

Confederation

The Newsletter of the BNAPS Large and Small Queen Study Group

Volume 69

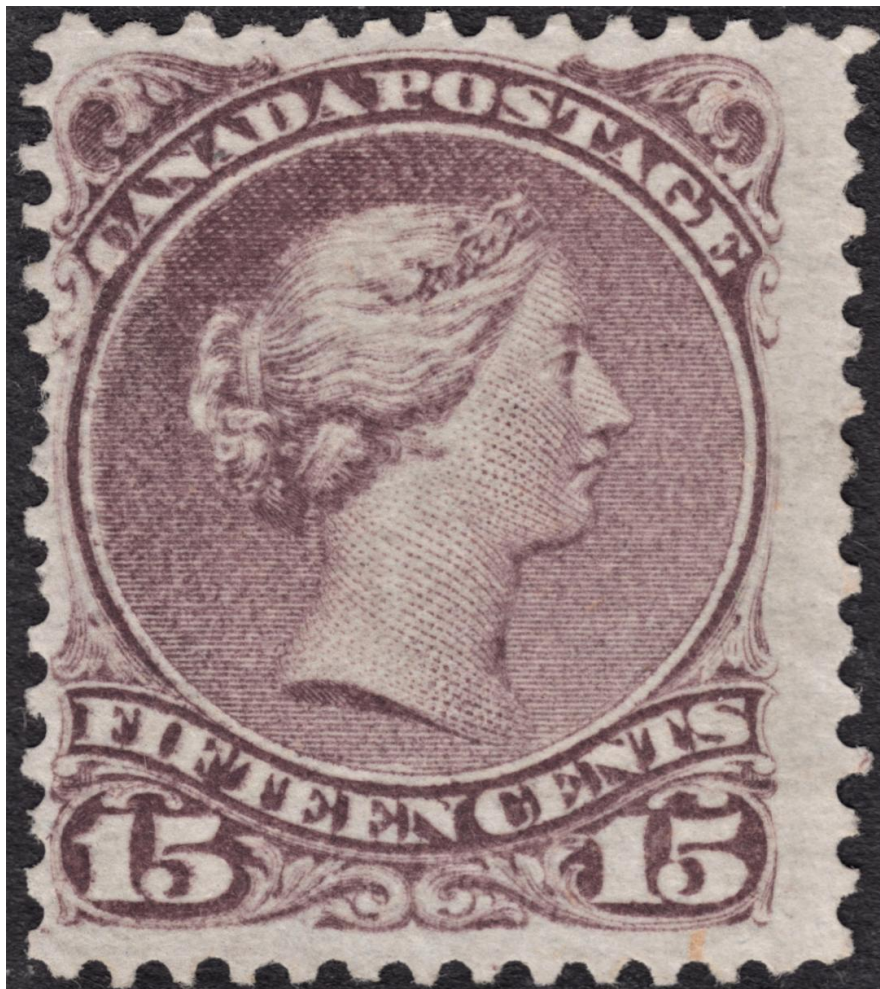
February 2020

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Earl Asks

Member Earl Noss has a lot of material and questions about various items he owns or sees. These will be sprinkled across the newsletter to elicit responses from readers in following newsletters.



1. I got this Sc29iii pos.91 on eBay about a year ago. And got it quite cheap as the regular stamp. I have been wondering if there is more than one major position? Or are all these slip prints?

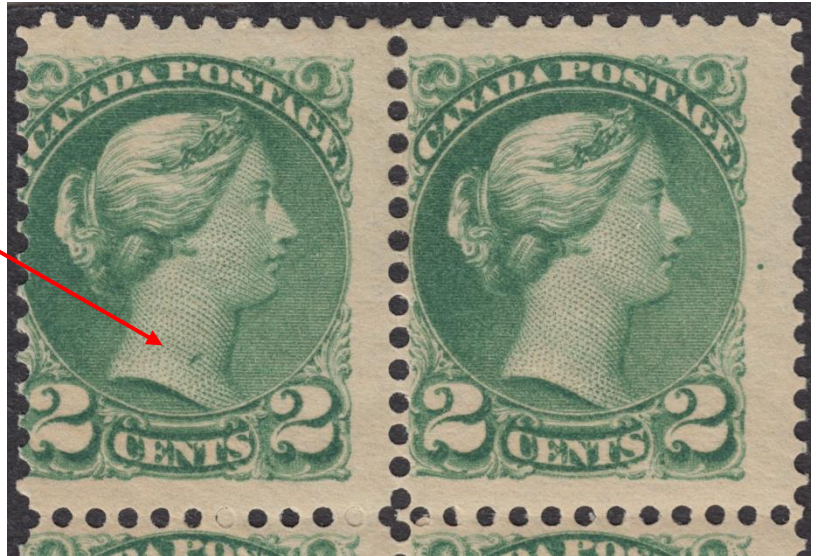
Glen Archer responds:

That's the second one we've seen showing the LL dot and yes, that's a major re-entry. I am willing to accept that the PP 91 dot, which isn't a position dot but rather a blemish in the plate, pins that example with some certainty. But, the variety seems to occur without that mark as well, indicating more than one PP. Evidence for the possibility of the 29iii variety being a slip print does seem strong.

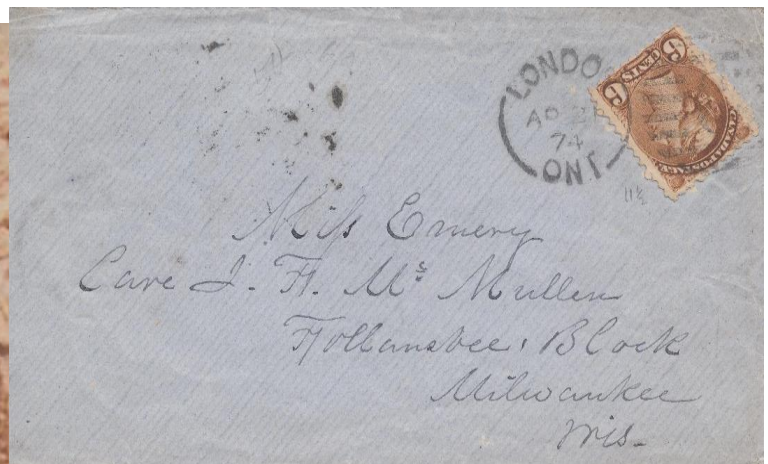
1) the variety ONLY occurs on early printings. Earl's single is a 29e, on thin paper. Note the major is absent in the block. 2) we know that a retouch happened early in the life of the 15 cent plate (my estimate being less than two months). Was there, perhaps, a defect in the plate that was causing slip prints in the left column? And, was it "fixed" during the retouch of the plate?

3) Despite Jim Watt's CP article, he was wrong about the PP of his example, there was no UL dot on the stamp thus not PP 1. I once had a very early printing Pawnbroker that lacked the pp 9-10 scratch crossing the margin.

2. I don't believe I sent you this Sc36 Block showing the neck flaw. This also shows a dot at the far right margin. I believe Ron Smith & Bill Burden wrote on this flaw a couple of years ago & also used my scan. It sure would be nice to find a position for it.

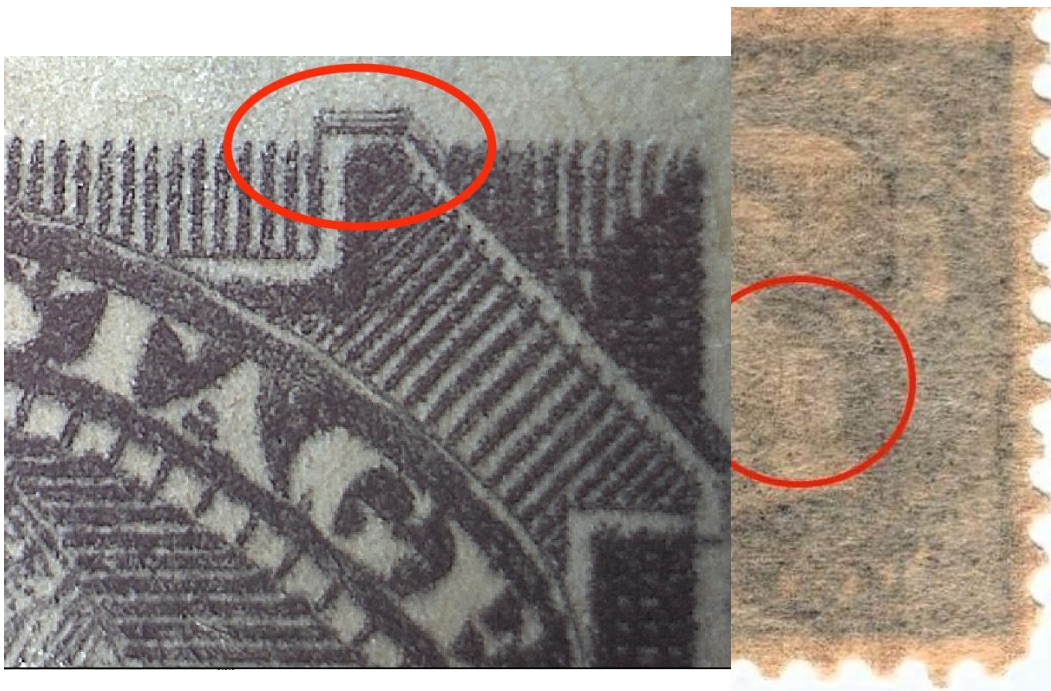


3. here is a cover with stamp Sc39 pos.66 showing the flaw in the right six. Bill Burden said it is the oldest dated he has seen (Apr. 2, 1874). I don't think this flaw lasted that long by the way it is fading out after one year. This would be right beside the major re-entry. I also include an earlier one to show how strong they were earlier in the life of the stamp.



Robert Coulson reports:
Been looking at this weird
back of one of my Scott
34's.

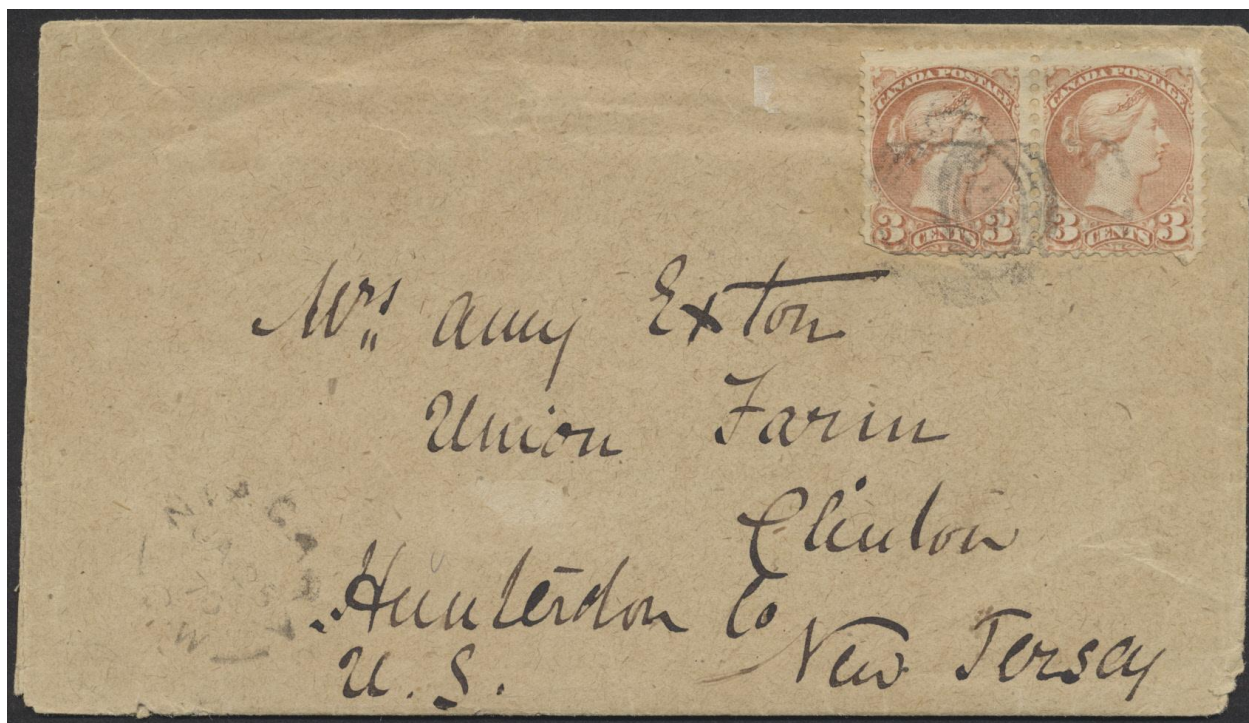
- 1 - There is a tripling on
the outer frame.
- 2 - There looks like a
letter "F" or letter "E" on
the back.



A January 25 1870 Small Queen Cover to USA - Paul Varty

I found this cover in a large lot of Canadian material a few years ago. Certainly not much eye appeal but was posted January 25th, 1870 at Niagara C.W. to a U.S.A. address.

The pair of #37b copper red 3c cancelled with murky 4-ring 23. The cover has an enclosure dated Jan 24th, 1870. I believe the earliest known domestic Small Queen usage on cover is Jan 13th. The question is what is the earliest known non-domestic use?



Ed.comments:

John Keenlyside showed a Port Hope Jan. 12 cancel on 37b. in his BNAPS grand award exhibit of 1991.

He showed a 37d pair to Cuba (right stamp cut in half) dated Mar. 1-earliest overseas?

Several few years back, someone suggested that I take a closer look at the 3rd issue bill stamps, and the Ontario Law stamps for comparison of paper, perfs and shades with the Large Queen and Small Queen issues. Since then I have been quietly amassing an accumulation for study, dated if possible. The results of the study are far from complete as more stamps and research are needed, but I'd like to share my observations.

Perforations

It is well known that perforations for the early Ottawa Printings of postage stamps (roughly 1868-1872) will usually measure 12 (rounded up) on all sides. One clear exception is the early printings of the 3 cent Small Queen which can be found perforated 12.5 on all sides. When dated they are usually from the first half of 1870. Postmarks are almost exclusively from New Brunswick or Nova Scotia. These are indications that a special perforating machine was temporarily used.

John Keenlyside's 1991 gold medal exhibit is an excellent reference for the perf 12.5 stamp, which also shows how the same perforator was used on the First Bill Stamp Issue of 1864.

The E.S.J van Dam revenue catalogue notes that the Ontario Law revenues (#OL46-OL60) can be found perforated "11, 12, 11.5, 12.5 and combinations thereof". As inexpensive stamps, I was able to purchase a fair amount of stock from dealers, including several perforated 12.5 dated in the first half of 1870. Ones dated later in 1870-1872 are perf 12x12.

What this suggests, is that the ABNCo had a busy spell in late 1869 / early 1870 and dusted off the old perforator for the newly issued Ontario Law stamps, and for a small run of the 3 cent Small Queen.



Illustration 1: All perf 12.5, in the copper red shade, and dated in the first half of 1870

Let's fast forward to 1873 when printings moved to Montreal. In the first few years, a high percentage of the postage stamps have compound perforations, meaning perforated horizontally by one type of machine, and vertically by another type resulting in different horizontal and vertical perforations. While not exact, I will simplify by rounding the measurements to perf 11.5x12. It is no surprise that the same compound perforations are found during the same time period on the Bill Stamps and Law Stamps.



Illustration 2: Montreal printings dated 1873-1877, perf 11.5x12 (50c is 12x11.5)

Papers

Many of the same papers used for the Large Queen and early Small Queen stamps can also be found on the Third Bill stamp issue. The first printings of the bill stamps (normally dated in 1868) are found on a very thin "pelure paper". The

early printings of the Large Queen stamp from the same period is also found on a thin paper, often referred to as Duckworth paper 1. These papers are remarkably similar, showing a hint of vertical mesh. I would like to hear the opinion of other collectors as I have a vague recollection of someone telling me that they are different papers.



Illustration 3: Very thin paper, all dated in 1868

The Bothwell watermarked paper was commonly used for all the Large Queen issues printed in 1869. The same paper can be found on the 3 cent and 6 cent bill stamps, also dated in 1869. There were far fewer printings of the Bill Stamps in comparison to Postage Stamps, attributing to why Bothwell paper was used only on these two denominations, and why they are so scarce. I have also been re-assured that if they exist on other denominations, the vertical mesh Bothwell paper would have been identified by this point in time. Yet I still watch for 1869 dates.



Illustration 4: Bothwell watermarked stamps, each with 1869 date

1870 was a year where the paper quality on the Small Queen 1 cent and 3 cent issue was high, producing a sharp image. The same papers can be found used on revenue stamps dated in 1870.

The relatively scarce “thick soft paper” used for 1 cent and 3 cent Small Queens in late Dec 1870 / early 1871, is not known on revenues, and I have doubt that it exists.

Much more research on papers remains to be done.

Ink

The Third issue Bill Stamps were issued in brown, green, and vermillion for the lower denominations, and blue for the higher values. The browns on the bill stamps have a reddish hue compared to the LQ/SQ's, but the other inks may have shared the same recipe for postage and revenue stamps.

The Ontario Law stamps and the Small Queen 3 cent issue are strikingly similar, to the point that I would conclude that the same ink recipes were used throughout. The copper reds from the 1870s are common, as are the rose reds in 1871, leading to the dull red shade in 1872. When the ABNCo moved to Montreal in 1873, the colours change to varying shades of orange.

Unfortunately, I have yet to find an Ontario Law Stamp dated late 1888 / early 1889 in the Rose Carmine shade which is found on the #41a/41i on the 3 cent Small Queen. To make matters worse, they changed from using nice dated machine cancels or dated pen cancels to destructive but shapely hole punches some time around 1880. We'd need Law Stamps on document to see a date, in order to study these later printings.

Illustration #5 demonstrates how the same ink recipes were used. I cherry picked in attempt to match the hue of the paper, general freshness etc as the shades are affected by exposure to the elements and method of storage. From left to right, blue, copper red, rose, orange-red, and vermillion.



Illustration 5. Shaded Canadian Law Stamps

Other varieties

Constant plate flaws are of huge interest to many collectors, however the majority of revenues appear to have been printed from only one plate, and with far fewer orders in comparison to postage stamps, the plates did not go through significant wear, and were not re-entered. Late printing full sheets of the 3rd issue bill stamps are available for study, and other than some doubling on the left most column of the 3 cent bill stamp, there's little else to discover. Let me know if there is interest in analyzing blow-up scans of the sheets.

Printer errors such as double perfs, mis-perfs, ink smudges, etc also exist on the bill stamps, and are fun to collect, but are one-off anomalies.

Conclusion

There should be few surprises. It's rather obvious I think. The company responsible for printing postage stamps was also responsible for revenue stamps, and they used the same materials and same machinery for production. But while one paper or perf variety may be scarce on postage stamps, it may be found more routinely on the revenues, or vice versa.

I am interested to know if similar studies have been done in the past.

p.s., If memory serves me right, I think that "someone" that I mentioned in opening statements was Bill Walton, and it was during an Orapex show 10 or more years ago. I reached out to Bill again in 2017 on the topic, and in response received more encouragement and guidance. Much appreciated!

References:

1. E.S.J. Van Dam catalogue, 2017 edition
 - THE 3c SMALL QUEEN, 1870 perforation 12 1/2, Collection formed by JOHN KEENLYSIDE (BNAPEX '91)

1868 POSTAL GUIDE INTERNATIONAL RATES Glen Archer

Glen purchased the 1868 postal guide on ebay and sent scans of some pages. He promises to do better scans in future but I thought you might like to see a sample of what is coming. Not all of this is in Arfken or other sources, especially things like bookpost, newspaper rates etc. (not that we are likely to find them for 99.9% of the listings- still nice to nail down what they were)

TABLE					
RATES OF POSTAGE FROM CANADA TO THE UNITED KINGDOM					
By Mail sent to England by Mail Steam Packets calling Weekly from Quebec to Britain. The Postage upon Letters, Newspapers, or Book Postage for any of the Destinations here must be prepaid, or they cannot be forwarded. Letters addressed to the United Kingdom, will be forwarded if unpaid but subject to a 1/2 Pence of Merchandise and Samples may be sent between Canada and the Countries in Section regarding Patterns and Samples.					
COUNTRY, &c.	FOR A LETTER.				
	Not exceeding 4 oz.	Above 4 oz. and not exceeding 1 lb.	Above 1 lb. and not exceeding 2 lbs.	Above 2 lbs. and not exceeding 4 lbs.	Above 4 lbs. and not exceeding 12 lbs.
	cts.	cts.	8 cts.	8 cts.	8 cts.
Aden	22	22	45	45	92
Africa, West Coast of	22	22	45	45	92
Algeria	17	14	51	66	85
Assam	25	25	70	70	1 40
Australia, South	20	20	45	45	92
Australia, Western	20	20	45	45	92
*Austria	22	25	58	70	93
*Aynoo	22	28	45	45	92
*Bairen	22	22	45	45	92
*Bavaria	19	19	35	35	78
*Belgium	25	25	70	70	1 40
Borneo	25	25	70	70	1 40
Bourbon	25	25	70	70	1 40
Brazil	22	22	45	45	92
*Bremen	22	22	45	45	92
*Brunswick	25	25	70	70	1 40
Buenos Ayres	22	25	58	70	93
*Cape de Verde	25	25	70	70	1 40
Cape of Good Hope	22	25	58	70	93
Canary Islands	20	20	65	65	1 20
Ceylon	20	20	1 20	1 20	2 40
Chili	25	25	70	70	1 40
Chile	22	22	70	95	1 16
Constantinople	22	45	70		

ADOM, BRITISH COLONIES, AND FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

times, and from Portland in Winter; and from Halifax, Nova Scotia, fortnightly, included in this Table, with the exception of Letters for the United Kingdom.

a line of 125 cents.

marked * at the same rate of postage as Books. For further information see

Registration Fee for Letters.	Per each Newspaper.	FOR A BOOK PACKET.					
		Not exceeding 2 lbs.	2 lbs. to 4 lbs.	4 lbs. to 5 lbs.	5 lbs. to 7 lbs.	7 lbs. to 10 lbs.	10 lbs. to 20 lbs.
etc.		etc.	etc.	etc.	etc.	etc.	8 etc.
25 per letter.	5 etc.	15	15	25	60	90	1 20
25	2 "			Letter rate.			
17 per 1/2 oz. addit.	Book rate.	5	10	20	40	60	80
25 per letter.	3 etc.	13	13	25	50	75	1 00
25	5 "	15	15	25	60	90	1 20
25	5 "	15	15	25	60	90	1 20
25	Book rate.	5	10	25	50	75	1 00
25	2 etc.	5	10	17	34	50	67
25	Book rate.	5	10	20	40	60	80
25	ditto.	5	10	20	40	60	80
25	ditto.	5	10	20	40	60	80
25	3 etc.			Letter rate.			
25	5 "			ditto.			
25	3 "			ditto.			
25	Book rate.	5	10	25	50	75	1 00
25	ditto.	5	10	25	50	75	1 00
25	3 etc.			Letter rate.			
25	5 "	5	10	17	34	50	67
25	5 "	13	13	25	50	75	1 00
25	5 "	13	13	17	34	50	67
25	Book rate.	5	10	20	40	60	80
25	5 etc.	15	15	Letter rate.			
25	7 "			ditto.			
25	5 "			ditto.			
25	Book rate.	5	10	20	40	60	80

Note: this is the right side of the page above-you need to count up or down to get to the country

Small Queen Printing Orders Ted Nixon

A year ago at BNAPEX you will remember I was ready to distribute my draft of the typed version of the old photo copies I have of the Small Queen printing Orders sent from Post Office Department to the British American Bank Note Co. Since then I have worked more on this document, with help from Richard Thompson who found the digitized version now available through the Heritage Canadiana website. He checked my work catching a few errors and suggested changes. Also, each of us have now tried to find the orders after June 30, 1892 in the digitized version. So far we are not successful. It is looking like the process for submitting orders after June 30, 1892 may have changed.

I am attaching the latest version of the completed document .

It is freely available to any SQ collector . I would be pleased if you thought it useful to send out to members of the LQ/SQ study Group as a part of a Confederation newsletter or for use at BNAPEX this year in Ottawa. Personally , I find a printout of the document useful as a working paper to which I can add notes or questions for myself to research.

Ed. Note: This will be attached as a separate pdf for readers who wish to have it rather than extending the newsletter greatly.

The OTHER 6 cent rate to Bahamas Vic Willson

Shown below is a cover sent from Dorchester NB Feb. 17, 1871, via New York, Feb. 20 transit, to Nassau, Bahamas. According to Arfken's (undated) reference book, the rate was in effect from October 1870 through September 1872. I do not believe this rate has previously been recorded, as all the other 6 cent rate covers I have noted have been in the October 1875 to March 1878 period. Perhaps a reader can correct this with another example.



Ref: Arfken, G. B. (undated). *Canada's Small Queen Era 1870-1897*. Toronto: Vincent Graves Greene Philatelic Fdn.

Editor's Staement

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's queries 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.