



1. 1978 MEMBERSHIP DUES

The dues will remain at \$3.00 and are payable to the editor:

Don Fraser,
1183 Warsaw Avenue,
Winnipeg, Manitoba.
R3M 1C5.

2. NEWSLETTER SUMMARY

"The Small Cents Issue" by M. A. Studd
Section (c) Colours, Pages 3 to 9.

"Damaged Stamps Offer Collectors a Challenge"
by M. Dicketts (BNAPS #2115)

Plate Varieties on 3¢ Small Queens - Pages 13, 14.

3. GUIDE DOTS - 3¢ S.Q.

The editor would like to see a better response from the members re this study which was mentioned in Newsletter Volume 2, No. 3.

4. 1978 SMALL QUEEN NEWSLETTERS

Some of the articles to be seen in '78 will be:

Continuation and Completion of "The Small Cents Issue"
by M. A. Studd.

The "Small Cents" Issue of Canada, by P. Hamilton.

The 3¢ Value of 1870-97 by W. P. Carter.

"Some Rare Canadian Postmarks", by E. A. Smythies.

A VOTE OF THANKS TO: HAROLD WILDING, MICHAEL DICKETTS,
CRAIG MOODIE AND DON ECOBICHON FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS
TO THIS NEWSLETTER.

BEST

WISHES

FOR

A

HAPPY

HOLIDAY

SEASON

FROM

Don.

'DAMAGED STAMPS OFFER COLLECTORS A CHALLENGE'

by

Michael Dicketts (BNAPS #2115)

To many collectors stamps with perforated initials, or perfins as they are commonly called, fall into the category of damaged copies, and are consequently discarded or destroyed by the perfectionist. Yet to some of us they are eagerly sought after and none more so than those elusive few designs found on the Small Queens issue.

In the 1830's a few Canadian firms sought ways to safeguard the stamps in their offices from theft, and turned to using a perforating device which had proved successful in England.

These machines had first made their appearance there in 1863, using Joseph Sloper's patented device. The idea quickly spread abroad and Sloper's machines were obtainable in Canada, while in Chicago the B.F. Cummins Co., began manufacturing machines that would punch five to ten sets of initials at a time.

The first recorded Canadian perfin user was W.J.Gage Co., Ltd., of Toronto, who used a Sloper machine. This is listed in the Perfin Handbook as design W.3 (see fig.1). The initials W.J.G., with periods, are known on seven values of the Small Queens.

In progressive order of scarcity these are the 3¢, 1¢, 2¢, 10¢, 5¢, 6¢ and 3¢. Fortunate is the collector who has more than the first three. The design has the honour of being the earliest known date found on a Canadian perfin, as a cover dated Toronto, October 17, 1839 has been recorded.

The next confirmed user to perforate the Small Queen issue was the Intercolonial Railway of Montreal and Moncton. Their two-line design IC/R (fig.2) is reported on the 3¢ value but others probably exist. The Intercolonial Railway are reported to have used a Sloper machine. Most stamps are cancelled in Montreal, but both Moncton and smaller centres are reported. Covers bearing these perfins are elusive and very few are known.

The value of covers in confirming the name and location of the user are extremely important, especially in the case of the next design. Fig.3 illustrates design J.5 with initials J.H.S. Copies are known on the 1¢ Small Queen bearing Montreal cancellations, and there are possibly other values lying hidden away somewhere in someone's stockbook of duplicates. Very few examples of this design are recorded and for many years there has been speculation as to the identity of the user. It is thought by some that the initials stand for J.H.Semple of Montreal but until a cover is located the user remains a mystery.

One final perfin design remains in discussing these in relation to the Small Queen issue. Many years ago a report was received that Sun Life Assurance Co., of Montreal began using design S.3 (fig.4) on the Small Queens then current. I have neither read nor heard anything further on this, although the design is known on the 15¢ Large Queen and the two higher value Widow's Weeds. Perhaps someone reading this can supply the proof we've been seeking.

It is hoped that this brief review of early perfins will alert readers to a greater awareness of these much-maligned items.

With only three, or possibly four, designs involved there still remains much to challenge the collector concerning usage. Both stamps and covers are hard to find. The writer would be interested to hear from those who have any to establish some idea of relative scarcity. If anyone has either comments or information please write to me at 61, Alwington Avenue, Kingston, Ontario, K7L 4R4.

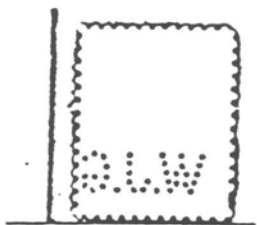


fig. 1

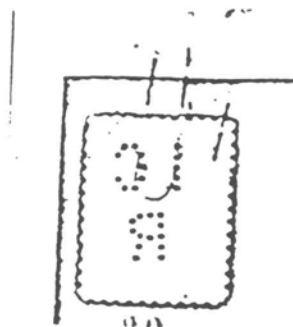


fig. 2

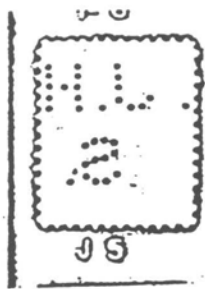


fig. 3



fig. 4

3 CENT SMALL QUEEN

OTTAWA PRINTINGS

PERF. 12 x 12



FIGURE 13 C

Scratch Lower Left Margin.

Dates Reported

Dec 29/97 Merritton, Ont.

Dec⁶/96 Petrolea, Ont.

Ja 11/97 Altona, Man.

My 3/97 Guelph, Ont.

FIGURE 14 C

Scratch L. R., LL. Pair



DATES REPORTED

Oc 4/79 Chatham, Ont.

No 13/97 Brussels

N/My 16/98 Quebec Central
Rwy M.C.

Oc 23/97 Grand Valley, Ont.

No. 29/97 H -- Soille, Quebec

No. 13/97/PM Windson, Ont.

3 CENT SMALL QUEEN

OTTAWA PRINTINGS

PERF. 12 x 12



FIGURE 15 C

Scratch bottom, top - pair.

Dates Reported

PM/MY -9? Sherbrooke, Quebec



Dates Reported

4/My 19/92 Quebec, Que.

Jy 12/92 ?

