

Small Queen Study Circle of BAPS

Volume 15 Number 3

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1) 'Stamp Camp '90' by W. G. Burden

In mid-July of this year I accepted an invitation by Bill Simpson to go to Chatham, Ont. to visit. At the same time another of our members, Ralph Trimble would be visiting as well. A real 'stamp camp'; a few days of intense stamping with a couple of experts. It sounded great, I had talked and corresponded with both of these friends for some years, but I had met neither. The long and the short of it was that the trip turned out to be even more enjoyable than I had hoped.

Ralph and I were able to chat about our various photographic techniques and we showed each other areas of our collections where our interests overlap. There were some stamps that we have been discussing for some time; being in the same room really speeds up the rate of discussions. We were able to 'straighten out' more items in a couple of afternoons than during some years of correspondence.

Sitting back during much of the talk was our ever gracious host, Bill Simpson. He gave us full access to his home, food, philatelic library and his wonderful collection of Small Queens. I was told that I would have a chance to see the Small Queen Mother lode, and I believe I did. Those who have had the chance to see his display collection at various international shows can understand what a wonderful time I had looking - 'close-up'- at this material. I can only say to others who have not had an opportunity to see Bill's exhibit, if you get a chance, don't miss it.

Bill also let me go through the many volumes of material that he has purchased over the years. To me, studying working specialty collections assembled by many of the famous names in Small Queens has to be the next best thing to talking stamps with them. Anyone of my age (or even a bit older) who has looked at back issues of *Topics* would have to appreciate the work on the issue by Peter Hurst. His was just one of many that I was able to study.

During my stay with him Bill and I had some wonderfully useful philatelic discussions. Each time a little gem of Small Queen wisdom was presented I tried to stick it on paper. During the next while I will be translating my notes and trying to share that information with you. One conversation that Bill and I had may be of particular interest to the members of our group.

Bill has asked me to do some work on his small queen varieties. I will be working with him to determine what material he would need to keep in order to have a relatively 'complete' showing of the various re-entries, plate flaws, scratches and

the like found on the Small Queen issue. It turns out that after looking at the wealth of material available to him, Bill will have a lot of excess material for sale.

I am proud to 'announce' that, through my little business, "Mac's Stamps, P.O. Box 152, Truro, N.S. B2N 5C1", I will be selling Bill's excess Constant Plate Varieties. At Bill's direction I am announcing this sale of material to members of our group first. I would like to suggest that if you have specific items on your Small Queen want list, you should send that list to me. I will date them in order of receipt and send reasonably priced items along for your inspection, as long as material lasts, on a first come, first served basis. I would also suggest that you clearly state what quality of stamps you require. Do you want clearly visible varieties only or do you insist on that in addition to VF CDS copies as well. Do you require examples of the various stages of the diminishing varieties, or is one sample copy sufficient. If you would just like to purchase a group of various varieties (re-entries etc.) on any or all of the values, just tell me which denominations and approximately how much you would be willing to spend. The more information you can give me, the more exciting you are likely to find the stamps that I will be sending. One final note: PLEASE do not expect to receive these stamps by return mail. I have a small mountain of material to go through. If things go reasonably well, I hope to be sending out the first lots early in the new year.

Strand of Hair Update:

During my trip to Chatham, I managed to spend some time with Bill's Strands. We had no trouble finding all 4 types reported by P.Hurst. We had very little success finding copies of any of the other 'strand types that I pictured in the last bulletin. The following table lists the information we have to date.

Description	Hurst	WGB	R&S	Early	Late
Long Strand	1	A	1	Ju 13, 96	Fe 9, 98
Med. Long type A (Pos R-13 C pane)	2	B	2	Ju 2, 95	Oc 10, 97
Med. Long Type B	3	A	6	De 19, 95	Jy 21, 96
Short With Re-entry (Pos R-26 C pane)	4	C	7	My 29, 95	Oc 30, 97

We still have a problem with plate positions of 2 of the 4 well known strands. It is interesting to note the date range of Hurst's type 1 and 3 and to compare them to the period of usage of his types 2 and 4. Types 1 and 3 are known to come from the right side of the C pane of 200 of the 1 cent. While at Bill Simpson's, I looked very closely at a left C pane and found no other strands. Considering the somewhat later general period of use as determined from available dated copies, we would like to suggest that the positions of the unplated strands are likely to be determined if we could look at a complete D pane. Should any member have a large piece of this 200 stamp pane, would you please look closely and report!?!?

If you go to the last bulletin,(Vol.15,#2) reasonably good pictures of each of Hurst's types as discussed and diagrammed in Topics # 294, October 1970 can be found. As yet no other member has found (agreed with?) my other types that do not seem to fit. Comments?

Hurst Number 1 = WGB - 2
Hurst Number 3 = WGB - 8

Hurst Number 2 = WGB - 7
Hurst Number 4 = WGB - 18

Imperforate values of the Small Queen Issue

Ted Nixon

The imperforate printings of Small Queens have more variety than appears at first glance. Most values appear in more than one shade, some printings are gummed and some are ungummed. Often the gum was quite disturbed and it is known that gum has been washed off some such pairs. There have been various suggestions about when the imperforates were printed - clearly they seem to belong to the Second Ottawa printings. Some have suggested that they were that last printings from a plate so they were not necessarily all pulled at the same time. Many have characteristics of 1895 or 1896 printings but others do not. Thus it seems useful to record the printing characteristics of the various values to seek some answers.

One-half Cent - All copies have gum; as expected both panes 1 and 2 produced imperforates. The shade and gum are difficult to pin-point but probably are about 1895. There is no variety in printings.

One Cent - All printings are similar shade; probably about 1895 and most seem to be gummed although in most cases the gum is disturbed. Some ungummed pairs exist but they could be with gum washed off. Printings are from small Ottawa Imprint plate.

Two Cents - Most printings are from the Large Ottawa Imprint Plate from about 1895, with gum. A scarce printing exists on a whiter paper, shade of perhaps 1892. Simpson has distinguished some prints from another Montreal plate but I cannot confirm them as being distinct.

Three Cents - Several printings exist. An 1891 printing, with gum, in the rose vermilion shade; an early 1895 printing on coarse white paper with no gum, in a finely inked vermilion shade; a late 1895 or 1896 printing, strongly inked orange vermilion shade with gum; a more brownish vermilion from 1895-1896 on thin paper with no gum. Thus about 4 separate printings. Plates were Small Ottawa Imprint plates, at least, with letters B and H.

Five Cents - Printings are from both Montreal Plates and also from the Large Ottawa imprint plate. There are 1890-1891 printings from the Montreal plates with both gum and no gum. There are 1895 printings from the Large Ottawa plate in a more heavily inked brownish gray shade with gum.

Six Cents - Most common printing is from 1895 with both gum and no gum; a dark red brown shade, from the Montreal and Ottawa "A" plate. However a scarce printing in an almost chocolate brown, no gum on a grayish paper exists and probably is about 1891 - but is not the true rich dark chocolate brown of early 1891. Also there is a strip of three in a yellow brown shade characteristic of 1888 on a whiter paper, no gum.

Eight Cents - Two printings exist from the single plate. A blue grey shade, with gum from about 1895. A second printing, finely inked on a whiter paper in the dark gray shade with no gum appears to be from 1897.

Ten Cents - The 1891 printings in the rose carmine shade exist with gum and no gum although the gum may have been washed off the later. Also 1896 printings in the softer rose pink shades exist with gum and no gum. A third shade which is more

brownish than the rose pink shade probably was printed in late 1896 or early 1897.

According to a Jephcott listing in a Holmes catalogue the following quantities were printed. Given our observations of the plate style used an estimate of the number of sheets printed has been added. At this time more investigation of the 5 cents is required because the "Montreal" plate has 100 subjects although it may have been printed as a left and right pane together, while that "Large Ottawa" plate is a single plate of 200 subjects.

1/2 c black	400 stamps	2 sheets
1 c yellow	800 stamps	4 "
2 c green	600 stamps	3 "
3 c vermilion	1000 stamps	5 "
5 c grey	800 stamps	? "
6 c red brown	600 stamps	6 "
8 c grey	800 stamps	4 "
10 c brown red	1000 stamps	10 "

These quantities probably do not include the few oddities such as the 2 cents on white Montreal paper and the 6 cents in the yellow brown shade on Montreal paper.

Bill's Notes and Photos

In an attempt to finish this issue before the school year starts and I have to return the Macintosh, I have decided to do something a bit different with the pictures this time. Rather than the usual B&W photography and time in then darkroom with negatives, I have taken these pictures in colour (Ektar 25) and had them printed on glossy 5" X 7" colour paper. I photocopied the prints that I got from my photofinisher and have cut up the photocopies for use in my master copy of the bulletin which was photocopied to produce the paper you are reading. I hope that you will find the results satisfactory .

All of the items illustrated are present in my collection, but access to Bill Simpson's material has presented the opportunity to photograph varieties with little or on cancellation in the way.

Item 1: a flaw over the last a in CANADA, from a Montreal printing of a 1 cent.

Items 2 and 3: Very early and later stages of a very similar flaw on a 2nd Ottawa printing of the 3 cents. Note the considerable wear during the life of the variety and also the pitting in the top margin above the P and O of Postage. (Hurst reported both of these in *Topics*, Feb. 1967)

Items 4, 5 & 6: I am not aware of this variety being reported earlier, but it may have been. One of the bonuses of my trip to Bill Simpson's was the discovery in one of his collections of 2 copies of a most interesting variety on the 1 cent. For some time I have had a single copy noted in my collection with no certainty that it was constant. Well I can assure you that there are at least 3 copies and that significant differences in wear are apparent. Item 4 appears to be the earliest copy as it has the most detail visible. It is dated May 14, 1891 and in addition to the large blob under the ear it show two complete 'ripples' to the lower right of the blob. The size of the blob seems to be quite constant, but the outside ripple wears away first and is then

followed by the ripple next the blob; as is shown in items 5 and 6. Bill S suggests that these stamps are likely from an "S" plate (S1 to S4). Information on other copies would be most appreciated; surely there are more than three copies surviving!

Items 7 & 8: These could also be called a 'scar on the neck', but should not be confused with the variety pictured in vol. 14 #2(Reiche #52). Item 7 is very early in the life of the variety - all additional marks inside the "O" of the cancellation are 'what we are talking about'. In item 8 we see the same variety worn away to just a faint dot. Item 7 is our earliest date so far, Ap. 11, '94; late date is Mr. 29, '95 (item 8 - Mr. 11, '95). Note both March '95 stamps show minor re-entering at the upper left that is not present on earlier copies.

Items 9: Two dots on cheek; From Ap. 95 to Oct. '96; new to me but should be quite easy to find.

Item 10: One dot on cheek; but not a worn state of item 9. The copy pictured is dated Oct. 21, '95).



#1



#2

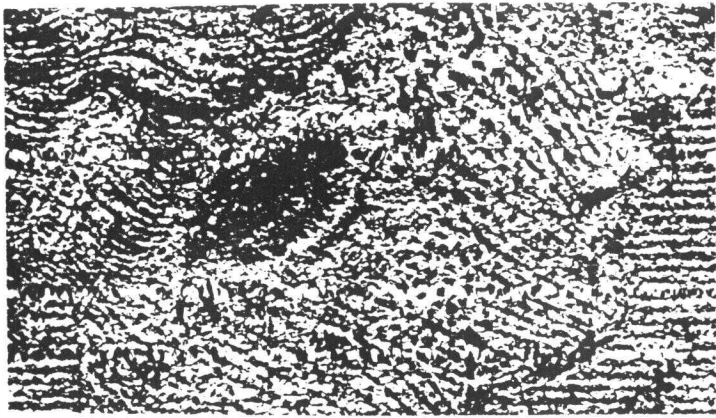


#3

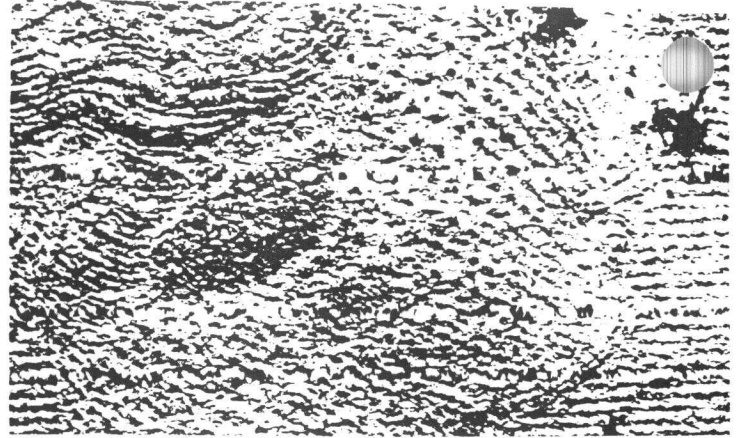


#4

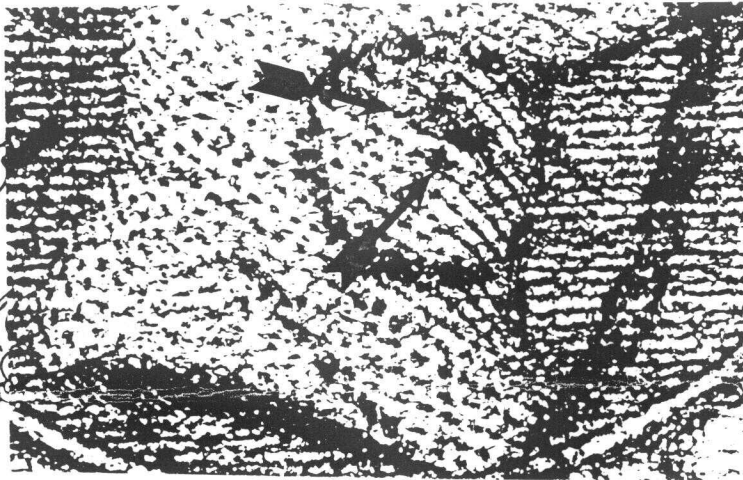




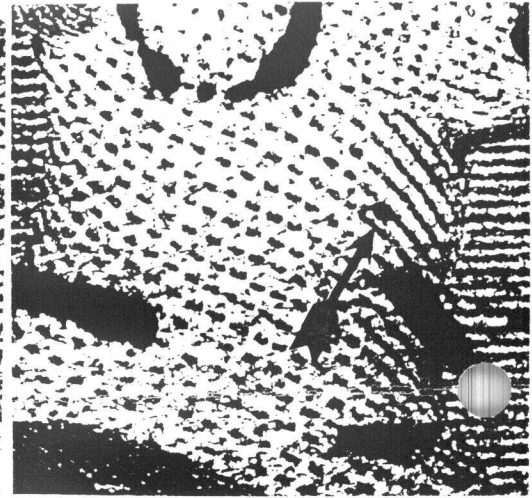
#5



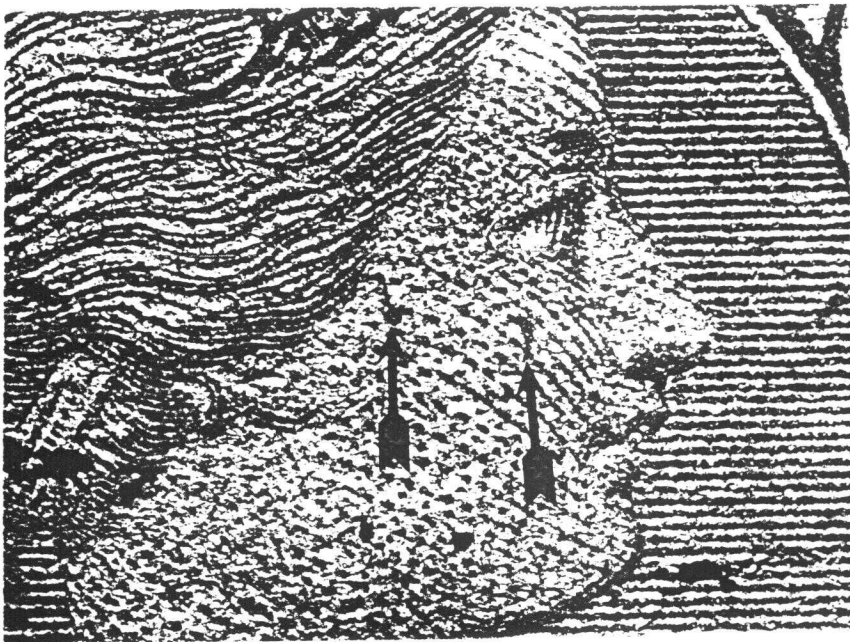
#6



#7



#8



#9



#10

TORONTO CORK CANCEL UPDATE - RON LEITH

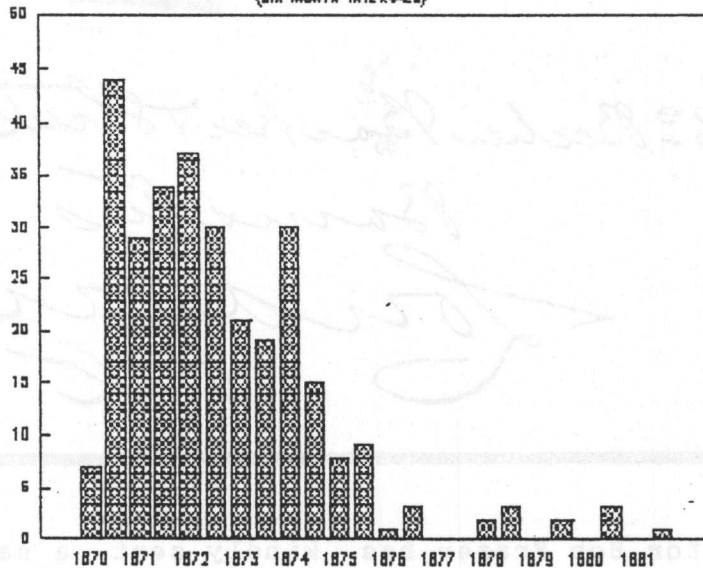
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All Toronto cork cancellation data received up to May 18, 1990 has been entered into the project data base and all new cork recordings have been traced. The count stands at 307 entries with 202 different corks recorded. It is truly amazing how far we have come in the last year. Statistically, the project is about 85% completed. The next 25 new entries should bring us up to 98%. Contributors have the additional bonus of receiving the most up to date cork cancel chart so don't wait ... get searching your collection and send photocopies of your Toronto corks.

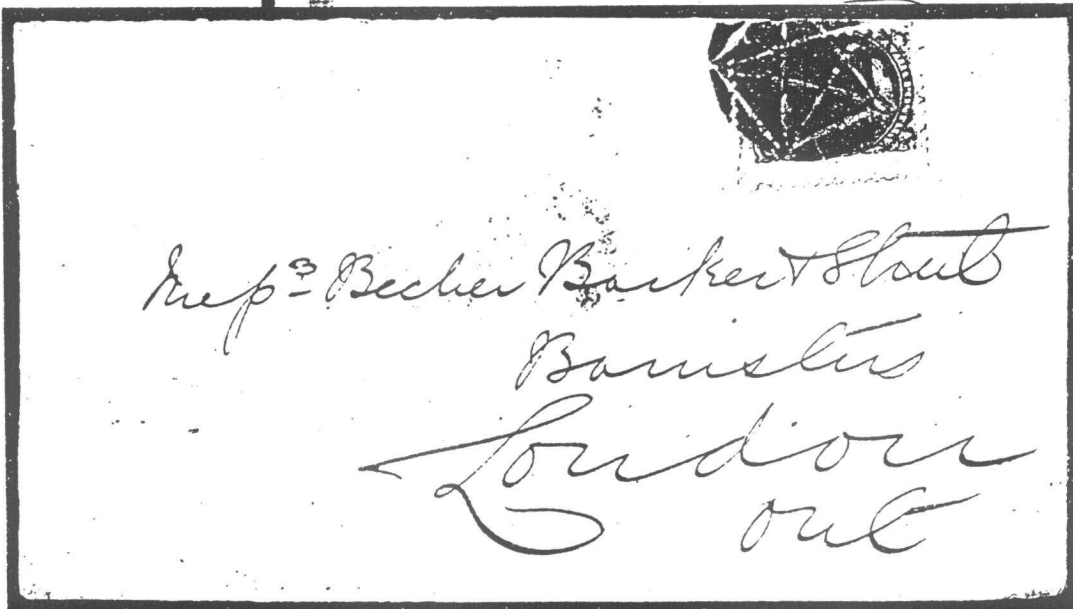
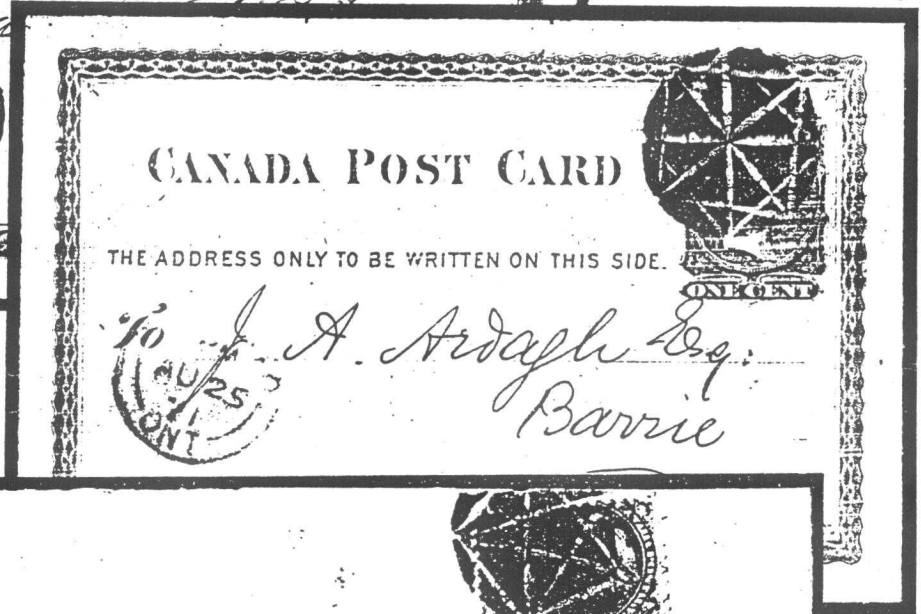
The chart below illustrates the number of cork cancels recorded from January 1870 to December 1881 in six month intervals. The first six months of 1870 is still pretty sparse and we have yet to receive an explanation from the readership. Neither do we have the answer for the 1873 decline in cork cancel recordings. Can anyone help?

Major contributions have been received from Norm Brassler and Michael Woods. New contributors to the project include Bob Fraser, Clint Phillips and Livio Penco. Allen Steinhart also graciously offered to loan his entire stock of Toronto cancels to be recorded and we accepted with pleasure. The author wishes to thank all the contributors for the continued support on this very enjoyable project. For information and/or input, please contact the author directly ...

Ron Leith
Box 430
Abbotsford, BC V2S-5Z5
Tel: 604-850-1137

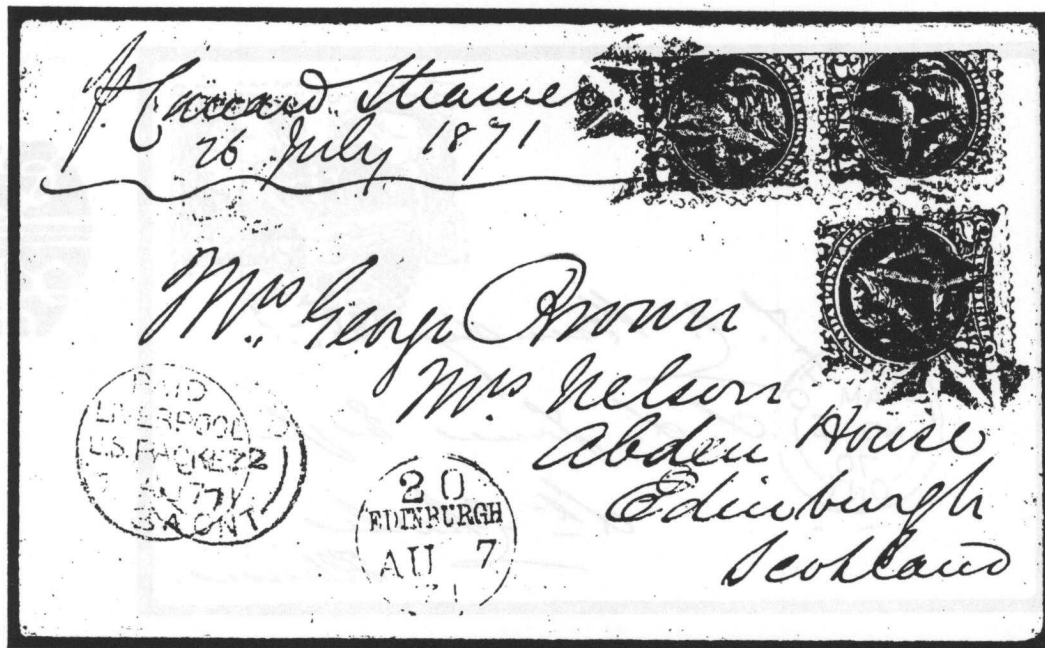
TORONTO CORK FREQUENCY CHART 1870-1881
(SIX MONTH INTERVALS)





First time contributor Bob Fraser has kindly sent a sampling of his extensive Toronto cork cancel collection. Shown above are early dates on three new fancy design entries. Thanks Bob and we are looking forward to entering the rest of your material into the data base.

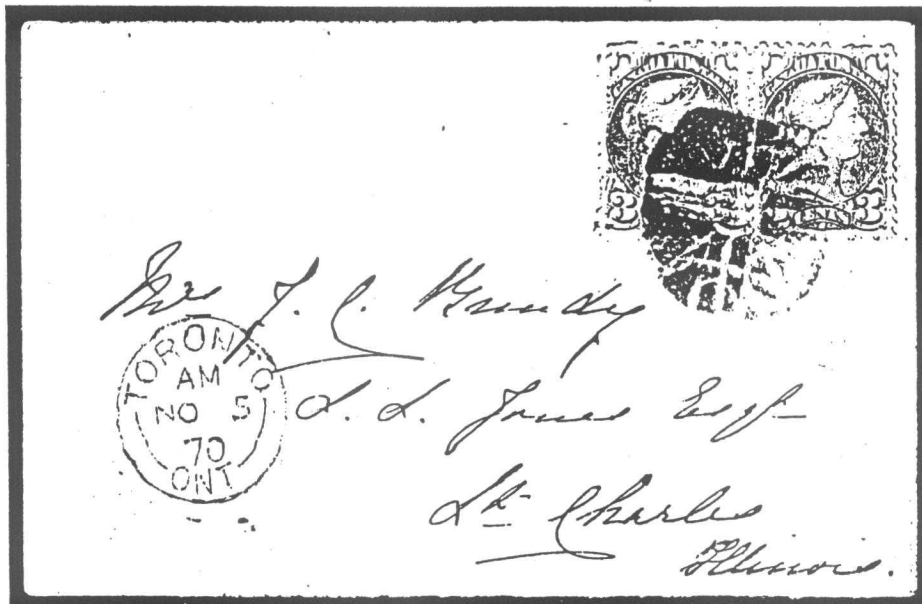
TORONTO CORK CANCEL UPDATE - RON LEITH



This cover has to be a contender for the ultimate Toronto cork cancel cover. Three lovely fancy Toronto cork cancels tie a combination 2c Large Queen with a pair of 3c Small Queen's to pay the rare 8c Cunard steamship rate. The cover is dated Toronto JY21/71 and is addressed to Edinburgh, Scotland via Boston, Queenstown and Liverpool. On June 6th, 1871 the British Mail Packet departure port in North America was moved from New York to Boston. This item was carried on the Cunard Steamship "Siberia" departing Boston July 22, 1871 just two months after the Boston switch. Interestingly, the Cunard "Abyssinia" left New York the same day without mail and arrived at Queenstown a day earlier than the "Siberia". The North American mail receiving port still remained at New York and maybe we can get some additional information from Mr. Arnell as to why the switch to Boston with the corresponding duplication of trans-Atlantic sailings. Cover courtesy of Livio Penco.

TORONTO CORK CANCEL UPDATE - RON LEITH

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Norm Brassler sends along some more unusual Toronto corks such as the one shown above. This is the only recording of this design dated November 5, 1870. We are not certain whether the screw holes are part of the cork carving design or if they are just an indication that the cork is wearing down to the handle fasteners.

On behalf of the whole group I would like to thank Jack Davis and John Jameison for their very generous contributions of postage. The costs of mailing this entire bulletin were more than covered by Jack's donation alone.

Late Breaking News:

I have just received word from Ron Leith that George Arfken has agreed to address the Small Queen Study Group meeting to be held at BNAPEX in Galveston, Tx. At this time, we do not know the exact time and/or place of the meeting, but be sure to check it out upon your arrival at BNAPEX.

Special thanks to George for preparing a talk on the postal rates to Australia and to Ron for arranging the study group meeting.