

THE SMALL QUEEN NEWSLETTER  
OF  
THE CANADIAN SMALL QUEEN STUDY GROUP  
(BNAPS)

Volume 11, No. 2

May, 1986

1. BNAPEX '86 - DEARBORN, MI.

Time is fast approaching for the '86 convention. Our study group is planning on having a most interesting meeting. Hope to see you there!!

2. EARLIEST DATED SMALL QUEEN COVERS, STAMPS - 1986 GOAL

To date, I have received only six replies, one received just yesterday. Require more participation to present any kind of a report.

Several comments in general are:

- a) "This exercise would have more significance if you also included early dated material off cover." Editor: We will list two columns, on & off cover.
- b) Perfing Small Queens - What gauges to use. Problems - Variety of perf. readings due to paper shrinkage.

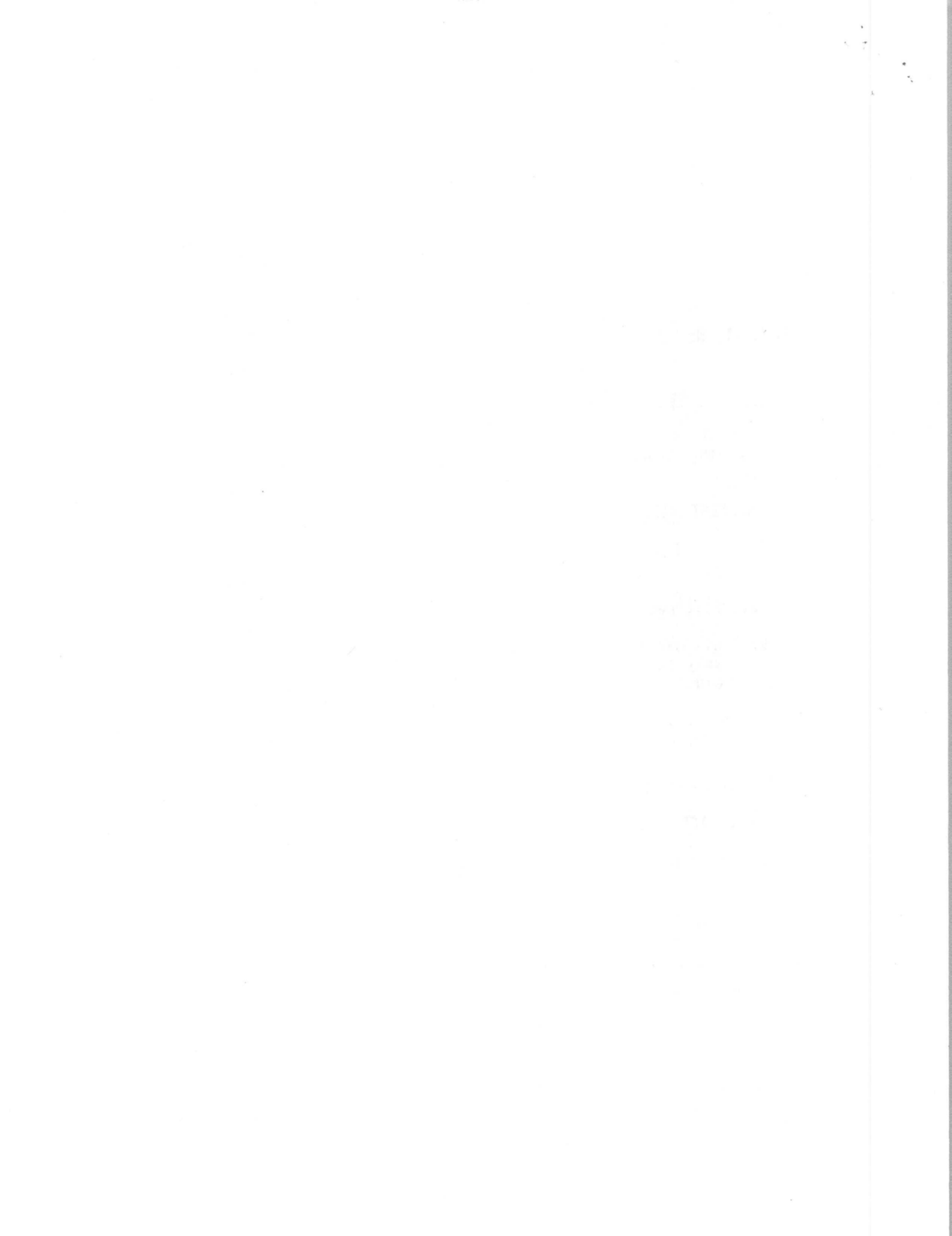
Any comments to the above queries are welcomed.

3. NEWSLETTER SUMMARY

- Variety Diagram of 2¢ Small Queen - Scotia Stamp Studio & W.G. Burden.
- The Enquiry Office Oval - George B. Arfken.

4. FINANCIAL REPORT - 1985

|  |                        |
|--|------------------------|
| Balance December 31, 1984                | \$ 98.64               |
| Revenue - Dues, Interest on S/A          | <u>83.64</u>           |
| TOTAL                                    | \$181.68               |
| Expenses - Postage, Printing, Stationary | \$ 77.61               |
| Balance December 31, 1985                | <u><u>\$103.07</u></u> |



### The ENQUIRY OFFICE Oval

George B. Arfken

In his detailed and extensive survey of oval postmarks [1] George Olson showed a partial Enquiry Office oval and included the statement "Why this office cancelled its own stamps is unknown." Much about the Enquiry Office is still unknown but perhaps the items illustrated here can shed a little light on this mysterious office.

Figure 1. shows a bulk mail receipt with a 10¢ Small Queen paying for 10 pounds of newspapers or periodicals. The cancel is ENQUIRY OFFICE / FEB 10 1896 / POST OFFICE TORONTO. Apparently the Enquiry Office was a special office, possibly a special room in the Toronto Post Office, established to receive bundles of newspapers and periodicals for mailing at the 1¢ per pound rate.

Recently C.R. McGuire illustrated these bulk mail receipts and discussed newspaper - periodical rates, primarily for the Maple Leaf period [2]. However the regulations he quoted apply in part to the last few years of the Small Queen era. The regulation that bundles of British newspapers and periodicals could be reposted at the 1¢ per pound rate appeared in the January 1894 Postal Guide. It may be more than coincidence that the earliest dated bulk mail receipt this writer has seen is dated September 1894. In our time of radio and television it's hard to realize how important newspapers were back in the 1890' and how many passed through the mail. Actually the number of newspapers coming from Britain in the 1890's was roughly equal to the number of letters. For the years immediately preceding 1894 British newspapers and periodicals coming in by mail to news agents could be remailed FREE! The change to a 1¢ per pound charge meant a large increase in this business for the post office and the introduction of the bulk mail receipts may have been a direct response to this large increase in the 1¢ per pound bulk mail traffic.

The Enquiry Office oval continued in use at least into 1899. Figure 2. shows a block of eight 3¢ Small Queens with two APR 12 1899 ENQUIRY OFFICE ovals.

[1] "Notes on Oval Cancels of the Small Queen Era" George T. Olson, Jr.  
Small Queen Newsletter vol.5, No's 1 and 2, August 1980.

[2] "Canadian Postal Guide Illustrated" C.R. McGuire  
Newspaper Postage, BNA Topics vol.41, p.15, Sept-Oct 1984  
Second Class Matter, BNA Topics vol. 41, p.38, Nov-Dec 1984  
Newspaper Postage, BNA Topics vol.42, p.18-19, Mar-Apr 1985.

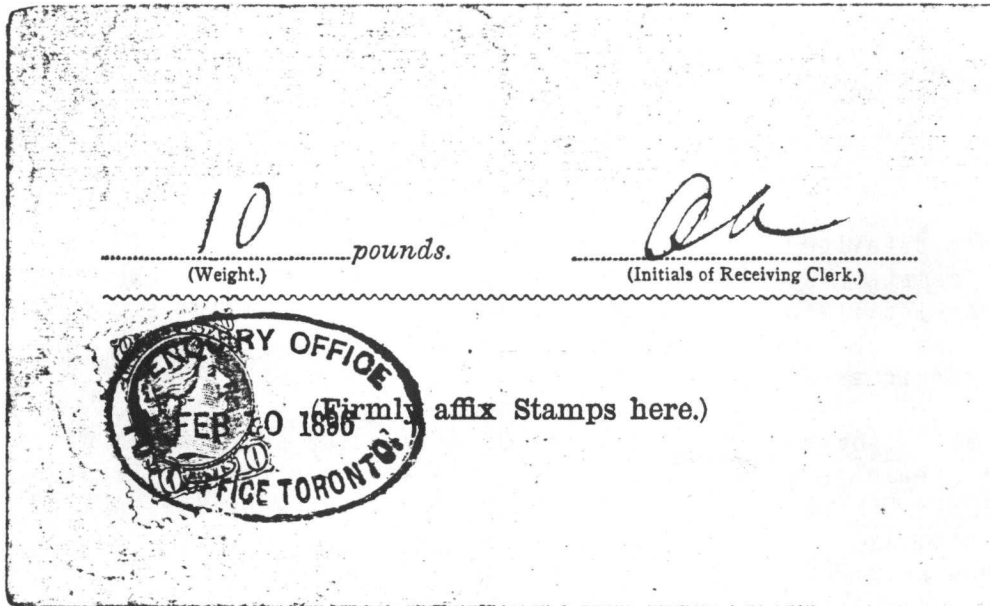


Figure 1. A 10¢ Small Queen paying for 10 pounds of newspapers or periodicals at the 1¢ per pound bulk rate. ENQUIRY OFFICE / FEB 10 1896 / POST OFFICE TORONTO.



Figure 2. ENQUIRY OFFICE ovals - APR 12 1899.



# CANADA

## SMALL QUEENS - ISSUE OF 1870-97.

Engraved and Printed by British American Bank Note Co. — Montreal & Ottawa

### VARIETY DIAGRAM

Nos 174-273

