

Editor: W. G. Burden Box 152, Truro, N. S. B2N 5C1

1) Newsletter Summary:

- a) Editor's Notes - WGB
- b) A Special Cover #1 - G. Arfken
- c) The 2 Cents SQ Precancelled - H. Reiche
- d) Small Queen Perforation Study - R. Leith

Editor's Notes

a) With the 'New Deal' offered to new BNAPS members where said member may join a study group for free for one year; we are getting lots of fresh members. I suspect that many of these new members would find an introductory article in almost any specific area of the SQs of considerable interest. Do we have any volunteers?

b) It would appear that there will be some interesting news regarding group officers in the next bulletin - late in the year (hopefully).

c) It has been reported to be by Bill Simpson that a new book (150+ pages, I think) on the small queens has been written by John Hillson and may well be available in North America by the time you read this. Our congratulations to John.

d) A reminder to group members that the BNAPS librarian now has copies of all Small Queen Study Group bulletins for both the BNAPS and the CPS of GB. This is a fairly thick packet, but contains a great deal of info.

e) I would like to thank all the members who responded to my letter in the last bulletin. The feed back was most helpful and the general result was that I am promised some help and expect to get at least 2 bulletins/year mailed to you. Most who responded suggested that an increase may be necessary. I will try to hold the line for '89 and you can be assured that if we get into \$\$\$ trouble, I will let you know for '90.

f) In my possession I have Ron Leith's updated article on the Fancy Cancellations of Toronto. He was grateful for the letters and information sent to him by our membership. This updated listing will be part of the next issue.

g) One member asks my opinion on the 10 cent perf. 12.5 x 12.5's in a recent Maresch auction. I'm afraid that is out of my league. Do any members have thoughts or opinions? Comments that I could pass on to the group would be most useful.

h) One of our members, Fred Moose, has made the following suggestion:

"The (1 cent) yellows and the (3 cent) reds are a real problem for me and I suspect for many other collectors. Would an appropriate activity for the group be (to produce) set(s) of reference copies that could be loaned to compare with one's collection?"

I have always thought that even a damaged 'Shoemaker' set would be tremendously useful to someone starting out. A few of the difficult papers and perforations might be missing but putting together a set of most of the major shades and papers might not be too difficult for some of our more advanced members. Anyone interested in starting the ball rolling?

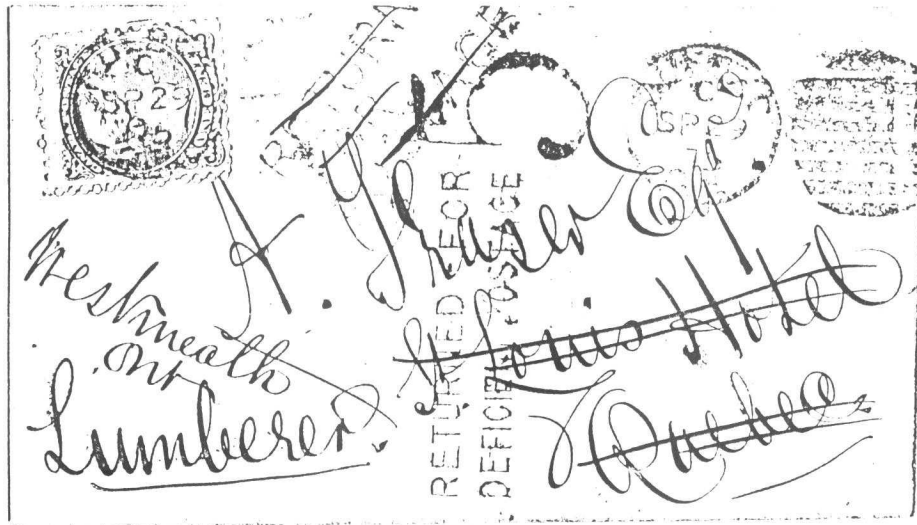
i) I noted with considerable interest the article on the 1 cent "strand of hair" in Vol. 46, #3, BNAPS Topics, by H. Reiche and M. Sendbuehler. I suspect that many members of the group have been busy checking their 'strands' to see if they have all 7 varieties. It would be very interesting to me and I am sure to others, to hear additional opinions on this most interesting variety.

For some time I have had in my collection 'strands' which are significantly shorter than #6 in the article. It is my opinion that these are simply worn states of one or more of the types listed earlier by Hurst. Have other members found very faint 'strands'? Can we assume that the plates that contained these markings were used long enough and the metal soft enough to allow the 'strand' flaw to wear away?

j) I did not get any more templates of varieties from the membership for this issue, but with the favorable response to both pictures and diagrams, I will see that you have something to look at in the next issue.

Editor Bill Burden has requested an occasional page or two on a Small Queen cover, a good cover. So what makes a cover "good"? A very fine stamp well tied, very fine strikes of appropriate postmarks, immaculate appearance? That's fine, even very fine but these occasional pages are going to be about different covers, special covers. These covers are different and special because they may illustrate a special rate or show a special postal marking. They may be very early use, unusual use or even violate postal regulations. Here is the first special cover.

### A Special Small Queen Cover - 1



This figure shows a cover that had a tortuous journey. The evidence and interpretation comes partly from detailed examination of the postmarks and the writing on the cover and partly from the postal regulations. (1) The name and address in the center and right are on top of the postmarks RETURNED FOR/DEFICIENT POSTAGE and the date stamp. So the cover was mailed with no address and probably no stamp. It was returned to the writer ("Restitution" written on the back). (2) The local Quebec address was added and the letter became a proper 1¢ drop letter. (3) The addressee, Mr. A. ? was not at the St. Louis Hotel and the cover was readdressed to Westmeath, Ont. The cover was rated due 5 and stamped with a bold 5. (4) Why 5? Here there are two possibilities. (a) The cover could have been rated as an unpaid letter with no credit given for the 1¢ Small Queen. (b) The cover bears a WESTMEATH, U.C., OC 5 1875 receiving backstamp. The postal regulations for rating redirected drop letters changed on October 1, 1875. According to the new regulations, the letter was rated at double the amount that should have been paid (2 x 3¢) less the amount paid (1¢) or due 5. (5) The letter, due 5, was forwarded to Westmeath. Unclaimed, it went to the Dead Letter Office as evidenced by a DEAD LETTER OFFICE, OC 11 75 backstamp.

This cover is not a "good" cover in the sense described earlier. Indeed, it's a mess. But it is a "special" cover with its markings and redirection. As one possibility, it illustrates an unusual rate, the 5 cent charge for redirecting a 1 cent drop letter during; the period October 1875 - September 1879. Both before this period and after this period the charge for redirecting a 1 cent drop letter was 4 cents, double the 2 cent deficiency. Victor Willson helped in the interpretation of this special cover.

George B. Arfken

### The 2 Cents Small Queen Precancelled

Hans Reiche

The first article discussed some general aspects of the SQ precancelled Montreal and Ottawa printings. The 2 Cents is another one where only a few Montreal printings have been found so far.

One of the difficulties with the 2 Cents value is that the shades vary greatly over the total printing period. Even though most catalogues list a few shades, most do not cover all the actual shades. The other problem is that to one collector a greenish blue and a bluish green may look the same, when in fact these are not.

Amongst the reported 2 Cents precancelled stamps the following have been noted:

Style	Period	Shade	Style	Period	Shade
A-V	Ottawa	green	R-VD	Ottawa	light green
B-V	Montreal	green	R-VD	Ottawa	light green
B-	Ottawa	light green	R-	Ottawa	light green
B-D	Ottawa	green	S-	Ottawa	light green
D-V	Ottawa	green	S-	Ottawa	green
E-D	Ottawa	green	S-D	Ottawa	green
I-V	Montreal	blue green	S-V	Ottawa	green
J-	Ottawa	light green	S-V	Ottawa	blue green
J-D	Ottawa	dark green	S-T	Ottawa	light green
J-V	Ottawa	dark green	T-	Ottawa	green
R-	Ottawa	green	T-D	Ottawa	green
R-D	Ottawa	green	T-V	Ottawa	green
R-V	Ottawa	green	T-DV	Ottawa	green

file: RON\SMQUEEN\PERF.1

date: MAY 20, 1989

subject: SMALL QUEEN PERFORATION STUDY

The author has been collecting Small Queens for 35 years and it seems there has always been an uncertainty surrounding the perforations. We have all heard explanations of changing perforating machines, shrinking paper, and the likelihood of many machines existing and used at the same time. However, none of the explanations could resolve why we often found all four sides of a stamp with different perforation gauges (compound perfs) or why perforation gauges appeared to change gradually with time. Also, numerous unusual perforation gauges kept surfacing eg. perf 12 x 11 1/2 in 1870! This prompted the author to try and hopefully arrive at a logical explanation.

The problem surfaces when one analyses dated Small Queen stamps from what are presumably the same printing run. The printing run is established by identifying similar papers, identical ink shades, and dates within a four month window. Figures 1, 2 and 3 chronologically tabulate the results from three different early copper red printings (all horizontal mesh "A" papers). Note the apparent shifting of perforation gauge to higher numbers as time progressed. This represents the perforating holes moving closer together. The possibility of paper shrinkage being the culprit can be eliminated from a previous study done by the author showing no change between vertical and horizontal perforation gauges from early copper red "A" paper stamps. One would have expected a shrinkage in the vertical direction of horizontal mesh stamps and consequently a higher perf gauge on the vertical perfs. This did not occur. Also note that the perf shift with time occurs on both vertical and horizontal perf directions in figures 1-3. This is further evidence dispelling the paper shrinkage theory. If there was any paper shrinkage, it occurred before the stamps were perforated but almost certainly not after they were perforated.

This leaves us with the problem of explaining why the perfs shift with time. The answer lies in looking closely at the perforating machine itself and analyzing the mechanics of perforating holes in paper. Figures 4 & 5 show the perforating process with sheets being fed through a set of pin wheels. The "pin" wheels mesh with "hole" wheels creating the perforations. A set of 11 wheels on an adjustable shaft perforates a complete 100 stamp sheet in one direction at a time. Either a second machine or the same machine with the pin wheel separation adjusted is used to perforate holes in the transverse direction. Note the close tolerance of the pins verses holes in the greatly expanded wheels of figure 6. The pins only penetrate the holes a small fraction of a millimeter with the pin diameter approximately 5 thousandths of an inch smaller than the holes. Running thousands of sheets through the machine would gradually wear down the pins. The result was dull, rounded pins that would skewer rather than cleanly punch the top sheets in the perforating stack. Pieces of perforation paper would be left adhering to the stamp eventually leading to pin jamming and possible pin breakage. Pin wheels were expensive and rather than replace them when they got dull, they would be sharpened as shown in figure 7. Approximately 1/2 mm would be ground off to make a fresh pin. But now the pin radius is 1/2 mm shorter causing the pin wheel to cut the stamp sheets at more holes per inch than the former longer pins. There was no need to replace the "hole" wheels as there was sufficient tolerance between pins and holes to handle 3-5 sharpenings without binding (about 2-3 mm in pin length). They would, however, have to move the pin and hole wheels a bit closer together to offset the 1/2 mm pin loss, otherwise the bottom sheets would not be perforated. We see considerable evidence of marginally perforated stamps occurring due to poor wheel alignment, especially on the early printings. One can calculate that the perforation gauge will increase between .05 and .10 perfs for each sharpening. The exact shift depends on how deep the grinding jig is set. The printer would grind off as little as possible to maximize pin life as well as use pin wheels until they would either no longer work, or became so short that insufficient numbers of sheets could be fed through the machine at one time. To determine the limit where a perforation pin could be sharpened and still be functional, the author has recorded a number of very short pins with a 12.20 - 12.25 gauge in early 1873. They appear to be quite scarce and occur both vertical and horizontal. Couple this data with the evidence that both horizontal and vertical perfs appear to shift simultaneously from 1870-1873, it is entirely possible that all early Small Queens were tediously perforated on one machine. When the 11.5 (very long pin) machine arrived in mid 1873 it was only used for the horizontal perforations. There is also "no" evidence in 1873 that the horizontal and vertical pin wheels were interchangeable leading the author to conclude that it was a new machine rather than just a replacement of pin wheels.

The sharpening theory would explain why we see compound perfs. Either a damaged pin wheel was replaced by a new one (long pins) or when new wheels were not available, they were replaced with the best "old" resharpened wheel that was available (very short pins).

The theory also explains why the '59 stamp issue started at perf 11.60 and with time worked their way up to perf 12.05 and more. Results from a detailed study by Whitworth in Topics (vol 7, #3/4) supports this principle. With fewer stamps issued in the '59 series one can very clearly see the chronological progression of the pin sharpenings. The high volume of Small Queen stamps meant the pins had to be sharpened more often resulting in an overlap of perf gauges verses public stamp usage. We can see this in the overlapping perf populations of figures 1-3. Consequently, an attempt to tie Small Queen printing runs with perforation gauge is tough and probably impossible. The author suggests that this theory may be more successfully applied to identifying the Large Queen printings since there were far fewer quantities and printing runs in this series. It may also shed some light on the puzzling transition between Large and Small Queen stamps.

There are hundreds of important Small Queen questions to resolve that the author would like to see concluded within his lifetime. This has been but one of them. The only ingredient we need is group participation. The author would therefore encourage each of the current Small Queen study group members to participate and to also recruit at least one worthy Philatelist who is willing to join in further Small Queen research. There are plenty of them out there including some former members of the Small Queen study group who need to be encouraged to re-enlist.

This has been a most enjoyable project that just scratches the surface on the complex Small Queens issue. The author welcomes any correspondence that might enhance this study area or on any subject related to Small Queens. Feel free to contact the author directly ...

Ron Leith  
P.O. Box 430  
Abbotsford, B.C. V2S-5Z5  
Tel: 604 850 1137

FIGURE 1: HORIZONTAL AND VERTICAL PERFORATIONS ON PRINTING GROUP  
 TWO 3c COPPER RED SMALL QUEEN STAMPS (TYPE "A" PAPER)  
 VERSES DATE USED.

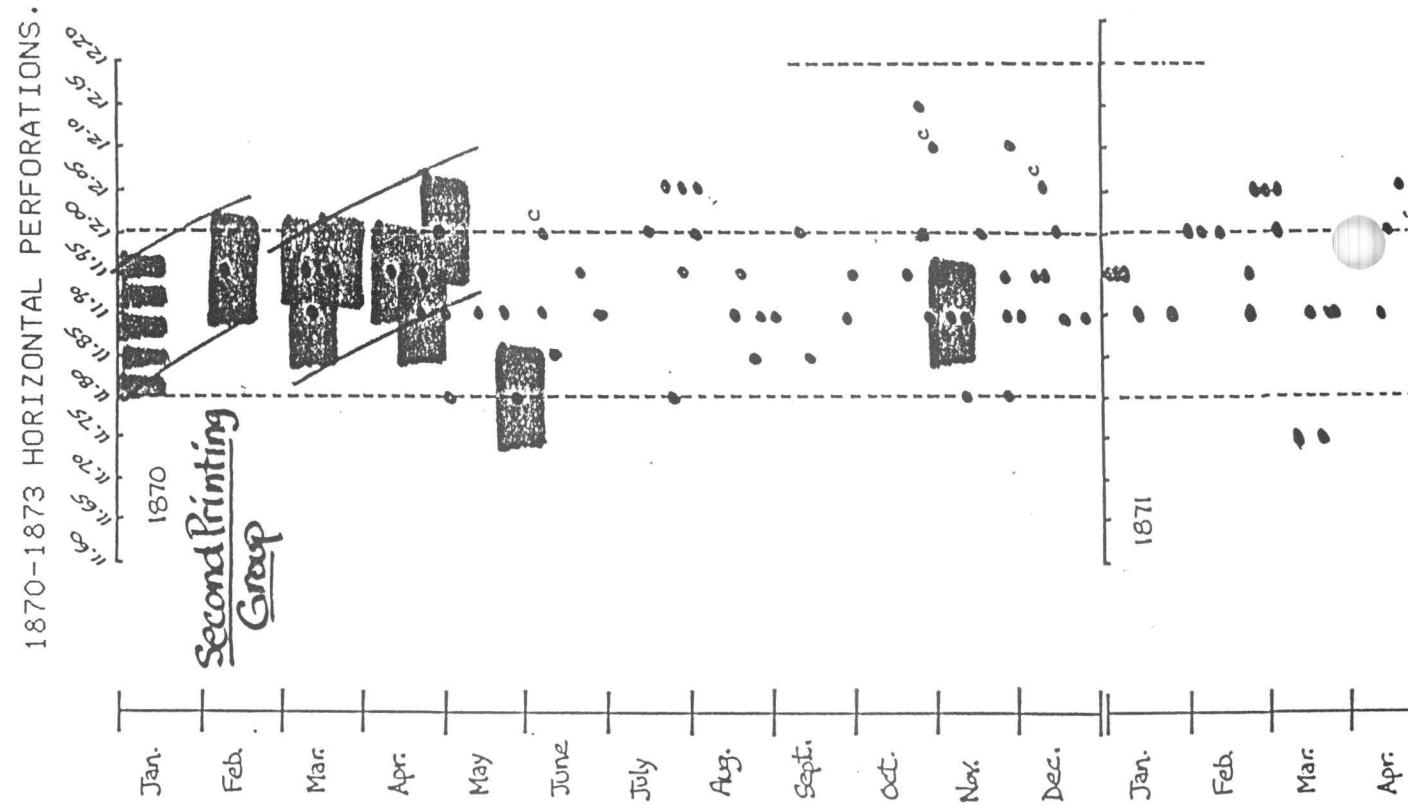
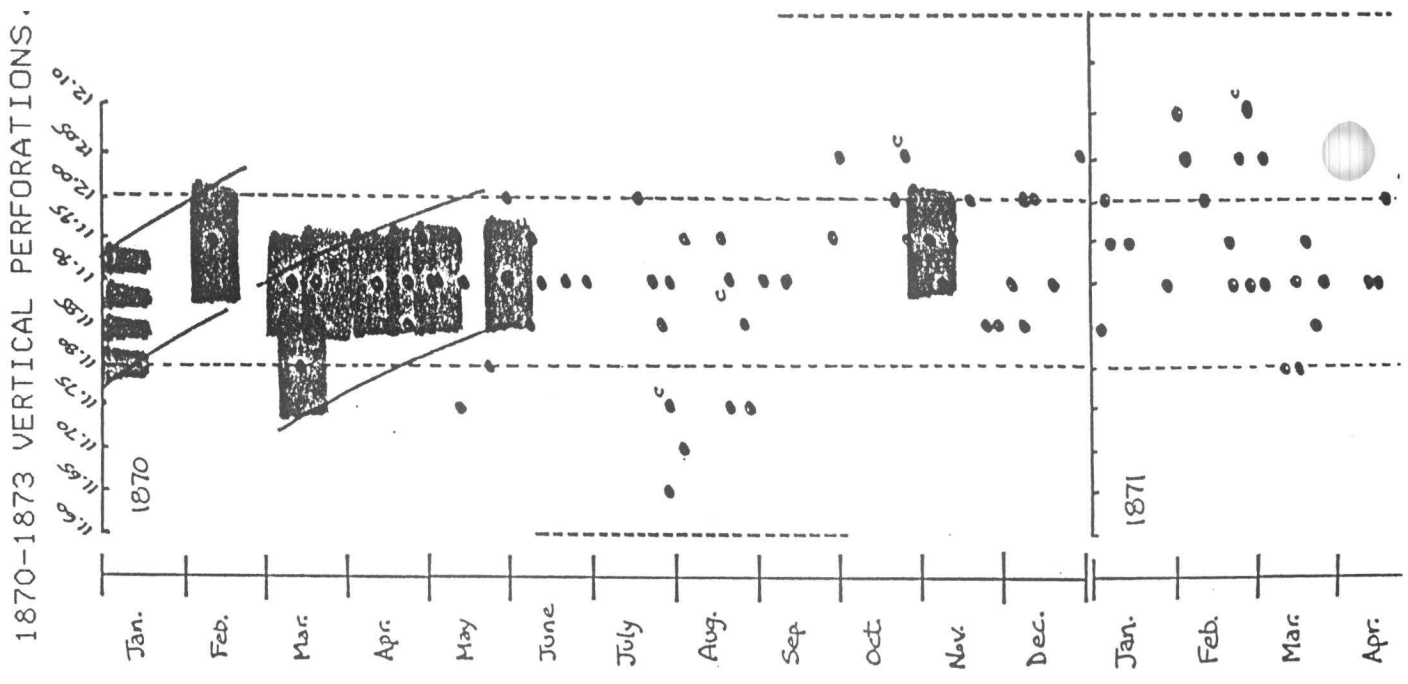




FIGURE 2: HORIZONTAL AND VERTICAL PERFORATIONS ON PRINTING GROUP THREE 3c COPPER RED SMALL QUEEN STAMPS (TYPE "A" PAPER) VERSES DATE USED.

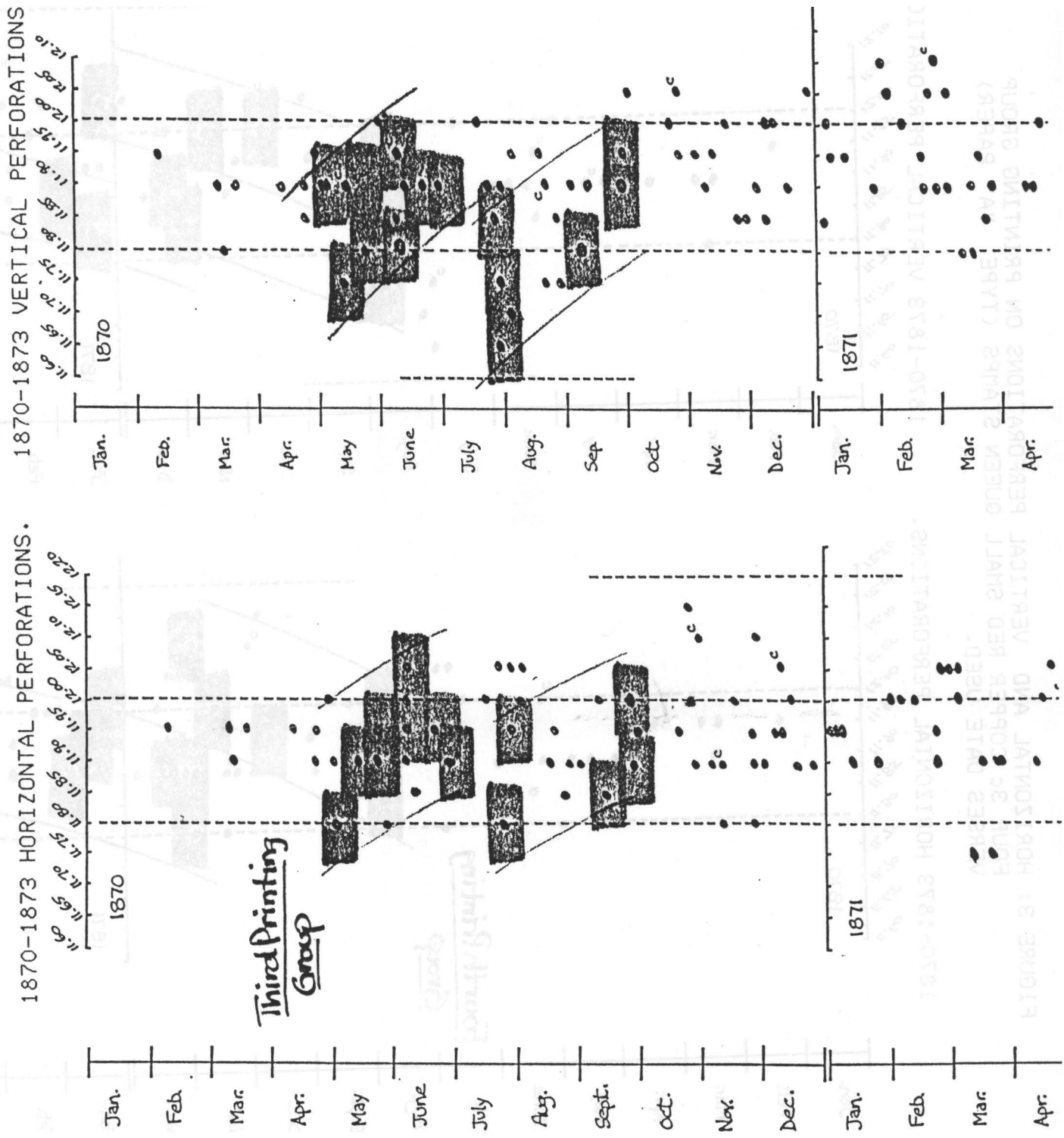
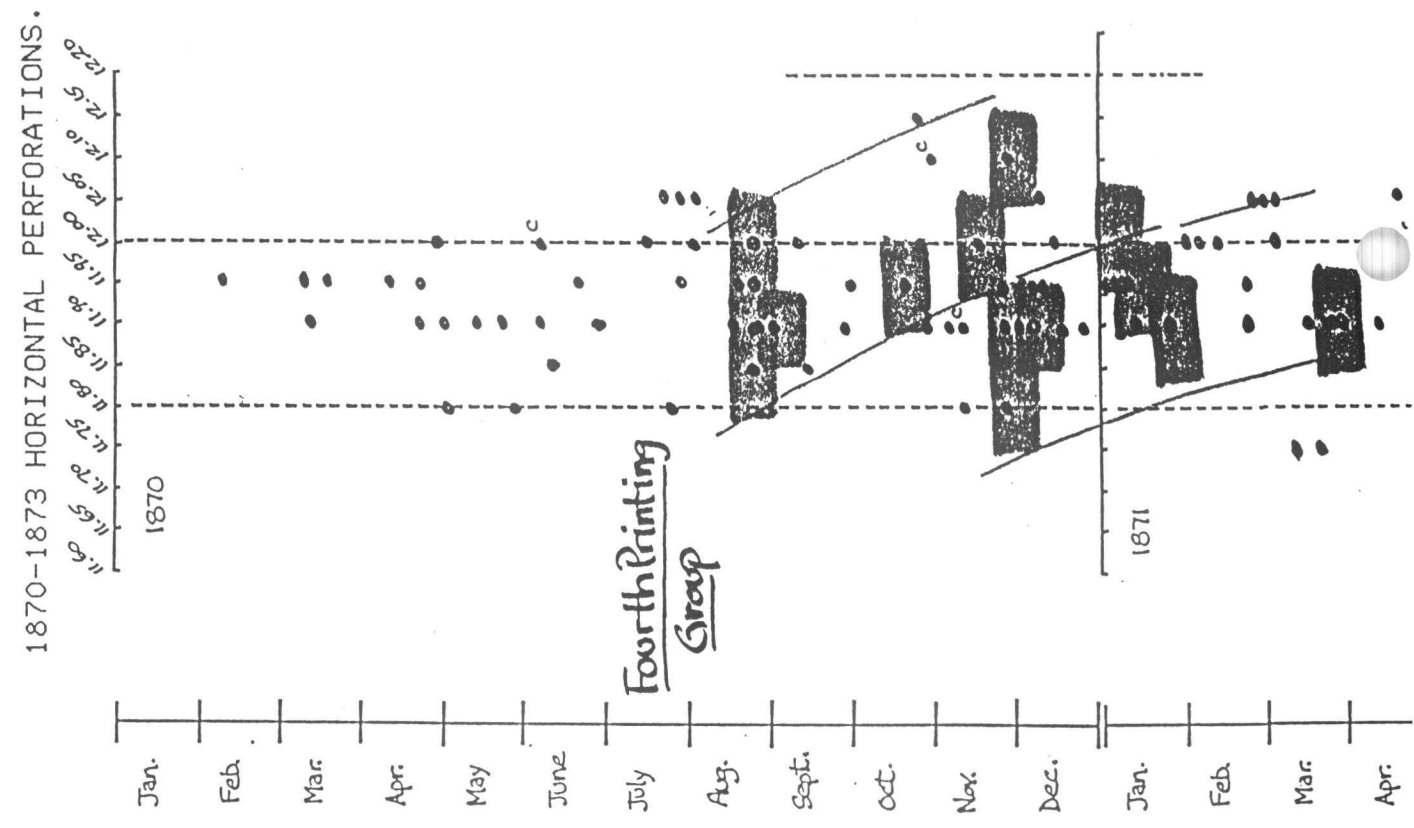
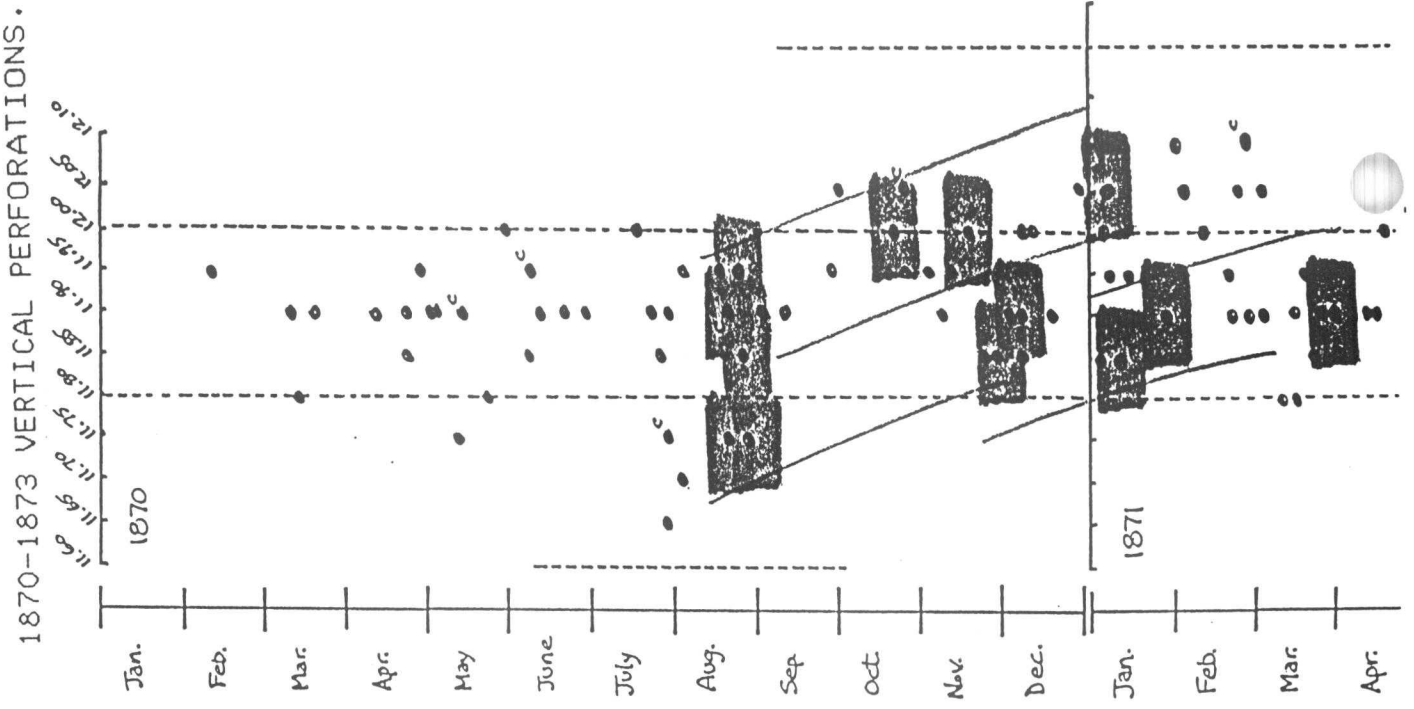


FIGURE 3: HORIZONTAL AND VERTICAL PERFORMATIONS ON PRINTING GROUP FOUR 3c COPPER RED SMALL QUEEN STAMPS (TYPE "A" PAPER) VERSES DATE USED.





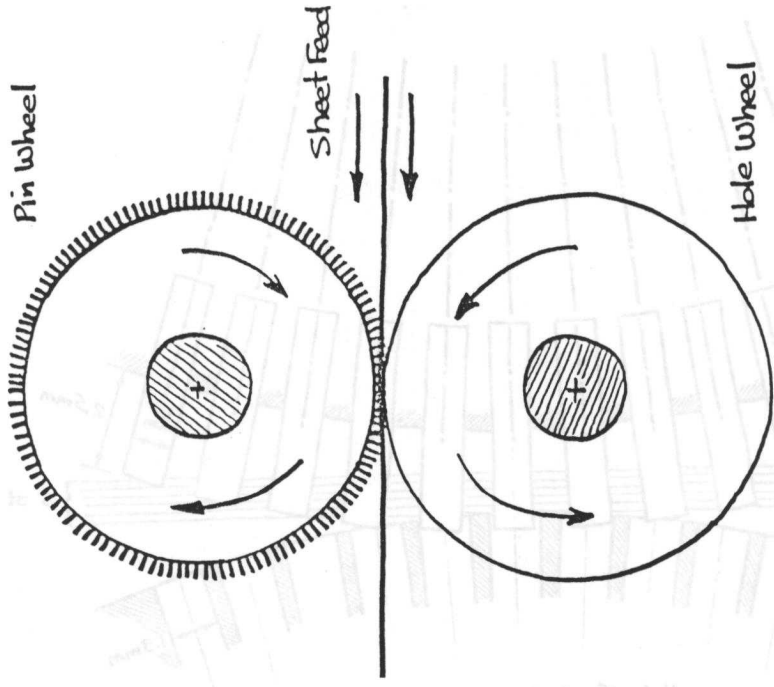


FIGURE 5: SIDE VIEW OF BEMROSE ROTARY PERFORATOR.

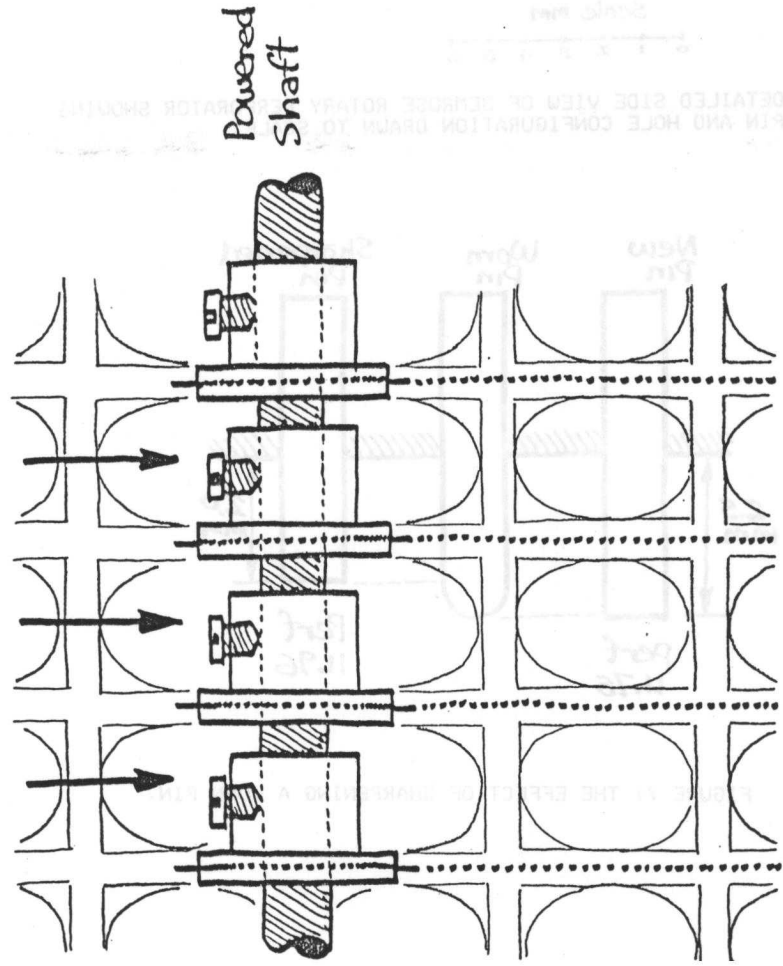


FIGURE 4: TOP VIEW OF BEMROSE ROTARY PERFORATOR.

Pin Wheel Radius 25.4 mm

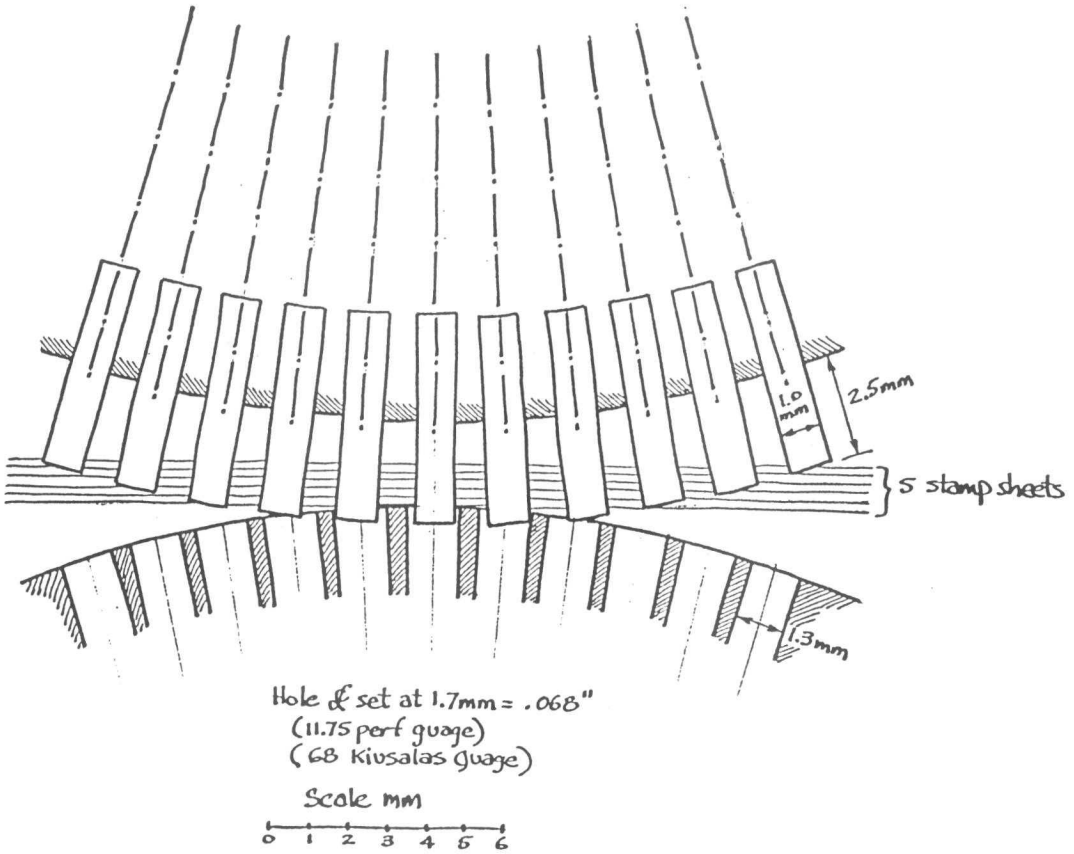


FIGURE 6: DETAILED SIDE VIEW OF BEMROSE ROTARY PERFORATOR SHOWING PIN AND HOLE CONFIGURATION DRAWN TO SCALE.

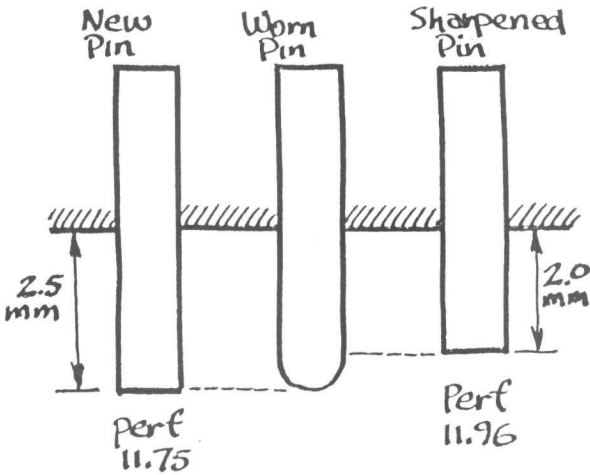


FIGURE 7: THE EFFECT OF SHARPENING A WORN PIN.