

THE SMALL QUEENS NEWSLETTER

OF

THE CANADIAN SMALL QUEENS STUDY GROUP (BNAPS)

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BNAPEX '85 - CALGARY - SEPTEMBER 12 to 14, 1985

The convention was a great success. The organizing committee are to be congratulated for a job very well done. The exhibits were outstanding and the Study Group Chairman, Jon Johnson deserves a special vote of thanks for allowing the Small Queens Group to have two seminars. We were treated to three slide presentations at our seminars:

- 1) Alberta Town Cancels on Small Queens - by Don Fraser;
- 2) The 8¢ Small Queen - It's printings, shades, re-entries  
- by Jack Weatherwax;
- 3) Postal Usage of the Small Queens - by George Arfken.

Frank Waite briefly spoke to the group re goals for 1986. We will haer more of this in the editorial and future newsletters.

EDITORIAL

Every study group should have a goal and for 1986, I would like to see this group do a study on the earliest dated Small Queen covers. In the next newsletter, I will include a chart for you to complete. This can be done at your own speed and time, but do hope to complete it by next fall. At the conclusion of this, we hope to print a monograph on the subject with photographs. I would appreciate comments from all members regarding this study.

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome: Jim Hennok  
185 Queen St.  
East Toronto  
M5A 1S2

**BNAPS LIBRARY**

Librarian, Don Makinen, has sent listings of articles on the Small Queens which are available in the library. They are as follows:

- E-7: Constant Plate Varieties of the Canadian Small Queens-Hans Reiche
- F-661: The Canadian Small Cents Issue - R. Mason
- F-538: Canada's Small Queens with Double Perfs. - E. Richardson - 1958
- F-596: When was 1/2¢ Canada Queen First Used - E. Richardson - 1958
- F-138: The 3¢ Small Queen Issue of Canada - C. Shoemaker - 1941

**NEWSLETTER SUMMARY**

Redirected drop letters - George Arfken

First Class Postal Rates For Our Small Queen Era (Part I) - George Arfken  
Domestic Postal Rates - First Class Mail, Registry Fee

## REDIRECTED DROP LETTERS A Plea for Help

The October 1875 Official Postal Guide announced a drastic change in the way the postage due on underpaid letters was to be computed. Before exploring what this change meant for redirected drop letters consider the simple, straight forward case of an ordinary overweight letter, paid one rate but short the second rate. The Post Office Act of 1867, effective 1 April 1868 specified that the letter rate was to be 3¢ per half ounce if prepaid, 5¢ per half ounce if not prepaid.

First the pre October 1875 period. Our overweight letter was prepaid 3¢ but was short 3¢. Not being fully prepaid it was considered unpaid and assessed the double unpaid rate, 10¢ but credit was given for the 3¢ postage paid. The result: MORE-TO-PAY 7.

The October 1875 Postal Guide required prepayment by stamp and specified that the postage due on underpaid letters should be double the deficiency. Very simple. Our overweight letter was short 3¢. Doubling this amount resulted in MORE-TO-PAY 6.

Now, turning to redirected drop letters. Consider a drop letter, properly prepaid 1¢, that was redirected because the addressee had moved out of town. The redirected drop letter became an ordinary letter, underpaid 2¢ of the regular 3¢ rate. Pre October 1875 this redirected drop letter was rated at 5¢ as an unpaid (not fully prepaid) letter but again credit was given for the prepayment that had been made. The result was 5¢ less the 1¢ prepaid or MORE-TO-PAY 4. Redirected drop covers with this MORE-TO-PAY 4 are not common but they are known.

The October 1875 Postal Guide p.vii had the following statement on drop letters:

*On letters posted at an Office to be delivered from it, commonly known as "drop letters", the rate will be 1 cent per 1/2 oz.; to be in all cases prepaid by Postage Stamp affixed to such letter when posted.*

There was nothing about redirecting drop letters. There were no instructions on how to calculate the postage due!

This lack of guidance was remedied, in a way, in the April 1876 Postal Guide. On p.vii there appeared an additional sentence:

*Drop letters, if re-directed in consequence of a change in residence of the person addressed, become liable to the double unpaid rate of 6 cents.*

So what did that mean? Well, one of Canada's most knowledgeable and most illustrious postal historians has written that it meant a charge of 6¢ less the 1¢ paid (assuming the drop letter was prepaid) for a rating of MORE-TO-PAY 5. This is a perfectly logical interpretation but still hard to accept. It seems inconsistent with Canada Post's policies of (a) free redirection and (b) doubling any deficiency. Further, it seems strange that the penalty on the redirected drop letter would be raised 1¢ while the penalty on an overweight letter was being reduced 1¢. But this is speculation. The real questions are - What were Canada's postmasters and postal clerks actually

doing? Specifically, were they stamping redirected drop letters MORE-TO-PAY 5?

Here is the plea for help. This writer has never seen a redirected drop letter, 2¢ short, stamped MORE-TO-PAY 5. If any reader has such a cover or knows of such a cover, please let me know.

Clarification of the treatment of redirected drop letters came three months later. (Perhaps the local postmasters were asking for an explanation.) In the July 1876 Postal Guide, p.vii, we find:

*On letters posted at an Office to be delivered from it, commonly known as "drop letters", the rate will be 1 cent per 1/2 oz.; to be in all cases prepaid by Postage Stamp affixed to such letter when posted. Drop letters, if re-directed in consequence of a change in residence of the person addressed, become liable to the double unpaid rate of 6 cents. Insufficiently paid drop letters will be rated with double the amount of deficient postage.*

The second sentence is still hard to understand but now the new final sentence spells out the procedure explicitly: double the deficiency. Doubling the 2¢ deficiency of a redirected drop letter, prepaid 1¢, and therefore 2¢ short results in MORE-TO-PAY 4 just as it was before October 1875. This wording continued in the postal guides until October 1879. Then further clarification appeared on p.vii:

*On letters posted at an Office to be delivered from it, commonly known as "drop letters", the rate will be 1 cent per 1/2 oz.; to be in all cases prepaid by Postage Stamp affixed to such letter when posted. Drop letters, if re-directed in consequence of a change in the residence of the person addressed, become liable to the ordinary rate of 3 cents per 1/2 oz. less the amount prepaid. Insufficiently paid drop letters will be rated with double the amount of deficient postage.*

The puzzling "liable to the double unpaid rate of 6 cents" was finally dropped and replaced by "liable to the ordinary rate of 3 cents per 1/2 oz. less the amount prepaid." And this liability was then doubled. This wording continued in the postal guides until January 1890 when the two references to "per 1/2 oz." were changed to "per oz." The wording was completely revised in the January 1891 Postal Guide, p.v, but the meaning remained the same:

*Thus a drop letter redirected to a place outside the city or town becomes liable to a higher rate and the difference must be prepaid, otherwise double the difference will be collected on delivery.*

Still double the deficiency. This wording was retained throughout the remainder of the Small Queen era.

The question remains for the incredible three months, April - June, 1876. Were there really MORE-TO-PAY 5 redirected drop letters? This writer would appreciate any help Small Queen Study Group members can offer.

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CANADA

Domestic Postal Rates - First Class Mail

1 Apr 1868 3d/ 1/2 oz. if prepaid, stamps or cash  
5d/ 1/2 oz. not prepaid  
1d for DROP letters (weight not specified, per 1/2 oz. ?)  
Post Office Act of 21 Dec 1867  
Dept. Order No. 2 1 Mar 1868

Underpaid letters were rated as if totally unpaid but credit given for the actual payment.

2d ferriage rate. No Small Queen ferriage rate covers known.  
2d for not over 1/2 oz. Soldier's Letter rate. Restricted to enlisted men and non-commissioned officers.

1 Oct 1875 3d/ 1/2 oz. Full prepayment required, stamps only,  
no cash prepayment  
1d/ 1/2 oz. for DROP letters (with or without carrier delivery)  
No ferriage rate.  
Post Office Act of 1875  
Dept. Order No. 15 1 Sep 1875  
Notice to Public 24 Sep 1875

Underpaid letters were charged double the deficiency.

8 May 1889 3d/ 1 oz.  
2d/ 1 oz. for DROP letters with carrier delivery  
1d/ 1 oz. for DROP letters without carrier delivery  
Notice to the Public 8 May 1889  
Dept. Order No. 35 20 May 1889

20 May 1889 2d/ 1 oz. "Suburban Rate" authorized  
Dept. Order No. 35 20 May 1889

1 Jan 1899 2d/ 1 oz.  
Act of Parliament 13 Jun 1898  
(2d DROP letter, carrier delivery rate reduced to  
1d/ 1 oz. 8 Aug 1908.)

CANADA

Domestic Postal Rates - First Class Mail, Registry Fee

Decimal issue 2¢ cash or stamps  
and Large Queen Registration not mentioned in Post Office Act of 1867  
issue eras nor in Dept. Order No. 2, 1868.

1 Feb 1869 2¢ "should be prepaid by Postage Stamp"  
Notice to the Public 1 Feb 1869

1 Oct 1875 2¢ Preliminary announcement of registered letter stamps  
Notice to the Public 1 Oct 1875 [Boggs p.471]

1 Oct 1875 2¢ by stamp (registered letter stamp)  
Oct 1875 Official Postal Guide  
Dept. Order No. 17 8 Nov 1875 refers to issuing  
registered letter stamps. According to Boggs  
(p.469) the registered letter stamps were not  
available until mid November 1875.

Registered letter stamps were not valid for postage.  
This appears repeatedly in the postal guides. A  
formal statement was included in Dept. Order  
No. 18, 7 Jan 1876: (registered letter stamps)  
"are not intended to be used under any  
circumstances for prepaying any ordinary postage  
rate."

1 Jan 1876 2¢ RLS  
Official Postal Guide Jan 1876 p.xvii. "On a letter  
addressed to any place in Canada, a registered  
letter stamp of the value of two cents" (should  
be affixed).

1 Jan 1889 2¢  
The Jan 1889 Official Postal Guide (p.xviii)  
grudgingly authorized the payment of the  
registry fee entirely by postage stamps.  
Statement repeated (5¢ rate) in the 1890, 1891  
1892 and 1893 postal guides.

8 May 1889 5¢ to be prepaid by 5¢ RLS or 2¢ RLS + 3¢ in Small Queens.  
Notice to the Public 8 May 1889  
Dept. Order No. 35 20 May 1889

1 Aug 1893 5¢ 5¢ RLS, 2¢ RLS, Small Queens: any combination.  
8¢ Small Queen issued specifically to pay 3¢ postage  
plus 5¢ registration.

1 Jan 1894 "Discontinuance of special registration stamp."  
Jan 1894 Postal Guide, p.ii