of the stamp such as the outer and inner circles. This variety is distinct from the diffuse generalized bleeding of aniline



dye seen in other denominations especially the Three Cent SQ.

Fig. 4

<sup>7</sup> Ribler, Ronald I. *Canada's Three Cents Small Queen 1870-1897 Reflections of a Generation*, 2000. Philatelics Unlimited. pp 47-8.

<sup>8</sup> Kershaw, K.A. **A Summary of the Known Flaws, Guide Dots and Cork Cancels in the 1 Cent Small Queen**, 2013. The British North American Philatelic Society Ltd. pp 59-62.

My suspicion that this was a “faux offset” was confirmed upon holding up the stamp to the light at an angle (Fig. 5). The colour almost completely disappeared!



Fig. 5

This particular “faux offset” variety appears to be quite uncommon and can easily be mislabeled as a true offset. This variety should neither be confused with the design showing through, especially thinner paper varieties, nor with true offsets seen at the latest stages of the SQ era. Further study is required to determine the printing period(s) during which this “faux” variety occurs. A subsequent article will be published to help answer this question.

Please feel free to forward your comments and/or questions directly to me. I would be happy to publish any follow-up responses in a subsequent newsletter. PDF copies in original formatting available at [www.smallqueens.ca](http://www.smallqueens.ca)

“Keeping the hobby alive – one collector at a time!”

## **New Information on the 15 Cent Large Queen “Balloon Flaw”**

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

Brian Hargreaves presented a very timely article on the 15 cent Large Queen “Balloon Flaw” in the April 2019 edition of *Confederation*. He provided a scan of a very early printing with the tip of the imprint at sheet bottom, proving plate position 97, but no Balloon Flaw. “When did the Balloon go up?” was the question. It was timely, because only two weeks earlier a few members of the Dots and Scratches study group were discussing the same question of when the flaw was introduced. Brian mentioned having a #29 with the flaw, and sent me a scan of what was clearly another first Ottawa printing. In *Canada The Fifteen Cents of 1868* by Gerald Firth, he writes about three printing orders processed in Ottawa before the move to Montreal. The question that remains is from which printing order did Brian's position 97 (without the flaw) come from?

- First order: 212,500 in early 1868 – early reddish purple shades on thin to medium paper
- Second order: 100,000 on May 22, 1868 - greyish purple shades on thicker paper, and on bothwell paper
- Third order: 500,000 on October 22, 1868 – majority are in red-lilac shades

Figure 1 displays both position 97 (right stamp of pair), where the one on the left shows no flaw while it is present on the stamp at right. In my opinion, the left stamp has the reddish purple shade as described by Firth from the first printing order, and the right stamp is from the third printing order.



↑ Imprint identifying pos'n 96

↑ No balloon flaw

↑ Balloon flaw

Figure 1 - shade comparison for position 97 without & with the flaw, courtesy of Brian Hargreaves

Brian also provide scans of the back sides from his stamps in figure 2. The paper on the pair is thin to medium, while the single that has the balloon flaw is on a thicker paper. The paper is also a match to suggest first printing order for the pair, and third printing order for the stamp with the balloon flaw.

The question was raised if this could be evidence of two 15 cent plates. In my opinion, there was only one plate, as the relative location of the imprint and the guide dots are a match between the pair in figure 1 and later printings as in figure 4.



Figure 2 - paper comparison for the stamps from figure 1, courtesy of Brian Hargreaves

I recently found a #30c (deep violet on carton paper) showing the same flaw. The brilliant shade from 1880 offered up more details than I had previously seen. Figure 3 shows a close-up of the flaw, with several markings. The one on the left is oval shaped and very subtle.



Figure 3 - More details on the 1880 deep violet printing

To top it off, during the Orapex meet in May, Dr. Jim Watt showed me an imperf single and pair that belonged together from plate positions 95-97. He allowed me to scan the strip/3 at 2400 dpi for a really good look (Figure 4). The ink from the brown purple shade offers up significant more detail, confirming that all markings on the #30c are constant, and that there is much more to it. The markings spill over into neighbouring position 96, and towards the very bottom of the sheet. It bears a strong resemblance to the pitted plate variety of the 1890 printing 6 cent Small Queen from the "BC plate".



Figure 4 - Balloon flaw from an imperf sheet, courtesy of Dr. Jim Watt

What is the cause of the corrosion? Perhaps exposure during the months of storage between printing orders?

#### Conclusion

- The Balloon Flaw is from corrosion / pitting on the plate. It was introduced early in the life of the plate, and remained until the final printings in the 1890's. We now know that the flaw was present for the third printing order, but have no evidence regarding the second order.

We would be very interested to see more examples of this flaw, in particular from the early printings. Does anyone have this flaw on Bothwell paper (2<sup>nd</sup> printing order)?

References: Canada: The Fifteen Cents of 1868 by L. Gerald Firth; BNAPS Confederation, April 2019

## New Double Rate Registered to UK in 8¢ Registration Period

Vic Willson



I recently bought the item at left on ebay out of the UK. It pays the double 5¢ per half oz. rate plus 8¢ registration. The 8¢ registration period ended Dec. 31, 1877. The window for the rate combination is Oct. 1, 1875, through 1877. It is not surprising that so few 5¢ Large Queens occur on registered with the issuance of the Small Queen 5¢ in February, 1876 which senders seem to have preferred. This effectively leaves 4 months for this combination, accounting for the low number of Large Queen covers to England. According to Wayne Smith's census, heretofore only one Large Queen cover, a 5¢ + 8¢ RLS, has been recorded. The total is now two with the Dec. 21, 1875, cover shown here sent from Grafton ONT Dec. 18, 1875, through Montreal Dec. 21, received Liverpool Jan. 1, 1876, to County Antrim, Ireland, received Dublin Jan. 2, and Lurgan Jan.3.

## A Remarkable Correspondence of 1870's Life in York Factory

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

To begin, I'd like to personally thank Graham Searle for generously providing the source material for this article and input towards its creation.

The Canadian Philatelic Society of Great Britain (CPS of GB) holds an annual Convention and, as some of you may know, an excellent auction of BNA material. The 2019 auction contained an extraordinary correspondence offering fascinating insight into church missionary work taking place in remote 19<sup>th</sup> century Canada.

The group of eleven covers auctioned (Lots 164 to 174 inclusive) is correspondence between Archdeacon William West Kirkby, stationed at York Factory, and a Mrs. Shirley in Oxford, England. Ten of the letters span the 1872 to 1879 period while an additional 1887 letter, posted at Prince Albert, NWT, is attributed to his son David.

York Factory was a major base of operations for the Hudson's Bay Company from the establishment of trading posts in the late 17<sup>th</sup> Century, to the building of the octagonal fort at York Factory 1788-1795, to 1957 when it was permanently closed. It was situated on Hudson's Bay in what is now northeast Manitoba, about 200 km SSE of Churchill. It was a major trading hub for nearly 200 years. Competition from the North West Company, Confederation and development of extensive transportation routes to the south contributed to its decline in importance by the late 19<sup>th</sup> Century. Today it serves as summer housing for some Parks Canada staff but has no permanent residents and its outbuildings are largely destroyed.



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This article shows four of the covers.

Fig. 1 shows an otherwise average-looking envelope, bearing two damaged three-cent Small Queens and paying the Allan Line rate

to England. What makes the letter special are its contents.



Archdeacon Kirkby was an amateur photographer and enclosed four photos of the settlement in 1872, two of which are shown below.

The photographs

below were apparently taken in September 1872, the author expressing regret in his letter that it is too cold to take photographs in November. The

Figure 1. Written Nov. 30th, 1872, bearing postmark, backstamped Oxford 7th March 1873

accompanying letter details Kirkby's missionary duties and comments on the relative poverty of the Indians living there. It also elaborates on the remoteness of the post:

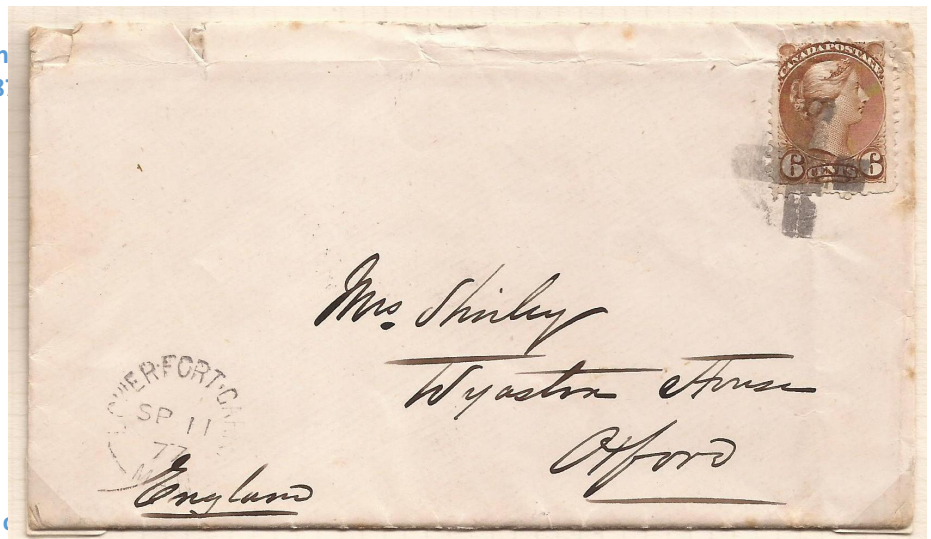


Figure 2. "The Fort, Tents, Ice and Bits of Bay from the South."





"...the Packeters... leave here on Monday to walk up to Norway House – 500 Miles – and unless I send a line now I shall not have an opportunity of doing so until March."

An excerpt from the second cover in this article, shown in Fig. 4, chronicles the difficulty in travel:

"... I am now busy preparing for my long journey to Severn and Trout Lake which I hope, please God, to make this Summer. The ice on the (Hayes) River broke up 2 days ago and although it is still very cold I am still hoping to start this day week June 1<sup>st</sup>... it is such across-country... the

May 25<sup>th</sup>, 1877, posted at Lower Fort Garry Sept. 11<sup>th</sup> 1877, Milton 19<sup>th</sup> Sept. and Oxford 2<sup>nd</sup> Oct. 1877.

probability is that we shall not see a single individual until we reach Trout Lake – a period of 18 or 20 days. I am very much hoping that the new Church at Severn... may be sufficiently complete to use for Divine Service."



Mail leaving Lower Fort Garry seems to have travelled mainly by closed bag through US or Canada, Letter 3 (Fig. 5) in this article shown below) is interesting as it was apparently carried by favour to London by ship and posted at London to Oxford ) at the customary British 1d domestic rate. Note the three-month transit time between writing and receipt.

Letter 4 (Figure 6 below in this article) suggests improvements in transportation were happening to the south of York Factory. Though the letter was written in February and took two months to reach Lower Fort Garry, transit to Hamilton took only eight days in early Spring 1878 and a reasonable fifteen-day transatlantic trip.

The importance of York Factory was actually in decline by the 1870s, as it slowly ceased to be a hub for the supply of British goods to the Northland and evolved into a regional trading post.

Figure 5. Letter carried by favour to London.

Figure 6. Cover w letter. Written Feb. 14th, 1878, posted at Lower Fort Garry, Apr. 16th, 1878. Shows transit backstamps of Hamilton, 24th April and Oxford, 9th May 1878.

## Early Use Large Queens

### Wayne Smith (waynesmithtor@yahoo.ca)

With some help from Glen and Bill here is my list of the off cover Large Queens with dates Ap 1/68 or earlier as well as early 5c.

Arnprior - #25 Ap 1/68

Galt - #25 Mr 19/68 (ex Firby auction – suspicious date)

Hamilton - #29 Mr 9/68, #29 Mr 12 or 13/68 (Fawn), #29 Mr 16/68, #24 Mr 26/68, #25 Mr 26/68, #24 Mr 28/68, #25 Mr 28/68, #25 Mr 28/68, #25 Mr 2?/68, #22 Mr 30/68, #24 Mr 31/68, #29 MR ?/68, #25 Ap 1/68, #25 Ap 1/68, #27 Ap 1/68, #29 Ap1/68

London - #25 Ap 1/68

Magog - #25 Ap 1/68

Montreal #29 Mr 20/68 (city not completely clear), #25 Mr 31/68 (city not completely clear)

Oshawa - #25 Mr 31/68

Ottawa - #29 Mr 2/68, #29 Mr 2/68, #29 Mr 7/68, #22 Mr 27/68, #21 Mr 31/68

Port???? – #25 Ap 1/68

Quebec - #21 Ap 1/68, #25 Ap 1/68

Simcoe - #25 Mr 31/68

St. John - #25 Ap1/68

York - #28 Mr 31/68

Town not clear #24 Mr 26/68, #25 Mr 30/68, #25 Ap 1/68, #25 Ap 1/68, #28 Ap 1/68

#26 – Seen #26 ?? Oc 1/75, Quebec Oc 1/75, Waterford Oc 1/75 and Thornsby Oc 2/75. I have seen a fourth Oc 1 but I am of the belief it is a case of the second date number being off the edge and is therefore Oc 10 to 19<sup>th</sup>.

As there was no direct use for the 6c until Ap 1, it is not surprising there is no early use.

Prices for these is all over the place. Last Nov a SON Ap 1/68 on 3c sold for \$163cdn on ebay. I sold my Mr 2/68 for \$1,900+ buyers fee in 1995 and Saskatoon had the other Mr 2 listed last year at \$2,950.

The early #29's are explained by the rate to UK change from 17c in late Feb 1868 to 15c so the new stamps would have been sent out as soon as possible. At the time Hamilton was the fifth largest city but seems to have received a shipment of Large Queens early or ignored a request not to use them beforehand. My guess is Hamilton requested a shipment of 5c Beaver stamps and received #24 and #25 instead.

An interesting point on the Hamilton strikes are they all have CW in the dater except one of the #25 Ap 1/68 which has ONT in the dater. Stéphane Cloutier pointed out to me that at the time Hamilton was using a double broken circle hammer with ONT (introduced 1867-02-05), the Berri Duplex (CW) in use until 1873-04-16 (killer section modified in 1872 but dater not modified), and a single broken circle hammer with CW that stayed in use until 1872-12-02 so it is expected that CW and ONT would be seen at the same time. As a side note Stéphane also pointed to the work done by the Greene Foundation in certifying the third #32 with its Hamilton Mr 16/70 CW cancel. The Foundation showed how they determined that the date was appropriate for the stamp. He noted that as the duplex dater and the single broken circle are very near identical the #32 could have either one of them – a careful measurement using an overlay would be needed to know for sure. Either way no impact on the value of the #32.

If anyone has scans of any other Large Queen early use I would appreciate getting a copy. waynesmithtor@yahoo.ca

*(Ed. Note: rearranging this to summarize)*

Uni#	date
21	Apr 1 1868
22	Mar. 30 1868
23	Jan. 28, 1869 (not listed above)
24	Mar. 26, 1858
25	Mar. 26, 1868- Mar. 19 to be confirmed
26	Sep. 29, 1875-(per Bill Radcliffe)
27	Apr. 1, 1868
28	Mar. 31, 1868
29	Mar. 2, 1868

## Blob Under Ear of 1¢ Small Queen

Earl Noss (earln@kwic.com)

I was asking Bill Burden about it as we correspond quite often. And he told me it was the earliest date he has seen & also the first he has seen on cover. I don't really know any more than that. If you have any information on this flaw or cover, I would love to hear.



Quebec Mar 31, 1891

### Editor's Comment

I wish to thank Glen Archer for many years' editorship of the newsletter that helped to continue to grow our group.

Our goal for the newsletter is to put out a quarterly, or at least triannual newsletter. I know there is plenty of material out there to discuss. You do not need to write an extensive article. See Earl Noss' query above- perfect for inclusion. Please send either as a WORD file, or as Earl did, in an email with jpegs that are easy to download and format for the newsletter. Tables in excel are also fine, but do not send me specialized formats, links to storage that require me to spend time accessing them, or other arcane connections. I will not spend time on them.