

Small Queen Study Circle of BNAFS

Volume 16 Number 1

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1) Dues Update

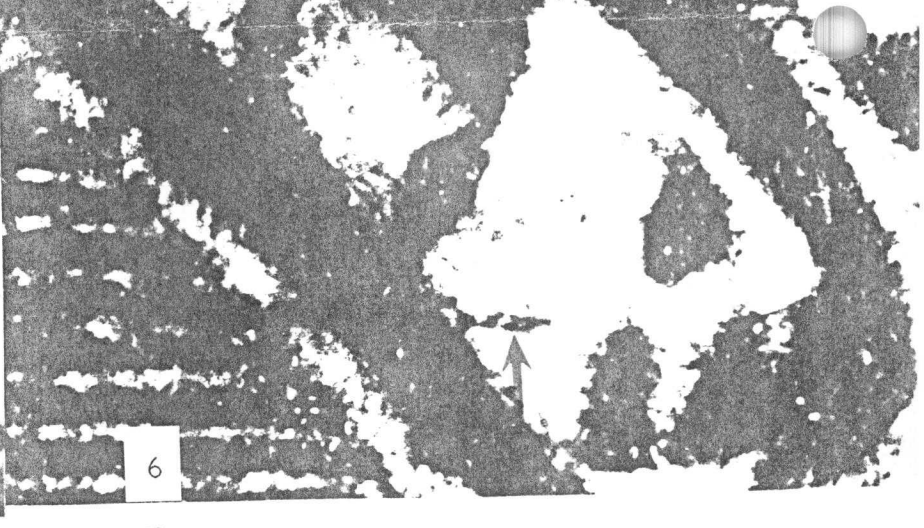
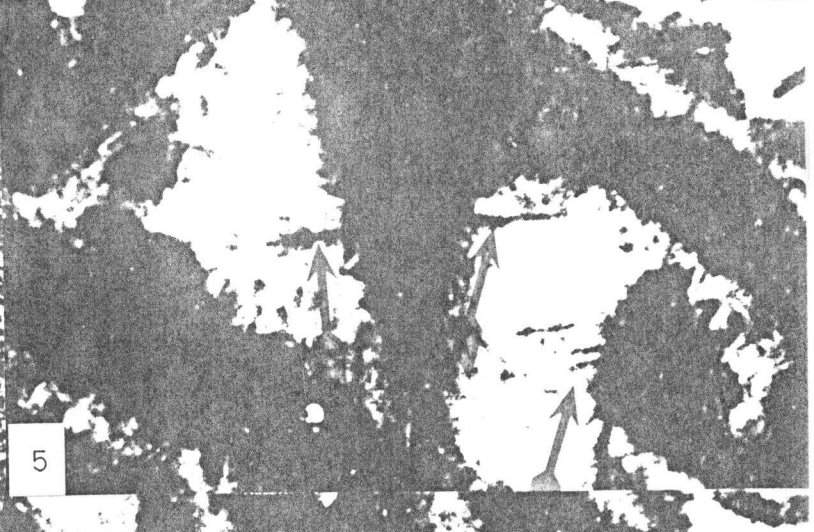
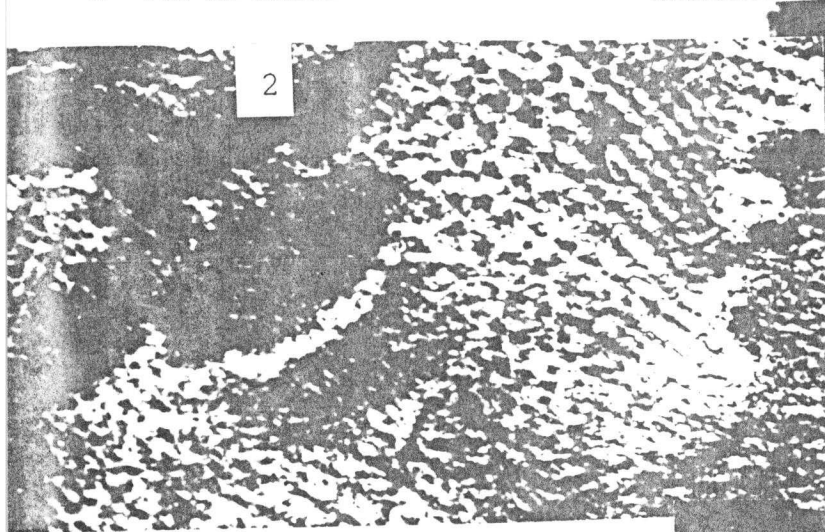
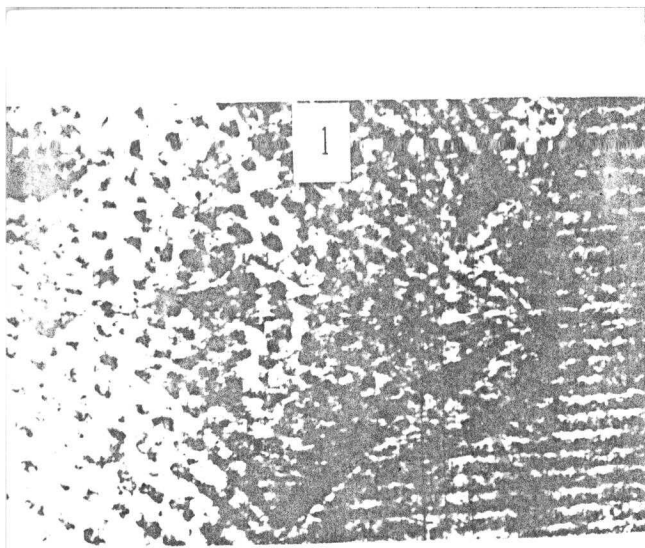
As you will notice from the top of the page, we are now in another 'season' of our newsletter, and again I have to ask you for your dues. For many of our newer members, this is the first time, so I will once again go over the "rules" as I see them. You will find your last year of paid membership on your mailing label, if it is less than '91, please send me dues. I would prefer to have you let me know if you no longer wish to maintain your membership, but I will drop you from our rolls for non-payment. (You may get a warning, but please don't count on it!)

MORE BAD NEWS: The principal of maintaining a positive bank balance requires a dues increase. My conversations with Ron Leith suggest that we can expect to receive lots of articles from him. One of our newer members, Sam Rock is busy finishing a Master Index of all articles from Vol. 1, #1 to Vol. 15 #3. (This will be a tremendous help to our new members, and I am sure that it will be appreciated by all!) With this in mind, I expect to mail at least two more newsletters in order to complete Vol. 16 and I estimate that **\$10.00** from each of us will get us through the year. It is a large increase, but it is necessary. Without the kind donations from a few members, we would have been deep in the red quite some time ago.

2) Bill's Notes and Photos.

On the back of this page you will find some new pictures.

- 1) A 'gash on the chin' - from a 3 cent - Hurst found only one. It may well not be constant, but I would be very pleased to hear from members who have one.
- 2) This is another try at showing you the 'Bun under the Ear' on the 1 cent. There were three stages of this one pictured in the last newsletter, but I was not happy with the picture of State 1. I spent some time in the darkroom and got a better print.
- 3) A lovely and constant gash in the right 6 of a Montreal printing of the 6 cents.
- 4, 5 & 6) Are positions A-21, A-20 and A-11. I hope the the horizontal lines are clear; they are hard to see and easily missed on the stamps. I suggest that you look closely however as they are the other '5 on 6' varieties; not those discussed by Ron later, but the "MINOR" 5 on 6's. Both A-20 and A-21 also show the "ARC through the Tiara".
- 7) This is Hurst's Major re-entry on the one cent, Montreal printing. Having seen the re-entry in Ralph Trimble's recent Re-entry bulletin, this may well have to be sent down to the 'Minor-major's, but it is still very nice. I have been doing some work on the one's lately. Expect some new information and possibly some tips soon.



The Small Queen Counters

William L. Simpson and George B. Arfken

Most of the Small Queen plates included counters. The counter was the denomination of the stamp impressed in the top margin of the plate. Most of the plates of the 1870s and 1880s had counters written in Roman or serif letters. In addition, these Roman style letters were shaded or shadowed. This elaborate style was a continuation of the style used on the Large Queen plates [1]. The 200 subject plates of the 1890s, used for the 1¢, 2¢ and 3¢ Small Queens, had counters in thin Gothic or sans serif letters. Examples of both of these styles are shown below.

Half Cent Small Queen

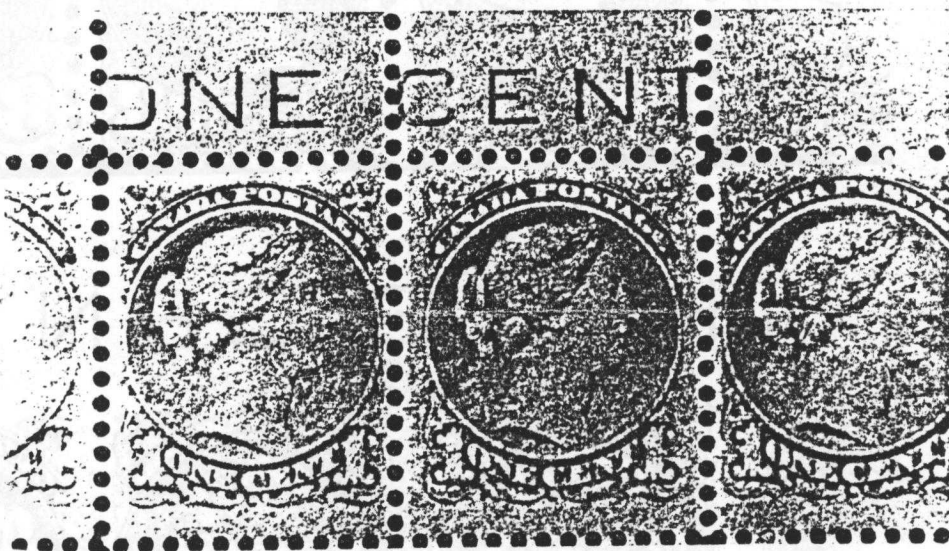
The 1/2¢ plate had no counters.

One Cent Small Queen

Figure 1 illustrates the Roman ONE CENT counter while Figure 2 shows the Gothic ONE CENT counter.



1



2

Two Cent Small Queen

The early plates had a Roman letter counter TWO CENTS. At least one plate had only the TWO and no CENTS. This was a Montreal and Ottawa plate, Boggs type IV imprint. The 200 subject plates carried the Gothic letter counter TWO CENT with no "S." Figure 3 shows this counter.

TWO CENT



3

Three Cent Small Queen

The expected Roman THREE CENTS with shading lines is shown in Figure 4. However, there were variations. At least three of the early 3¢ plates showed only the THREE and no CENTS. The Gothic THREE CENT appears in Figure 5. As with the Gothic counter for the 2¢ Small Queens, the final "S" was omitted.

THREE CENTS



4

THREE CENT



5

Five Cent Small Queen

The counter here was the normal Roman FIVE CENTS with shading lines, Figure 6.

Six Cent Small Queen

The counter on the 6¢ plates was SIX CENTS, Roman. Figures 7 and 8 show two forms of this counter, shaded and unshaded. In Figure 7, the shading lines show clearly. In Figure 8, the shading lines have almost disappeared. The counter here shows several signs of wear: gaps at the top of the T, gaps in one branch of the X, gaps in the vertical lines of the N, etc. The fine lines, coming from narrow and shallow grooves in the plate, have disappeared. Clearly, the shading lines, shallow initially, have been worn down and no longer hold much ink. Similar wear with the disappearance of the shading has



6



7



8

been observed on some of the plates of the 1¢, 2¢, 3¢ and 5¢ denominations.

Eight Cent Small Queen

The 8¢ plate had no counters. This plate also lacked any British American Bank Note Co. imprints. With no counters, no imprints and the Queen facing left, this 8¢ plate was truly anomalous. Indeed, one may wonder if the plate was really made by the British American Bank Note Co.

Ten Cent Small Queen

The 10¢ plate carried a Roman TEN at the top right, Figure 9. In addition, there was a numeral counter, 10, at the top left. This numeral counter is illustrated in Figure 10.



At least two other Small Queen plates carried numerical marks. A 1¢ Montreal plate, type 5 imprint, printed a large, reversed 3 in the top right margin of a right pane. A 3 on a 1¢ plate is certainly not a counter. A 3¢ Montreal and Ottawa pane, type 4 imprint, does have a small 3 in the top right margin. It's the right number but rather too small to be called a counter. The 10 pictured in Figure 10 is the only numeral clearly intended to be a counter.

[1] "The Large Queen Stamps of Canada and Their Use, 1868 - 1872," H.E. and H.W. Duckworth, Vincent Graves Greene Philatelic Research Foundation, Toronto, 1986. P. 52-56.

GALVESTON BNAPEX-90 CONVENTION - RON LEITH

Thanks to an outstanding effort on the part of the Prairie Beaver organizing committee, we had a wonderful time at the Galveston convention. Everything including the elegant hotel, the Galveston harbor steamboat ride, the great food, outstanding philatelic displays and renowned camaraderie made this a very memorable event. For all those who did not get a chance to attend, hope you can make it to the next one in Vancouver.

There has been so little time available to do any writing since BNAPEX-90, so please accept an apology for having to wait so long for all the news from the Small Queen Study Group meeting. A good proportion of the conventioners attended, including ...

Clint Phillips	Roger Grigson	Garth Lohman
Ed Harris	George Arfken	Frank Waite
Alex MacDonald	Joe Hickey	Ed Christman
C. A. Stillions	Kimo Salonan	Vic Willson
Ron Leith		

Featured speaker was George Arfken who presented an excellent talk on Small Queen rates to New Zealand. George covered in detail how the USA transcontinental railroad in 1869 diverted mail from the slow 3-4 month Atlantic dispatches to the much faster 1-2 month Pacific deliveries once the Hall Steamship Lines were contracted to make monthly sailings out of San Francisco. Politics played a large part in the routings and rates with enough contract turmoil and postal treaty changes to make this a great study area.

The annual business meeting notes are as follows ...

1. Frank Waite suggested the group have a goal and offered the idea of documenting all the Small Queen stamp characteristics for each of the main printing orders. This is not as formidable a task as it sounds and was favorably accepted by the attendees. Members are encouraged to submit articles that address this goal.
2. George Arfken gave an update on the status of the Small Queen reference book he is working on. The task is a mighty one with at least 2 more years of research and writing ahead.
3. Clint Phillips emphasized the important data available in old study group newsletters. Although, the library contains a complete run of newsletters, Clint suggested that copies should be made available to members for purchase. Ed Harris is to pursue the possibility of subsidizing the initial photocopying as well as making available copies of "Master Collections" to the membership. The idea of having access to some of the greatest Small Queen collections ever assembled was well received.

4. With the publication of "North Atlantic Mail Sailings" combined with Jack Arnell's "Atlantic Mails", the various Atlantic ship sailings are covered in enough detail to satisfy most postal history students. However, the Pacific sailings are still virtually an untouched territory. George Arfken said he would compile a monograph on the Pacific ship sailings if he could find an assistant to do some of the newspaper groundwork in the San Francisco and Vancouver archives. Garvin Lohman volunteered in San Francisco and Ron Leith agreed to compile a listing of the monthly sailings to Australia from Vancouver (1893 on).
5. Clint Phillips offered to start a study project on the Saint Catharines, Ontario cork cancellations. He already has a good start and anyone with dated copies of these corks are asked to send copies to Clint (address in Topics under Librarian).
6. Kimo Saloman had a few comments on the Toronto Cork Cancel project intimating that there were "thousands" of Toronto cork cancels that discouraged him from pursuing the area. We agreed that there is ample evidence that easily leads even the sophisticated collector to this conclusion, yet studies have shown there were in fact only 3-6 different corks used each month. The reasons why there seems to be many more are very interesting and will be the subject of an article.
7. Received word from Bill Pawluk on the Small Queen rate summary sheet. It's a bit more complex than first anticipated and Bill needs more time to complete the project. A simultaneous surge in his business responsibilities has not helped.
8. Group activities during the year included an outstanding 3c Small Queen perf 12-1/2 presentation to the PNWRG-BNAPS by John Keenlyside. His extensive research has historical significance and he uncovered a number of technical revelations that the Small Queen Study Group will certainly have an interest in. We need an article to publish your findings, John.

NEW INFORMATION ON SMALL QUEEN PERFORATIONS - RON LEITH

Accurate perforation measurements were compiled on 87 dated copies of the 3c Small Queen stamp between March 1870 and December 1871. Every attempt was made to be as independent as possible of any human bias. The sample measurements were conducted at random, over a one year period, from five different collections, only stamps used in main cities were considered, and all stamps were measured with the same Instantia perforation gauge and technique. The information was fed into a computer data base for chronological sorting and the unedited information was plotted graphically in figure-1. Consequently, the trends are "real" and all that remains is to develop an explanation for them.

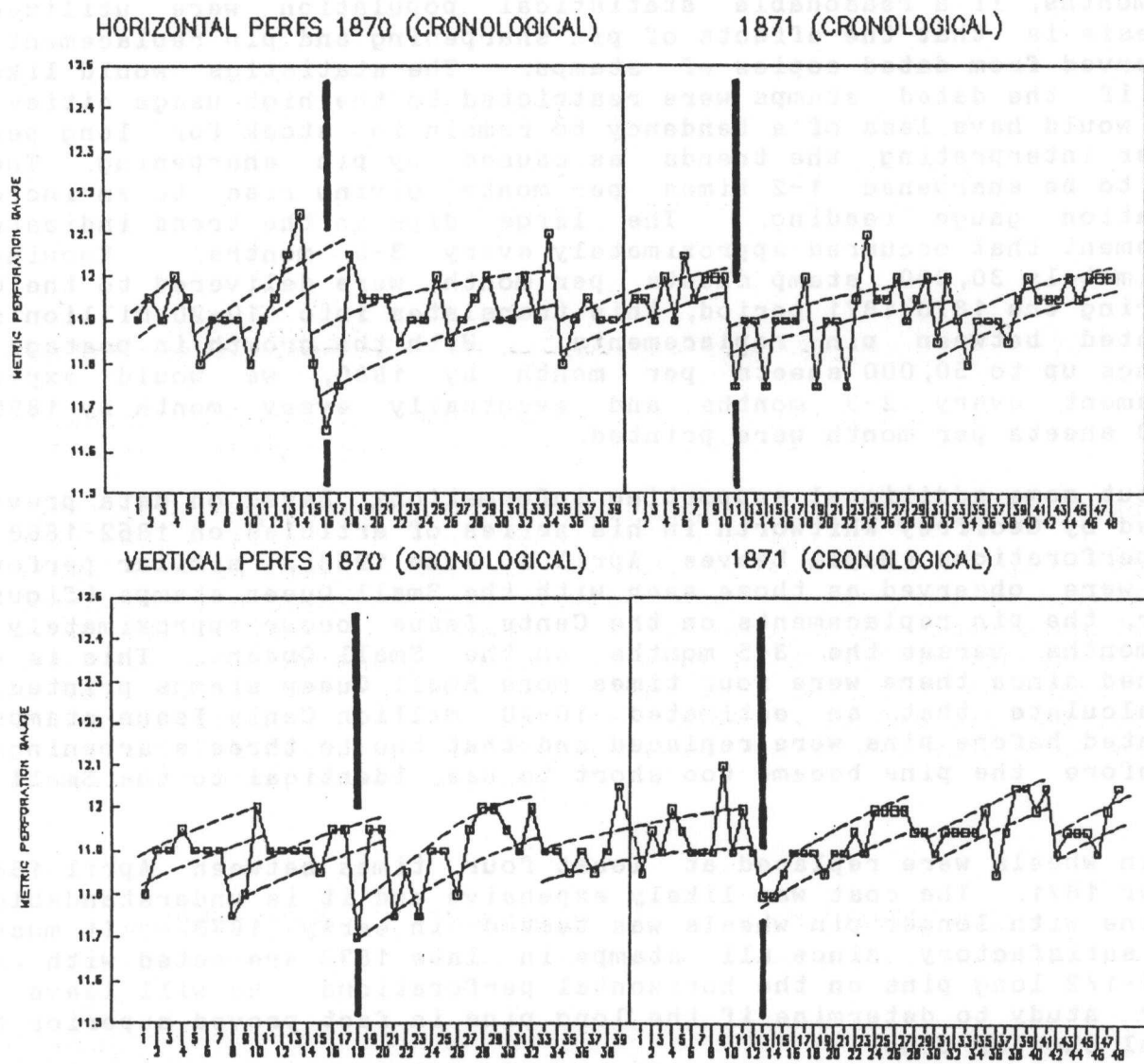


Figure-1 Data and chronological plot of horizontal and vertical perforations on 87 dated Small Queen stamps. All are used in major cities from March 14, 1870 to December 22, 1871.

Stamp printing runs were generally fast. Once a press was set up, a full printing order would usually be completed in the same day. The real time consumer was applying the gum, drying and perforating. The gum application and drying was done before perforating. Then each of the dried sheets were perforated one at a time in a two step operation. One pass for the horizontal perforations and another for the vertical ones. This would take weeks. Presumably, when the completed stack of perforated sheets got deep enough, the printer would ship it off to the Ottawa GPO along with an invoice for partial payment. With stamp consumption growing at an incredible 15% per year, it would not take long for the stamps to appear at the local post offices. From studies done on the perf 12-1/2 stamps, 70-80% of the stamps printed would be postally used within the first three months after delivery. With new stamp orders made approximately every three months, if a reasonable statistical population were utilized, the hypothesis is that the affects of pin sharpening and pin replacement could be observed from dated copies of stamps. The statistics would likely be better if the dated stamps were restricted to the high usage cities where stamps would have less of a tendency to remain in stock for long periods. Consider interpreting the trends as caused by pin sharpening. The pins appear to be sharpened 1-2 times per month giving rise to an increasing perforation gauge reading. The large dips in the trend indicates pin replacement that occurred approximately every 3-5 months. Knowing that approximately 30,000 stamp sheets per month were delivered to the Ottawa GPO during the 1870-1871 period, this translates into 10-20 million stamps perforated between pin replacements. With the growth in postage stamp printings up to 50,000 sheets per month by 1880, we would expect pin replacement every 2-3 months and eventually every month by 1890 when 100,000 sheets per month were printed.

How about some additional supporting information? Based on data previously reported by Geoffrey Whitworth in his series of articles on 1862-1868 Cents Issue perforations (Maple Leaves April & June 1958), similar perforation trends were observed as those seen with the Small Queen stamps (figure-2). However, the pin replacements on the Cents Issue occur approximately every 15-20 months verses the 3-5 months on the Small Queens. This is easily explained since there were four times more Small Queen stamps printed. One can calculate that an estimated 10-20 million Cents Issue stamps were perforated before pins were replaced and that two to three sharpenings were made before the pins became too short to use, identical to the Small Queen case.

Most pin wheels were replaced at least four times between April 1870 and December 1871. The cost was likely expensive and it is understandable that a machine with longer pin wheels was tested in early 1873. It must have proven satisfactory since all stamps in late 1873 are noted with the new perf 11-1/2 long pins on the horizontal perforations. We will leave it to a later study to determine if the long pins in fact proved superior to the original shorter pins.

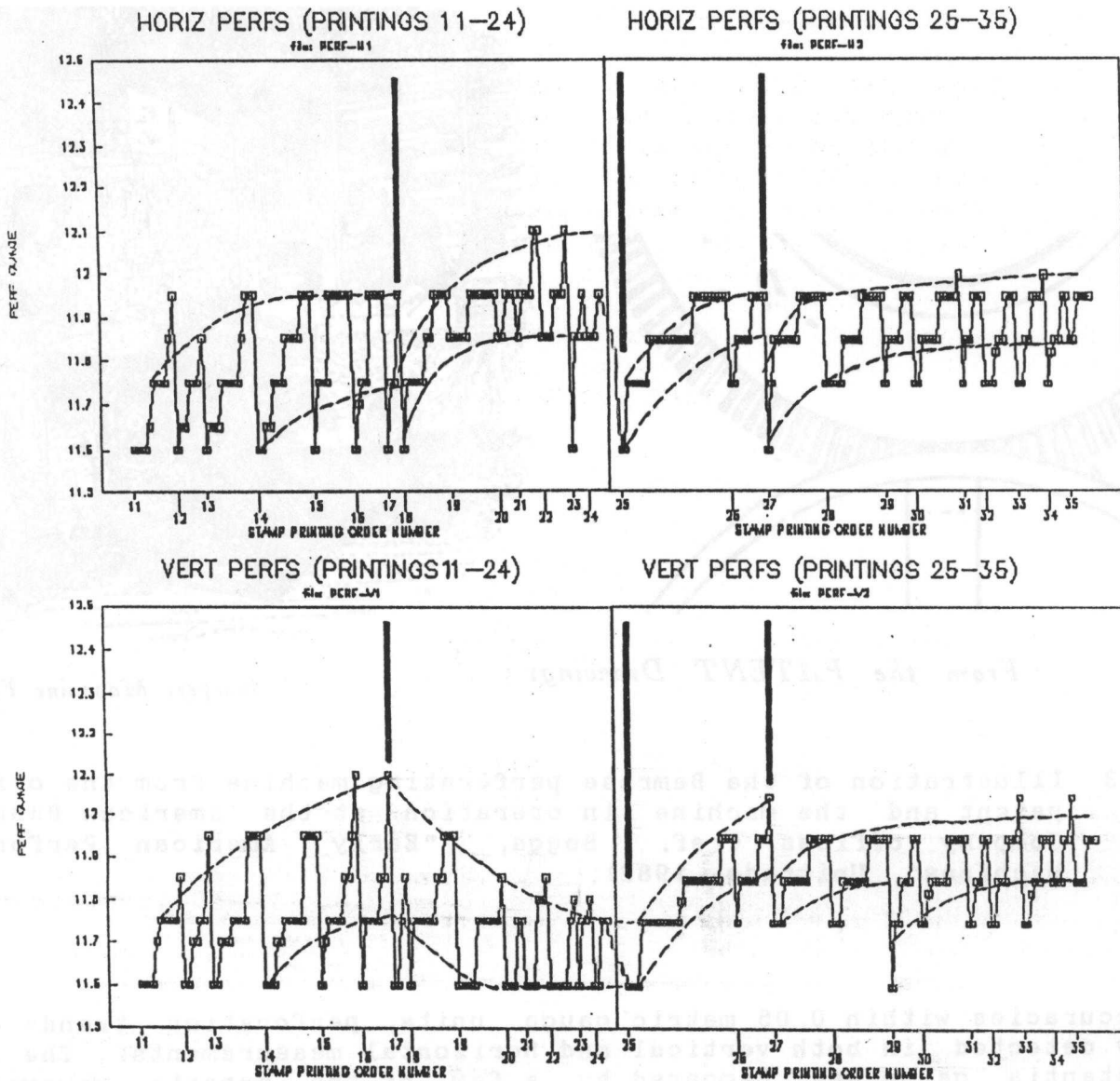
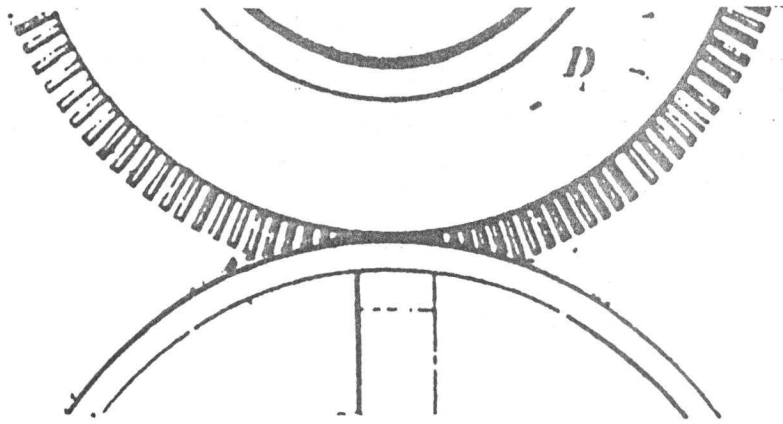


Figure-2 Data and chronological plot of horizontal and vertical perforations on 225 dated First Cents Issue stamps from January 1862 to March 1868. The stamps were grouped by main printing deliveries numbering 11-35 (ref. Whitworth, "The First Decimal Issue of Canada", R. P. S. of London, 1966).

Meaningful analysis can only be done in the first few years of the Small Queen issue. This is when orders were spread out over 3-4 months and it took about three months to use 70% of the delivered stock. This allows us to reasonably differentiate the printing orders from a statistical base of dated stamps. Later printings were delivered often every month but significant quantities of stamps could get shuffled in the system for three months and more. The resulting overlap in printing orders verses delivery to postmasters renders perforation analysis difficult if not impossible. Consequently, the findings in the manageable early Small Queen years and from the Cents and Large Queen printings must be extrapolated into the later Small Queen period.



From the PATENT Drawings

Harpers Magazine Feb. 1862

Figure-3 Illustration of the Bemrose perforating machine from the original patent and the machine in operation at the American Bank Note Company offices (ref. Boggs, "Early American Perforating Machines", Unitrade, 1982).

With accuracies within 0.05 metric gauge units, perforation trends can be clearly detected in both vertical and horizontal measurements. The use of the instantia gauge was bemoaned by a few of the experts, however, the author is completely satisfied that after gauge calibration, the accuracy is well within 0.025 metric gauge units. It is inconceivable that the author could consistently make gauge measurement errors in the 0.05 metric gauge range, and even if this was the case, the trends in figure-1 are significant enough that they would still show. The Cents Issue data was compiled years before the pin sharpening theory evolved and the trends in figure-2 are unmistakable.

In a sophisticated group like BNAPS there are lots of skeptics. This is one of the strengths of the organization. The author would now challenge them to provide an alternate explanation for the observed perforation trends. If anyone has the facilities, we would welcome a physical test of actually sharpening a pin wheel and measuring the perforation gauge change.

It was interesting to note on the original patent for the Bemrose Perforating machine, the pin wheels were drawn completely flush with the hole wheels (figure-3). However, it is impossible for a 3 mm pin to mesh fully with a two inch hole wheel without binding and breaking the pins. Correspondence is welcome direct to the author at Box 430, Abbotsford, V2S 5Z5.

CORK CANCELLATIONS

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Collecting cork cancellations poses a number of interesting problems that have stumped many serious collectors. Since cork cancelers were made out of a soft cork material, the most obvious concern has been what affect wear has on the cork impression. What does the cork look like after, say, 10,000 strikes and can it still be identified with the original impression? After researching hundreds of Toronto cork cancels over the last two years, some of these questions developed answers that are quite surprising.

One of the early revelations regarding cork cancels came from an unlikely source. After bidding, sight unseen, on an auction lot of 25 Small Queen covers, you can imagine the disappointment when the group consisted of a mixed condition, single correspondence from Wardsville, Ontario to a common addressee in Oxford, Michigan. There was no postal history significance on first impression and the lot got filed under "purchase errors". It was years later while rummaging through a mound of junk, looking for that 6c major re-entry on cover that was carefully stored somewhere in the office, that the lot surfaced again. This time, something unusual emerge that had not been previously recognized. The stamps were not only cancelled by a simple starburst cork, but it appeared to be the "same" cork on all the covers over a 13 year period from 1880 to 1893. A little more digging into the postal records indicated that Wardsville's annual Post Office revenue in 1880 was \$750 with a steady growth up to about \$1000 in 1890. With the safe assumption that 75% of the postal revenue was from single franked domestic letters, the revenues translated into 18,000 to 20,000 letters posted per year. Figure-1 shows a selected group of the covers from the earliest dated May 12, 1880 when the cork appears to be sharp and presumably new, all the way up to December 14, 1893. The cork deteriorated with use to what we will define as "poor" condition by July 1885. That is, the original design is still discernable but the cork has deteriorated enough that it really should be replaced. The number of cork strikes up to this point, assuming one strike per letter posted, is easily calculated at approximately 90,000-100,000.

The Wardsville cork, however, was not replaced at 100,000 strikes and it's use continued. By August 1888 it had made approximately 150,000 strikes and had deteriorated to a "blob" classification. For some reason, the postmaster still refused to part with the old cork and we note it was in use December 14, 1893 after an incredible 275,000 estimated strikes.

Comparing cork cancel wear from Gravenhurst and Parry Sound, both with similar postal revenues as Wardsville, the cork degeneration with time appears similar. This leads us to the conclusion that a simple cork canceller has a probable usable life span of about 100,000 strikes. Although the number appears large, it represents only 50 strikes per day in the small Wardsville post office. Using the same parameters, a large post office processing 5000 letters per day would likely replace corks in about 20 days. Evidence supports these numbers since research has shown the early Toronto cork cancels survived an average of 20-25 days.



NEW CORK



100,000 STRIKES



5,000 STRIKES



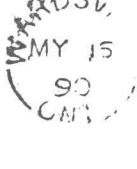
125,000 STRIKES



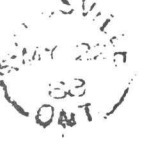
190,000 STRIKES



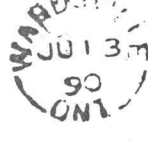
50,000 STRIKES



200,000 STRIKES



150,000 STRIKES



75,000 STRIKES

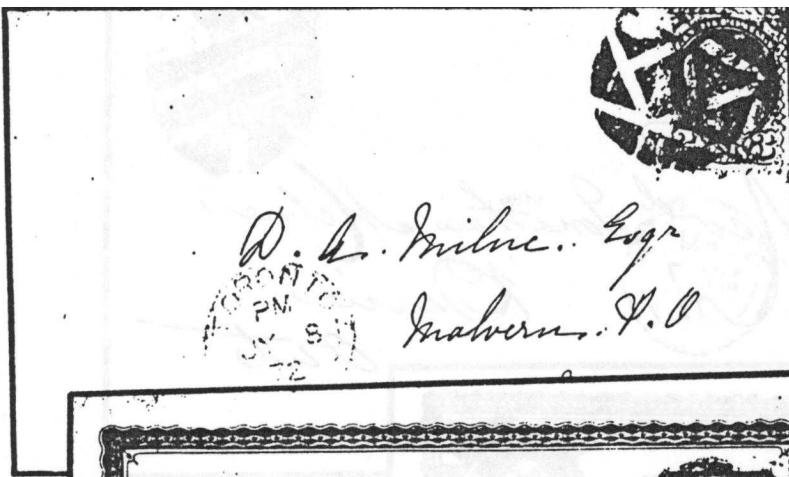


175,000 STRIKES

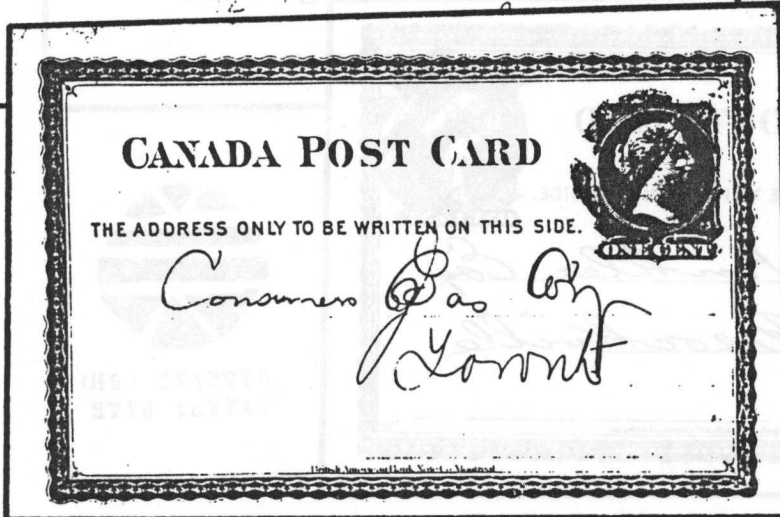


250,000 STRIKES

Figure-1 The affects of wear on the Wardsville, Ontario cork canceller over a 13 year period and an estimated total of 275,000 strikes.



JY8/72 (JH)
FIRST REPORTED STRIKE

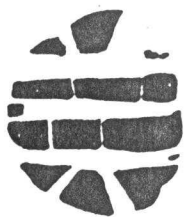


AP19/79 (JH)
ONLY REPORTED STRIKE

Figure-2 Top cover is the first reported strike of this unusual geometric cork cancel. The "T" cork on #P-1 has been reported by Jarrett and D&S but this is the first one any of the membership has submitted. Both items are rare (John Hannah collection).

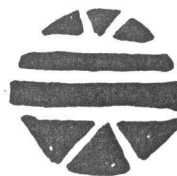
posted on October 10th, 1870. John sent an unreported July 1872 geometric cancel (figure-2) as well as the first recorded "T" cancel in this study. It had been previously noted by both Jarrett and Day & Smythies dated in 1880 but none of the project contributors had entered an example until now. John reports two lovely cancels with many similarities shown in figure-3. They are clearly different strikes with a first reported listing of the May 1872 cancel and the latest date on the July 1872 example. Figure-4 shows most of the new ERD's and LRD's entered into the data base since the last newsletter. Ted's material also included some superb fancy Toronto cork strikes on stamp. Although they were not dated, we did use them to upgrade a few of the poor illustrations taken from worn hammers. On the bottom row of figure-4 there are two fine fancy cork strikes suspected to be from Toronto. Both have doughnut holes in the center similar to a number of worn cork strikes noted in December 1873. If anyone can confirm the Toronto origin and provide a date used, it would be much appreciated.

We are now up to 329 cork entries with very few new ones showing up. An estimated 10% are still unreported for the 1870-1875 period. This represents about 20 corks that will likely be very slow in surfacing. Once the next ten or so strikes are identified, we will publish the results. Keep sending in those Toronto corks. Hopefully, we can finish before year end. Correspondence is welcome direct to the author at Box 430, Abbotsford, BC V2S 5Z5.



MY7/72 (JH)
FIRST REPORTED STRIKE

Rev. Jonathan Milner
Barrie
Ont



JY25/72 (JH)
LATEST DATE

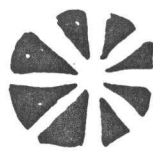
figure-3 Two similar cancels used 10 weeks apart. The unusually long service is the first indication that they are likely not the same cork. An overlay confirms the size and notch configuration differences. The top item is a first reported strike and the bottom item happens to be a new LRD (courtesy John Hannah).



DE27/72 (JH)
LATEST DATE



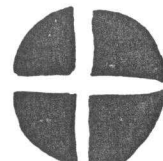
MR26/72 (JH)



AP10/71 (JH)



JY1/71 (JH)
JU26/71 (TN)



AP12/73 (JH)
LATEST DATE



JU24/74
(JH)



JY24/74
(TN)



JU1/74 (JH)
EARLIEST DATE



FB23/71 (JH)
EARLIEST DATE



JU15/81 (JH)
VERY LATE DATE



EXCEPTIONAL EARLY STRIKES ON STAMPS
(USED TO UPDATE POORER ILLUSTRATIONS)



TWO UNREPORTED CORKS ON STAMP
(NEED HELP TO IDENTIFY DATES)

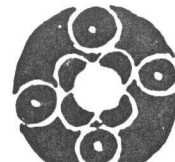


Figure-4 A few of the new Toronto cork listings submitted by John Hannah and Ted Nixon. We need some help to confirm that the last two corks originated in Toronto along with the dates of use.

NEW TORONTO CORK CANCELS - UPDATE - RON LEITH

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Finally got a bit of spare time to enter new Toronto cork data from the membership. This time we had a nice group from Ted Nixon and another collection from John Hannah in Scotland. Ted's material contained some outstanding examples including a remarkable "mini-2" strike dated November 27, 1873 (figure-1). This is the first such hammer recorded and nobody who has seen the item can ever recall seeing another. Ted and John each sent fine examples of the steel insert "2" cancel. Curiously, both covers were

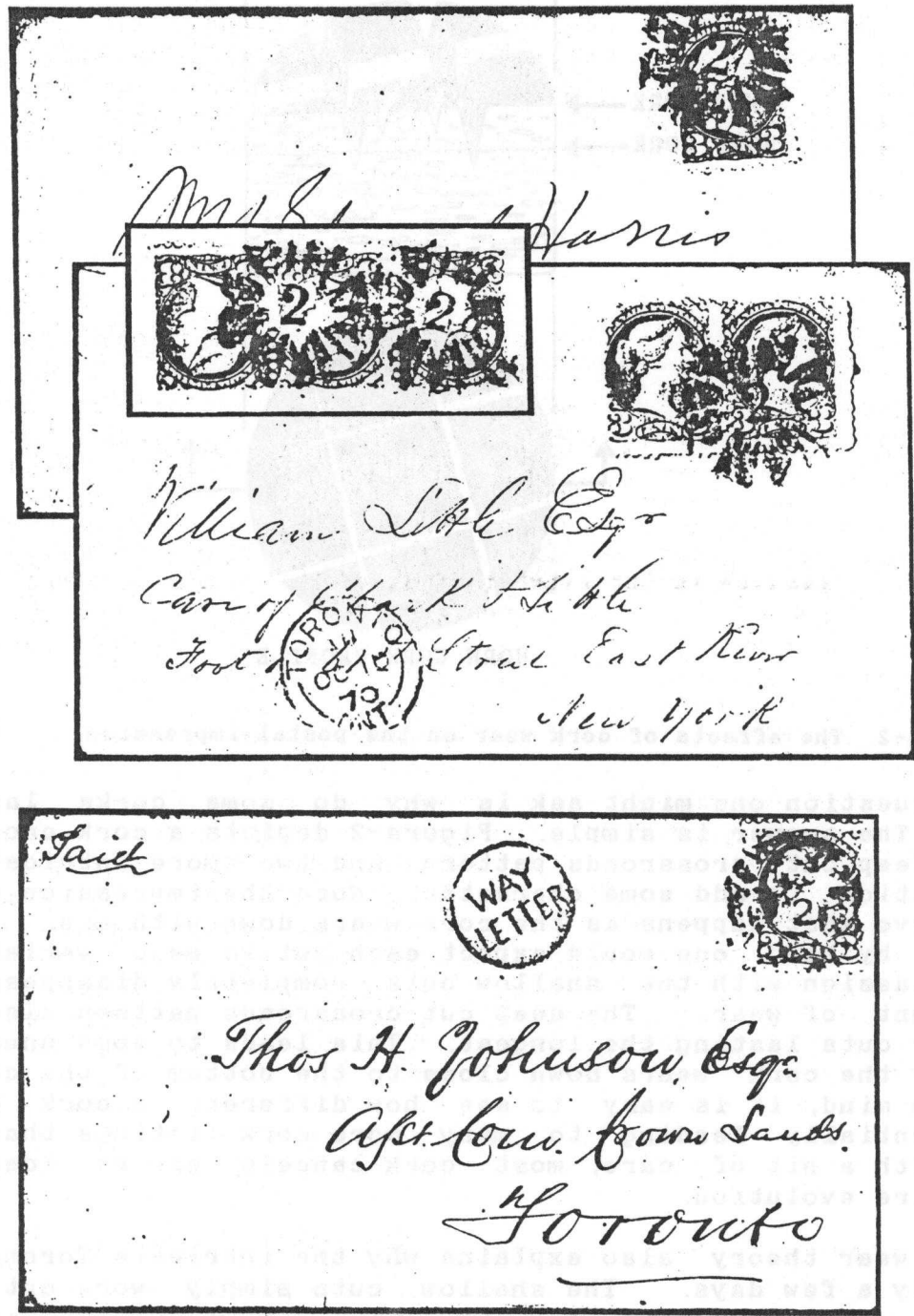


Figure-1 The top two covers are superb examples of the steel inset "2" numeral cancels, both dated October 10, 1870 (courtesy Ted Nixon and John Hannah). All examples shown, including the strip of three stamps, show the slight flattening damage on the top of the "2". The bottom cover is an incredibly rare "mini-2" inset cork cancel. This is the only example reported to date (Ted Nixon collection).

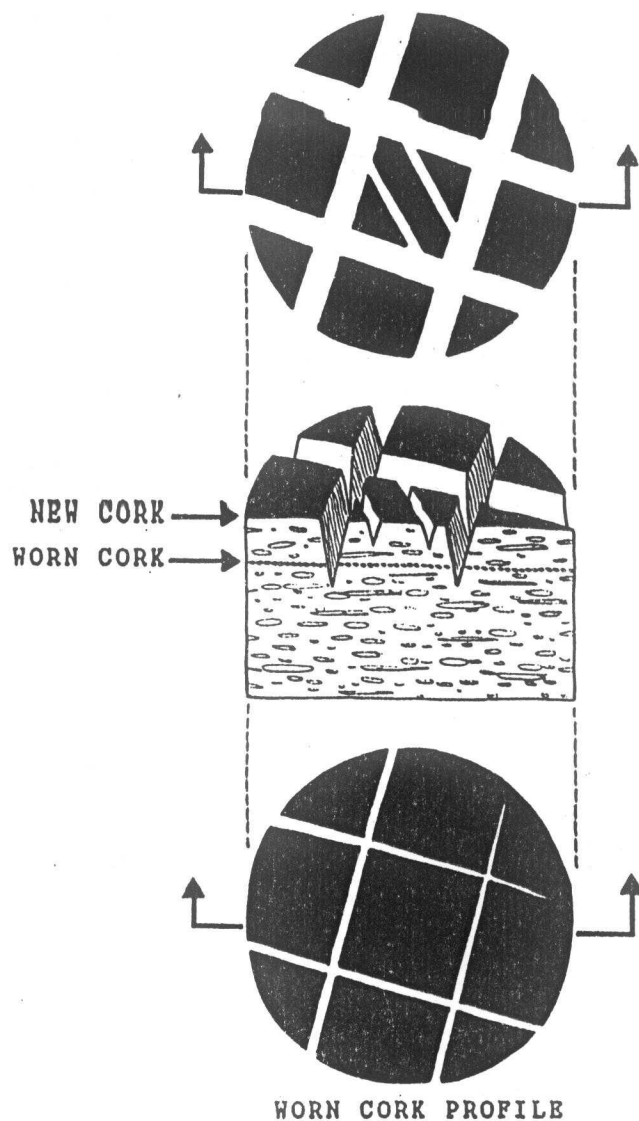


Figure-2 The affects of cork wear on the postal impression.

The next question one might ask is why do some corks last longer than others? The answer is simple. Figure-2 depicts a cork cross section with a basic deep cut crossroads pattern and two more intricate cuts in the middle section to add some character. Note the impression of the new cork then observe what happens as the cork wears down with use. Since the cuts were made by hand, one would expect each cut to be of variable depth. The intricate design with the shallow cuts completely disappears with only a small amount of wear. The deep cut crossroads pattern also fills in with the deeper cuts lasting the longest. This leads to some unusual transition states as the cork wears down close to the bottom of the cuts. With this concept in mind, it is easy to see how different a cork can appear with age, potentially leading to many more cork listings than what actually exist. With a bit of care, most cork cancels can be identified through their entire evolution.

The cork wear theory also explains why the intricate Toronto cork designs lasted only a few days. The shallow cuts simply wore out very quickly. The clerks probably tired of continually replacing or re-cutting corks and we note many more of the simple deep cut designs from 1871 on. In fact, no time during the Small Queen period do we see anything approaching the fancy cork designs of the 1868-1869 Large Queen period. Correspondence is welcome direct to the author at Box 430, Abbotsford, BC V2S 5Z5.


Postal regulations in the early Small Queen period mandated that the stamp be rendered impossible for re-use by obliterating it with an appropriate cancelling device. As a result of some stamp washing incidents in the late 1860's, the town dater handstamp was not deemed adequate for the job, consequently, the clerks had to process each postal item in a two step operation. He would first obliterate the stamp, usually with a cork canceller, then apply the dater handstamp on some open or free part of the envelope face. From the start, this was recognized as a time consuming procedure that would eventually lead to the invention of duplex cancelers and later on to squared circle obliterators. These devices had their own problems, particularly with their bulky nature when large volumes of mail had to be processed.

So how many envelopes could a clerk reasonably process in a day with the dual cancelling system? The Imperial Mail Marking Company provides some insight into this question in an 1890 advertisement when they were trying to sell their machine cancelling device to the Canadian Postal Authorities (figure-1). Their estimate was 1500 letters per hour, a number that must have had some credibility since they won the Canadian contract. Using this statistic, a single clerk could easily process 5000 letters in half a working day with lots of time to spare for other duties. Although the early 1870's Toronto mail volume was considerable, we can now imply that in fact very few clerks were required. Since each clerk would have his own set of cancelling devices, this would explain why we have recorded mostly two, and only on occasion three, Toronto cork cancels that were used simultaneously. Correspondence is welcome direct to the author at Box 430, Abbotsford, BC V2S 5Z5.

Calculations based

upon official tests

The speed of facing governs the whole process.




Without a machine, average 3000 per hour, cost 25 cts.

With a hand stamp, average 3000 per hour, cost 25 cts.

Cost of facing and marking 3,000 letters by the old process, 50 cts.


MORE THAN NINE-TENTHS OF ALL THE LETTERS DEPOSITED IN POST OFFICES HAVE TO BE FACED BEFORE THEY CAN BE MARKED.....



Cost of facing and marking 3,000 letters by the new process, 25 cts.

With a machine, average 6000 per hour, cost 25 cts.

The machine increases the speed of facing 25% and saves all the space, time and cost of marking.



Cost of facing and marking 3,000 letters by the new process, 25 cts.

With a machine, average 6000 per hour, cost 25 cts.

THE question of importance to the Government is:—how can these letters be faced and marked ready for distribution to outgoing mails with the greatest saving of time and money? The question repeatedly asked by superficial observers, entirely irrelevant and misleading, is:—how many letters will a machine stamp in an hour? The saving is not altogether in the machine but in the way in which it is used. The important facts for consideration are:—

1. The facing clerk governs the whole process of mailing letters.
2. With a machine his facing capacity, whatever it may be, is increased 25%, and he does the work of the marking clerk at the same time.
3. The marking clerk with a machine running 18,000 letters per hour, would not increase the capacity of the facing clerk.

Figure-1 Imperial Mail Marking Company advertising brochure expounding the features and benefits of their machine cancelling devices.

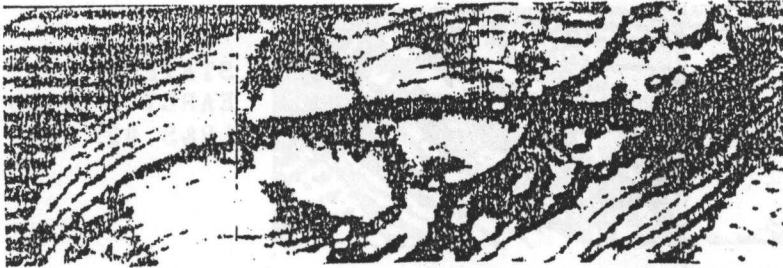
NOTES ON THE 1c STRAND OF HAIR VARIETY - RON LEITH
=====

Bill Burden has done some magnificent photography work on the 1c Small Queen "Strand of Hair" that has brought this lovely variety out of the closet. This is the first opportunity anyone has had to study the flaw in detail and some interesting results have surfaced. Using transparent overlays of Bill's micro photographs, it appears there are only two varieties. These are displayed in progressive order of deterioration as type-1 (figure-1) and type-2 (figure-2). Each one has an early bold condition we will define as state-1, progressing to a weak state-2 and finally to a remnant state-3.

A question arises about the conflicting reported dates for the re-entry on the type-2 example. This can be simply explained if the re-entry in fact occurred after the Strand of Hair variety was created (a reasonable assumption). As printing progressed, the re-entry gradually weakened until such time it could not be detected. In any case, the reported date on the re-entry example likely has no significance to the actual printing sequence. Previous work on the 3c Small Queen stamps has shown many drawbacks in attempting to correlating dates of stamp use to printing orders. This is particularly true in the high volume Second Ottawa printings. Both the GPO and individual Post Masters were notorious for piling new stamp stock on top of the old stock thereby delaying public distribution often for months. In addition, the public in the 1890's was no different than today when a stamp could lie around for years in a desk drawer before being used? As a result, we recommend that dated copies reported for the record only until there is enough data to provide statistical interpretation.

In a newsletter #15-2 article, Bill Burden identifies two remnant Strand of Hair examples as WGB-15 and WGB-16. Transparent overlays indicate they both lie in the type-1 range but they clearly do not appear to fit the normal deterioration pattern. These are possibly a result of inking and/or plate pressure variations. In either case, they are worthy of additional study.

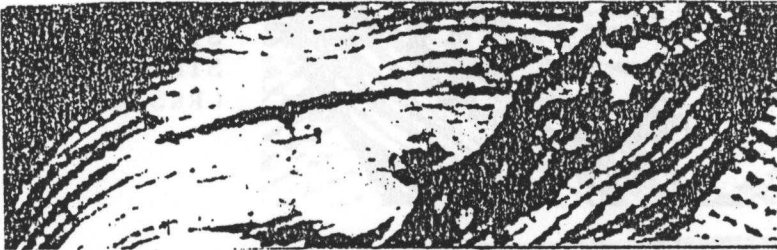
The advent of all this new information certainly has provided some new motivation to dig through those piles of 1c Second Ottawa Printings. We thank Bill Burden for the insight, although, many of us may eventually reconsider our praise with all the wear and tear those darn yellow stamps is bound to have on the old eyes. Correspondence is welcome direct to the author at Box 430, Abbotsford, BC V2S 5Z5.



STATE-1
EARLY & BOLD
(R&S #1 dated NOV6/96)



STATE-1
STRONG



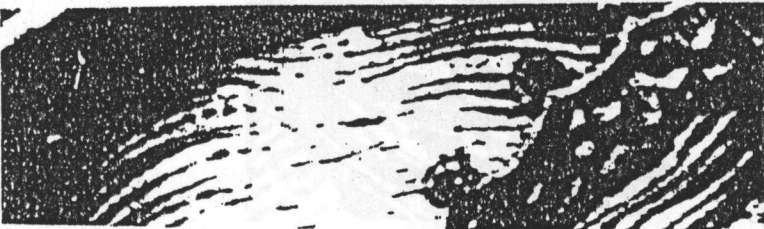
STATE-2
WEAK
(R&S #6 dated NOV13/95)



STATE-3
REMNANT
(dated NOV26/97)



STATE-3
REMNANT
(WGB-15)

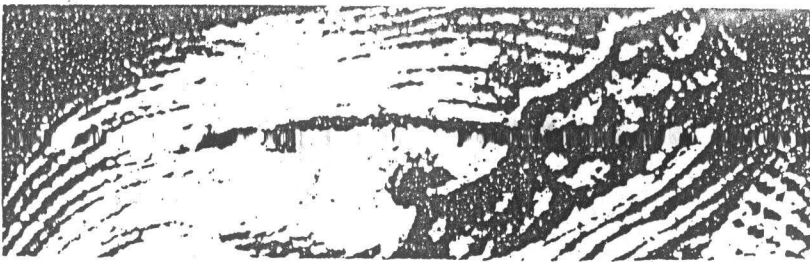


STATE-3
REMNANT
(WGB-16)



STATE-3
LATE REMNANT
(R&S #6)

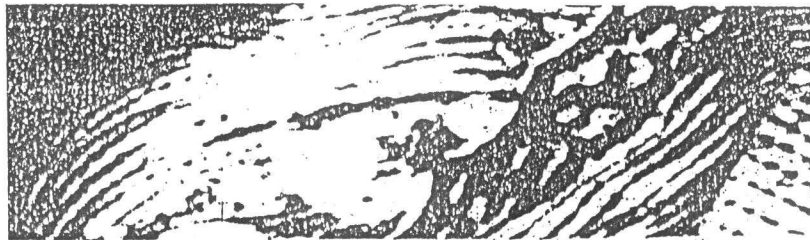
Figure-1 The type-1 Strand of Hair variety progressing from the strong state-1, to the weak state-2 and finally to the remnant state-3. Reference numbers to Bill Burden's original classification system is in brackets.



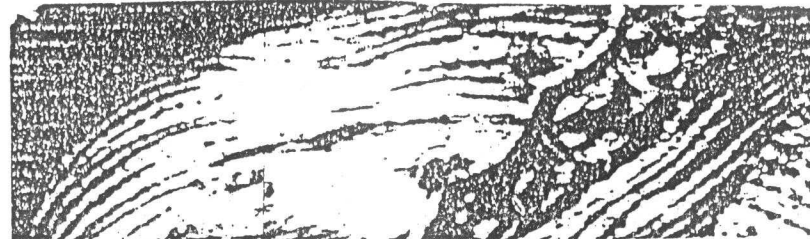
STATE-1
EARLY & BOLD
(R&S #2)



STATE-1
STRONG
(dated SEP26/96)



STATE-1
STRONG
(R&S #7 with RE-ENTRY)



STATE-1
STRONG
(dated OCT9/95
with RE-ENTRY)



STATE-2
WEAK
(R&S #3 or #4)



STATE-3
REMNANT
(dated JAN12/97)

Figure-2 The type-2 Strand of Hair variety progressing from the strong state-1, to the weak state-2 and finally to the remnant state-3. Reference numbers to Bill Burden's original classification system is in brackets.

NEW DISCOVERIES ON THE 5c ON 6c MAJOR RE-ENTRY

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It is not surprising that more than one 5c on 6c major re-entry exists. What is a surprise is how long it took someone to find the second one and now a third has been identified. Thanks to the outstanding photography work by Ralph Trimble and Bill Burden, the subtle differences can be seen to make this finding. Figure-1 is an illustration from the Canadian Re-entry Study Group newsletter #47 that is well worth sharing with the Small Queen Study Group. For those fortunate few who have a copy of this rare stamp, there is a simplified method of identifying the three different varieties ...

- Type-1 The top of the 5c stamp border can be seen to just cut the top of the "G" in "POSTAGE" about 0.05 mm down from the top.
- Type-2 The top of the 5c stamp border just touches the top of the "G" in "POSTAGE".
- Type-3 The top of the 5c stamp border cuts the top of the "G" in "POSTAGE" about 0.15 mm down from the top.

Type-1 and type-2 are in the Bill Simpson collection and the owner of type-3 wishes to remain anonymous. Our thanks again to Ralph Trimble for allowing us to reprint this information. Correspondence is welcome direct to the author at Box 430, Abbotsford, BC V2S 5Z5.

MILLIMETER SCALE 0 1 2 3 4 5

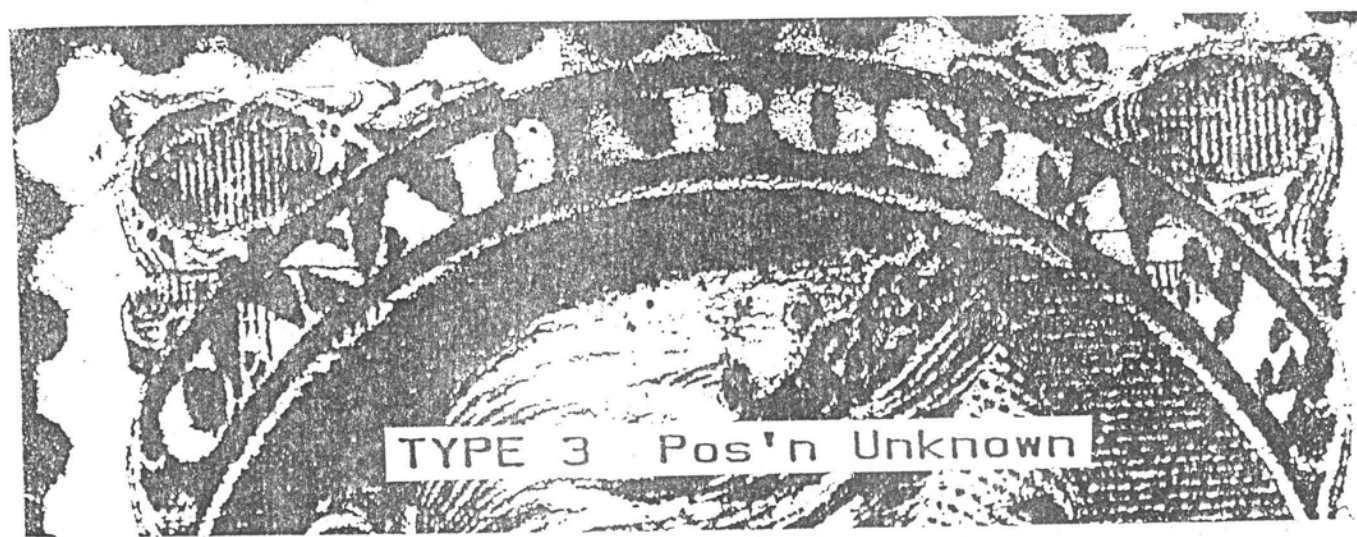
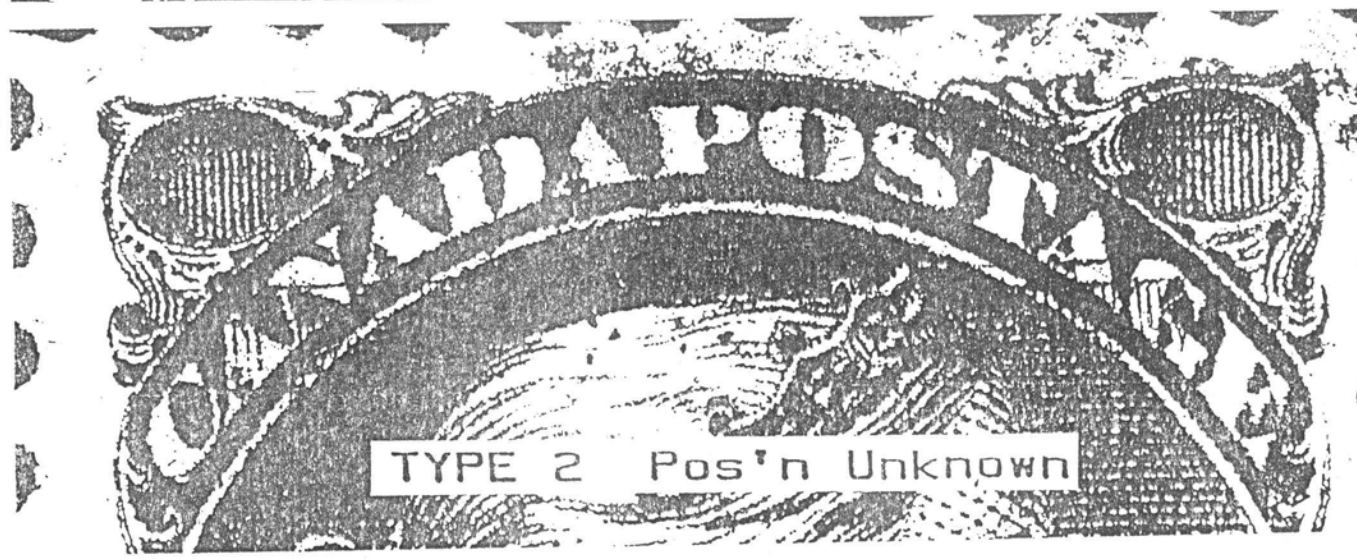
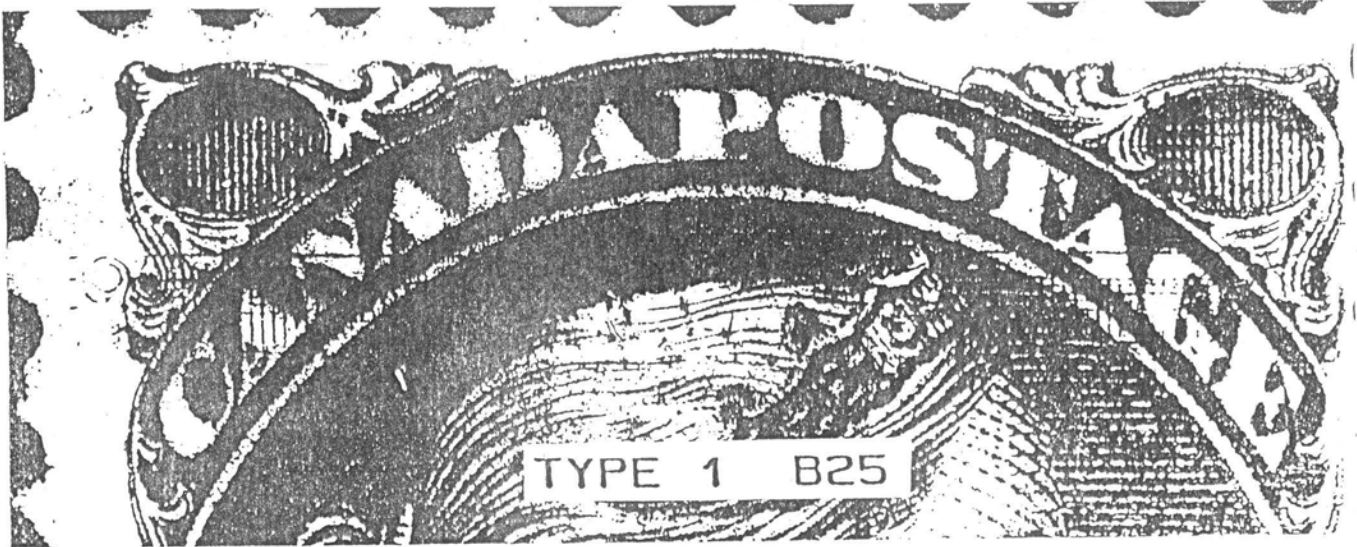


Figure-1 Micro photograph of the 5c on 6c major re-entry showing the three known varieties of this rare stamp.