

# Confederation

The Newsletter of the BNAPS Large and Small Queen Study Group

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Chairman: Darin P. Cherniwchan ([chickenchan@icloud.com](mailto:chickenchan@icloud.com))

Editor: Vic Willson ([lloydwill@aol.com](mailto:lloydwill@aol.com)) P O Box 10026 College Station TX 77842

## Aug 27 Virtual Meeting of LQSQ Study Group

About 30 members and other BNAPSers attended the second Zoom meeting of our group, moderated by our Chairman. The agenda was developed from volunteer presentations by different members. We were able to include Brian Hargreaves in England by a mid-day time on a Saturday, which seems to be a good time generally across North America as well. After a brief discussion of Study group business, Darin noted that this and future meetings will be recorded and put on the BNAPS website, to promote the group and allow those who cannot attend to view the meeting. Presentations were made by Jim Andre on Sc28 on cover, Brian Hargreaves on a Hudson's Bay cover from Manitoba, Ken Pugh on upcoming works on Small Queens and on Registration stamps, Bill Burden updating his outstanding website on Small Queens, and Ron Smith on a possible 6¢ Small Queen double print and a postcard to South America

The next Zoom meeting is expected in late fall.

**EARL NOSS ASKS-** On the Half Cent below the dots on the nose constant or just a one-off? On the 5c SQ note the blob on the nose- anyone seen it?



## Wayne Smith reports

Today my latest census was added to the BNAPS website, British Columbia postal history of material with the BC series of grid cancels. The census list details of 349 pre-confederation covers, 11 Large Queen covers and 39 Small Queen covers with a numeral cancel. The census also has tables for off cover items recorded.

Members of the LQ/SQ user group that have any of this material are asked to check if their items are included in the census.

The census can be accessed by reading the September 9 "what's new" notice on the BNAPS website where there is a link or via click on "Publication and Online Library" the click on "Online resources and exhibits" - from there scroll down to Articles section and within there look for British Columbia Postal History.

## THE 13 CENT RATE TO BERMUDA 1868-1873- Vic Willson

Mail to Bermuda from Canada at the beginning of the Large Queen era either went by ship mail from various ports; via New York using US carriers, or from Halifax via Cunard contract. Ship letters are outside the scope here, as well as being nonexistent for examples.

The Cunard contract listed the rate as 12¢ per half oz., but Halifax newspapers listed it at 12½¢. Wayne Smith's census lists three covers paid with single 12½¢ LQ stamps. In June 1872 the rate dropped to 6¢. One cover is known, shortpaid for the 12¢ rate, with triple cost in shortpaid and penalty fees in additional 6¢ stamps.

The US via New York had mail contracts that if entirely with US carriers from the US was 10¢ per half oz. Mail from Canada indicating transmission via the US carrier to Bermuda was more complex. Canada had to account to the US for such mail, since most of the costs were the US mail carrier costs. Duckworth & Duckworth (2008) noted that the number of such items was not much more than 1000 per year, and with depreciated US currency the cost was low, so the rate was listed as 10¢ per half oz. as of April 1868. However, there was still the mail cost to get to the US, and as currency moved close to parity, on July 1, 1870 the rate was 13¢ per half oz. Only one cover is known, shown below, which I acquired this summer. Apparently for convenience it was overpaid ½¢ with 12½¢ and 1¢ red LQs. The cover below left Halifax May 20 1868, clearly paying a 3 cent rate since it came from another NS town dated May 19 and had to pay the rate to Halifax.





**A FORTUITOUS DELAYED FLIGHT – THE TALE OF A 5C SMALL QUEEN WITH REVERSE OFFSET -  
Guillaume Vadeboncoeur ([guillaume@vadeboncoeur.ca](mailto:guillaume@vadeboncoeur.ca))**

In the early part of March of this year I travelled to Western Canada for business. I normally travel a fair bit as part of my work, but this trip ended up being different than most. That trip happened to have been my last pre-COVID-19 business trip and I ended up having my “wings clipped” for more than five months shortly after this trip. The second reason for this trip being different is that it ended up being a significantly delayed flight with left me with several hours to kill while at the airport (and a denied compensation claim as the delay was allegedly not within the control of the airline despite the reason being clearly posted on the airline phone app - but enough about this!). As a result of the lengthy delay, I ended up surfing various stamp websites, and looking at material offered a lot closer than I would normally do. The result of this surfing is the 5c Small Queen picture below at **Figure 1**. It's an 1880s 5c olive green, perf 12, with a non-descript cancel – nothing special at first glance. But what immediately caught my eye is the arc-shaped coloured area at middle right of the stamp. It can easily be dismissed and assumed to be part of a cancel, but it's not.



**Figure 1 – 5c Small Queen with reverse offset**



**Figure 2 – Details from 5c stamp (reversed, rotated and sharpened)**

Upon closer inspection, I realized that this arc-shaped coloured area was a rather strong reverse offset, which likely occurred when a freshly printed sheet of stamp unintentionally folded onto itself resulting in a transfer of ink. Similar items have been written-up previously in Confederation, so I will leave you to go back to prior issues of Confederations if you want to learn more about this unusual printing flaw.

In **Figure 2** above, I have blown up, reversed, rotated and sharpened a portion of the scan. In this, the top arc of the design is clearly printed, along with “CANADA P(OSTAGE)”, along with some of the horizontal lines situated under the top arc and above the Queen's head. This type of reverse offset should not be confused with double printings (which attract significant prices for true double printings), but still represent a useful addition to any collection, and can help demonstrate one of the issues that could occur during the printing process.

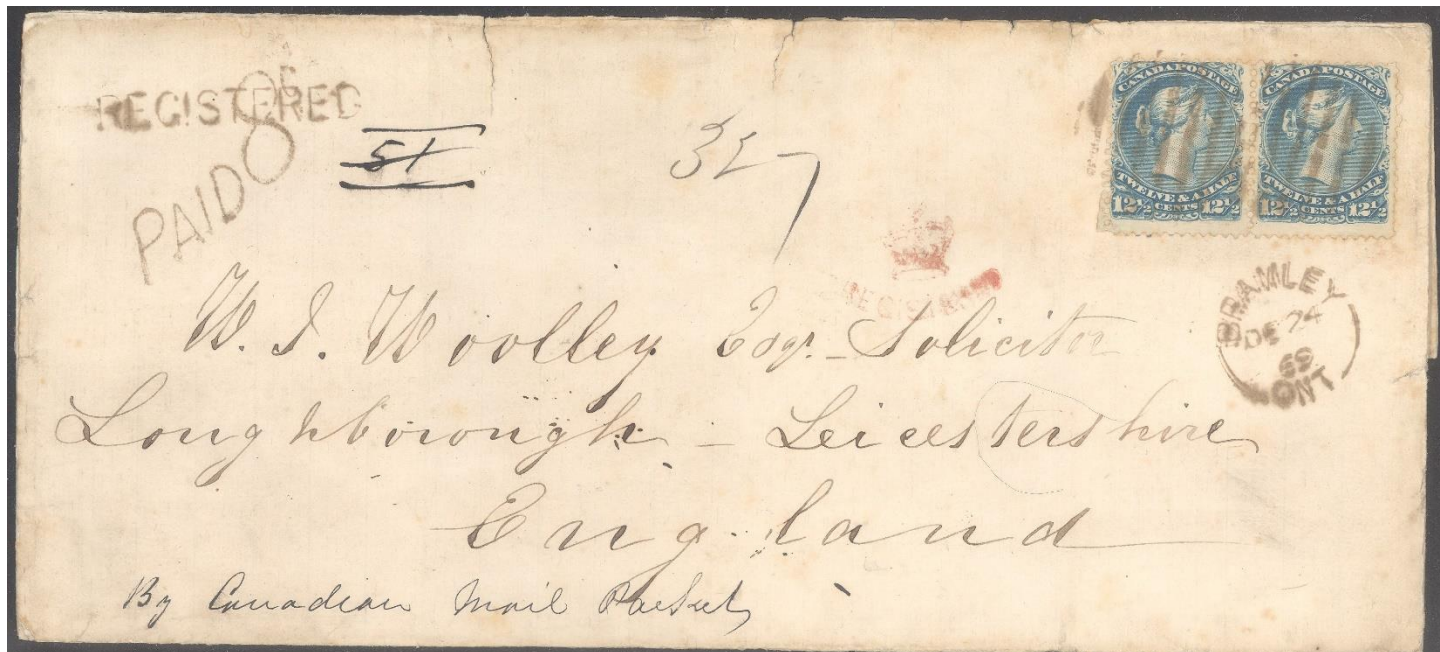
*Postscript: I am writing this less than 48 hours prior to heading west again on a business trip (barring any last-minute grounding due to COVID-19). Due to the reduced number of commercial flights in Canada, I will have a long layover during my return home for what was normally a direct flight to/from my hometown of Ottawa. I'm already planning to surf various stamp websites during this layover, and hopefully find one or more interesting stamps to add to my collection.*

## PREVIOUSLY UNRECORDED 8 CENT REGISTRATION COVER TO THE UK- Vic Willson

Wayne Smith lists the following 12½¢ rate covers with 8¢ registration:

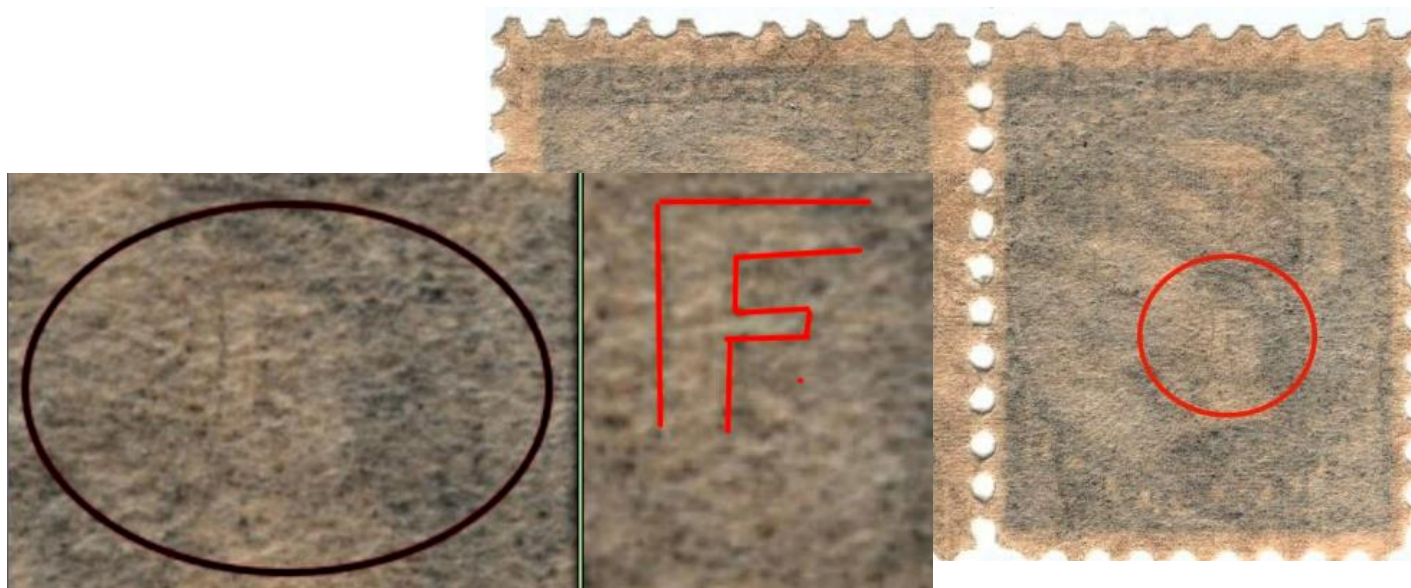
- #18 + #22 + #27 1¢ underpaid to England.
- #25 + #27 x 31 Half cent overpaid to England.
- #24 + #27 + #28 1 to Ireland
- #24 + #25 + #27 on 10¢ Nesbitt stationery 1 Half cent overpaid to Ireland.
- #24 + #27 + #28 x 31 to Ireland

This summer I purchased the cover shown below, paying the double 12½ ¢ rate plus 8¢ paid in cash. Clearly, not very many registered covers using the Allan line have survived. Based on the census there are 20 other registered covers in the 8¢ registration period for the other UK rates between 1868 and 1877.



## SCOTT 34 "E" OR "F"; ODDITY- Robert Coulson

The back of one of this pair of Half cent Small Queens shows what appears to be an E or F letter. Anyone seen something like this?





## A SMALL QUEEN ERA POSTCARD WITH PERUVIAN POSTAGE DUES - Guillaume Vadeboncoeur

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

Recently, the postcard illustrated in **Figure 1** below was offered as part of a larger lot of otherwise rather mundane postal stationery material. It was brought to my attention by a keen member of this study group who knew about my interest for Small Queen-era postal history bearing foreign stamps, which was the subject of a one-frame exhibit that I have shown a couple of times (it pays to share information with fellow collectors!). I quickly proceeded to purchase the lot as this postcard is rather special. The postcard was sent from Halifax on June 28, 1895 to Lima, Peru with the writer inquiring about the status of photographs and views which he had previously mailed to the addressee (see **Figure 2**). I have not been able to find any useful information about George A. Powell, the addressee, based on a rather short search of open source information. Those who collect foreign destinations will undoubtedly recognize that Peru is a difficult destination during the Small Queen period, with only a handful of covers and another handful of postcards having been recorded to date.



**Figure 1: front side of 1895 postcard mail to Peru with Peruvian Postage Due stamps**

But what makes this card truly special is that it was sent underpaid. The postcard rate to foreign countries was 2¢ during this time period. The postcard was not uprated with a 1¢ stamp, therefore it was underpaid and marked as such in Canada by the application of the "T5" marking (an indication of a 5 centimes deficiency) and sent to its destination as per UPU regulations. The card transited by New York as evidenced by the June 30<sup>th</sup> transit machine cancel on the front of the card. Upon arrival in Peru on July 22<sup>nd</sup> (as supported by the rather large handstamp in red on the reverse), a post office official confirmed and converted the deficiency into local currency by the application of the "MULTADA/LIMA" oval and "2" crayon marking in blue denoting that a deficit or fine of 2 centavos was to be paid by the recipient of the card.

Thankfully the recipient paid the deficit or fine of 2 centavos, as demonstrated by the pair of 1 centavo bister Postage Due stamps applied to the card and tied by a Lima postmark.



**Figure 2: back side of postcard showing large 22.JUL.1895 arrival handstamp by the Central & So. American Telegraph Company, Lima.**

Based on my records, I am only aware of one other Small Queen-era item to Peru bearing a Peruvian Postage Due, an 1880 cover bearing a 5c Small Queen and a 10c orange Peruvian Postage Due stamp last offered as lot 630 by R. Maresch & Son in their September 1995 sale (I would appreciate knowing the whereabouts of this cover).

Peru was the seventh country to issue Postage Due stamps, having done so in 1874. Surprisingly (at least to me!), the Scott catalogue lists 35 different Postage Due stamps as having been issued by Peru during the 19<sup>th</sup> century. By comparison, Canada issues its first Postage Due stamps in 1906.

If you have items with foreign Postage Due stamps you believe have not been reported as part of major sales or through articles, I would appreciate hearing about them.

#### **NOTHING MAY BE ATTACHED TO A POSTCARD- Vic Willson**

The card below has a photo passed to the back, contrary to UPU rules, and was fined double deficiency (6¢) 3d on arrival in England in 1894





### SCOTT 22 DOT IN HAIR- Robert Coulson

Below are mint and used examples of a dot in the upper left hair of the Queen's image. Constant? Anyone else seen it?



### NEW PERFORATION VARIETY ON 1¢ SQ- Robert Coulson

Unitrade shows the Unitrade 35a stamps having perforations of:

12.0 x 12.0  
11.5 x 12.0

Here is my Unitrade 35a perforation of 12.0 x 12.25. Jogil (Julian Goldberg) the perforation guru sent me a PDF on ALL perforations of Small Queen stamps, shown below for the 1¢. I know Unitrade will not place it in their next catalog, but maybe it should be.



1 cent (SQ)

11.63 x 11.75, 11.63 x 11.94, 11.63 x 12.00, 11.63 x 12.12,  
11.75 x 11.63, 11.75 x 11.75, 11.75 x 11.94, 11.75 x 12.00,  
11.94 x 11.94, 11.94 x 12.00, 11.94 x 12.12,  
12.00 x 11.75, 12.00 x 11.94, 12.00 x 12.00, 12.00 x 12.12, 12.00 x 12.25,  
12.12 x 12.00, 12.12 x 12.12, 12.12 x 12.25  
12.25 x 12.25