

# Confederation

The Newsletter of the BNAPS Large and Small Queen Study Group

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## Nov 7 Virtual Meeting of LQSQ Study Group

About 35 members and other BNAPSers attended the second Zoom meeting of our group, moderated by our Chairman. Presentations were made by Garfield Portch on the Half Cent Small Queen; Alex Globe on the six 2-ring 1 devices used in Montreal based on the Greene Foundation 6000 scanning machine to distinguish them; and Mike Halhead's discussion of overlaying images and use of both the Retro Reveal program and powerpoint to aid in comparisons of covers and stamps. Jim Watt discussed his relationship to Henry Hechler as well as a 2¢ soldiers letter from the Second Riel Rebellion that included the pay list for one of the units. The meeting lasted about 2 ½ hours and was a welcome activity for all.

## THE 'INCORRECTLY DRAWN GUIDELINES'. NEW LIGHT ON ONE OF THE 2 CENTS LARGE QUEEN'S MOST FASCINATING VARIETIES. Brian Hargreaves [bhargrea@email.com](mailto:bhargrea@email.com)

Variety collectors of the Large Queen issue will be well aware of the many unerased guidelines that are to be found on the 2 Cents value. Most are vertical or horizontal, found in the left and lower margins respectively and usually intersecting with the corner guide dot. This article however is about some very different guideline varieties altogether.

For those readers not familiar with these 'Incorrectly Drawn Guidelines' – or 'Misplaced Guidelines' as



Fig. 1

they are sometimes called - they are to be found at the bottom left corner of the stamp to the right of the guide dot. Figure 1 shows one plate position with a short vertical guideline typical of the variety highlighted in purple.

The fascination of these varieties is that the position of the guidelines varies, having been drawn at different distances from the dot - with the distance increasing on each stamp as they progress from left to right on the sheet. All of them are to be found on the bottom row.

I have been a keen collector of LQ varieties for many years, and have been putting examples of this particular variety to one side as curiosities. It was only recently that I decided to explore the variations in more detail. I naturally consulted the Duckworths' authoritative work on the Large Queens which covers the subject in some detail. However my researches have led me to question the accuracy of some of the Duckworths' observations – in particular their

comments about the actual number of these moving guidelines and their positions on the plate. But first some background.

### **A Historical Overview**

In researching these varieties I explored as much as I could of the previous literature on the subject. The earliest reference I came across was in Jarrett's<sup>1</sup> 1927 pioneering work, where he talked about 'faint lines crossing at lower left'

Winthrop Boggs<sup>2</sup> in his 1944 volume talked about unburnished horizontal and vertical guidelines on the 2 Cents plate, but that is all. The first article that I could find with any detail on the Incorrectly Drawn Guidelines was by Horace Harrison<sup>3</sup> in 1961. He stated that examples had been found on PP 94, 96, 97 and 100, and assumed their additional existence on PP 95, 98 and 99 'by deduction. Five of the variants were illustrated. Sixteen years later in 1977 Hans Reiche in his *Large Queens's Report*<sup>4</sup> stated that these guidelines existed additionally on PP 93. In other words, altogether they could be found on plate positions 93-100 4.

In 1986 the Duckworths<sup>5</sup> produced the first edition of their seminal work on the Large Queens. They devoted several paragraphs to these Incorrectly Drawn Guidelines – illustrating three of them (PP 94, 95 and 99), and compiled a listing of PP 94-100 with their respective distances from the guide dot.

Things had moved on somewhat by 2008 when the second edition appeared. The same illustrations were used, but the numbering of the list of plate positions had changed to PP 92-99. This development was based on work by Richard Johnson who used a 'travelling microscope' to measure the various spacings. The study was based on a sample of 29 bottom row stamps.

Finally, in 2010 Richard Johnson published an article in *BNA Topics*<sup>7</sup> providing a detailed examination of these guidelines. It was an extremely thorough report, using the travelling microscope previously mentioned, and applying regression analysis to determine the positions with more accuracy. He was aided in this by Henry Duckworth himself. The main message of his article was his conclusion that the variants started at PP 92 and finished at PP 99 – with no evidence for a PP 100.

I have found no other articles since 2010, but what is clear from the above are the differing opinions over the years about the number and position of these variants.

### **A Challenge to the Experts**

I hesitate to find fault with the philatelic wisdom and scientific rigour of the most recent publication on the subject, but I have great difficulty reconciling Johnson's conclusions with the copies in my rather modest collection. I have about 25 examples – Johnson had very slightly more – and I don't possess a travelling microscope. My naked eye and a typical philatelic glass have however allowed me to draw some rather different conclusions. The scans below demonstrate clearly, I believe, a gradual and logical progression between PP 93 and PP 100. See Figure 2.



Fig. 2



I also have three of the variants on plate proofs. Naturally the varieties show up particularly well. And

no, the image in the middle is not a colour changeling, but rather a scarce blue trial colour proof. See Figure 3.



Fig. 3

To provide further evidence of the logic of these positions I am indebted to Scott Robinson. His computer skills are greater than mine, and he has been able to produce this very graphic composite image of all the Incorrectly Drawn Guidelines superimposed on one stamp. Scott has also been a helpful sounding board for my alternative conclusions! I have greatly appreciated the Flyspecker's wisdom and technical input. Fig 4.



Fig. 4

So why am I so confident that the Duckworth information needs updating?

1. For reasons I cannot understand, my PP 97 has not been included in Johnson's analysis. I have several copies of this position, so it cannot be an anomaly.
2. It follows therefore that, if Johnson has omitted this variant, his plate positions should be extended to include PP 100 . (And the illustration on Duckworth's PP 99 on page 47 should become PP 100)
3. My other problem with the Johnson/Duckworth analysis is their suggestion for PP 92. The vertical line, if it exists at all, is miserably short. Its appearance and location to the left of the guide dot seem to be totally inconsistent with the strong vertical lines in the other plate positions.
4. I have spent a long time looking for a plate position 92 where the guideline is to the left of the guide dot – with zero success. Does it in fact even exist? Neither Harrison nor Reiche thought so.

### A Light Bulb Moment

Whilst pondering how to find the final proof I needed, I suddenly recalled the famous watermarked block of 18 owned by Ron Brigham. This includes fortuitously the bottom row. I am greatly indebted to Mr. Brigham and Maxime Herold who organized a high-resolution scan of the block for this study.

I can report good news and not so good news! The good news was that there was clear evidence that all the positions from PP 93 upwards were confirmed. Many readers will know that the block has had an interesting history. When Boggs illustrated the block it comprised 16 stamps. Later, when in the Firth collection,

it was made up of 18 stamps. However, when acquired later by Ron Brigham the left vertical pair – PP 81/91 - was re-attached after having been incorrectly placed at the right end of the strip.

Close examination of the high res scan leads me to conclude that the progressive movements of the guidelines to the right indicate a gap between the two pairs at the right hand. The end pair has been re-attached at some time. It shows the PP100 and I therefore calculate that the missing pair would have to include the PP 99 variety. A position confirmed by the range of plate positions illustrated in Johnson's 2010 article and in Figure 3 above.

As for the PP 92 question, the jury is still out. Any readers who have examined the block closely will be aware that one of the stamps is faulty. It's just my luck that it is the lower left corner of PP 92!!!! It's been re-attached pretty well, but I'm frustrated that, although there is no guideline present, it is not proof positive for my contention that there is definitely no guideline in that plate position. See Figure 5.



Fig. 5

### What about a Second Plate?

As I have worked on these varieties, I have come across inter-relationships with other varieties from the bottom row. These are not constant on each plate position but are possibly suggestive of the existence of a second plate. I have written earlier an article about probable evidence from the top of the plate 8. Scott and I are considering a more detailed article in the near future.

So finally, a request for those of you who have some of these varieties. Please look through your holdings to see whether you have position 92. If so, does it exist with or without this fascinating variety? I would love to hear from you.

### End Notes

1. Fred Jarrett – **Stamps of North America**. 1927. Page 118
2. Winthrop Boggs – **The Postage Stamps & Postal History of Canada** 1944. Page 245
3. Horace Harrison – **Constant Varieties of the 1868 Issue** *Maple Leaves* August 1961. Pages 246-8.
4. Hans Reiche - **A Large Queen's Report**. 1977. Page 38
5. H.E & H.W. Duckworth – **The Large Queen Stamps of Canada** 1<sup>st</sup> Edition 1986. Pages 46, 48, 86
6. H.E. & H.W. Duckworth – “ 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition 2008. Pages 45, 47, 84-5
7. Richard Johnson – *BNA Topics* Vol. 7 July-September 2010
8. Brian Hargreaves – *Confederation*. April 2019. Page 15



# SPARKS

## ★ AUCTIONS

Our Jan 27-29 auction will feature an extensive selection of very interesting Large Queen and Small Queen stamps and postarmistery. The sale includes paper and printing varieties, postmarks, usages and rates, watermarked stamps, many 15c Large Queens including some that are pictured in Firth, combination Small Queen / Cents / Large Queen covers, and much more. We are certain that you will find something in this sale to enhance your collections.



**Lot #72**  
#25 3c Red with  
Lacelle #1450



**Lot #77**  
#26 5c Olive Green



**Lot #102**  
#30c Deep Violet  
printed on stout  
wove paper



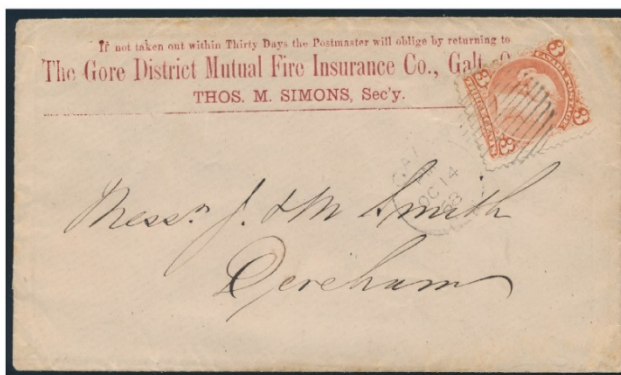
**Lot #119**  
#43c 6c Red Brown with  
5c on 6c Major Re-Entry



**Lot #867**  
Ashcroft Station BC  
Squared Circle



**Lot #704**  
#26 5c Large Queen Pair on 1875 Cover to Scotland



**Lot #728**  
#33 1868 3c Large Queen on Laid Paper on Advertising Cover



**Lot #688**  
25, 37a 1871 Combination Cover



**Lot #657**  
#15, 21 1868 6c Cross Border Lady's Cover with  
Cents / LQ Mixed Franking

The entire sale, along with over 10,000 high quality scans can be seen on Stamp Auction Network.

1770 Woodward Drive, Suite 101, OTTAWA, CANADA, K2C 0P8 Phone 613-567-3336

email: [info@sparks-auctions.com](mailto:info@sparks-auctions.com) [www.sparks-auctions.com](http://www.sparks-auctions.com)

## THE 1888 ANOMALOUS RATE REGISTERED COVER – Mike Halhed

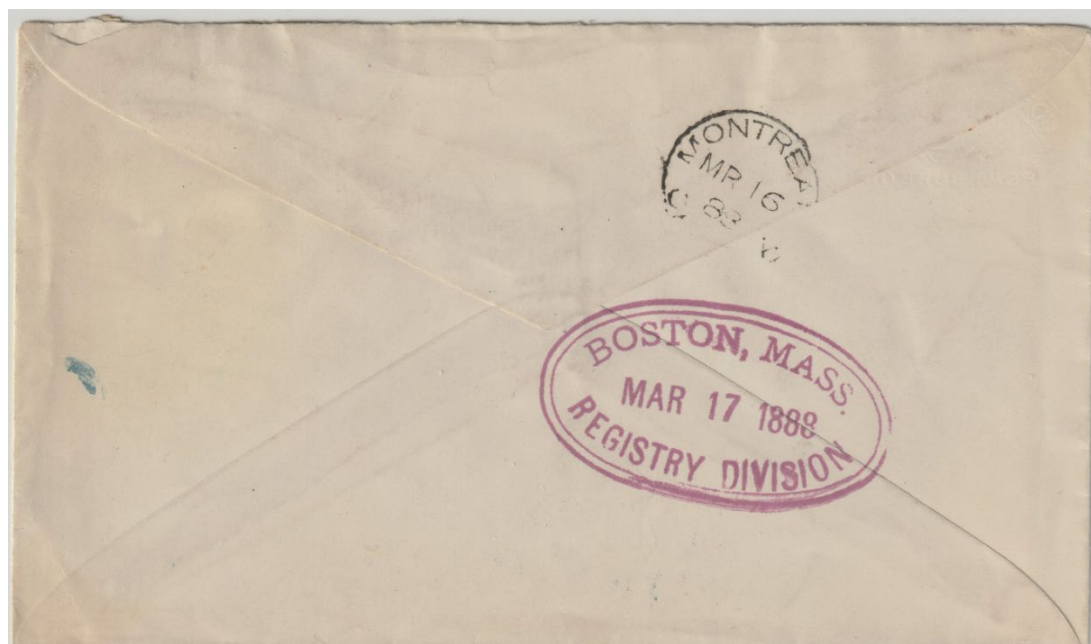
Fancy cancels are a popular collecting area in Canada covering primarily the large and small queen period. The BNAPS Fancy Study Group has 75+ members and there's a new Facebook Group page dedicated to the same topic that has 70 members and is growing fairly quickly.

I've been collecting fancies on cover from individual towns such as Ottawa, Guelph, Collingwood, which allows one to determine the average length of usage (the corks wear out quickly) and periods of overlap. In fact, Ottawa used up to three cork cancels at the same time.



A small collection of Pembroke, Ontario fancy cancels came up for sale, all on cover including some unrecorded although simple examples of segmented cork cancels and the typical Pembroke "4's". I sent a group of the more interesting covers to Dave Lacelle for the Fancy Cancel Newsletter and one of our members pointed out that this cover was perhaps more appropriate for the Registered Cover collection:

So, what are we looking at that makes this of interest to Registered collectors? Chris Green was good enough to give me access to his library where we looked up The Anomalous Rate in Canada's Registered Mail, 1802-1909 by H. W. Harrison, G. B. Arfken, H. W. Lussey and Dr. K. G. Scrimgeour.



Reverse showing routing through Montreal to Boston

The following borrows heavily from their book: In early 1888, Canada and the US negotiated a postal convention that was executed in Washington with an effective date of March 1<sup>st</sup>, 1888. There was an ambiguity in the agreement which allowed a registration fee for letters sent from Canada to the US to be charged only two cents, instead of the older rate of five cents. This was based on a clause that stated that



any packet may be registered upon payment of postage and the registration fee applicable thereto in the country of origin, or two cents in Canada.

This seemed to be a big issue with the Americans and there was a swift reaction when the first two cent registered letter arrived in the US on March 1<sup>st</sup>, 1888. Shortly thereafter, the Canadian POD updated its postage rate guide to reflect the fact that the correct rate should be five cents, as it had been previously.

As a result of this short-lived “anomalous” 2 cent rate, covers are only known from Canada to the US beginning March 1<sup>st</sup>, 1888 (Hamilton to Providence, RI) through April 30<sup>th</sup>, 1888 (Thamesville, Ont. to Winameg, Ohio). Fourteen covers are recorded in the Harrison, Arfken, Scringeour book and at least two more have been seen by myself including the Pembroke example shown above and another that is/was for sale in Hugo Deshayes’s retail price list. One interesting point, five of the covers are to Providence, RI. Perhaps some early American collector went to a number of local businesses asking for interesting letters for their own personal collection?

Over 130 years later, we’re still making interesting philatelic discoveries and my new registered cover collection has begun with an extremely challenging anomaly.

### **NEW DISCOVERY EARLIEST DOCUMENTED DATED USAGE ONE HALF CENT CANADA SMALL QUEEN ISSUE JULY 24, 1882 – Darin Cherniwchan**

Letters from Post Office Department to BABNCo indicate the order for the Half Cent Small Queen began in October 1881 – “have the ½ c stamp be at least 1/3 smaller than ordinary stamps”; specimen approved in December 1881; clean-up order of LQ ½ c in Feb 1882; order for “further supply of ½ c in March and April in the new pattern”.

BUT – What evidence exists of other dated usages before October 23, 1882?



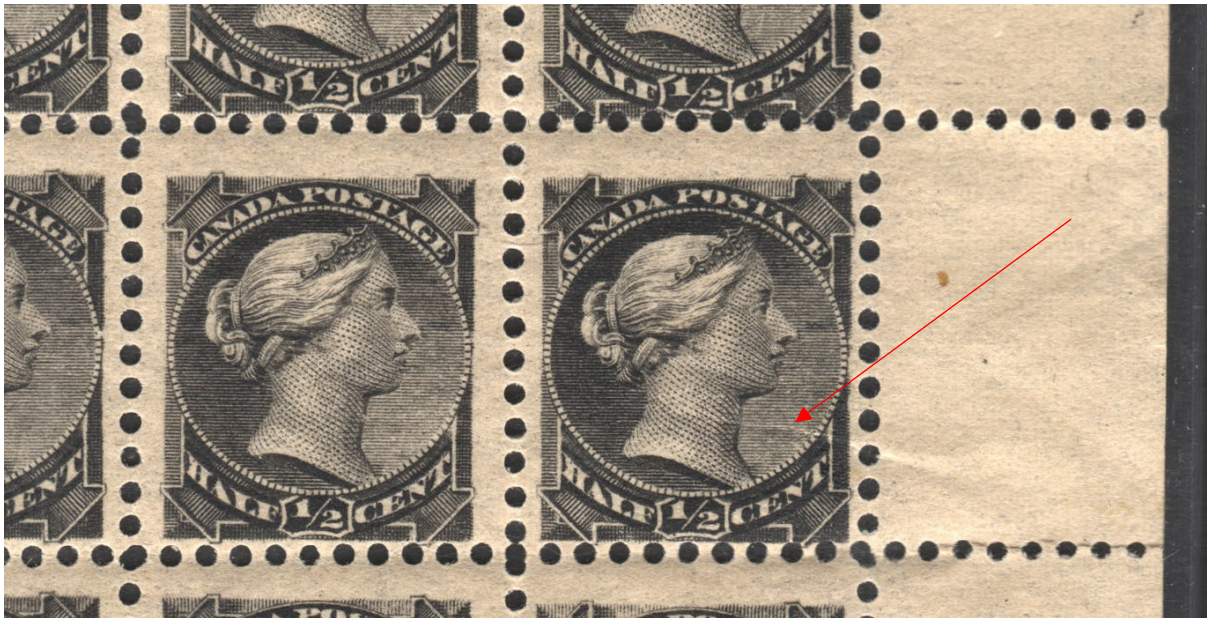
Toronto, Duplex “1”, Jul. 24, 1882 to Devon, England on Mulready facsimile cover

Receiving backstamp – Morchard Bishop, Aug. 5, 1882

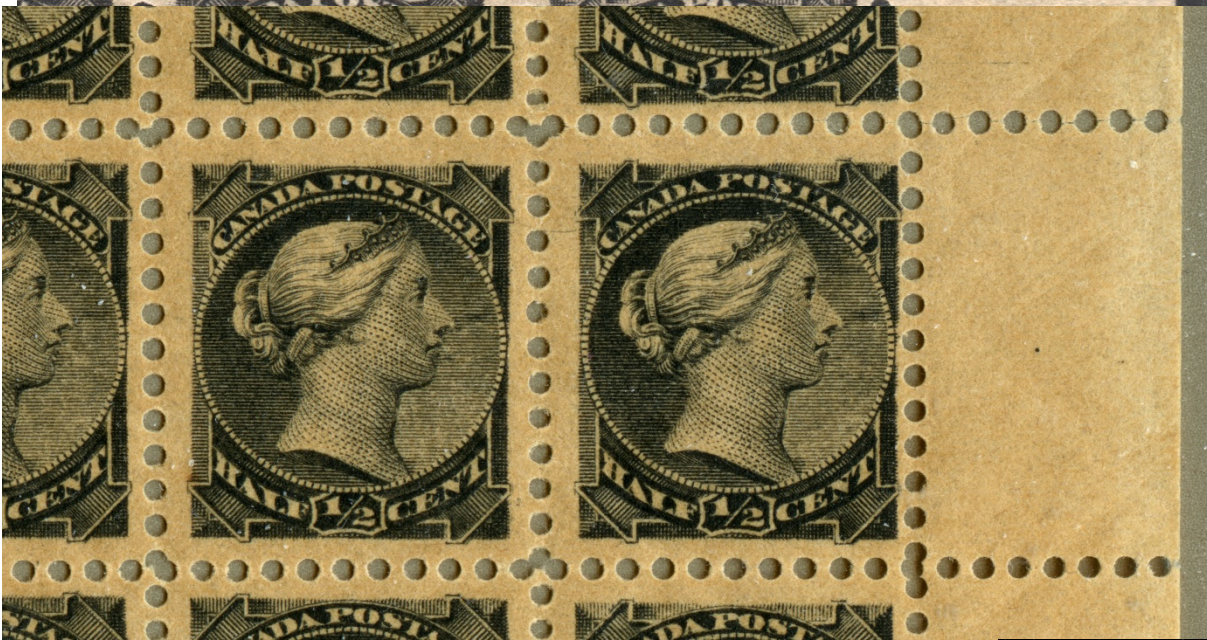
Cover sold in Vance Auctions sale June 2019 without mention of date.







Here are scans of the position 79-80 Plate Scratch on the 1/2c Small Queen that was mentioned in the Zoom Meeting on the left pane. The right pane is below it.



Below are some examples of misperfed "trapezoidal" stamps





For the 5c SQ that Earl Noss is asking about in the Oct. issue- he is talking about the blob on the LL 5. It's not on the nose. I have a copy also which I sent to Earl. Attached is my copy and a comparison of three copies with what our group believes is the same flaw.



Here are some unlisted oddities on the 3c Large Queen that you might want to put in the newsletter. Not sure what you would call the article or how you would present them. I'd like to know more about any of them.

1. There is a diagonal line in the oval whitespace around 2 o'clock. 2. There is a thick horizontal line at the lower right margin. 3. There is a blurry mark in the LL part of the design. This may be an ink smear. 4. There are marks in the UR part of the design. This may be a Kiss Print.





## SEARCH FOR THE ERD OF SCOTT 30c- Gerald Mulk

I thought you might be using my Sc 30c population tally for the next Confederation issue but you didn't mention it in your last email. I sent it in July and maybe you forgot about it, so I'm re-transmitting it w/ the addition of location usage.

"I have however continued my search. I did a web search and found two more dated copies. The search produced the following results

	Mint	Used	CDS Dated
Certified	14	37	2
Uncertified	0	43	1
Total	14	80	3

The ERD (Certified): AU 2 80.

The Uncertified Date: OC 22 80.

Coupled with my SP 3 80 and the two Sept previously reported. we now have a usage time frame of August through October 1880. I hope this information will be of some value to the membership.

Also, I've found postmarks for Montreal (3), Quebec (2 previously reported), Ottawa grid cancel (3), Charlottetown M cancel (1 used Sept-Oct, 1880) and my H\_\_\_ postmark. So we have at least 5 panes possible.

## JIM McCORMICK REPORTS

This year I acquired some early dates for the 20 and 50 cent Widow Weeds. They were issued on February 17 1893, only a few months before the 8 cent Small Queen was issued. We have early dates for the 8 cent stamp including a new early use on cover reported by Jack Forbes in the June 2020 edition of Confederation. What is known about the 20 and 50 cent early usage? Nixon/Hillson state that most were for parcel post which did not survive, and as



such early usage has not been recorded. They illustrate a registered cover to Germany including both 20 and 50 cent stamps and an early date of JU 28 93 (VICTORIA). So let's document the early dates. My new acquisitions are dated MY 20 93 (HALIFAX) and MY 25 93 (TRURO). Can anyone here provide an image depicting an earlier use?

*VW note: I have a recording of on-cover use and note a June 28, 1893, cover to Germany with both values as well as a 5¢ RLS, 1¢ SQ, and 1¢ Postal Stationery envelope.*



## ROBERT COULSON REPORTS

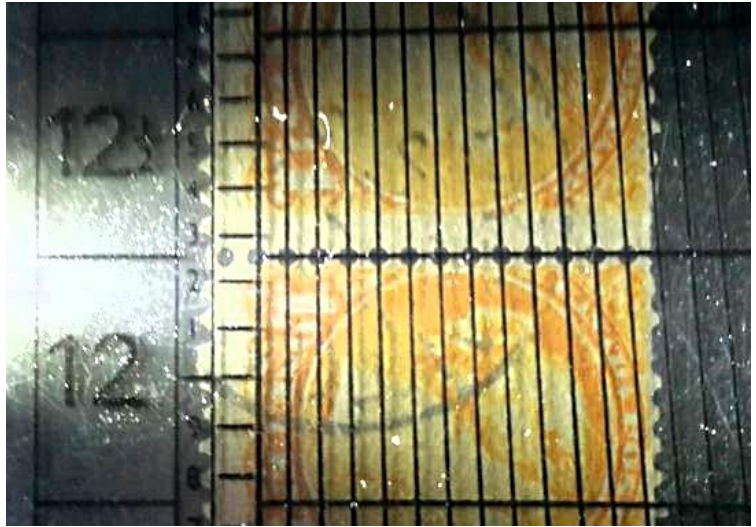
Unitrade shows the Unitrade 35a stamps having perforations of:

12.0 x 12.0

11.5 x 12.0

Here is my Unitrade 35a perforation of 12.0 x 12.25

I know Unitrade will not place it in their next Catalogue, but maybe it should be.



## EARLY DATE FOR POSTCARDS TO UPU DESTINATIONS PERMITTING DOMESTIC CARDS WITH 1¢ ADDED – Vic Willson

Canada's foray into sending postcards to foreign places was somewhat behind most European countries. While domestic cards were in use from June 1871, it took two years to extend use to the USA, and 4 more to get a card for use to the UK, which was the only use permitted by regulation (Webb P3). While there are perhaps half a dozen uses of P3 to other countries, a regular UPU card was not issued until August 1879, Webb P4. That card was the only one permitted until Jan. 1, 1890, when domestic 1¢ cards with 1¢ Small Queen added could be sent to UPU countries. I have long searched for a Jan. 1 usage, but the closest I have

gotten is the card below sent to Switzerland dated Jan. 6, 1890 from Hamilton.

The card has some interesting elements. The clerk in Hamilton decided the card was illegal as it was not a P4 and sent it to the Dead Letter Office to be RETURNED FOR POSTAGE, a DLO Jan. 8 date on the back. The DLO knew of the regulation change, scratched out the RFP and the Ottawa PO dated it Jan. 9 and sent it on to London and then to Zurich, received on the 23<sup>rd</sup>.

In my collection I have similar franked items as early as 1883

sent to quite a few European countries and British colonies, not one returned for postage or rated as a letter. Most were sent from Montreal or Toronto, which suggests the clerks did not want to bother with the DLO or decided the cards could not be returned for postage as there was no return address.

