

THE 1898 CHRISTMAS MAP STAMP NEWSLETTER

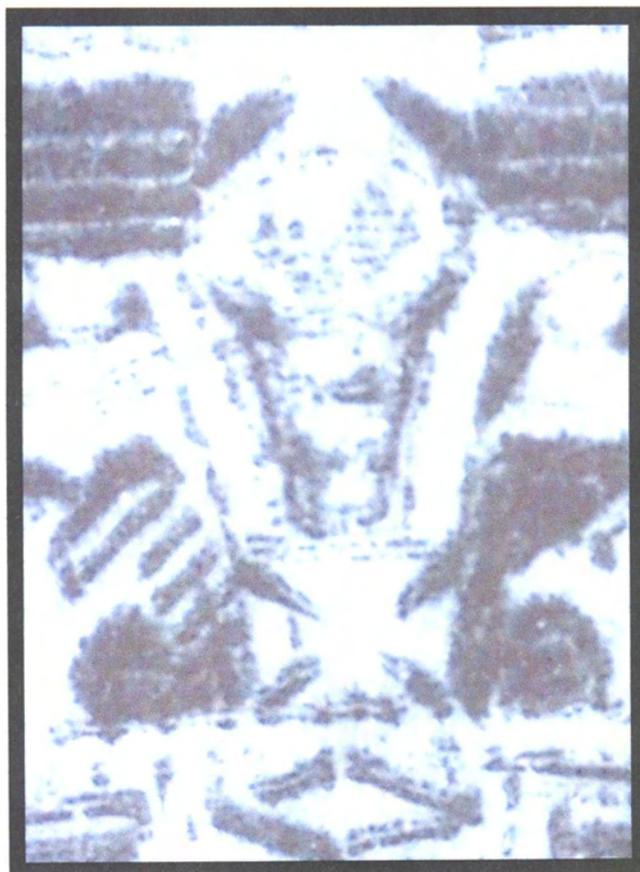
The Journal of the 1999 Map Stamp Study Group of the British North America Philatelic Society
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Whole # 9

SPECIAL EDITION ON PLATING



By Ken Kershaw

Editing by Roger Boisclair, A-Ed.

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Editorial by Roger.Boisclair@sympatico.ca . Assistant-Editor

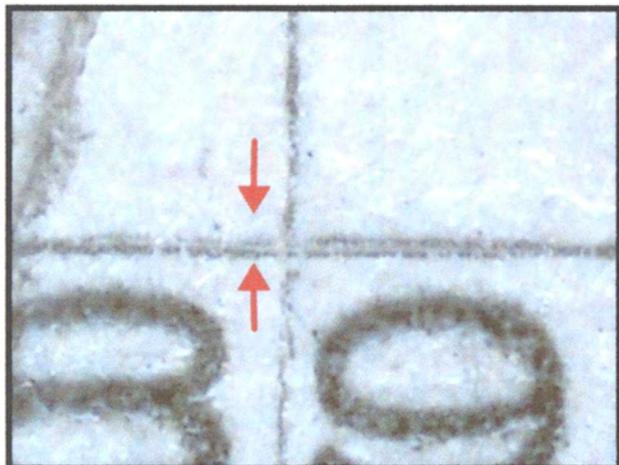
By mere chance, a new member, Ken Keshaw (# 32, Kenk70@cogeco.ca) was recruited at the beginning of the year 2002. Along with his sending of the annual subscription, he said: « I have thoroughly enjoyed the past publications of the Group received from Roger. I hope to make some contributions along the road ». After thanking him for his kind words, he was informed that we were looking forward to any contributions from him in our Newsletter. Well..., it appears that it didn't take him too much time, as not long after we received at first a series of four (4) interesting articles where he shared the result of his time consuming research. Then, came articles 5 and 6 and, finally article 7. « Humm... I said to myself, this member is a promising contributor and we must certainly take care of him ». Indeed, the message from the Editor Dr. John T. Anders was well understood.

After a careful reading of his material, I quickly decided to assemble it. This SPECIAL EDITION ON PLATING is a strong response to Donald Krause's initial request, thanks Don for this challenging demand. Plating our preferred stamp is an activity that most Map Stamp collectors can afford and in that sense, Ken's actual contribution is invaluable for our members. He shares his knowledge in a so generous fashion, exactly like many other previous authors did, e.g. Tomlinson, Winmill and Bradley. Ken is actually planning to release a complete review of the Tonkin Gulf Dot and Arcs issue for all Plates. Given the well known uncertainty of the actual pairing data, this addition will be a significant leap forward in the plating activity and a fine addition within our philatelic library. Thanks also to the discovery of the Intel computer Microscope scanner with its capacity to magnify with an exact focus some very small portions of our stamp. Indeed, one of Ken's article may actually open a door for a further study of the particularities of Red Plates. So what? Well... why not a further study of the ocean colour plate(s) particularities in the near future?

The magnitude of Ken's actual contribution can be somewhat difficult to match for the average Map Stamp collector, but it nevertheless represents a noticeable example of what a Study Group can generate from time to time. This is very encouraging to your Management Board. On the other hand, it is hoped that it will not discourage any of our members submitting articles for what they feel is interesting to them, as we are truly open minded for anything susceptible to interest our members. Hopefully, that this release will be appreciated by all. As can be seen, we are there to serve our members with our best effort. Please do not hesitate to provide your comments and feedback to the Editor so it can be reported in a fashion where this Newsletter can be made one of the most interesting ones. And please, feel free or don't forget to send an encouraging note to Ken for this magnificent contribution! See his postal address in the previous Newsletter and email address above.

AN UNREPORTED CONSTANT VARIATION IN THE LINE OF LATITUDE ABOVE "1898"

By Ken Kershaw (# 32)



Whilst examining the Major re-entries in Plates 1, 2, & 3 with the INTEL computer microscope scanner, an engraving flaw was noticed which initially was thought to be part of the Re-Entry. Subsequently, its appearance on all of the Major Re-entries prompted further examination. It is now found to be present throughout all plate positions for Plates 1, 2, 3 and 5. Presumably, it will also be present on Plate 4 and Plate Proofs also? The attached illustration of Pos. 2A-24 scanned at a magnification of 60x was taken from a stamp cancelled on Dec 23rd 1898, i.e. prior to any serious plate wear. It is however, easily seen throughout all plates and positions with a x15 hand-lens. The engraving error runs a little further to the left than can be shown on the scan.

NOTE: FOR THE INFORMATION OF THE READER, THE REPORTED PATTERN ALSO CLEARLY APPEARS ABOVE LETTERS 'MA' OF 'XMAS'. I HEREBY ALSO CONFIRM THAT IT SHOWS ON ALL SUBJECTS OF THE PLATE 4 COLOUR PLATE

PROOFS THAT I HAVE IN MY COLLECTION. THEREFORE, IT CAN REASONABLY BE CONCLUDED THAT IT IS A CONSTANT ENGRAVING PATTERN THAT IS SHOWN ON THE WHOLE RUN ON THIS STAMP, HENCE AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE ORIGINAL DIE PROOF. R.B. A-ED.

DIFFICULTIES WITH TONKIN GULF CRITERIA

By Ken Kershaw (# 32)

I read with considerable interest the recent comments from Donald Krause (see Vol. 2, No. 2, Whole # 5, Page 42) and the difficulties he has encountered using the Tonkin Gulf Dot (TGD) detail for plating Map stamps. As a recent Map stamp enthusiast I also have found similar difficulty in using Bradley's positional data, and have found that although I am often close, rarely do I agree completely with his dot positions. As a professional Botanist who has used x15 to x20 hand-lenses all my life, I am certain it is not my inadequate observations. I have now examined the problem further using INTEL's QX3+ Computer Microscope Scanner, which allows up to x60 scanning of small selected areas of a stamp with very easy transference of jpegs to file. Some of these images are included later in this article.

Using the computer microscope scanner, a range of Tonkin positions has been recorded from those examples that I have in my own collection, showing the actual locations of the Tonkin dots (see list in Appendix). I have used Bradley's TGDs 13, 14 and 15, which I initially thought would be the most accurately positioned, having the close positional reference of Hainan Island itself, and then finally TGDs 1 and 2 for comparison (fig.1).

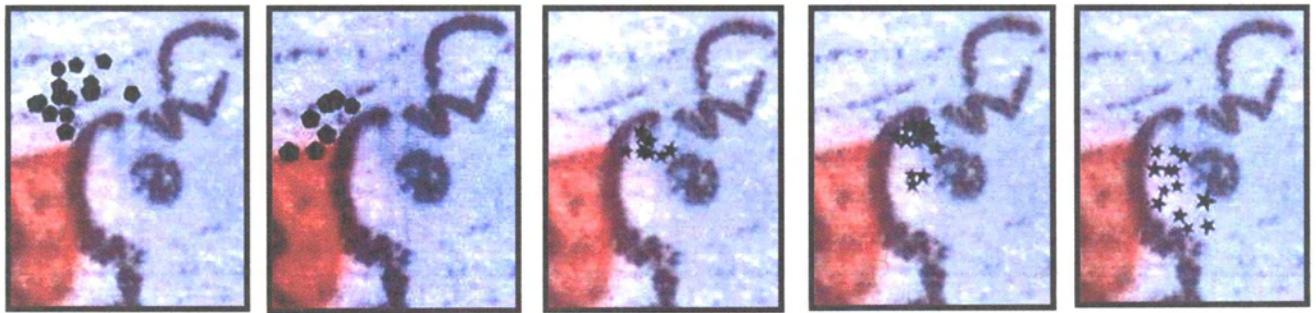


FIGURE 1: Variations in the respective positions of Tonkin Gulf Dots 1, 2, 13, 14 and 15. These have been overlaid from the original scans to show the degree of overlap.

The TGD area of each stamp was scanned and photographed. From the printouts, their "exact" position using the centre of each dot has been marked on summary scans included above. It is immediately apparent that there is a considerable degree of scatter around each of Bradley's TGDs locations. Even locations 1 & 2, which I had thought would be well separated, overlap to a considerable extent. Positions 13, 14, and 15 overlap even more. I was most surprised to see the marked southerly location of several dots in "position 15". This is not expected from Bradley's simple diagram. Neither is the wide and often overlapping scatter of actual dot positions anticipated. **The difficulties then of using the TGD location thus become more understandable.** However, I still use the TGD criteria as the final confirmation of the plate position of a stamp where the dot positions are strikingly different, e.g. positions 1 compared with 15 for example, and these contrasting positions are remarkably frequent.

There is an additional problem in that there is a misplaced level of confidence in having **two characters** apparently available, the arc position as well as the position of the dot itself. These turn out to be closely correlated and one would probably suffice. This can be shown simply by using an x-axis of arc positions a, b, c etc through the Island with a y-axis marked with the **measured** vertical positions of the corresponding Tonkin dot taken directly from Bradley's data (page 17). These values have then been scaled to an appropriate axis length, and a scatter diagram for all those map positions that Bradley provides data for are given in Figure 2. The outlying combinations from 2A10-40 and 2A28-48, the incorrectly assigned dot or arc positions by Bradley, have first been removed. The relationship is clear.

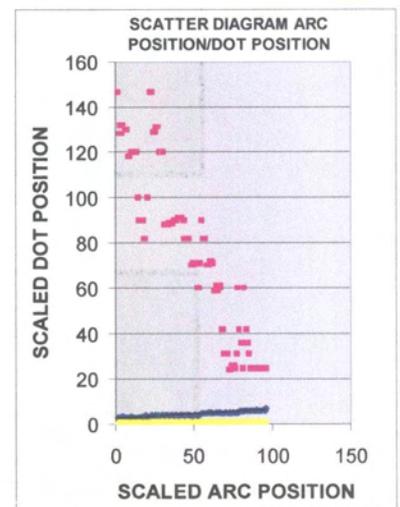


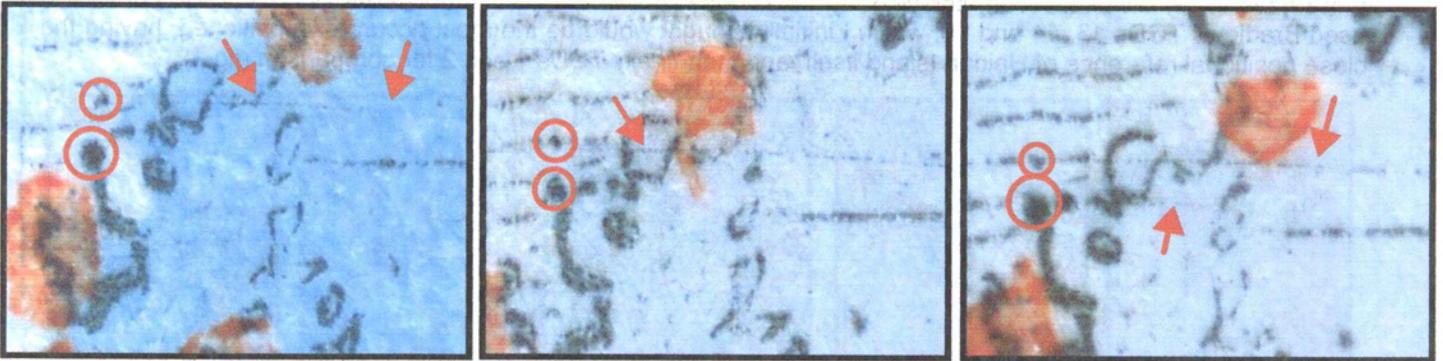
FIGURE 2

FIGURE 2 LEGEND. Scatter diagram of « Tonkin dot - arc relative height positions ». There is a strong relationship negating the value of using both.

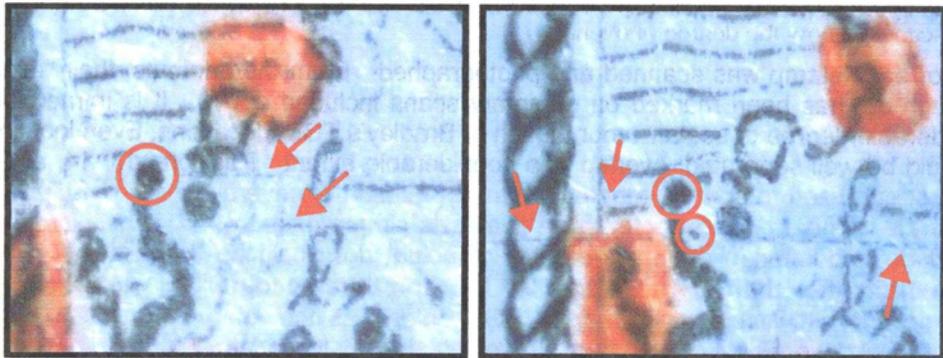
SPECIAL EDITION ON PLATING

It also became evident from the scatter diagram that a few points were widely separated from the straight-line relationship. These were all re-examined and found to be due to incorrect pairing of arc and dot positions in Bradley's data. So far the following incorrect dot-arc combinations have been found among the widely scattered points. Interestingly, they offer two examples of a *series*, with each position linked to the one above by the scribing tool. This type of error was then perpetuated above for several further stamp positions as shown in the two groups downbelow:

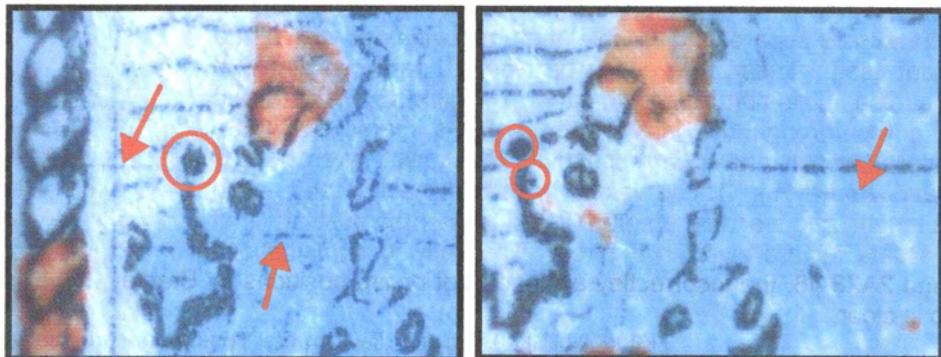
Pos. 2A-28:	Bradley 5a. Single strong arc. Strong Tonkin dot well south, weaker dot to the North.
Pos. 2A-38:	Bradley 2a. Single strong arc. Strong Tonkin dot well south, weaker dot to the North.
Pos. 2A-48:	Bradley 5a. Double arc, double dot.
Pos. 2A-10:	Bradley 8g. Double arc, single dot.
Pos. 2A-20:	Bradley 8g in table, 8- in text. Double arc and dot.
Pos. 2A-30:	Bradley 5g. Double arc, single dot.
Pos. 2A-40:	Bradley 12-. Two Tonkin Gulf dots but single correct arc.



Respectively Pos. 2A-28, 2A-38 and 2A-48



Respectively Pos. 2A-10 and 2A-20



Respectively Pos. 2A-30 and 2A-40

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During this study it has become evident that the **exact** location of each dot is indeed largely unique as has been already emphasized by both Tomlinson as well as Bradley. I believe Bradley's diagram is too simplified, and with the large and real scatter of Tonkin dots, the results become inconsistent. Thus it became apparent during the transfer of the dot locations to each of my summary scans, that the **full detail** of the scan, with the **exact shape** of the coastline, and particularly the **hatched-lines** in China, made this transfer both straight forward and fairly exact.

I am curious to know if there is a rational explanation for these double arcs or were they simply errors that were corrected? NOTE: IS THERE SOMEONE OUT THERE WHO CAN RESPOND TO THIS CHALLENGE? R.B. A-ED.

Appendix

The following stamps were used for this analysis:

TGD 1: 2A13, 2A15, 2A56, 2A58, 2A68, 2A78, 2A98, 3A3, 3A22, 3A40, 3A52, 3A53, 3A80, 3A96.

TGD 2: 2A84, 2A88, 3A30, 3A33, 3A60, 3A90, 3A100.

TGD 13: 1A8, 1A27, 1A37, 1A44, 1A47, 1A64, 1A72, 2A63.

TGD 14: 1A29, 1A38, 1A80, 1A82, 1A84, 1A90, 1A100, 2A2, 2A14, 2A42, 2A72, 3A24, 3A27, 3A44, 3A49, 3A54, 3A64.

TGD 15: 1A7, 1A10, 1A30, 1A39, 1A50, 1A54, 1A60, 1A67, 2A55, 2A60, 2A82, 3A10, 3A34.

... - o O o - ...

FURTHER TONKIN GULF DOT VARIATION

Engraving tool errors, double arcs and dot size

By Ken Kershaw (# 32)

Following the realization that there were several arc and dot variations in Bradley's Tonkin Gulf data I have now completed a survey of all dot and arc positions with the exception of about 12 plate positions that I still do not have in my collection.

The anomalies are of considerable interest, and often provide a completely definitive plate position on their own. All are visible with a x15 hand-lens although I have scanned all of them at x60 and the figures provided below are from these scans. Of importance is also the huge variation in the actual size of the Tonkin dots, which range from minute up to matching the size of Hainan Island itself! This was quite surprising but offers a positional character for plating, which in some instances can be very useful.

TOOLMARKS



Pos. 1A-2

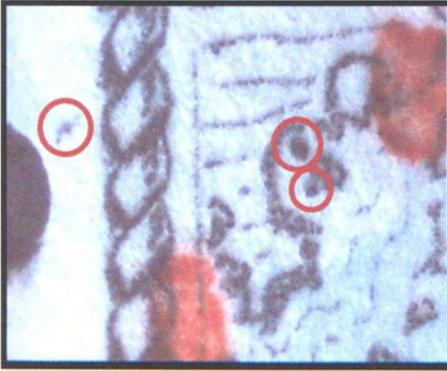
There is a strong tool mark between Hainan Island and the coastline just south of the Tonkin dot, which is partly buried in the engraving of the coastline above (Bradley 7c). There is also a guide dot in the cable with the arc running through.



Pos. 1A-70

There is a strong tool mark or guide dot in the margin between the cable and neat-line just S-W of the Tonkin Gulf area. The Tonkin Gulf Dot is clearly visible (Bradley 14-)

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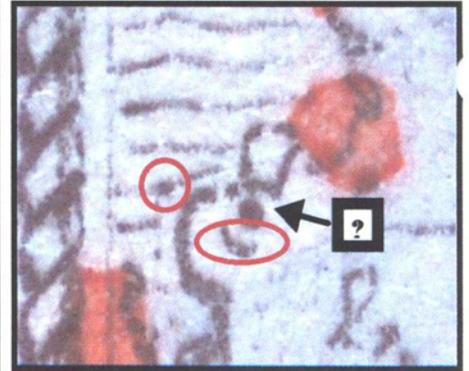


Pos. 1A-82

There is an apparent double Tonkin Gulf Dot, with the upper dot matching Bradley's "7c". There is also a guide-dot to the left of the cable.

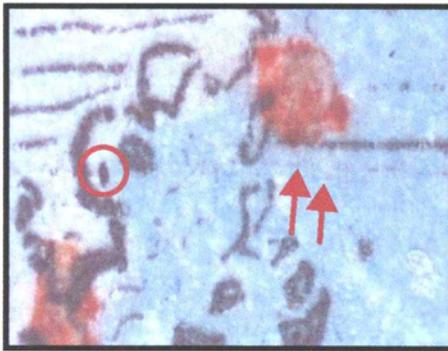


Pos. 2A-2. There appears to be a tool mark just N-W of Hainan Island which Bradley uses as "Tonkin position 14-". The actual Tonkin dot however, is seen consistently in my replicates of this plate, further N, just above the oblique part of a line of hatching.

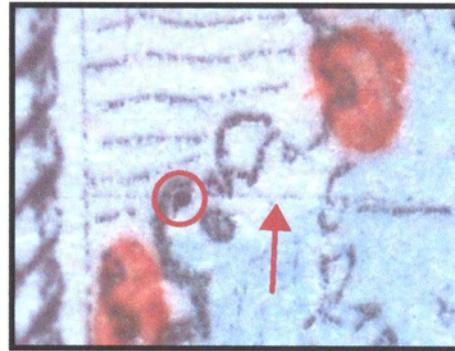


Pos. 3A-70. A 'happy smiling face' with either a strong tool-arc immediately S-W of Hainan Island or, perhaps more likely, the coastal remains of Hainan Island making room for the large engraved dot to the N-E (see similar erasures in 2A10-40 & 2A28-48). The Tonkin dot itself is centered on a line of hatching to the N-W (Bradley 10-).

ELONGATED TONKIN DOTS



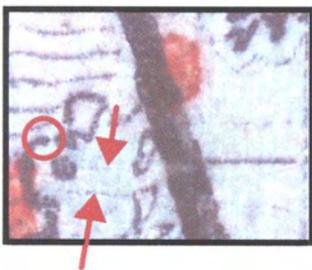
Pos. 1A-7. There is an elongated "tailed" Tonkin Gulf Dot, together with two, faint, double arcs. The lower arc runs through the Tonkin dot, the upper arc just north of it (Bradley 6g).



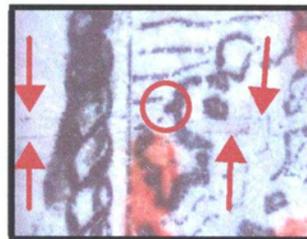
Pos. 1A-84.

A good example of a tailed-dot, strongly engraved, with a single arc (Bradley 14d).

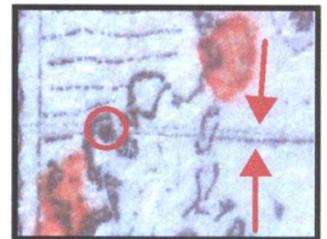
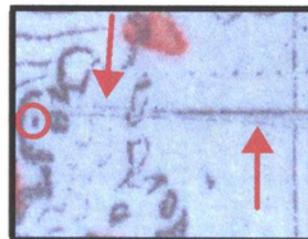
DOUBLE ARCS



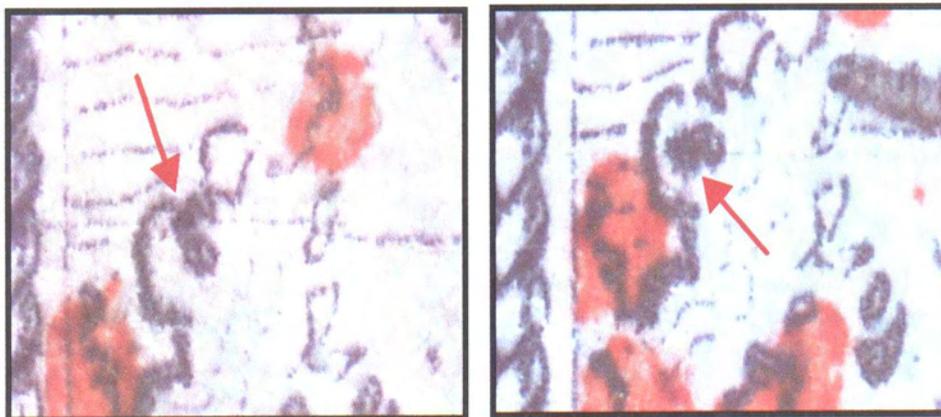
Pos. 1A-5. A double arc, with the lower arc tailing south steeply (Bradley 12-).



Respectively Pos. 1A-15, 1A-17 and 1A-64. A series of double, closely parallel arcs (Bradley 6g; 15c & 13d). In plate position 1A-64 there is also a very strong large star-shaped Tonkin dot.



LARGE TONKIN GULF DOTS



Respectively Pos. 1A-34, 1A-39, 1A-49, 1A-72 and 1A-92

A series of large strong dots comparable almost with the size of Hainan Island. (Bradley 15f, 15f, 13d, 13-, & 13- respectively). There are numerous other dots strongly engraved but somewhat less spectacular but no less useful for plating criteria.

Probably the most rewarding aspect of this exercise has been the ease and accuracy with which the Tonkin dot and arc information could be transferred to a standard scan of the Tonkin Gulf area. This has then provided me with a catalogue of Tonkin dot information for each plate position, which I have subsequently used for my own reference purposes, particularly when plating a new acquisition of map stamps.

Somewhat remarkably, all of these anomalies are from Plate1 with exception of 2A-2 and 3A-70. The obvious conclusion is that there was a steep learning curve during the engraving of the first plate! From a plating point of view, the tool marks particularly, but also the double arcs and large dots, which stand out clearly, all quickly provide definitive identification of these stamp positions. There is a continuous range of dot size, which also offers a further characteristic of considerable value in some instances.

Incidentally and for the information of the reader, I am currently putting together, in book-format, a summary of all Tonkin dot positions and arc positions for all stamps of Plates 1, 2, 3 and 5 that will assist map-stamp platers enthusiasts. Comments, remarks and suggestions are welcome. *

* **NOTE:** It was for sure a particular delight to assemble and edit this article! **What wonderful information for all Map platers!** It is certainly the most striking and rewarding demonstration that supports the involvement of your Management Board in the enterprise of this Newsletter. Hopefully that all members of this Study Group will grab this unique opportunity to acquire another goldmine piece of literature in support of the plating of our preferred stamp. Surely that Mr. Bradley would be happy that someone keeps on exploring new frontiers in this particular area. We beg our members to drop an encouraging note to our colleague Ken Kershaw. Ken, truly, we want to warmly thank you for this refreshing news! R.B. A-Ed.

ADDITIONAL OBSERVATIONS ON INCOMPLETE PLATE ERASURES WITH RESULTING DOUBLING IN THE MAJOR RE-ENTRIES OF PLATES 1-3

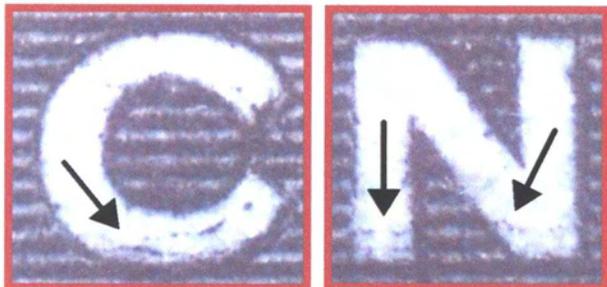
By Ken Kershaw (# 32)

With the availability of INTEL's QX3+ computer microscope it now becomes straightforward to scan small details of a stamp at x60. The resulting file can then be transferred as a jpeg to a text file. The incomplete erasures detailed below were however, all picked up initially using a x15 hand-lens. Their successful conversion to a printed format is due entirely to modern innovation.

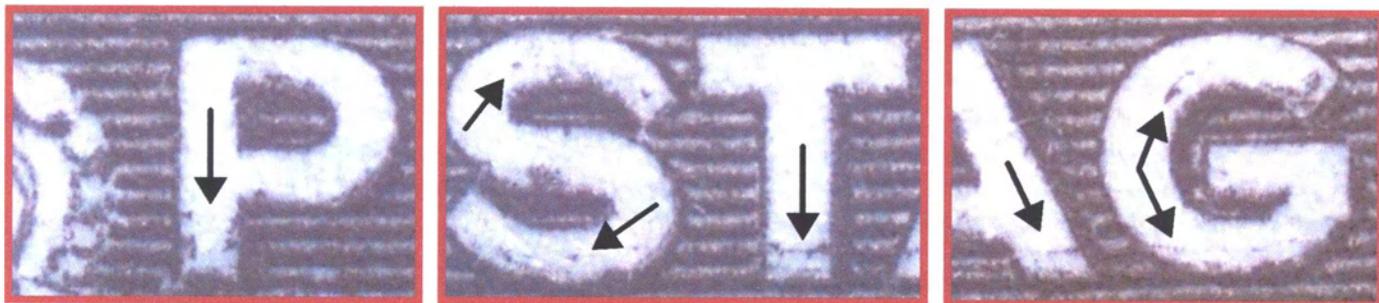
Several past authors have offered illustrations of re-entry detail but all have been forced to resort to a sketch of the doubling and the resulting incomplete record leaves much to be desired. More recently scanned images with some computer magnification have helped somewhat, but the resultant lack of focus still remains a handicap. The computer microscope scanner gives an optical image of x60 with a good level of focus, which certainly allows the usually faint remains of plate erasure to be successfully scanned.

All of the plate 1-3 Major Re-Entries have been examined confirming what is already known but also clearly demonstrating many erasure features which appear to have been overlooked. Francis Au has recently commented on re-entry detail in positions 2A-7 & 17 and subsequently 2A-9 & 19. These have been re-examined along with all the others but I am only providing optical data here on the previously unreported and more outstanding features of the whole group, coupled to a short descriptive summary of them.

Pos. 1A3



In addition to the extension lines in the left value tablet and the spurs off the left and right cables reported by Bradley, there is extensive incomplete plate erasure scattered throughout the whole of "CANADA POSTAGE".

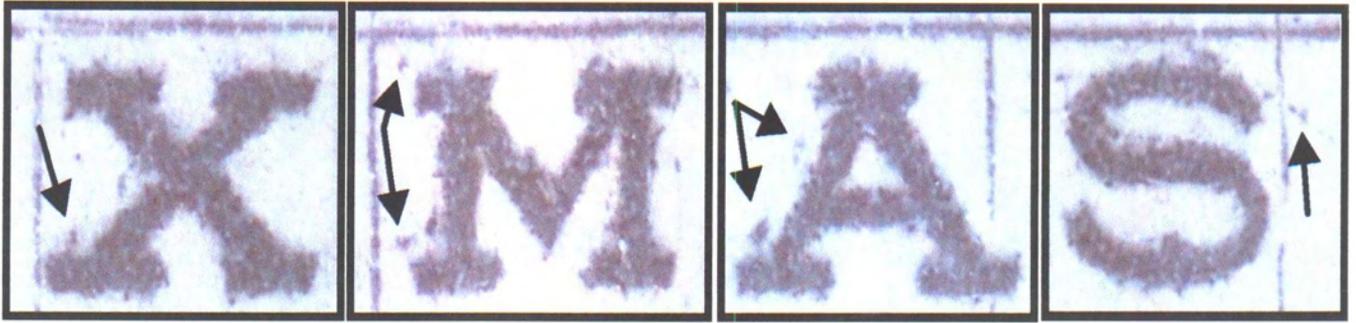


The marks range from small to the very obvious lines in C, N, ST & AG. In P there is some incomplete erasure but also with extension lines running into the central crown.

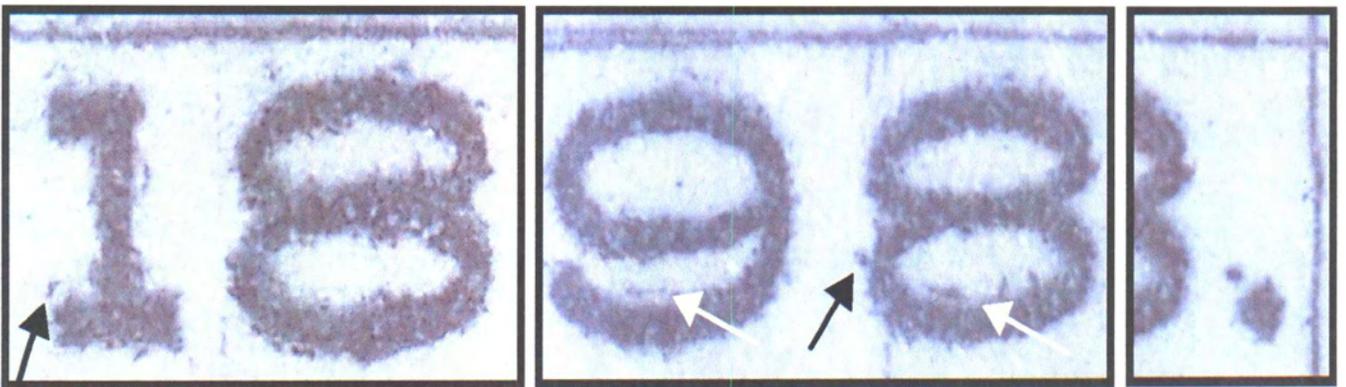
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Pos. 1A-3, cont'd

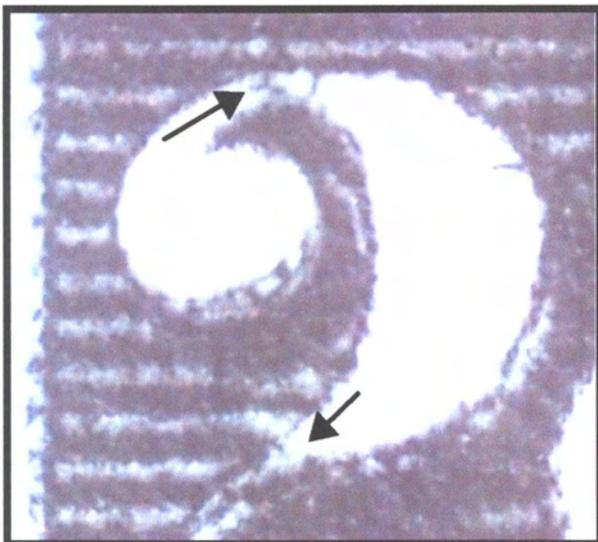
In addition, there is some doubling throughout the whole of "XMAS".



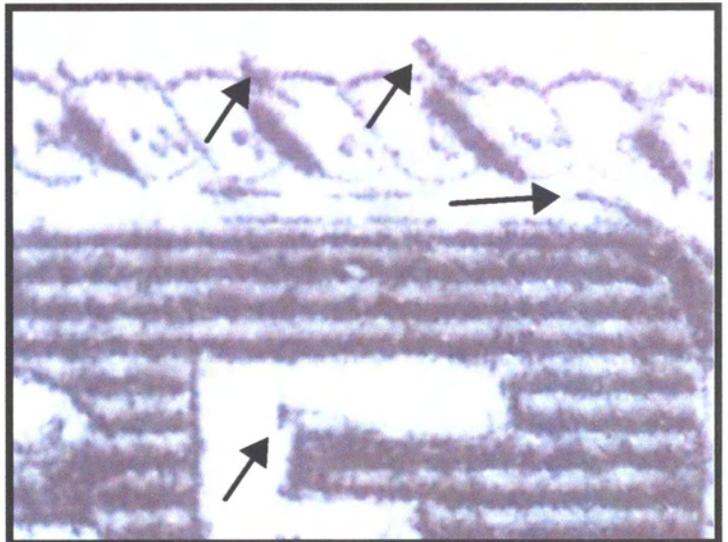
There is doubling also throughout "1898". The re-entry is slightly below and to the right of the remnants of erasure with the "9" and "8" showing this particularly well. The period mark after the date is also doubled.



There is a very obvious incomplete erasure in the "2" in the right value tablet. Finally there are some small "spurs" above the cable at the top right as well as strong marks left from the original engraving below the cable.



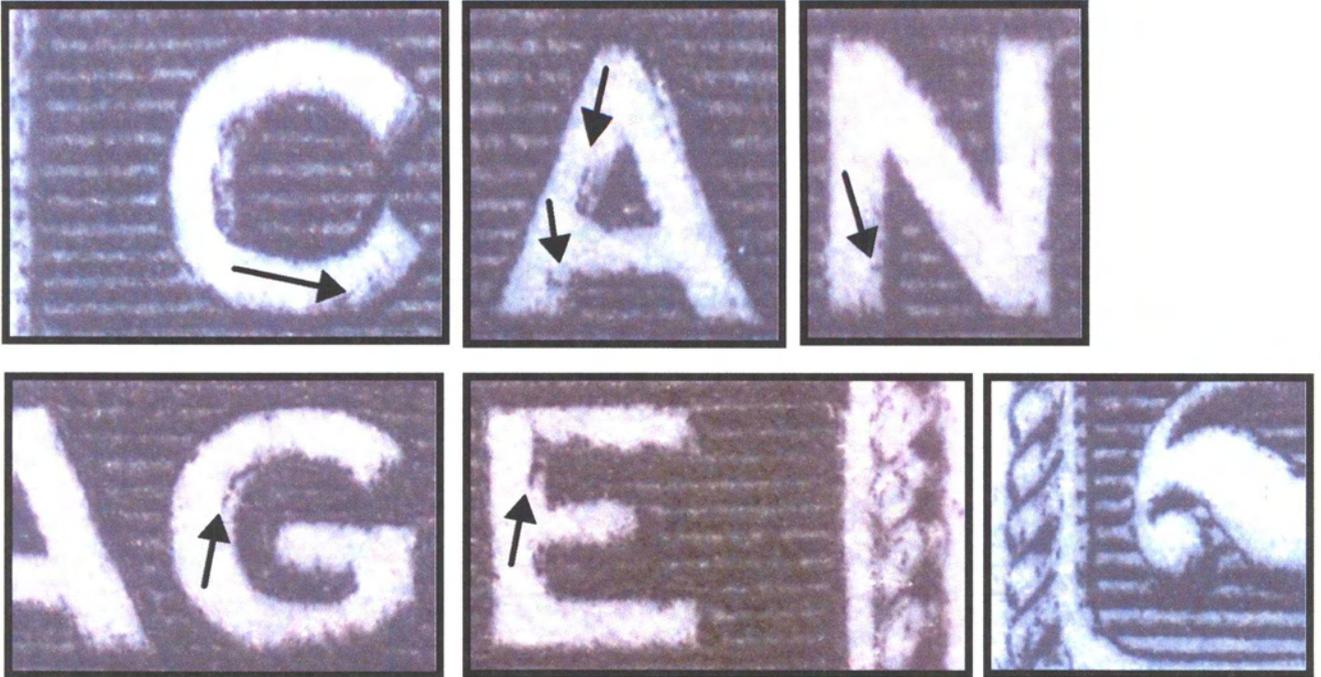
Right Numeral Box (RNB)



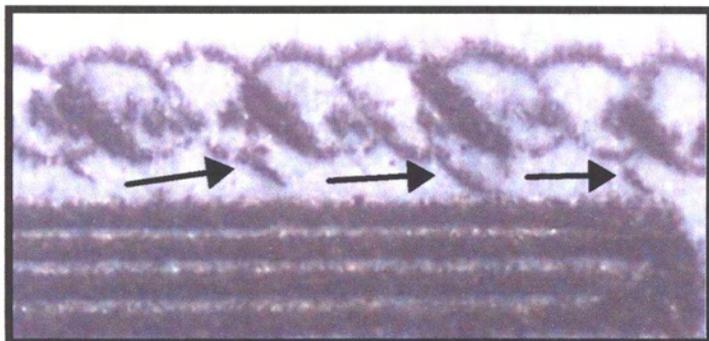
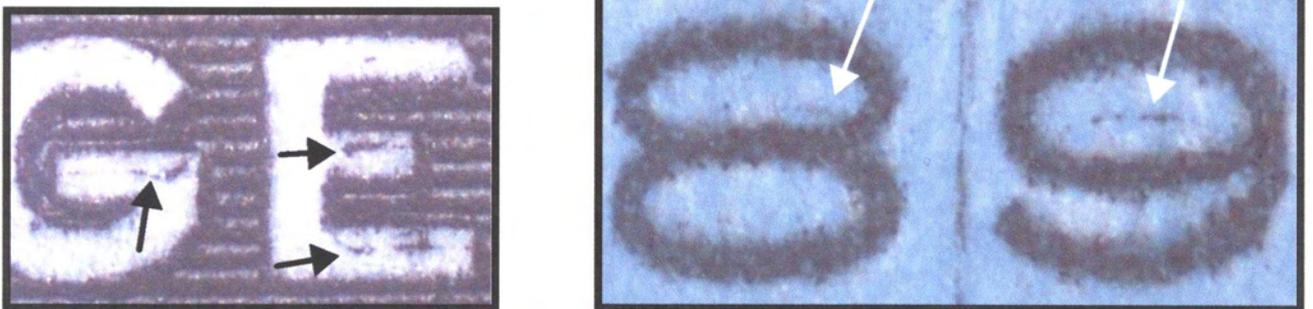
Top Right Cable

Pos. 1A-89

In addition to the characteristics listed by Bradley, the main additional features are the line extensions into the "2" of the left-hand value tablet. The re-entry is slightly to the right so that parts of the original engraving can be seen as line extensions. There is incomplete erasure throughout "CANADA POSTAGE" with remnants of the line extensions clearly seen in "C", "A", "N", "G" & "E". There is also a faint doubling in "89" of 1898.



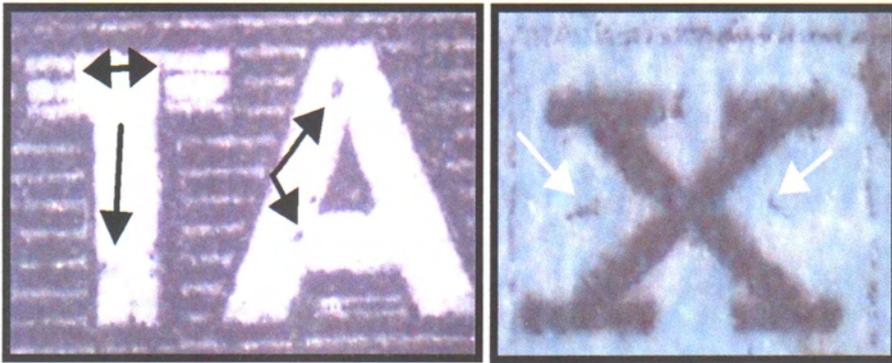
Pos. 2A-9



There is evidence of the re-entry throughout "CANADA POSTAGE", the re-entry being above the erased image leaving very clear doubling in "G" & "E". There is also clear doubling in the "8" & "9" of 1898, and very obvious spurs inside the cable top right.

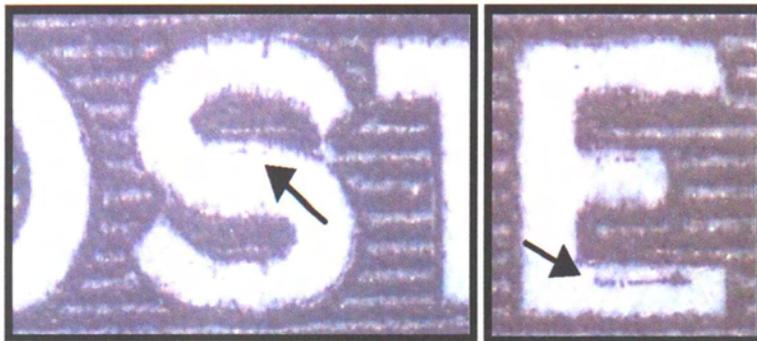
Pos. 2A-17

There is slight evidence of the re-entry throughout "CANADA POSTAGE" but it is very evident in "TA" as shown with the scans presented below. Francis Au has discussed the doubling of the "X" in Lavender copies but it is also present in Blue copies as Bradley suggested originally.



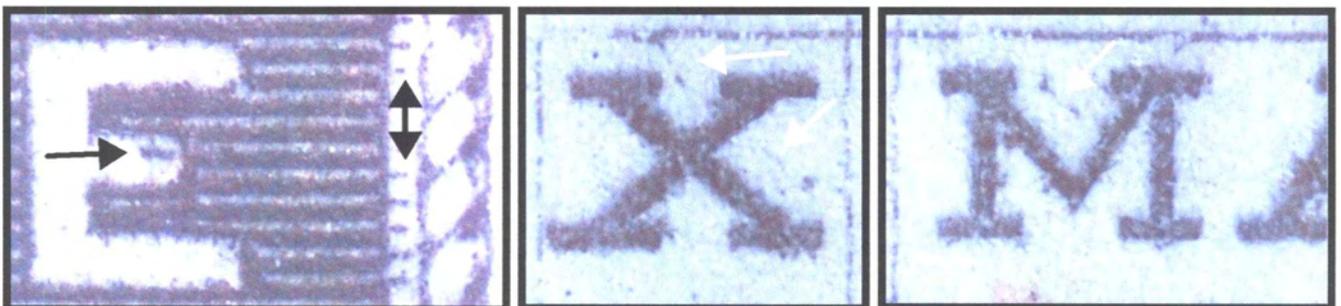
Pos. 2A-19

Francis Au has shown also the presence of some doubling in XMAS in this plate but with careful examination it becomes evident that the "M" and the "189" are also slightly doubled as the scans demonstrate below. In addition there are traces of the re-entry throughout "CANADA POSTAGE" but it is especially clear in "S" & "E".

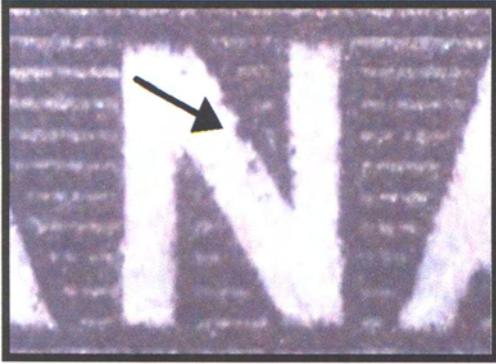


Pos. 2A-27

There is faint evidence of the re-entry throughout "CANADA POSTAGE" but quite clear in the "E" together with line extensions towards the right cable. Of considerable interest however, is the doubling in the "X" and the "M" of XMAS -see scan attached. This can also be seen with a x15 lens.

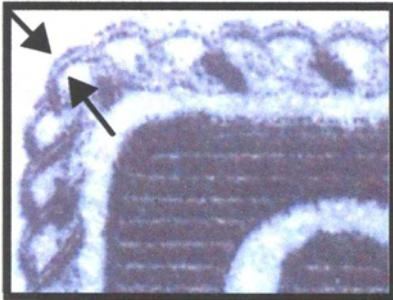


Pos. 2A-29



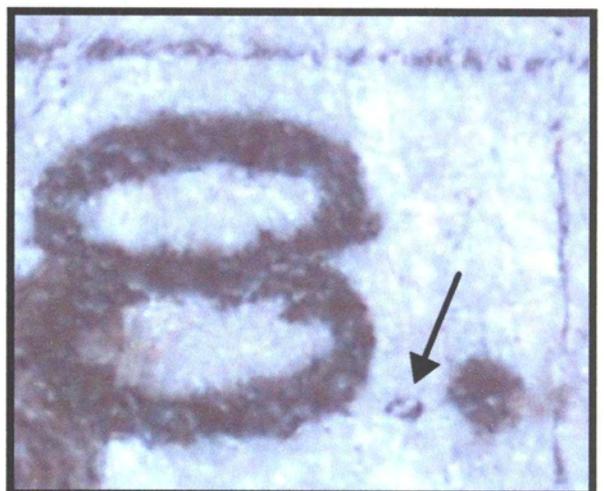
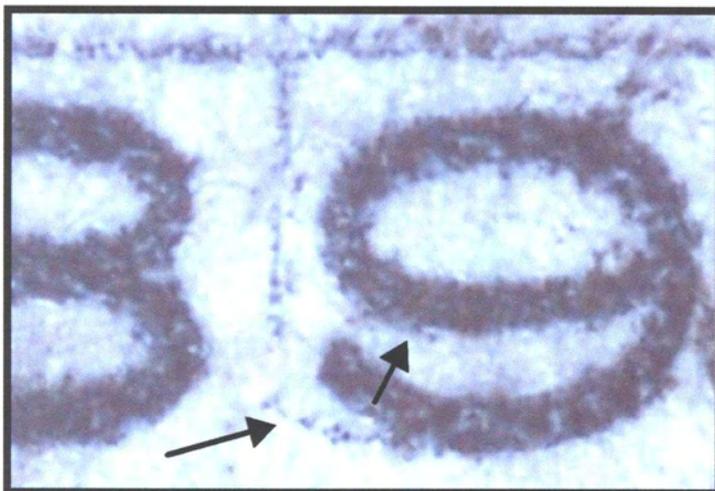
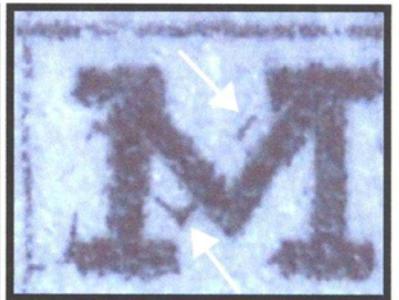
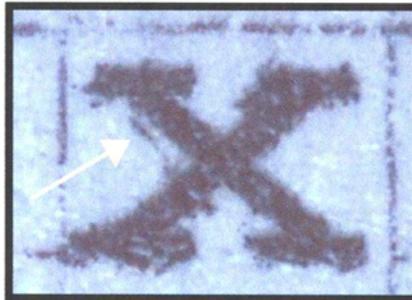
There is only faint evidence of re-entry throughout "CANADA POSTAGE", apart from the evidence listed already by Bradley, and line extension into "N" - see scans attached. This is equally true of the subsequent re-entries down to position 47.

Pos. 3A-47



There are virtually no traces of a re-entry in "CANADA POSTAGE". Bradley describes the top left cable as "fuzzy" but it is now very clear that this is an outstanding example of doubling 'echo' in the cables at both the top left, and extending along the entire upper cable.

Of considerable interest is the double "X" & "M" in XMAS ...



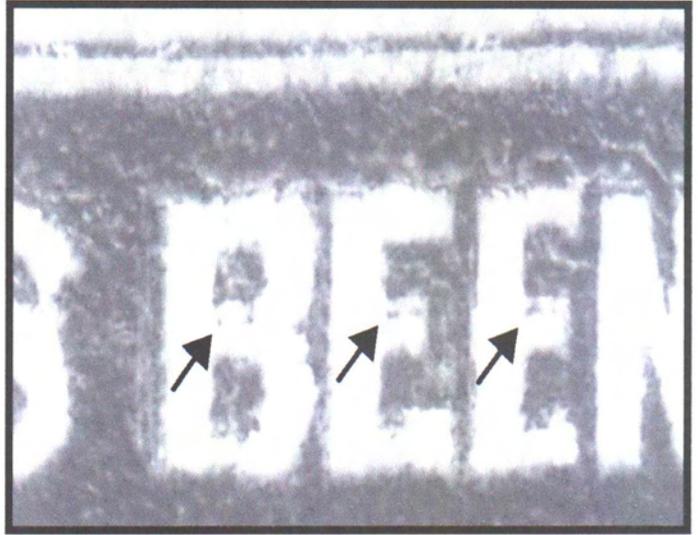
... and double "9" in "89" as well as the doubled period mark at the end of the date. The re-entry is to the right, clearly exposing all these incomplete erasures.

Two Previously Unreported Major (?) Re-Entries in Positions 1A-94 and 3A-21

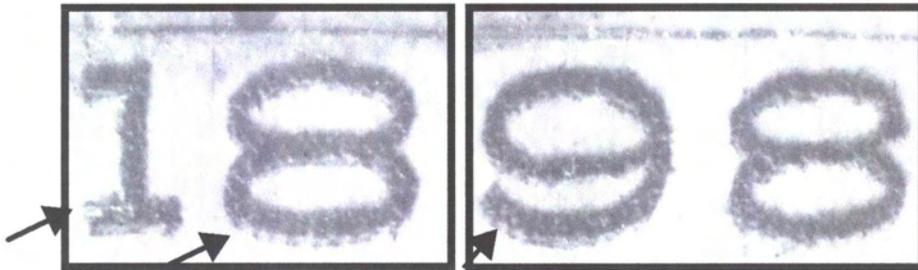
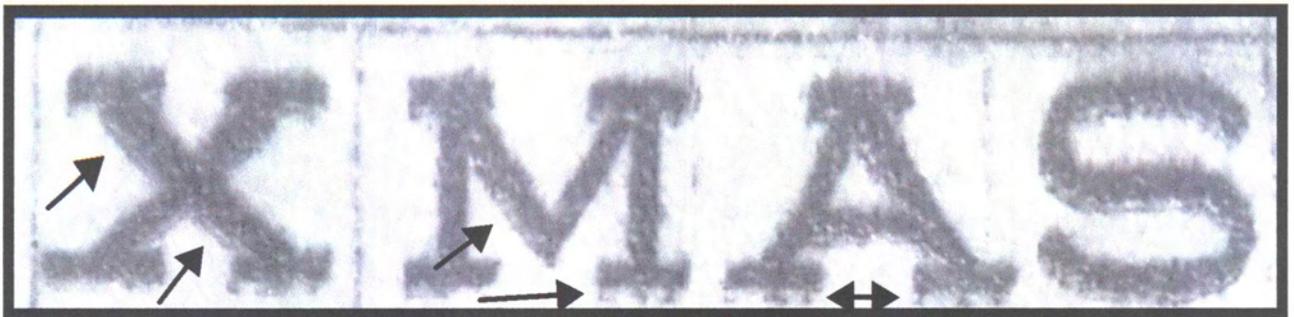
By Ken Kershaw (# 32)

Pos. 1A94

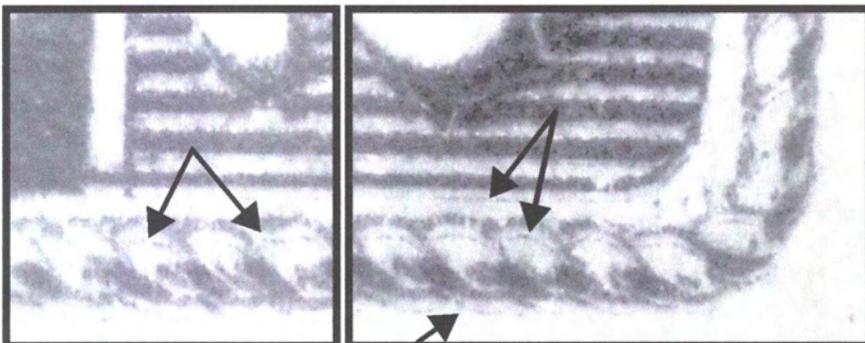
There is clear doubling of part of the lower stamp title "BEEN" with "BEE" showing beautiful doubling, the re-entry being just above and almost vertically above the original engraving.



Complete doubling of "XMAS1898" shows perfect doubling of each letter and number of the date, and the complete re-entry provides the nicest example of a Re-Entry I have seen in this stamp.

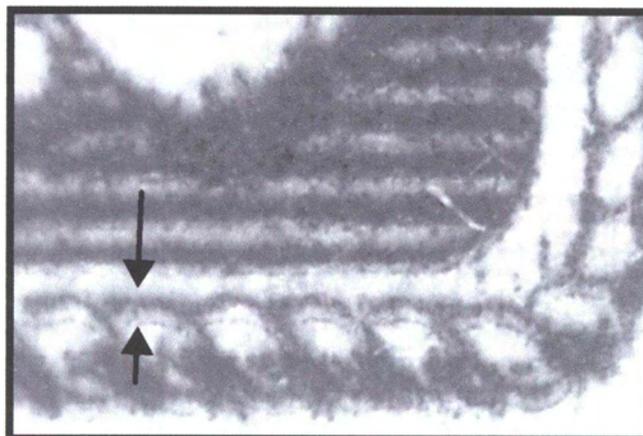
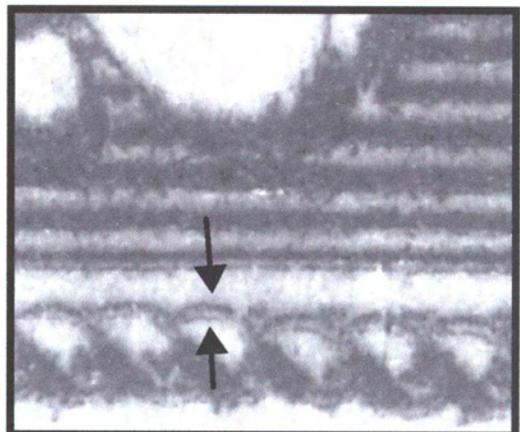
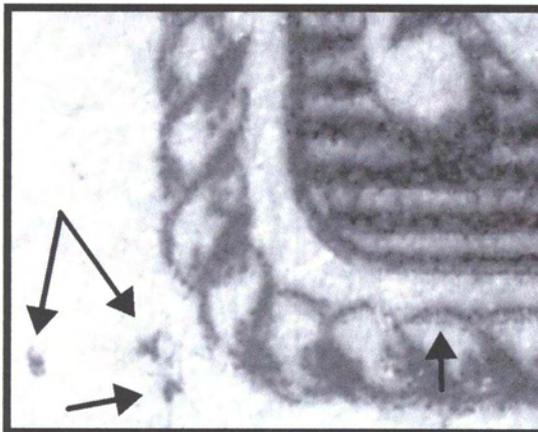
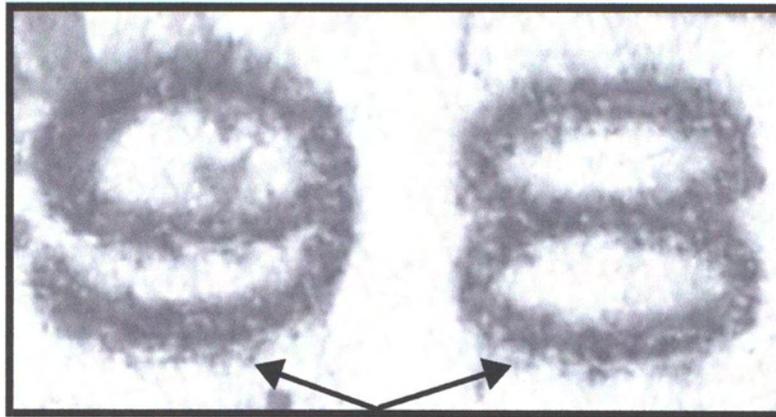


The whole complete length of the lower cable shows a text book mirrored image, with doubling also below the value tablet at the right. These characteristics are all shown using the Intel computer microscope.



Pos. 3A-21

Not quite as classical an example, but very strong doubling along the entire lower cable length with doubling also evident below each of the value tablets. The doubling is very marked in "98" again. There is also doubling of the line of latitude above "XMAS 1898" faintly visible. These characteristics are all given below.



VISUAL CONFIRMATION OF RE-ENTRIES IN POSITIONS 1A-93, 3A-20 and 3A-88

By Ken Kershaw (# 32)

Bradley expresses some hesitation over categorizing Tomlinson's discussion (page 26) of 3A-20... "the top portion of the map, under postage, shows clear doubling as if re-entered" as indeed a re-entry. After discussion with Ralph Trimble who concurred that it was, he included it in his re-entries (page 22) and categorized it as:

- Top cable at right doubled or fuzzy;
- Top two latitude lines and inner frame line doubled;
- Background hatching of Russia and Scandinavia doubled or fuzzy;
- Right cable retouched;
- Dot at L.R. outside cable

Bradley also discussed 3A-88 with Trimble and although Trimble agreed it was a re-entry (page 15) Bradley did not include it in his detailed list, simply describing it as... (page 63) "Doubling or fuzziness at top right including top cable, inner frame line and hatching of land masses".

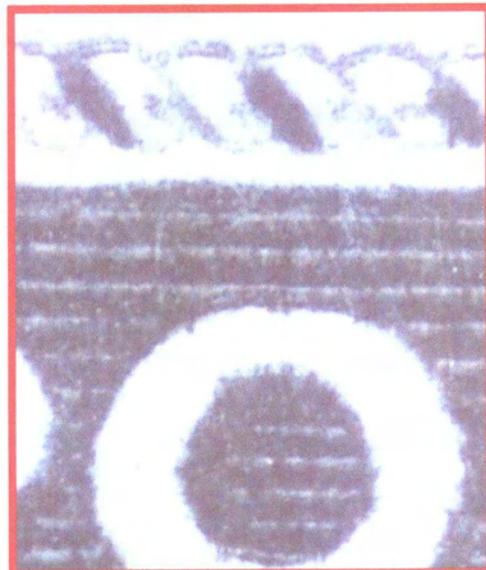
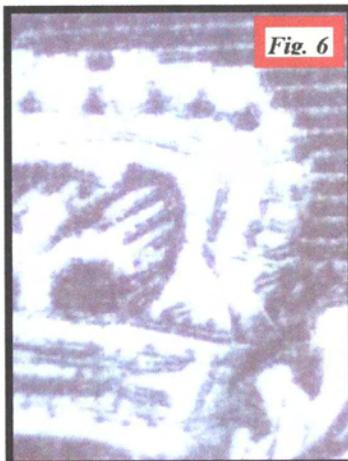
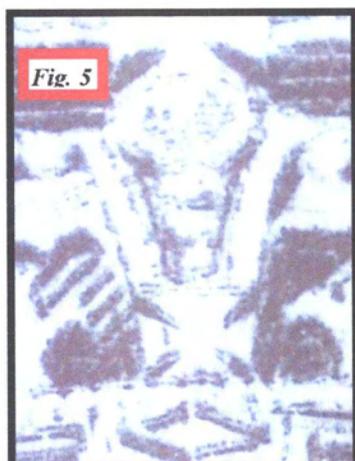
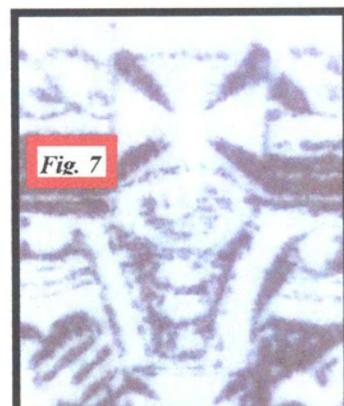
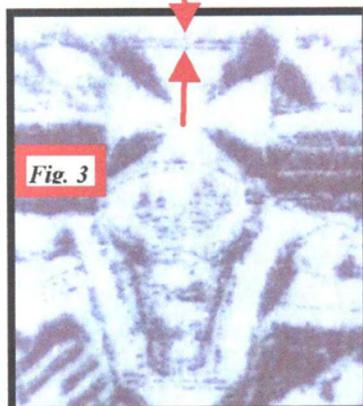
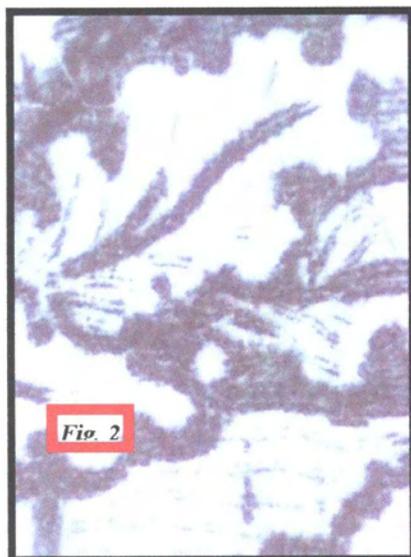


Figure 1. Doubling in the upper cable and in the area surrounding POSTAGE .

3A-20. Using the INTEL Computer Microscope, the doubled cable shows clearly as does the doubling in the northern hatched lines (Fig. 1). These show also very well in the scanned details of the leaves and area adjacent to the central Crown (Fig. 2) where doubled superb veins can be seen.



The whole of the Crown from top to bottom is also doubled (fig. 3-6). A scan of the central part of the Crown from 3A-10 is included as a visual comparison. (fig. 7).

Pos. 3A-88 also shows very clear doubling of the right-hand top cable (*Fig.1*) confirming Bradley's supposition of the re-entry. There is also good doubling at the top of the central crown (*Fig. 2*) although not as outstanding as in 3A-20. Again I have included 2A-88 as a comparison (*Fig. 3*).

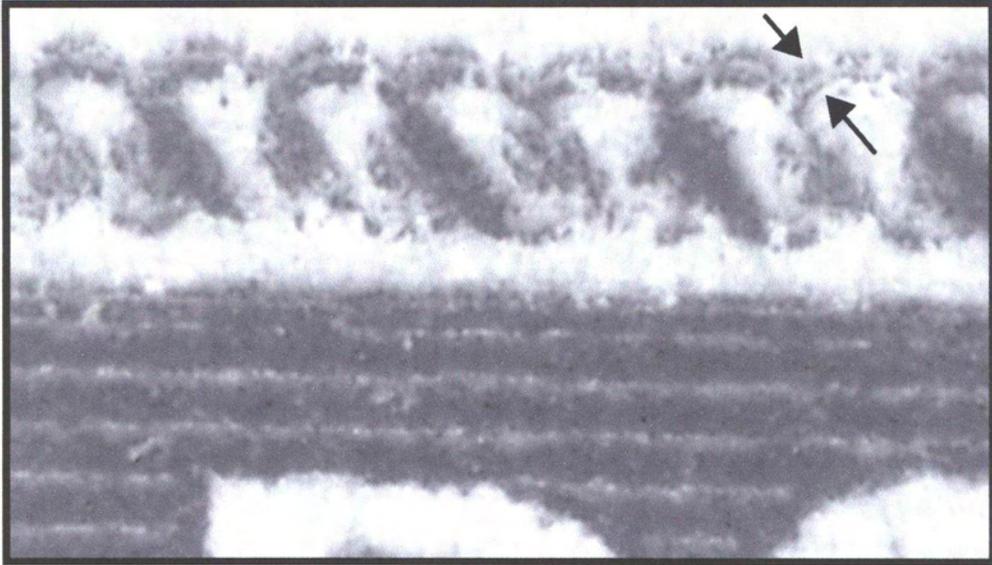


Fig. 1

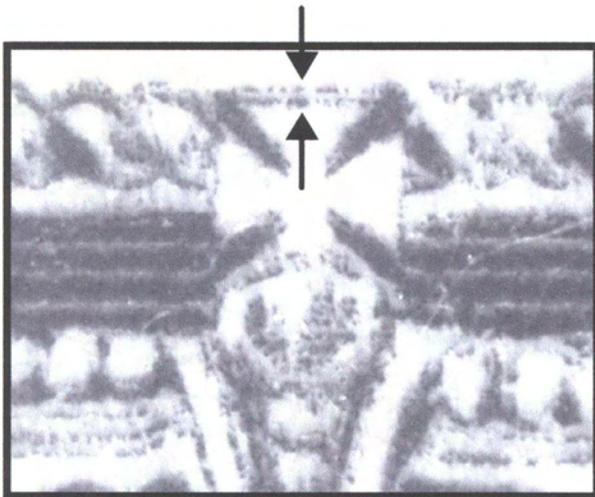


Fig. 2: Pos. 3A-88.

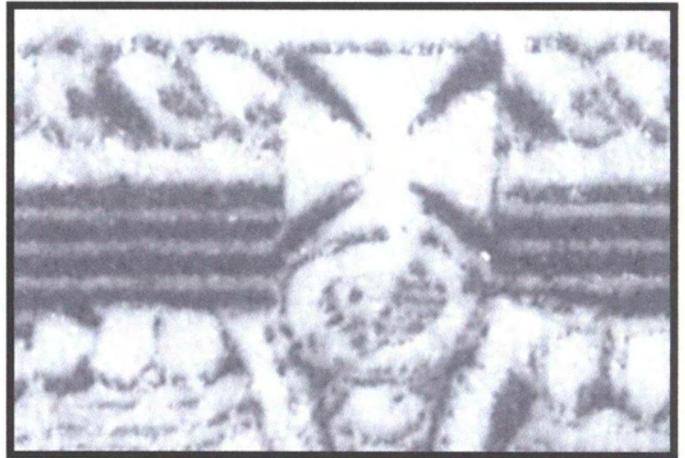
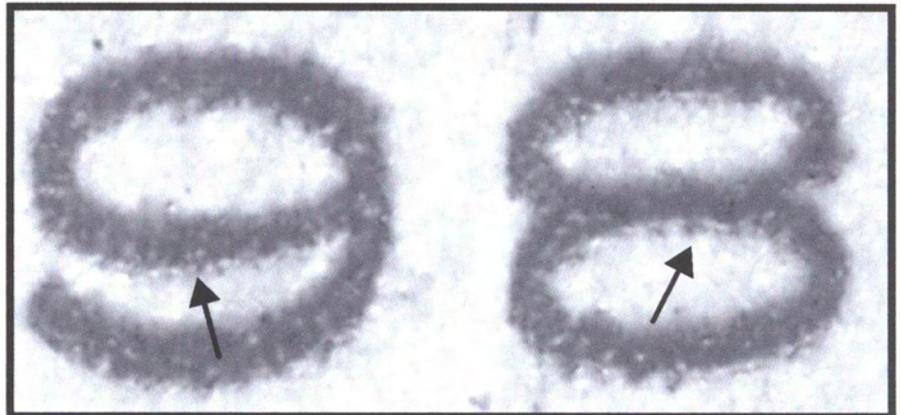


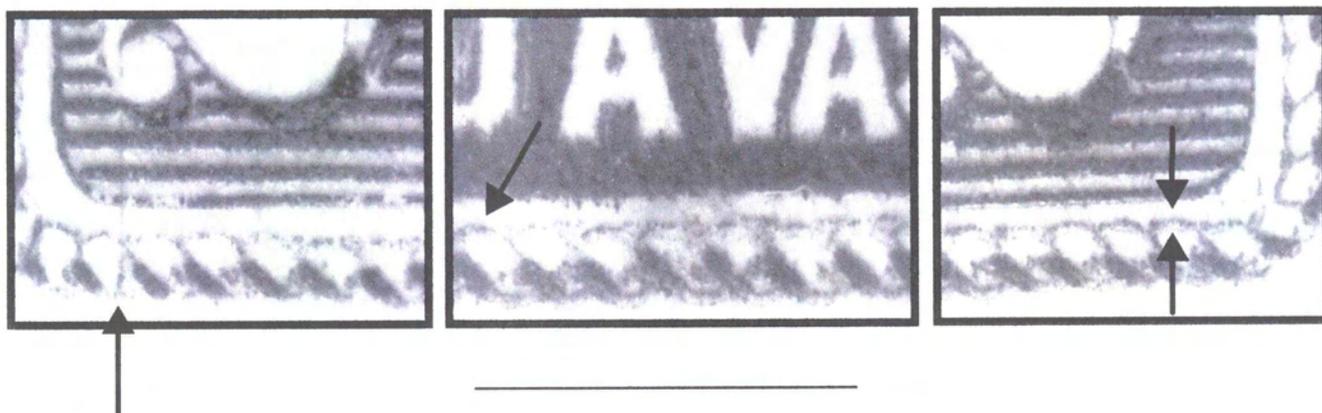
Fig. 3: Pos. 2A-88.

Pos. 1A-93

There is slight doubling of "98" in the 1898 date.



Position 1A-93 does not appear to have been previously identified as a re-entry although there is clear doubling particularly at the lower right, and the doubling runs almost along the whole of the lower cable. Of additional interest, there is a good vertical guideline running up through the left hand value tablet. These criteria are all illustrated.



EVOLUTION OF DOTS AND ISLANDS IN THE CANADA XMAS MAP STAMP: WHERE DID THEY ALL COME FROM?

By Ken Kershaw (# 32)

Both Tomlinson and Bradley were remarkably reticent about the source of all the wonderful dots, smears and lines, that are so important to those of us who plate this stamp. There was a suggestion that the larger colonies were introduced deliberately to enhance the actual size of the British Empire, but where did all the rest come from? My collection is still in its building phase and so I don't have any examples of plate proofs. I do have a pair of imperforate stamps (I am not sure though where these fit in the scheme of things), but they indeed are remarkably clear of any definitive criteria. Is this usual? I logically hypothesize that over the first few printings of Plate 1 detritus slowly accumulated on the electrotype plate, forming the initial smaller dots and islands *and these evolved over the subsequent series of printings* into the criteria that were so well organized by Bradley. He points out in numerous plate positions the addition or absence of criteria in specific plates and this indeed confirms that the plates were not totally static, but I am still left wondering if these dots and islands did accumulate, then the process seems to have been originally remarkably rapid and then reached an equilibrium?

Some light was cast on these thoughts recently when I acquired yet a fourth replicate of one of those stubborn stamps, which although it had quite outstanding criteria, it didn't fit anything perfectly. This was a group of Plate 1 issues, all pale blue, which Tomlinson suggests followed the first Lavender issues. Having failed to plate them I then tried a reverse approach and tried to imagine if these were possible pre-cursors, what could they develop into? This to my great excitement worked and I now append below a series of scans side by side of what I believe to be the two stages of evolution of a stamp, that I am sure you are all very familiar with.

The interpretation here of the developmental sequence of position 1A-82 is considerably strengthened by the presence of a double Tonkin dot that was overlooked by Bradley. This is unique, since following my earlier articles, I have indeed surveyed all the Tonkin dot positions, thanks to a most generous loan of material that I was still missing from Roger Boisclair.

In addition there is a small tool-mark, due West of the Tonkin gulf, which is also absent from the other two plates. The final conclusive evidence that I needed is a single copy of a stamp, with the **double Tonkin dot and tool-mark of plate 1, but deeper blue**. It is unquestionably the later form of Pos. 1A-82, having a large Cyprus with the final "typical" shape of PIG Islands 8 & 9, BUT with **double Tonkin dot & tool-mark**, absent in plates 2&3.

Thus, I interpret the early (misleading) printings as Position 1A-82, which have the double slim form of Cyprus, the typical spur on Nigeria, the standard PIG rounded islands, a small slash well North of New Zealand, and a small projection to the East off the top of Tasmania together with a similar projection a little further North from the coast of Australia. Above all else, they have a **double Tonkin dot and marginal guide dot**. By the time the darker blue plate was printed, although the black plate criteria remained unchanged, the shape of PIG 8 and 9, Cyprus, and the slash North of New Zealand had already changed to the standard form. The spur off Australia became a dot and the projection off Tasmania less linear and more rounded. This was then the standard format for Plates 2 and 3. I have considered that these changes could be induced by excess inking of the later plates, which should then produce a **mixture** of forms in Plates 2 and 3, but not with **all** of them in the secondary state. The requirement for additional detritus to accumulate over time would seem to be quite necessary. Unless of course someone out there has examples of Pos. 2A-82 or 3A-82 with a **double Cyprus, standard rounded PIG Islands 8 & 9, and a thin slash well separated from New Zealand?** **I look forward to your comments.** The set of scans presented below are all x60 using the INTEL computer Microscope.

Fig 1. Early Plate1. In Pos. 1A-82 (left), there is a double Tonkin dot N-W of Hainan Island and S-W almost attached to the island, as well as a faint guide dot in the margin due West of the cable. In contrast, Pos. 2A-82 (right) has a single Tonkin dot and no guide dot.



Fig 2. In the early stage of Pos. 1A-82, there is a rounded form to islands 8 & 9 P.I.G. In contrast in later deeper blue stage of Plate 1 as well as in subsequent Plates, the classical oblong shape of islands 8 and 9 with often a line of dots just offshore N-E of island 9.

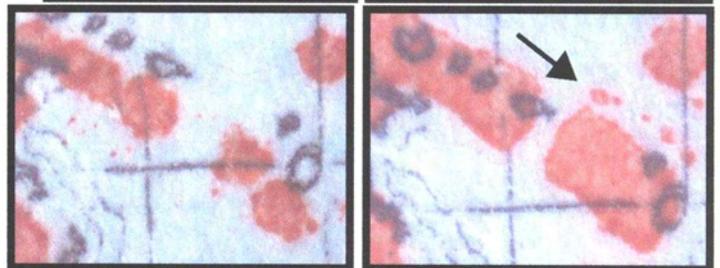


Fig 3. There is a typical double form of Cyprus in early copies of Pos. 1A-82 (left). In contrast: the massive shape of Cyprus in later copies, including Plates 2 and 3.

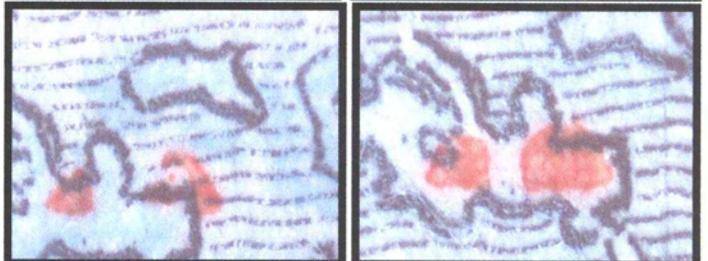


Fig 4. Pos. 1A-82 (left). There is a projection North from Nigeria and a thin slash N. from Kenya. More or less unchanged in all later copies although perhaps slightly thickened?

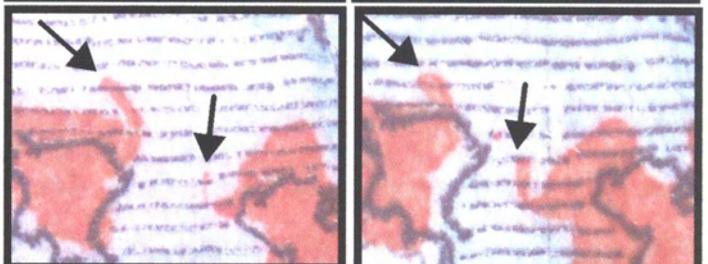


Fig 5. There is a thin slash well separated from New Zealand, with a projection to the East from Tasmania and Australia in Pos. 1A-82. In contrast: the final form with massive bulge to the North of New Zealand, small projection or separate dot East of Australia and a more rounded bulge to the East at the top of Tasmania.

