



PENCE-CENTS ERA STUDY GROUP

Of the British North America Philatelic Society

(Volume III, No. 1, November, 2015)

Welcome to Vol. III 1st Edition

Dear Study Group Member,

Welcome to the 5th issue of the Pence-Cents Study Group Newsletter. Anyone who collects stamps and/or postal history or even is remotely interested in this classic period is invited to join. If you are interested in fancy cancels, constant plate varieties, engraving errors/plate flaws, printing orders, DPO/RPO cancels, stampless covers, rates and BNA Provinces or any other area of early Canadian-BNA philately, you should find something of interest in our Group,

I'm going to the last CSDA Show out at the International Center today in Toronto to order the new Unitrade Catalog. I'm very excited to go but sad knowing that there will be no more CSDA shows. But events such as the World Stamp Show next Spring bring a lot of promise to the world of Stamp Collecting. The season has just begun and with the BNAPEX and some wonderful Auction Sales just past, it's off to a great start. I'm your new Editor, along with Richard Thompson, and I collect Victorian Stamps and Postal History. Please enjoy reading our first newsletter in too long awhile.

Jim Jung, Editor Pence Cents Newsletter

Designated as a "World Stamp Exhibition" by the Fédération Internationale de Philatélie (FIP), WSS-NY 2016 will provide all show-goers with a unique experience combining our passion of stamp collecting with the fun and excitement of everything New York City has to offer.



Hunting the 17c Cartier

By Jim Jung (fab4@rogers.com)



Figure 1 Very Fine Full Original Gum (exp VGG)

This stamp is one of the more desirable stamps from the Decimal Issue. It is a lovely shade of blue and replaces the very desirable 10d Cartier stamp from the Pence Issue. This stamp pays for the Cunard Rate to Great Britain and is seen most commonly on covers to GB and Europe. There were twelve (12) Printing Orders completed of 500 sheets each. There were a number of shades of blue ranging from bright to dull and light to dark. The Unitrade catalog lists Blue, Slate Blue and Prussian Blue. The Prussian Blue shade is described in The First Decimal Issue of Canada (Whitworth) as being from Printing Orders 2, 4 and 7. The closest shade to the Slate Blue is the Steel Blue from Printing Order 3. Therefore, I would conclude that the Slate Blue shade is scarcer. There were stamps made from all three Perforation Groups. Printing Orders 1 to 5A are perf 11 3/4, Printing Order 5B, 6 and 7 were perf 12 x 11 3/4 and the last 5 Printing Orders were perf 12. It's interesting that there were only 1000 sheets printed from the 2nd perf group.

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Hunting the 17c (continued)

There is a lot more to collecting this stamp than just getting a nicely centered copy and many collectors of the Decimal Issue know a bit about this stamp through catalogs. Get ready to see some of the more interesting copies of the 17c that I have found.

The most well-known variety from the Unitrade catalog for this stamp is the Major Re-entry at position 100 (Figure 2) of the plate. It is not that big a re-entry so it is normally hard to see. This makes it a good stamp to hunt for and I have found copies that were not described as a re-entry so I got one for the price of a regular 17c stamp. The main identifying feature is the doubling of the left frameline(s). If you get a copy that is centered to the right, you may see both the inner and outer left frameline doubled in the left margin, especially at the top. There are also re-entry marks in the letters of POSTAGE and within the inner oval above CENTS. There is a guideline that runs vertically up and down the entire length of the right column of the plate and portions of this can be seen on this stamp to the right of GE of POSTAGE.



Figure 2 Major Re-entry Position 100

The other well-known variety on the 17c is known as the **Burr Over Shoulder** from position 7 (Figure 3), or as Whitworth calls it, **The Balloon Flaw**. This variety is quite difficult to find as it only appeared in Printing Order 11B, 12A and 12B. This is approximately 750 sheets, at most, where this variety could exist, meaning there were no more than 750 copies printed. Normal stamp survival is about 1%, One percent of 750 is 7.5 copies. I rarely see this variety at auction so I would be surprised if more than 30 copies exist today. The time period for this flaw is August 1867 until April 1868 when the Large Queens were released. This variety shows a large odd looking dark/light blue mark to the left of Cartier's head, just above his shoulder.



Figure 3 Burr Over Shoulder

The lesser known catalogued variety is the smaller re-entry in GE at position 5 (Figure 5). This re-entry can be seen in the letters GE of POSTAGE and in the outer oval to the right of GE and also to the right of S in CENTS. If you are fortunate to have the upper margin, there are strong guide dots at the upper right corner margin and at the upper margin near the left corner.

Now this is where philately begins because that's what we have in the catalog. What else can we look for when hunting for varieties of the 17c?

One feature of the 17c plate is the guideline that can be seen on the right side of the stamps from the 10th and rightmost column (Figure 4). Copies from position 10, 20, 30, ... 100 will have this guideline on the right side of the stamp. It is easier to see when you look at the white area in the outer oval to the right of the letters GE in POSTAGE and TS in CENTS but this can sometimes be seen vertically up and down just to the left of the right frameline.



Figure 4 Examples of the Vertical Guideline in Column 10. Left to Right: pp20, pp30 top, pp30 bottom, pp100



Figure 5 Re-entry in GE - Position 5

There are many small varieties listed in Geoffrey Whitworth's book: *The First Decimal Issue of Canada*. These smaller plate flaws are delightful to find and they give collectors a way to plate the stamps from this issue. Here are some of my favourites.

At plate position 1, there is a broken frameline at the upper left corner. This little anomaly in the frameline is small but obvious to the eye. That is what makes this a nice little flaw.



At plate position 6, there are marks in the second E in SEVENTEEN. These look like re-entry marks so this is a nice one. It's always good to get re-entries in the letters of the stamp. It seems to be a level up from having just a re-entered frameline.



At plate position 41, there are re-entry marks in and below the upper frameline at the right and in the top left corner framelines and in the letters d and g of 8d stg. Even though this is smaller, the re-entry is clearly visible.



I've noticed that 17c covers have become a premium item over the last few years. They appear less and less at auction and command a higher price than the other values, aside from the 2c. This could be because there are fewer 17c Cunard Trans-Atlantic covers. The Allan Line rate was only 12 ½ c compared to the slightly quicker Cunard rate of 17c though New York or Boston. This is a difference of almost 5c which was quite a bit of money in the 1860's. The 17c Cartier was used for the Premium Postal Service until the 15c rate came into effect on January 16, 1868.



Figure 6 - 17c Cartier on a ¼ ounce Rate to France, per steamer Asia departing New York on August 15, 1860 to Liverpool – Courtesy of Ron Majors

Beyond the premium service, the 17c Cartier was also used for Postal Service to Europe and beyond. These covers have become very scarce and there is a difference in the weight allowances. The 17c rate to the UK was for a half ounce where a 17c rate to France was for only a quarter ounce. Therefore, a half ounce letter to France was a double rate cover. This table from the Arfken/Leggett book, showing the Firby Census, displays the known double and higher rate covers to France. There are a few more known that have been found since the Firby Census was released but there are still very few to be had, likely less than 20. If you see a cover with two 17c Cartier's to France or Europe, then you'll know that this is a very rare cover. The covers in the table begin at 1862. Between 1859 and 1862, the single rate to France was actually 22c but this was not well-known. Covers paying this 22c rate are Extremely Rare.

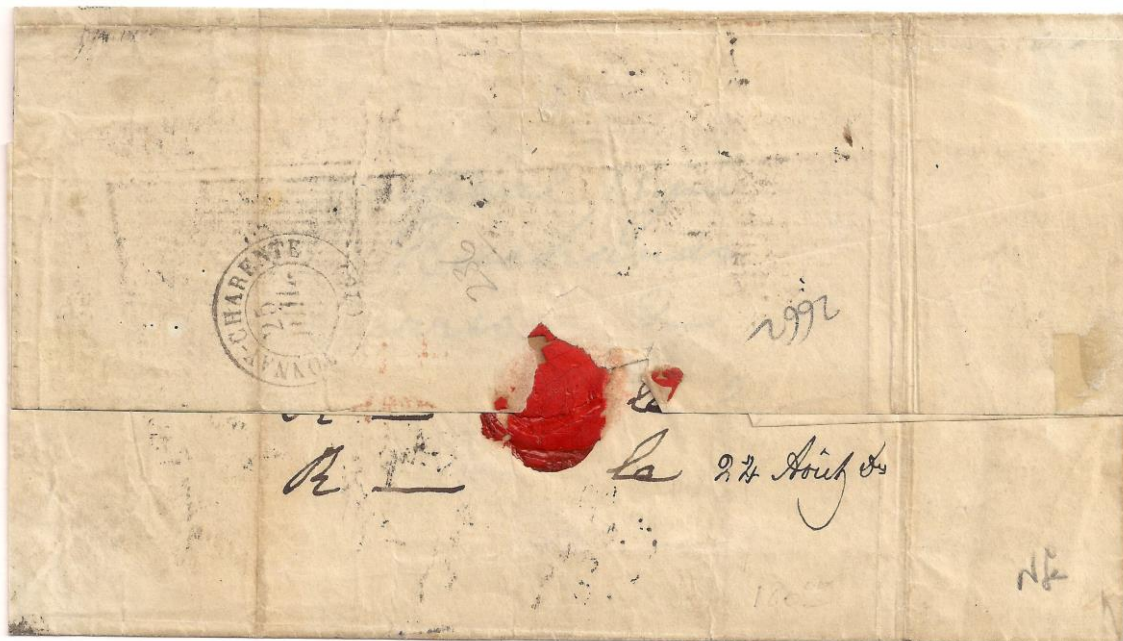
	Date	Franking	From	To	Reference
1.	JA 31 62	17 pr	Montreal	France	Figure 2.
2.	JY 11 62	17, vert pr	Montreal	France	M 95-429, 11/24/77
3.	JA 22 63	17 pr	Montreal	St. J. de Losne	M268-705, 6/17/92
4.	JY 8 64	17, vert pr	Montreal	Bordeaux	Chr-623, 3/19/93 Fig. 1.
5.	MY 12 65	17, 17	Montreal	Paris	Chr-632, 3/19/93
6.	JY 12 65	17, 17	Montreal	Paris	M268-738, 6/17/92
7.	AP 26 67	17, 17	Montreal	Paris	
8.		17, 17	Ottawa	Paris	
9.	AU 26 64	3 x 17	Montreal	France	M 87-329, 9/29/76
10.	OC 5 66	5 x 17	Montreal	Poitiers	M273-558, 12/10/92

Nos. 5 and 6 are fronts.
No. 10 was short paid one rate.

Figure 7 – Table showing known Double (or higher) rate covers to France (Arfken/Leggett – Firby Census)



1862 Cover 17c Jacques Cartier Vertical Pair, Group I Printing Order 4 Dark Prussian Blue Shade, paying the 34c Double weight Trans-Atlantic Rate to Tonnay-Charente, France and clearly tied to cover by two Montreal duplexes dated JY 11 62. Red London-LR/JY 23 62/PAID, CALAIS 24 JUIL 62 transits and red PD in oval with TONNAY-CHARENTE 25 JUIL 1862 receiver on reverse. Nice solid vertical pair and Fine example of the Extremely Rare double weight ($\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ ounce) to France. This Folded Letter was carried on the Allan Line Anglo-Saxon departing Quebec on July 12 and arriving in Liverpool on July 23.



References

The First Decimal Issue of Canada – Geoffrey Whitworth

<http://re-entries.com/> - Ralph E. Trimble

Canada's Decimal Era 1859-1868 – George B. Arfken and Arthur W. Leggett

When I visited Geoffrey Whitworth in 1993 he showed me his 10¢ consort reference collection. In it, he had one line for each printing order with six stamps per line. Generally three stamps of each colour, when there were two colours for the printing order, and two of each when there were three. Except there were only four stamps for the first printing order, and there were three lines of six stamps each, for the sixteenth printing order.

In his 10th printing order there were five red brown stamps and one bright clear brown red. The red stamp was perforated 11.9 x 11.8, the perforation you would expect for Printing Orders 10A to 18A, but the colour really stood out as different.

Geoffrey published the explanation in an article in Maple Leaves Vol. 24 No. 2, April 1995¹. In it, he explained that during the perforating of printing 23A four perforating pins in a row on perforating Machine 'C' (average gauge 11.9) were broken, one at a time I presume, producing the stamps in Figure 1. Machine 'B' (average gauge 11.8) was brought out of retirement to perforate the remainder of printing 23 in the vertical direction.

In 2008 I found a copy of a 2¢ Queen Victoria perforated 11.8 X 11.9 (Figure 2). My first thought was that it was from the second printing of the 2¢, but when compared to the 2nd printing, the colour was not right. So I went down the printings of the 2¢ until I found a colour match at the sixth Printing Order, normally perforated 11.9. Then I noticed that the sixth Printing Order had been ordered July 27, 1866, the same day as the 23rd order for the 10¢ Consort stamps. Thus I concluded that all the 2¢ stamps of the 6th order had been perforated in the vertical direction, and most in the horizontal direction, before the breaking of the four pins in a row on machine 'C'. The last few sheets were perforated 11.8 in the horizontal direction and I contributed a short article on this to Maple Leaves².

About five years ago a 10¢ Consort with four blind perforations in a row at the lower part of the west Margin was offered in one of Dick Lamb's catalogues and described as being from Printing Order 23, a duplicate of the stamps in Figure 1. I immediately telephoned and asked for this lot. When the envelope arrived from Dick my first reaction was, the colour is all wrong. I measured the perforations as 12.1 X 11.8. This did not fit with printing 23A either. So I started comparing its' colour to the stamps in Printing Orders 10A to 18A and found an exact match at printing 15B, which is normally perforated 12.1 X 11.8. So the phenomenon of four broken perforating pins in a row had occurred in 1864 with Perforating Machine 'B', before it happened in 1866 to Perforating Machine 'C'.



Figure 1 Broken Perforation Pins



Figure 2



Figure 3

References

- 1 Whitworth, Geoffrey, Perforation Variety on the 10c Consort, Maple Leaves, Vol. XXIV, No. 2, April, 1995.
- 2 Thompson, Richard, The 1859 Cents Issue (Part 3), Maple Leaves, Vol. XXX No. 8, October 2008.

In case you didn't make it to the 2015 BNAPEX Study Groups last September, Mike Smith has graciously given us the PDF from his presentation at the Re-entry and Constant Plate Variety Study Group Seminar with permission to publish this information in our newsletter.

Whitworth's Plate Flaws on the One Cent Decimal Issue

By Michael D. Smith (DotsScratchesNWSLTR@hotmail.com)

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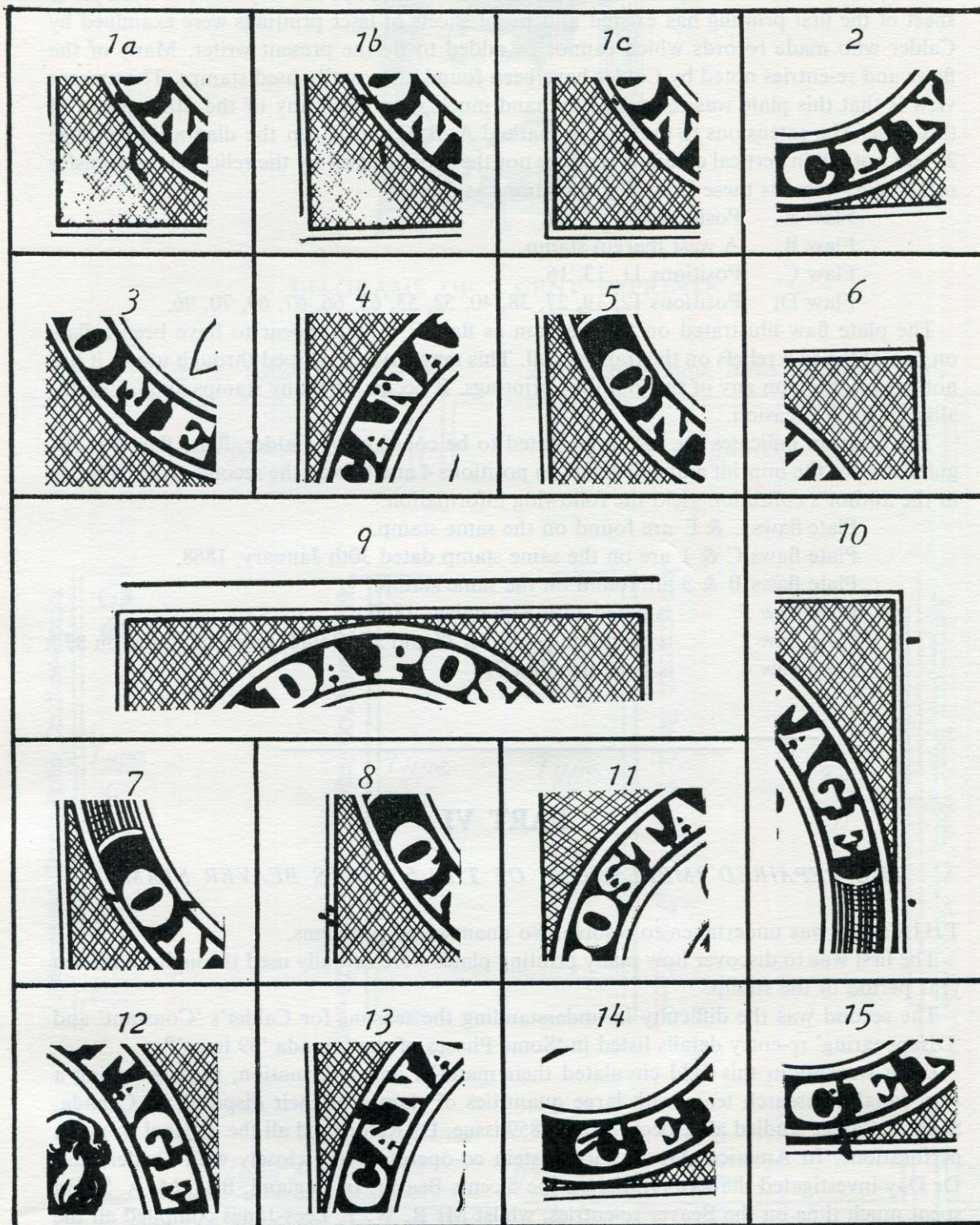
Flaw 15 and Flaw 1

Positions 37 and 38

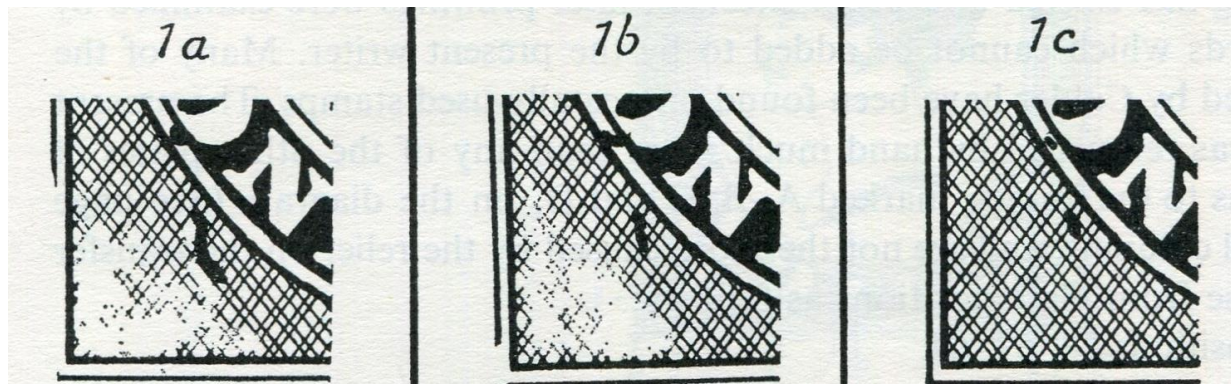
These images are copied from:

THE FIRST DECIMAL ISSUE OF CANADA 1859-68, by Geoffrey Whitworth, 1966, page 23. These and the enlargements that follow are used to illustrate the flaws present on the illustrated stamps within the following pages.

1 CENT PLATE FLAWS



Flaw 1: The "Q" Flaws



This copy is probably Whitworth's 1c.

Small dot resembling a line below the "O"
and faint irregular line in the cross
hatching below. This is position 38.
Unitrade #14iv.

Flaw 1: Another “Q” Flaw

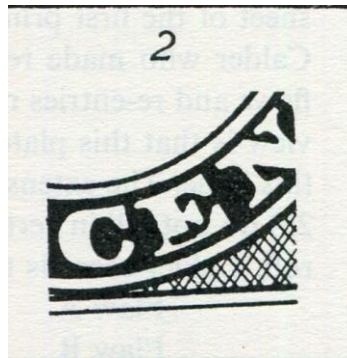


This example of the “Q” flaw is more distinct than the previous copy. This is probably Whitworth’s type 1b.

**Flaw 1a: Position 38 as it Appears on an Early
Plate Proof Sheet.**



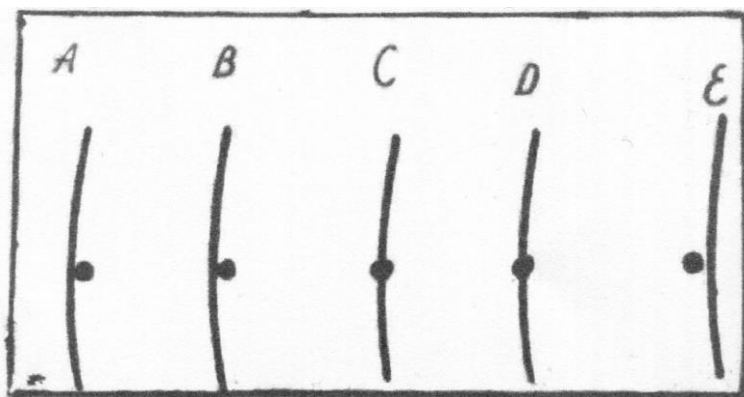
Flaw 2: The “E” Flaws



In MAPLE LEAVES in 1969, Geoffrey Whitworth discusses the fact that there is more than one position with the "E" flaw present, and speculates a transfer roll flaw developed at position 44 and possibly continues down to position 84 before being discovered and the transfer roll shifted to another relief to complete plate repair in 1864.

Later in the CANADIAN STAMP HANDBOOK for the First Decimal Issue, published in 1982, Whitworth mentions that this transfer roll flaw shows on positions 34, 44, 54, and 64. The 2015 Unitrade Catalogue lists this variety as #14v and states that it is from position 34.

The following diagrams and other information are copied from Whitworth's article in MAPLE LEAVES.



	<i>Type A</i>	<i>Type B</i>	<i>Type C</i>	<i>Type D</i>	<i>Type E</i>
Perforation	$11\frac{3}{4} \times 12$ 12	12	$12 \times 11\frac{3}{4}$	$12 \times 11\frac{3}{4}$ 12	$11\frac{3}{4}$ $12 \times 11\frac{3}{4}$ 12
West frame	Broken	Good	Weak	Good	Weak
East frame	Weak	Strong pf. 6	Weak	Strong pf. 6	Weak
Dated copies	—	1865 Mr. 1866	—	Ja. 1866 Mr. 1866	Mr. 1866
Plate position	54	54	44 14 & 34 have this posn. dot	44	64? 74? 84?

In order to have more accurate images of the position dots from position 34 to 84 in the fourth column I cropped these images from a scan of an early plate proof sheet that was made from the plate prior to the "E" flaws being entered. I believe the position dots are still representative of the ones on the altered plate.



Pos. 34



Pos. 44



Pos. 54



Pos. 64



Pos. 74



Pos. 84



The position dot on this stamp seems to match the dot on the proof from position 34. Unitrade 14v.



Although the cancellation obscures a good portion of this stamp I believe the position dot is just visible and appears to match position 34. Unitrade #14v.



When comparing the stamp position dot with the proofs, this stamp appears to be from position 54. This stamp has been certified as genuine with a certificate stating position 34 but the position dot is not correct for that position.



This stamp's position dot appears to match position 64.



Pos. 34



Pos. 54



Pos. 64

With only four copies to compare there are what seem to be differences in the “E” flaw shown in above images. The dot below the “E” of Pos. 54 is not a proven constant variety.

References:

MAPLE LEAVES, Journal of The Canadian Philatelic Society of Great Britain, ed. L. F. Gillam, Vol. 12 No.9. Feb., 1969 Whole No. 117, The First Decimal Issue by: G. Whitworth, pgs. 246-247.

THE FIRST DECIMAL ISSUE OF CANADA 1859-68, by Geoffrey Whitworth, 1966, Printed for The Royal Philatelic Society, London by White Crescent Press Ltd, Bedfordshire. Pgs. 17-23.

2015 THE UNITRADE SPECIALIZED CATALOGUE OF CANADIAN STAMPS, ed. Robin Harris, The Unitrade Press. Pg. 43.

CANADIAN STAMP HANDBOOK, Ed, Michael Milos, 1982, THE FIRST CENTS ISSUE 1859-1868. Geoffrey Whitworth.

Michael D. Smith is now well-known as the Discoverer of the third copy of the 2c Large Queen on Laid Paper and his presentation was taken extremely well, as there was a great deal of excitement at the 2015 BNAPEX on Sunday afternoon during the Study Group seminars when these images were presented by Mike.

We have only presented the first part of the presentation in this newsletter. Be sure to read the next Pence Cents newsletter to view the 2nd part of Mike's Re-entry and Constant Plate Variety presentation where he displays examples of Whitworth's Plate Flaws 3 to 15 and reveals some stunning new information on the 1c Decimal Issue stamp.

Application for Membership in the BNAPS Pence/Cents Study Group

If you have an interest in early Canadian and BNA stamps, covers and postal history including stampless, please fill out and return this form to Richard Thompson, 201 – 506 Grafton St, Victoria, B.C. Canada V9A 7P8 or e-mail a copy of this form to: rpthompson1939@gmail.com

Name: _____

Street Address: _____ City: _____

Province/State: _____ Postal/Zip Code _____ E-mail _____

FAX: _____ Telephone: _____

Describe your interest area(s):

Articles Wanted for Next Newsletter

Dear Readers, if you have something interesting in your collection that you would like to share with others interested in the classical period of Canadian philately, please send me an e-mail (fab4@rogers.com) and let me know if I can help. Articles on stamps, covers, revenues, errors, fakes, and just about anything in early Canadian philately qualifies. Whatever you are currently doing to your stamp collection is probably very interesting. Write a few words about it and share your story with us.