

Minor Re-entries on the Half Cent Small Queen  
and  
Plating Gutter Blocks and Pairs

George B. Arfken

This is written in defense of minor re-entries, specifically the minor re-entries on the half cent Small Queen. These minor re-entries are not flyspecks; in many cases they are short line segments parallel to the original line. Often not visible to the unaided eye, they show up clearly with a 10 power lens. So what use are these minor re-entries? Why bother about them? Well, there are two reasons. If your neighbor is not familiar with re-entries, you can tell him, with a note of great pride in your voice, "My half cent Small Queen has a re-entry!" The second reason, the use in plating gutter blocks and pairs, is the topic of the rest of this paper.

According to Hillson [1] the half cent Small Queen plate was re-entered in 1891 or 1892. No evidence was given for these dates but they appear reasonable. It is assumed that these minor re-entries were made at that time. These minor re-entries appear in amazingly large numbers. Of the 40 plate positions listed in Table 1 below, 26 positions or 65 per cent show minor re-entries of the type studied here. Hillson [1] has advanced some reasons for the multitude of re-entries here. In addition one can speculate on many factors such as the possibility of a young, inexperienced, possibly apprentice siderographer.

Table 1 below lists certain frame line re-entries (all minor) of the half cent Small Queen in the two columns on either side of the gutter; columns 9 and 10 of pane no. 2 on the left and columns 1 and 2 of pane no. 1 on the right [2]. On each of the 4 sides of the half cent Small Queen there is a projection of the frame line. These are numbered as shown in Figure 1 following the system introduced by Searles [3]. Each projection has a horizontal (h), a vertical (v) and a diagonal (d) part. The table lists those portions of the frame line projections that are doubled. For example, the entry 5d,h means that the diagonal and horizontal line segments of the frame line of projection number 5 are doubled.

Figure 1. Frame line projections



Table 1. Frame Line Projection Re-entries

Pane 2, Left		Pane 1, Right	
Column 9	Column 10	Column 1	Column 2
9 4v, 5h	10 5h	1 4v	2 5d,h
19 1d,h	20 -	11 4v	12 4d, 5h, 6d, 7v
29 (1)	30 -	21 4v	22 -
39 5h (1)	40 -	31 -	32 2h,d, 3d, 5d,v
49 -	50 4v	41 1h, 2d, 3d, 4v,d	42 -
59 -	60 3d, 4v	51 4v	52 -
69 -	70 4v	61 2v,d	62 -
79 -	80 4v, 5v (2,3)	71 2h,d, 3d,v, 4v (2)	72 2h,d, 4v
89 -	90 4v, 5v (4)	81 2h,d, 3d, 4v	82 1d,h, 2h,d
99 5h,v,d, 6v,h (5)	100 4v (6)	91 2h,d (2)	92 2h,d

(1) Vertical burnishing lines in left margin, noted by H.Reiche, BNA Topics, vol 9, p.95, 1952.

(2) Broken white line under CENT. (With light inking this broken white line appears in many other positions.)

(3) POSTAGE damaged.


(4) Very faint doubling of radial line segments above "1".

(5) Very faint doubling of radial line segments in lower left.

(6) "C" of CENT damaged.

A few other re-entry features of these 40 stamps are listed, partly for general interest, partly to provide additional help in identification. The re-entries listed for columns 9 and 10 of the left plate are consistent with Reiche's compilation [4].

Now the gutter blocks. **If your gutter block was printed from the re-entered plate**, a comparison of its frame line projection re-entries with those listed in Table 1 should lead to an assignment of plate position. For gutter pairs with only two stamps to work on, more care is needed but an assignment of plate position may be made for 8 of the 10 possible pairs. Pairs 20L - 11R and 30L - 21R are not resolved by simple examination of these

frame line re-entries. However, these two pairs may be distinguished by careful examination (10 power lens) of the vertical lines on the left side of the top edge. On position 21 these vertical lines have a normal, blunt or sometimes pointed end (top). On position 11 in contrast, the left half of the line extends markedly above the right half of the line (  ) giving the top of these vertical lines an appearance that screams - re-entry.

Two caveats are in order. (1) As mentioned before, this method of assigning plate position will work only for gutter blocks and pairs printed from the re-entered plate. (2) The strength of these re-entered lines varies. None are as strong as the original lines. Some of them are quite weak. Variations in the printing process (inking, wiping, moistening the paper, etc.) may change the appearance of the re-entry. Lighter inking might result in some of the very weak lines not showing up while some broad lines might be resolved into two fine lines. Heavier inking might do just the reverse.

As an example of the plate position assignment consider the gutter block shown in Figure 2. (Yes, the cover is philatelic in the sense of the deliberate creation of a philatelic item. Mr. Schmalz was a stamp collector. The cover carries an AP 18 95 BERLIN backstamp. A similar cover, dated JU 10 95, appeared in Maresch's July 1952 Private Treaty Sale.) This gutter block shows frame line re-entries as follows:

4v (broadened)	1h, 2h,d, 4v, 6h,d
4v (5h,v removed by perf)	2h,d (5d, 6h,v removed by perf) (4v broadened)
3d, 4v, 5v	2d.

There is no exact match! In light of caveat no. 2 no exact match should be expected. Table 1 is based on well inked stamps. The gutter block is somewhat more lightly inked. No exact match but positions 50-41, 60-51 and 70-61 come close. No other set of positions appears reasonable. So the gutter block of Figure 2 is assigned to positions 50-41, 60-51 and 70-61.

[1] Hillson, N.J.A., The Small Queen Half Cent Value of 1882, Maple Leaves vol. 19, p. 101-103, 1984.

[2] Brown, P.L., Plate Layout of the Half-Cent Small Queen, BNA Topics vol. 9, p. 94-95, 1952, shows a photo of the complete double pane.

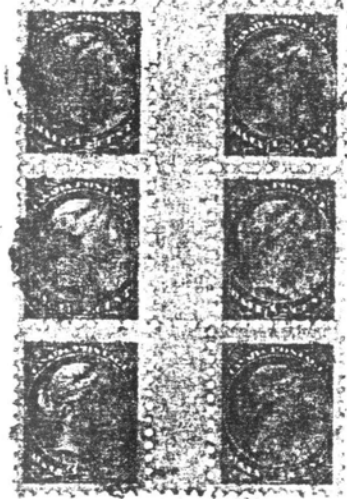
[3] Searles, G.R.C., A Study of Re-entries and Retouches of the Half Cent Small Head, Maples Leaves vol. 4, p. 160-163, 1953.

[4] Reiche, H., Varieties of the Queen Victoria 1882 1/2 Cent Black Plate 2 Left. BNA Topics vol. 9, p. 95, 1952.

Figure 2.



Mr. W. A. Schmalz  
Berlin.  
Ont.



OFFICIAL DUPLICES (CONTINUED)

HAMILTON (ONTARIO PROVINCE)

- RECEIVED FOUR HAMMERS FROM BERRI, NONE KNOWN TO EXIST ON SMALL QUEENS.
- FAMOUS FOR ITS SQUAT "5" KILLER, PROBABLY CAME ABOUT AS A FUNCTION OF THE TWO "RING 5" CANCEL USED AT HAMILTON.
- THE DO 53 STRIKE WAS MUTILATED FOR UNKNOWN REASONS AND IS NUMBERED DO 54.
- DESIGNATED BY NUMBERS PRECEDED BY "DO".

ONTARIO PROVINCE  
 DUPLEX CANCELS  
 1870 - 1897

HAMILTON

NO.	CITY	TYPE	DIA. DATER (MM)	INDICIA	KILLER	REMARKS
DO 52		I CW	21	BLANK	G . 13	THIN-ENCL. SQUAT 5 1870-1872
DO 53		I ONT	21	BLANK	G . 13	THIN TALLER 5 1872-1876
DO 54		IONT	21	BLANK		SERIAL 2 MUTILATED BY CUTS 1875-1877
DO 55		I ONT	21	AM/PM	A . 11	THICK 1877-1881
DO 56		I ONT	21	AM/PM	A . 10	THICK 1880-1881
DO 57		II CANADA	24	AM/PM	A . 13	THIN 1881
DO 58		II CANADA	24	AM/PM	A . 14	THIN 1883
DO 59		II CANADA	25	AM/PM	A . 15	THIN 1883

ONTARIO PROVINCE  
 DUPLEX CANCELS  
 1870 - 1897  
 HAMILTON

NO.	CITY	TYPE	DIA. DATER (MM)	INDICIA	KILLER	REMARKS
DO 60		II CANADA	24½	1 - 4	A · 13	THIN 1888
DO 61		II CANADA	25	4 PM ETC	B · 9	THIN 1883-90 25 x 17½ MM
DO 62		II CANADA	25	4 PM ETC	B · 9	1883-90 29 x 18½ MM
DO 63		II CANADA	25	LOW NO'S	B · 10	1887 28 x 20 MM
DO 64		II CANADA	25	LOW NO'S	B · 9	1890 25 x 17½ MM
DO 65		II CANADA	25	HI NO'S	B · 0	1892 25 x 17½ MM

EXAMPLES OF VARIOUS HAMILTON DUPELEX CANCELLATIONS



DO 1  
I.A.13



DO 55  
I.A.11



DO 52  
I.G.13



DO 59  
II.A.15



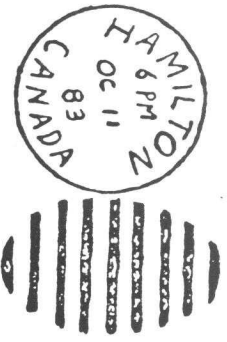
DO 53  
I.G.13



DO 61  
II.B.9



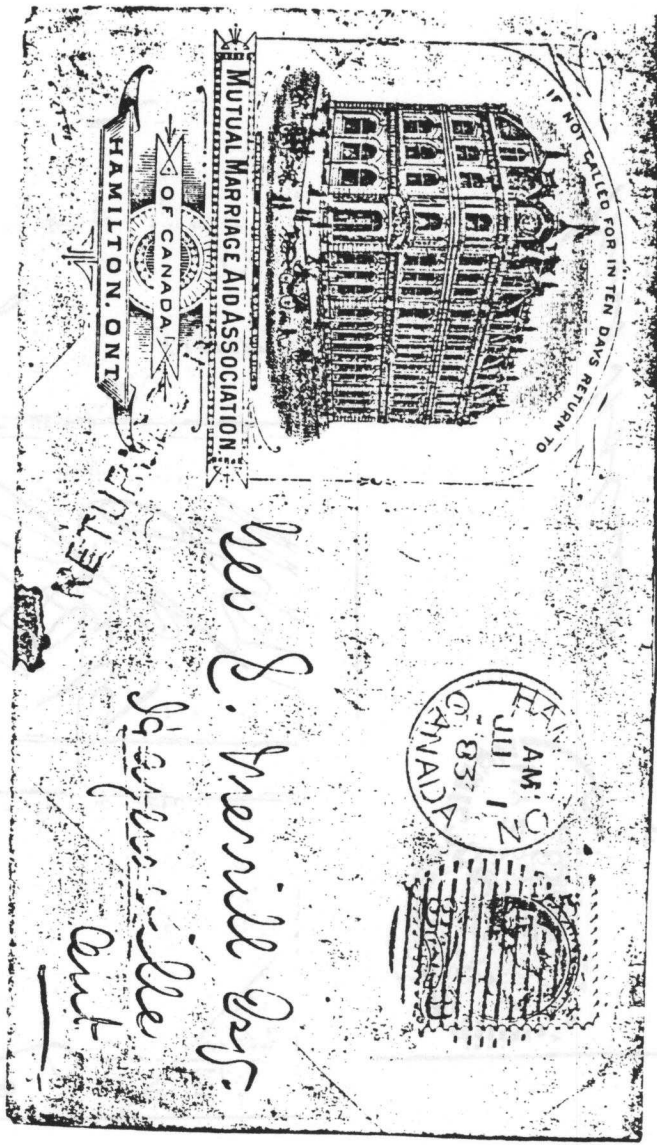
DO 54  
I.G



DO 62  
II.B.9



EXAMPLES OF HAMILTON DUPLEX CANCELLATIONS



HAMILTON  
AM: ON  
JUL 1  
1937  
CANADA

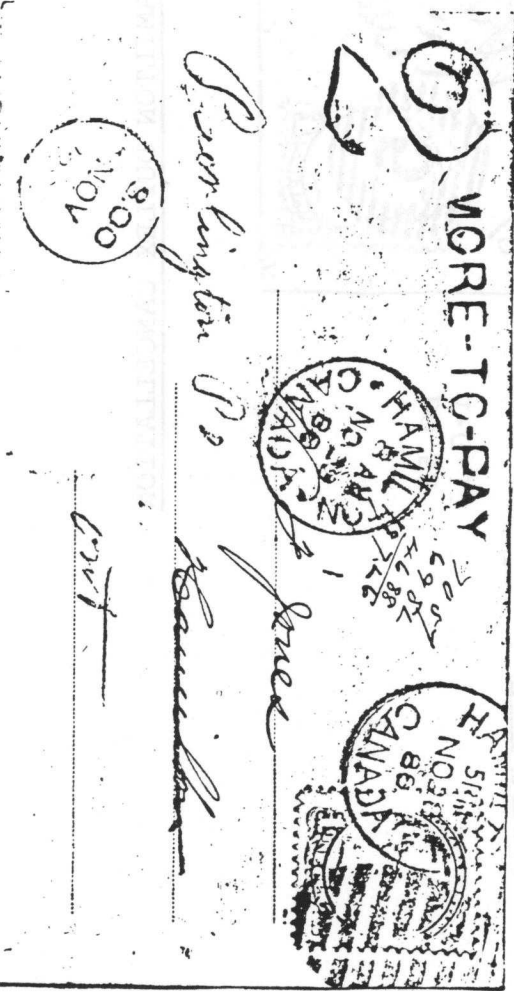


*Ms S. Merrill Esq*

*St Catharines  
Ont*

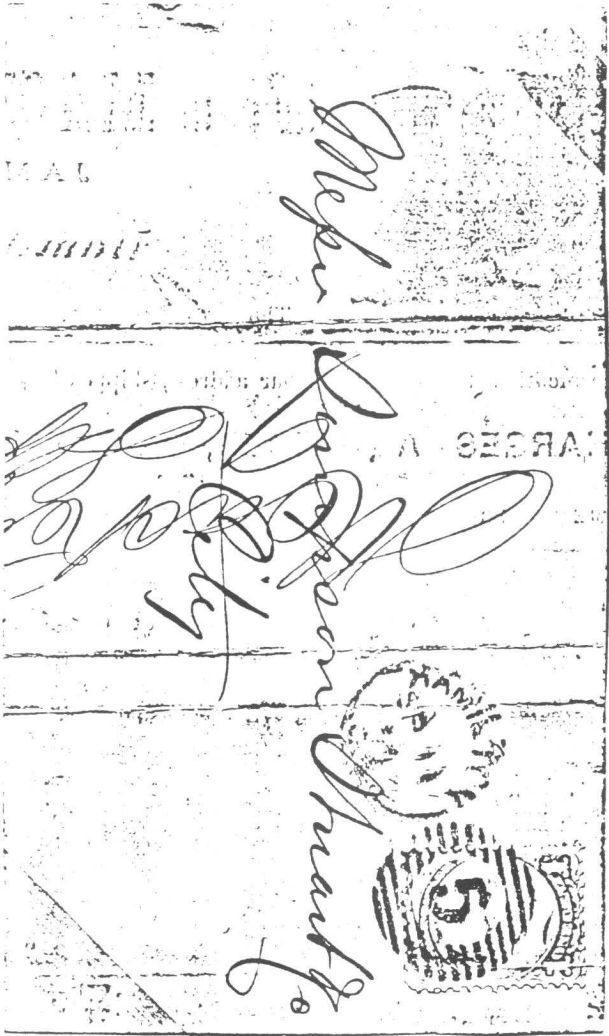
DO 59  
II.A.15

DO 62  
II.B.9

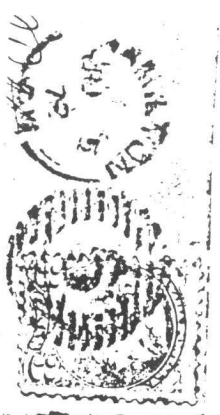


8:00  
NOV 5

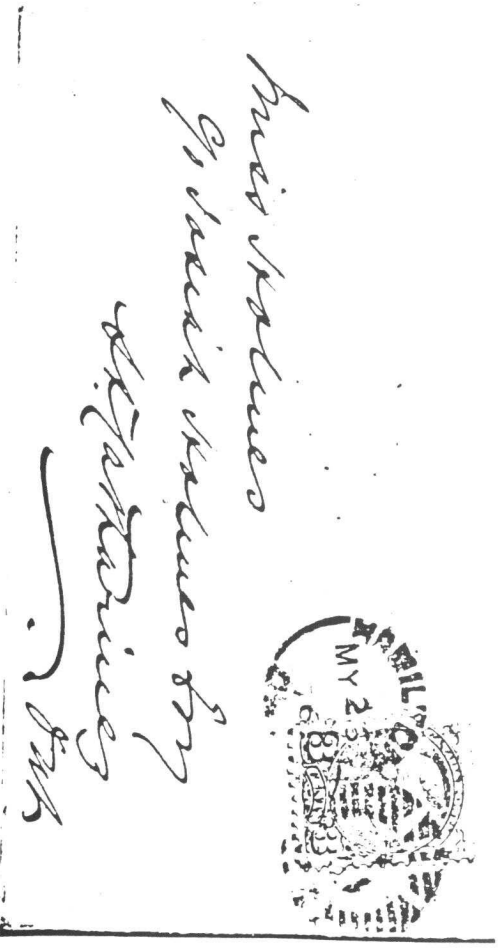
EXAMPLES OF THE HAMILTON DUPLEX CANCELLATION



DO 52  
I.G.13



SLIGHTLY CLEANER  
STRIKE ON PIECE



DO 54  
II.G.  
THE MUTILATED "5" KILLER

OFFICIAL DUPLIX CANCELLATIONS (CONTINUED)

● LONDON (ONTARIO PROVINCE)

● FAMOUS FOR ITS TRULY BEAUTIFUL "6" CANCELLATION KNOWN TO EXIST IN BOTH "AM/PM" AND BLANK INDICIA.

● PRITCHARD AND ANDREWS STARTED TO SUPPLY DUPLIX HAMMERS IN 1877, IN ERROR THEY PUT "CW" IN LIEU OF "ONT." THUS, EFFECTIVELY REPRODUCING A BERRI CANCELLATION.

● IN 1881 THE LETTERS "ONT" IN THE DATER WERE REPLACED WITH "CANADA".

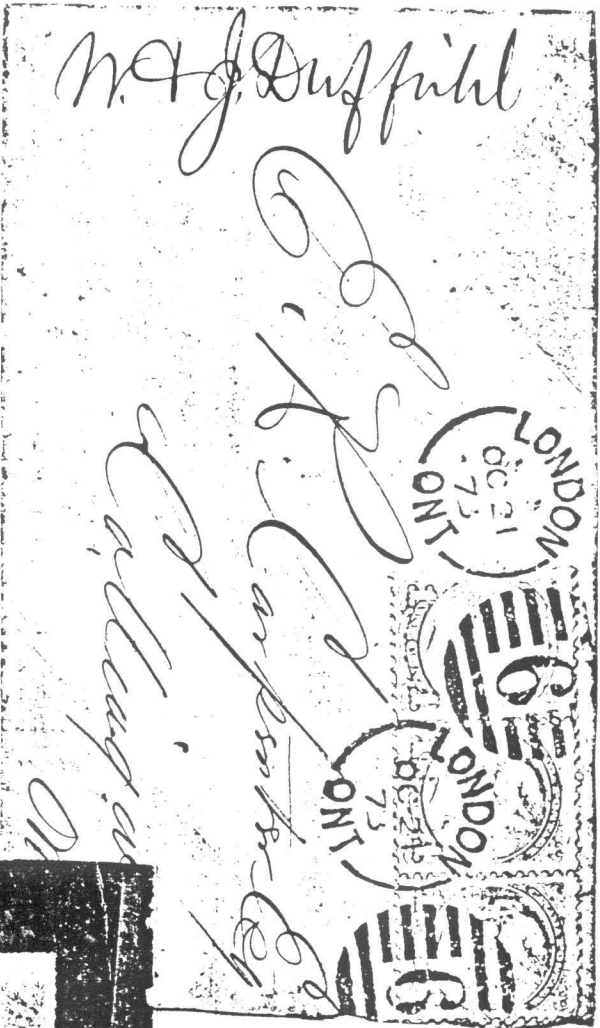
● DESIGNATED BY NUMBERS PRECEDED BY "DO".

ONTARIO PROVINCE  
 DUPLIX CANCELLATIONS  
 1870 - 1897

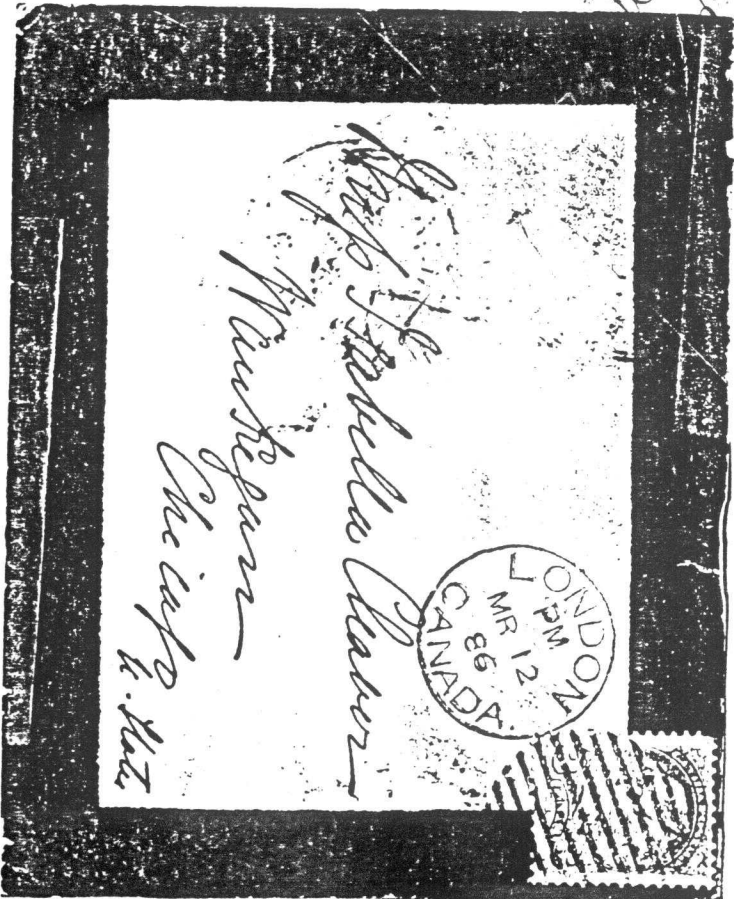
NO.	TYPE	DIA DATER	INDICIA	KILLER	REMARKS
DO 66	I ONT.	22	AM/PM	G . 8	THICK ENCLOSING 6 1869-1876
DO 67	I ONT.	22	BLANK	G . 8	THICK ENCLOSING 6 1869-1876
DO 68	I ONT.	22	BLANK	A . 13	THIN 1875-1879
DO 69	I. C.W.	22	BLANK	A . 13	THIN 1877-1879
DO 70	I ONT.		AM/PM	A . 8	THICK 1877
DO 71	II ONT.		AM/PM	A . 11	MEDIUM 1870-1880
DO 72	II CANADA	24	AM/PM	A . 15	THIN 1879-1888
DO 73	II CANADA	24	AM/PM	A . 14	THIN 1879-1888

ONTARIO PROVINCE  
 DUPLIX CANCELLATIONS  
 1870 - 1897

NO.	TYPE	DIA DATER	INDICIA	KILLER	REMARKS
DO 74	II CANADA	26	AM/PM	A . 12	THIN 1885-1890
DO 75	II CANADA	23	AM/PM	A . 11	THIN 1892
DO 76	II CANADA	25	PM	A . 11	MEDIUM 1886
DO 77	II CANADA		AM/PM	A . 10	MEDIUM 1886
DO 78	II CANADA		AM/PM	B . 9	THICK 1887



DO 76  
II.A.11



DO 67  
I.G.8

1. 6

1. 6



EXAMPLES OF LONDON DUPILEX CANCELLATIONS



DO 67  
I.G.8



DO 66  
I.G.8



DO 76  
II.A.11