

# Confederation

The Newsletter of the BNAPS Large and Small Queen Study Group

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**CORONAVIRUS BLUES-** Vic Willson Is that a real shade? Anyway, I hope all are safely tucked away in their stamp rooms fixing up all the things neglected previously in albums, doing internet searches of new items, not shooting spouses, etc. As you all have much more time to play with stamps, send me material and I will put out more newsletters. You need reading material anyway. Keep well.



Jim André asks,

Attached is a 1200 dpi scan of a Second Ottawa 6-cent, Scott #43, with some interesting markings in the upper right margin, in STAGE, in the portrait oval, and three dots in her hair immediately behind the tiara. There is no mention made of anything like this in Hillson & Nixon, Reiche's "Constant Plate Varieties...", or Trimble's [re-entries.com](http://re-entries.com) website. I also didn't see anything in the Confederation up through 2013. Does this look like a constant plate flaw, something of interest?

*Ed: lots of stamps have extraneous ink in the spaces between stamps due to incomplete wiping, and there are few that are constant. Is that a dot at bottom of right 6? Anyone know about it?*

**Earl Asks** I picked up this cover with a scratch in the right margin of the 6¢ (sent from Victoria ? ONT, out of Quebec May 14, 1870, received Liverpool May 24, sent onward to Lancaster). I show a second scratch on another 6¢ I own.



I send you three Sc27 with mark on the face. I picked these up on eBay the last couple of months. I sent them to the other fellows but they had never heard of them. I was wondering if you knew anything about them or had a position for them? They seem to be a constant flaw of some plate damage. Bill Burden also has





just found one which he sent to me. There seems to be a lot of different scratches & flaws on the six cent also. Earl Noss

**Extensive scratches bottom right 2¢ Large Queen-Vic Willson** Anyone seen this before on the 2¢?



#### **NEW 15 CENT LARGE QUEEN COVERS- Vic Willson**

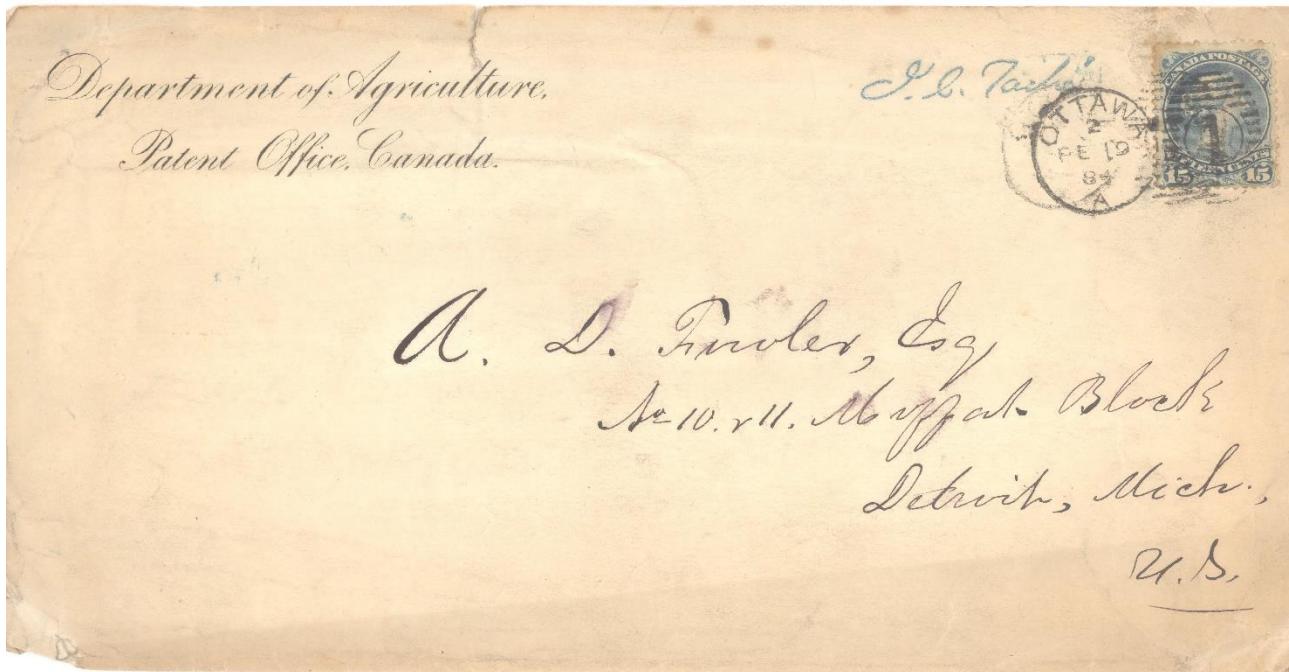
When it rains it pours some times. Within a short time two very interesting 15¢ LQ covers showed up on ebay. The first shown below clearly was tampered with as it had a grey 15¢ next to an early shade correct 15¢ with a date of JY 9, 1868.





As there is only one other 17¢ to France paid with LQ stamps per Wayne Smith's census, this is still an important cover. I purchased it after informing the owner of the fraud, which he had the grace to note. The grey 15¢ was easily removed, probably just glue stick, and it did not match the oval grid on the cover. That is a query for the NS collectors as it does not seem to match the oval grids listed in Jarrett for number of horizontal bars. If it is real it originally had a 2¢ LQ given the London PAID and French receivers. So, anyone have a matching stamp for me? I will certainly annotate it as stamp replaced, but a great addition to our listings of 17¢ rates to France in both Decimal and Large Queen periods.

The second cover is shown below, a 5x rate to the USA in 1884. Wayne lists three other covers (he has not had a chance to check this as he just returned from a trip to South America, so this could be one of those). It is sent from the government Department of Agriculture to Detroit Feb. 19, received Feb. 21. I purchased this as a buy it now.



D. L. O. Handstamps by Gary Steele

**"DEAD – LETTER OFFICE JA 31 1898 & FE 2 1898 CANADA"**

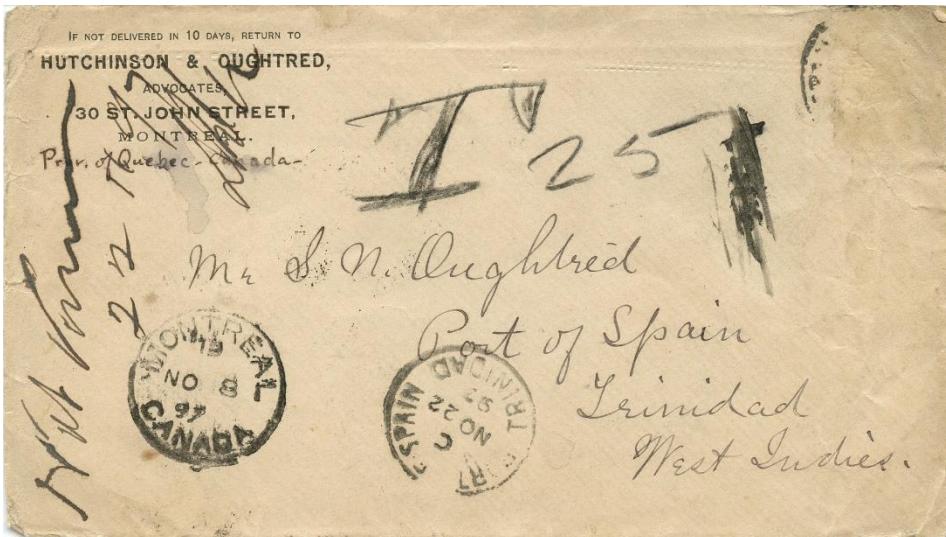
28.5mm diameter  
closed circle  
Proof date March  
6 1889

Not the prettiest  
of covers but  
certainly an  
interesting item  
as there are not  
that many Small  
Queen era  
covers to the  
West Indies.

A business  
envelope mailed  
from Montreal,  
Que. on NO 8  
1897 just prior to  
the issuance of  
the Maple Leaf  
definitive five  
cent issue must

have been franked with a five cent Small Queen stamp. The postage stamp appears to have fallen off in transit from rough handling or in-climate weather. Transiting through New York on NOV 9 (machine cancel) and eventually to the Port of Spain Trinidad WI on NO 22 1897 a manuscript postage due notation of T25 (centimes) is shown. In addition on the same date is another manuscript notation '**Not Known 22 11 97**' and on the reverse **UNCLAIMED**. No discernible reason given other than maybe the addressee did not want to pay the postage due fee it was then sent back to Canada to the Dead Letter Office in Ottawa.

A closed circle DEAD – LETTER . OFFICE CANADA. handstamp dated JA 31 1898 is shown. Ironically a REC'D AT DEAD LETTER OFFICE 1 CANADA. dated FE 1 1898 also appears, probably handled by another DLO clerk to show when they received the item. Processed on FE 2 1898 per 2<sup>nd</sup> closed circle DEAD – LETTER . OFFICE CANADA. handstamp it appears to have been returned in a Dead Letter Return envelope as no additional postal markings appear on this item.



# How to Determine the Perforation of a Stamp Using a Scanner, a PC and Photoshop™ - Dr. Darin P. Cherniwhan

Correctly determining the perforation of a postage stamp is a critical element in philately. However, determining a stamp's perforation has its challenges. Not everyone measures the perforation in exactly the same way, even amongst the most experienced collectors. In addition, subtle but significant differences exist between the common perforation gauges available on today's market.

This article will help illustrate how to determine the perforation of a stamp without using a handheld gauge.

For the purposes of this article, I have used an Epson™ Perfection V600 Photo Flatbed Scanner and Adobe™ Photoshop CC Version 19.1.5. Other types of photo software can be used but require a Ruler Tool feature to enable this method of digital perforation measurement.

## Calculations

The perforation (P) of a stamp is the number of perforations or teeth (T) in 2 cm.

$$P = \frac{T}{2 \text{ cm}}$$

1 inch = 2.54000508 cm

Based on the resolution of the scan in dpi (dots per inch):

$$300 \text{ dpi} = \frac{300 \text{ dots}}{1 \text{ inch}} = \frac{300 \text{ dots}}{2.54000508 \text{ cm}} = 118.11 \text{ dots per cm} = 236.22 \text{ dots per 2 cm}$$

$$600 \text{ dpi} = \frac{600 \text{ dots}}{1 \text{ inch}} = \frac{600 \text{ dots}}{2.54000508 \text{ cm}} = 236.22 \text{ dots per cm} = 472.44 \text{ dots per 2 cm}$$

$$1200 \text{ dpi} = \frac{1200 \text{ dots}}{1 \text{ inch}} = \frac{1200 \text{ dots}}{2.54000508 \text{ cm}} = 472.44 \text{ dots per cm} = 944.88 \text{ dots per 2 cm}$$

$$2400 \text{ dpi} = \frac{2400 \text{ dots}}{1 \text{ inch}} = \frac{2400 \text{ dots}}{2.54000508 \text{ cm}} = 944.88 \text{ dots per cm} = 1889.76 \text{ dots per 2 cm}$$

$$4800 \text{ dpi} = \frac{4800 \text{ dots}}{1 \text{ inch}} = \frac{4800 \text{ dots}}{2.54000508 \text{ cm}} = 1889.76 \text{ dots per cm} = 3779.52 \text{ dots per 2 cm}$$

Based on the above calculations, the following formula (Table 1) can be used to calculate the perforation of a stamp both precisely and accurately, virtually eliminating inter-user variation.

$$\text{Calculated Perforation at 300 dpi} = \frac{\# T \text{ counted}}{\# \text{ dots measured}} \times 236.22 \text{ dots}$$

$$\text{Calculated Perforation at 600 dpi} = \frac{\# T \text{ counted}}{\# \text{ dots measured}} \times 472.44 \text{ dots}$$

$$\text{Calculated Perforation at 1200 dpi} = \frac{\# T \text{ counted}}{\# \text{ dots measured}} \times 944.88 \text{ dots}$$

$$\text{Calculated Perforation at 2400 dpi} = \frac{\# T \text{ counted}}{\# \text{ dots measured}} \times 1889.76 \text{ dots}$$

$$\text{Calculated Perforation at 4800 dpi} = \frac{\# T \text{ counted}}{\# \text{ dots measured}} \times 3779.52 \text{ dots}$$

Table 1 – Formula Used to Calculate Digital Perforations

## Here is an example of how to determine a stamp's perforation digitally:

- You scan a stamp at 1200 dpi.
- You open the image in Adobe™ Photoshop CC (Fig. 1).
- You use the Ruler function to measure the number of pixels between two chosen teeth using the same part of each tooth (in this case Zone 3 as illustrated in Fig. 2) to measure from.
- The number of measured dots is 643.23
- The number of teeth counted is 8. Please note that the first tooth is measured as “Tooth Zero”.
- The Digital Perforation Measurement is:
- Perforation at 1200 dpi = 
$$\frac{\# \text{ T counted}}{\# \text{ dots measured}} \times 944.88 \text{ dots}$$

$$= \frac{8}{643.23} \times 944.88 \text{ dots}$$

$$= 11.75$$

The stamp's top perforation is 11.75 (measured from Zone 3) and is accurate to the second decimal place. The Zone chosen will depend on the quality of the perforations. With a little practice, you will instinctively choose the Zone that best gets the job done for each side of the stamp.

Table 1 – Formula Used to Calculate Digital Perforations



Fig. 1 Screen Image of Adobe™ Photoshop CC

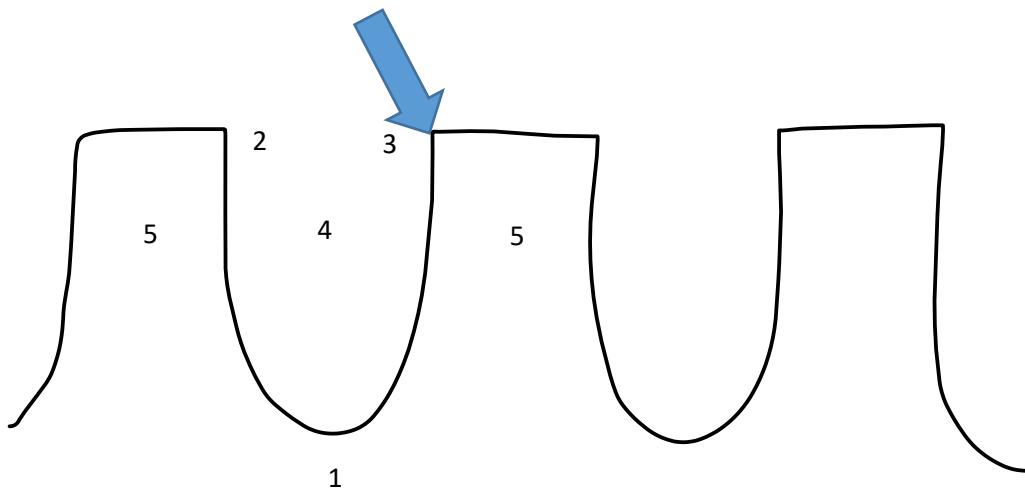


Fig. 2 - Perforation Zones (Zone 4 is at the centre of the perf hole)

With a little practice, you will be determining perforations quickly, confidently and with accuracy and precision. Feel free to email me at [chickenchan@icloud.com](mailto:chickenchan@icloud.com) with your ideas, comments and suggestions.

### 19<sup>th</sup> CENTURY CANADIAN MAIL TO THE BAHAMAS – Vic Willson



Canadian mail to the Bahamas in the 19<sup>th</sup> century is notable for its scarcity. No covers have been recorded in the 18<sup>th</sup> century or prior to 1871. The rate via NY was 6¢ / ½ oz. on Oct. 1, 1870. Below is a new acquisition showing this rate, only the second example recorded to date, and the earliest recorded cover to the Bahamas from Canada.

Mailed Feb. 17, 1871, from Dorchester NB, the cover transited New York Feb. 20. There is no receiver. Bill Radcliffe has another example in period dated May 15, 1871. The rate dropped briefly to 3¢

between October 1872 and June 1873, no recorded examples, before being raised to 10¢ through September 1875, again no recorded examples. In October 1875 the 6¢ rate was reestablished and about half a dozen examples are recorded. There is one example of a quadruple rate paid with 15¢ Large Queen and three 3¢ Small Queens from St. Catherines, Ont. Dec. 2, 1875 with NY transit Dec. 15 (delay probably for a ship to the area carrying US mail).

The rate dropped to 5¢ in April 1878, briefly to 7¢ between April 1879 and June 1880, then fixed at the UPU rate of 5¢ in July 1880, when Bahamas joined the UPU. No examples of the pre UPU rates above have been recorded.

On August 1, 1878, a 12¢ rate via Halifax was available, the additional 7¢ beyond the ordinary 5¢ rate presumably due to difficulties in ship mail to Bahamas. The rate was reduced to 10¢ in April 1879, which remained in effect until July 1887, whereupon all destinations in the Americas were uniformly 5¢ per ½ oz.

No examples of the via Halifax route have been definitively recorded. Surprisingly, there appear to be more examples from the 1875-78 period than in the entire 1880-1897 UPU period based on major collections and auctions of Small Queens. After a review of those collections and auctions it appears that this is the earliest recorded mail to the Bahamas.

Nonletter mail is even scarcer. I have never recorded any printed matter in the 19<sup>th</sup> century to Bahamas. I do have an 1894 UPU card (P4) to Nassau, one of only 2 or 3 perhaps. It appears there was little connection between Canada and the Bahamas throughout the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

### Further Evidence for a Second Plate on the Two Cent Large Queen - By Brian Hargreaves

([bhargrea87@email.com](mailto:bhargrea87@email.com))

Study Group members may recall that I contributed an article to Confederation just over a year ago, in which I offered evidence to suggest the existence of a Second Plate on the Two Cent Large Queen. I based this on a strip of three from the top row displaying the centre dot at Plate Position 5. What was NOT there was the variety identified by Jim Jung in October 2016 as coming from PP4 – based on the presence of the Major Re-Entry located at plate position 7 further along his strip.

This missing variety at PP4 could perhaps have been some sort of anomaly. However a recent purchase at Sparks Auction exhibits the same feature, and to my mind is proof of constancy - and therefore support for a Second Plate.

Figure 1 shows the large cover in its entirety. It's a 12 Cents quadruple weight letter sent from Clinton to Goderich in October 1868. It features a most unusual 'right angle' strip of six, still joined and removed carefully from a block of twelve.



Fig. 1

Figures 2 and 3 show varying close-ups, from which it is possible to see the centre dot on the third stamp in the top row. This allows the strip to be located with some degree of certainty to plate Positions 3, 4, 5, 6, 16 and 17. Note that there is no variety at PP4.

Scott Robinson, who first alerted me to the importance of my strip of three, is also looking at other areas of the plate for further evidence. I hope that, between us, we will be able to confirm the existence of this Second Plate without any further doubt.



Fig. 2



Fig. 3

#### Dates for 15¢ thick soft deep violet – Gerald Wulkowicz

. I know that dating scarce stamps is important to the stamp community. In the literature the Sc #30c is only given an unspecific usage date of 1880. I've seen no ERD.

I recently had a Sc #30c certified by the Greene Foundation. It has a CDS of SP 3 80 (see Fig. 1). The SP is clear; the top right of a flat topped 3 is discernible just outside the portrait oval below the E of POSTAGE; and, the 0 of 80, although initially seeming to be a 6, actually has a small circular ink mark in the lower left of the 0 (If you follow the upper curvature of the 0 you will see it extends well beyond the right of the small circle). While not provable, the seller dated it SP 3 80, I sent it the V. G. Green Foundation with a tag SP -- 86 and someone at the Greene Foundation hand wrote on the tag... 3 for the ---and ...1880 not 1886. So with the above analysis and two independent confirmations I feel confident the date is correct.

I hope this information is useful to someone in the Study Group. If reported, what is the ERD for the Sc #30c? Is there a list of reported dates?

Ed.:

