



Position 61 – 64 (Double Epaulettes)

PENCE-CENTS ERA STUDY GROUP

Of the British North America Philatelic Society
(Volume V, No. 2, August, 2016)

Dear Study Group Member,

Welcome to the 8th issue of the Pence-Cents Study Group Newsletter. We are always looking for new members so if you have any friends that you're willing to share this valuable information with then ask them to send us an email and we'll be glad to put them on our mailing list. The only requirement is a BNAPS Membership and a desire to learn and read about Pence/Decimal Issue stamps.

In this issue, we are continuing Richard Thompson's Printings of the 12 1/2c Value and my Hunting for CPV's on Cover. I think collecting Richard's article's together would make a nice reference for any Cents Issue collector. I am going to start another small column called **Postal History Corner**. This column will feature interesting, researched covers. Please read on and discover ...

Jim Jung, Editor Pence Cents Newsletter

BNAPEX 2016 Fredericton 30 Sept - 2 Oct. 2016



The BNAPEX is a fantastic Philatelic Show where the Seminars and Meetings are filled with learning, discovery and friendships, old and new. I had the opportunity to attend the show last year in Niagara Falls, and I can honestly say that the experience raised my collecting ability up to a new level with the ideas I found at the seminars.

Most of the Study Groups will have their Annual Meeting at the BNAPEX which is in Fredericton, New Brunswick this year. Our Pence-Cents Group meeting is at 3-4pm on Friday September 30 hosted by our Chairman Ron Majors. New Brunswick is the only officially bilingual province in Canada so feel free to speak French. It's a lovely small town atmosphere in this city of 100,000 people by the St. John River.

In This Issue.....

Page No

Welcome to Vol V 2 nd Edition...	Jim Jung	1
BNAPEX 2016.....	Jim Jung	1
The Full Stop 3.....	Mike Smith	1
The Printings of the		
12 1/2 c Value.....	Richard Thompson	2-3
A Decimal Rated Letter to Scotland		
but No 15c Stamp.....	Ronald E. Majors	4-5
Postal History Corner – A		
Canadian Connection.....	Jim Jung	5-6
Hunting for Constant Plate Varieties on Covers		
Part 2 – “Little Ones”.....	Jim Jung	7-12
Troubles with Perforations on the		
10 Cent Brownish Black.....	Jim McCormick	13-17
Great Bargains Can be Found....	Mike Smith	17

The Full Stop 3 by Michael Smith

VOLUME 4. THE THREE PENNY BEAVER PLATE PROOF B, Kenneth A. Kershaw, Ph.D., D.Sc., F.R.S.C., Privately Printed, pgs. 60-61 states the following: ***The Full Stop 3. Immediately recognized by the large dot to the right of the right hand "3". A number of other criteria readily confirm the position, particularly the flaw below the "C" of "PENCE", inside the white oval frame.***



Positions B29 – B30. This 3d pair was printed prior to the Imprint being applied to the plate making it an early printing. Later the Imprint would be in the right margin of B30.

THE FIRST DECIMAL ISSUE OF CANADA 1859 to 1868

The printings of the 12 ½ cents value by Richard Thompson

This is the second installment on this subject, the first installment appeared in Vol. V, No. 1, April, 2016.

Sixth Printing Order, 2000 sheets, earliest recorded use, 1862/AU/22

Printing 6A, dullish green is weakly inked and compared to 5B a lighter colour. Printing 6B is a similar colour but darker in appearance. Whitworth's possible period of use October 1861. The fact that Order No. 6 was perforated 11.7 confirms that it was printed before Order No. 7 perforated 11.8.

6A, perforated 11.7



6B, perforated 11.7



Seventh Printing Order, 2,000 sheets, earliest recorded use 1862/JU/06

Printing 7A dark green is weakly printed in a dullish green but darker than 6B. It does not look as bluish as earlier printings. This is the first use of perforating machine 'B' (11.8). Printing 7B is a similar colour but a trace of blue is introduced again.

7A, perforated 11.8



7B, perforated 11.8



Eighth Printing Order, 1,000 sheets, earliest recorded use 1863/MR/13

Printing 8A is yellowish myrtle green. Gibbons myrtle green is too blue and too dark for any of these stamps, but this colour, weaker and with some yellow introduced would describe this printing. It is much bluer than either 7A or 7B. Printing 8B is a similar colour but even more yellow introduced.

8A, perforated 11.8



8B, perforated 11.8



The printings of the 12 ½ cents value by Richard Thompson continued ...

Ninth Printing Order, 2000 sheets, earliest recorded use, 1863/OC/22

Printing 9A yellowish myrtle green is similar to 8B. This is the first use of perforating machine 'C' (11.9). The stamps are very clearly printed. Printing 9B has a lighter tone with a trace more yellow added.

9A, perforated 11.9 X 11.8



9B, perforated 11.9 X 11.8



Tenth Printing Order, 1,000 sheets, earliest recorded use 1864/FE/01

Printing 10A light green is very similar to Gibbons dull green, quite pale and weakly printed. This is the first use of perforating machine 'D' (12.1). Printing 10B is a fuller and deeper shade and a little bluer.

10A, perforated 12.1 X 11.8



10B, perforated 11.9 X 11.8



Eleventh Printing Order, 1,000 sheets, earliest recorded use 1864/AP/01

Printing 11A is still a weak printing of a light shade of dull green. Printing 11B is a deeper shade of a similar colour.

11A, perforated 11.9 X 11.8



11B, perforated 11.9 X 11.8



A Decimal Rated Letter to Scotland but No 15c Stamp by Ronald E. Majors

The cover depicted in the accompanying figure, at first glance appears to be a common British Packet (Cunard) rated cover to Scotland during the decimal period (1859-1868). The envelope is franked with three 5c Beaver stamps for a total of 15c. According to the Post Office Department Circular No. 45 the British Packet rate was 17c per ½ oz. effective July 1, 1859 (via New York/Boston) while the less expensive Canadian rate was 12 1/2c (via Quebec/Portland). Both of these rates remained so during the bulk of the decimal period. The cover would, therefore, be either a 2c underpaid Cunard cover or a 2 1/2c overpaid Canadian rate to England. Since the notation in manuscript on the upper left specified “per Cunard Steamer”, the letter was meant to be carried by a Cunard steamer and thus could have been underpaid. The mailer wanted to letter to get to Scotland by the most rapid means possible even though it may have cost a bit more.



However, in late 1867, the United Kingdom and the United States negotiated a new postal agreement, effective January 1, 1868, that made possible a reduction of 2c in the Cunard Packet Rate. Thus, the Post Office Department Circular No. 1, published on January 16, 1868, announced that the new rate was 15c per ½ oz (via New York or Boston). However, there were no 15c stamps available for this new rate until the 15c Large Queen was issued on February 22, 1868. Thus, mailers had to make do with the stamps that were available that happened to be decimals during a four-week period. According to the Firby listing [1], only two covers with decimal stamps have been reported including the cover shown here. However, Arfken and Leggett [2] claim that there were four decimal covers reported during this January 16 to July 1 period but did not elaborate on the franking.

The cover here was sent by George Brown from Toronto to his wife in Edinburgh, Scotland. According to the Hubbard and Winter [3] book, this cover was carried by the Cunard steamship Java which left New York on February 19, 1868 and arrived in Queenstown, Ireland on February 28. A backstamp on the cover (not shown) tells that the cover arrived in Edinburgh a day later, probably by a combination of local steamer and rail.

This study shows that one must research something that appears to be unusual in order to clarify the proper rate and frankings for the period at hand.

A Decimal Rated Letter to Scotland but No 15c Stamp by Ronald E. Majors continued ...

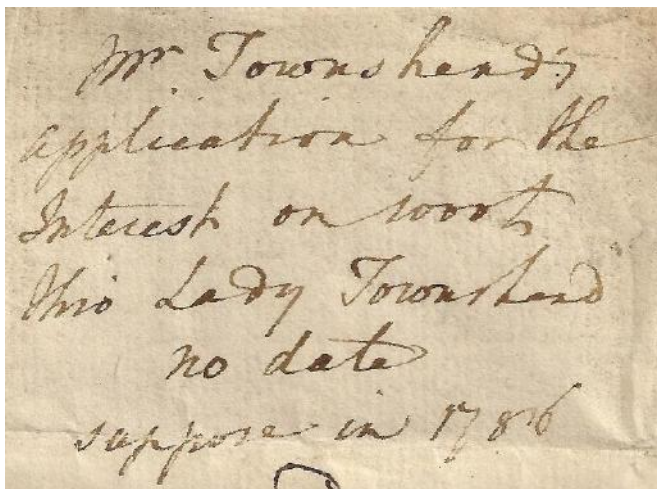
References

1. Charles G. Firby, The Postal Rates of Canada: 1851-1868, The Provincial Period-A Recording, C. Firby, Southfield, MI, 1976, revised Sept. 1, 1984.
2. George B. Arfken and Arthur W. Leggett, Canada's Decimal Period, Postal Usage during the Decimal Era, 1859-1868, 1996.
3. Walter Hubbard and Richard F. Winter, North Atlantic Mail Sailings, 1840-1875. U.S. Philatelic Classics Society, 1988, p.56.

Postal History Corner – A Canadian Connection by Jim Jung

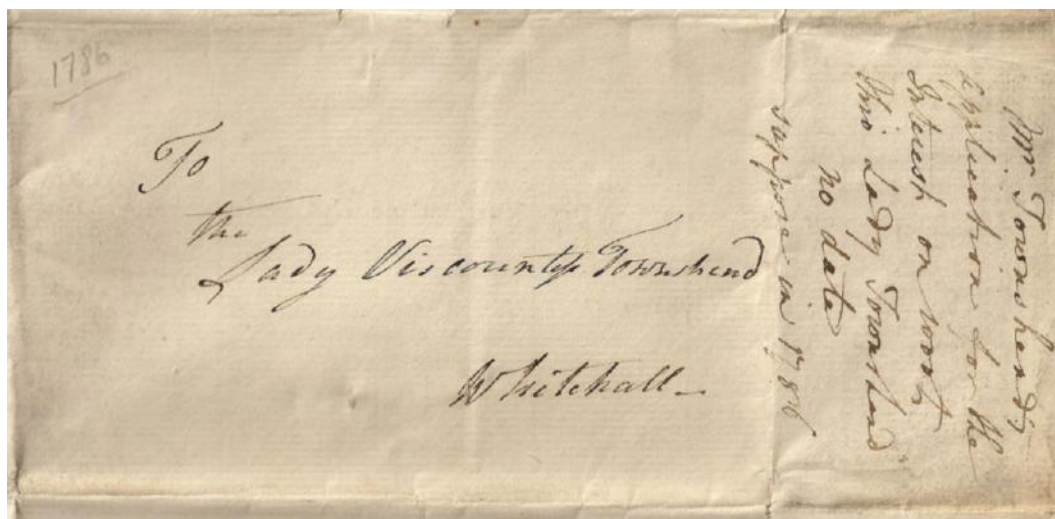
This is an old British Stampless Folded Letter with a Canadian connection. It is simply addressed: "To the Lady Viscountess Townsend Whitehall" with no postmarks.

I found this in a collection of older late 18th and early 19th Century GB stampless letters. There is no date, but from the original collector there is a note in pen and ink stating "suppose in 1786".



Mr. Townshend's
application for the
Interest on 1000000
This Lady Townshend
no date
suppose in 1786

When I was researching the addressee, Viscountess Townsend from 1786, the name that pops up is Anne Townsend, who was the 2nd wife of George Townsend. At the time of the letter, Anne Townshend was Viscountess and then Marchioness a year after the letter. George Townshend was 4th Viscount and 1st Marquis Townsend, and was also a Field Marshal in the British Military.

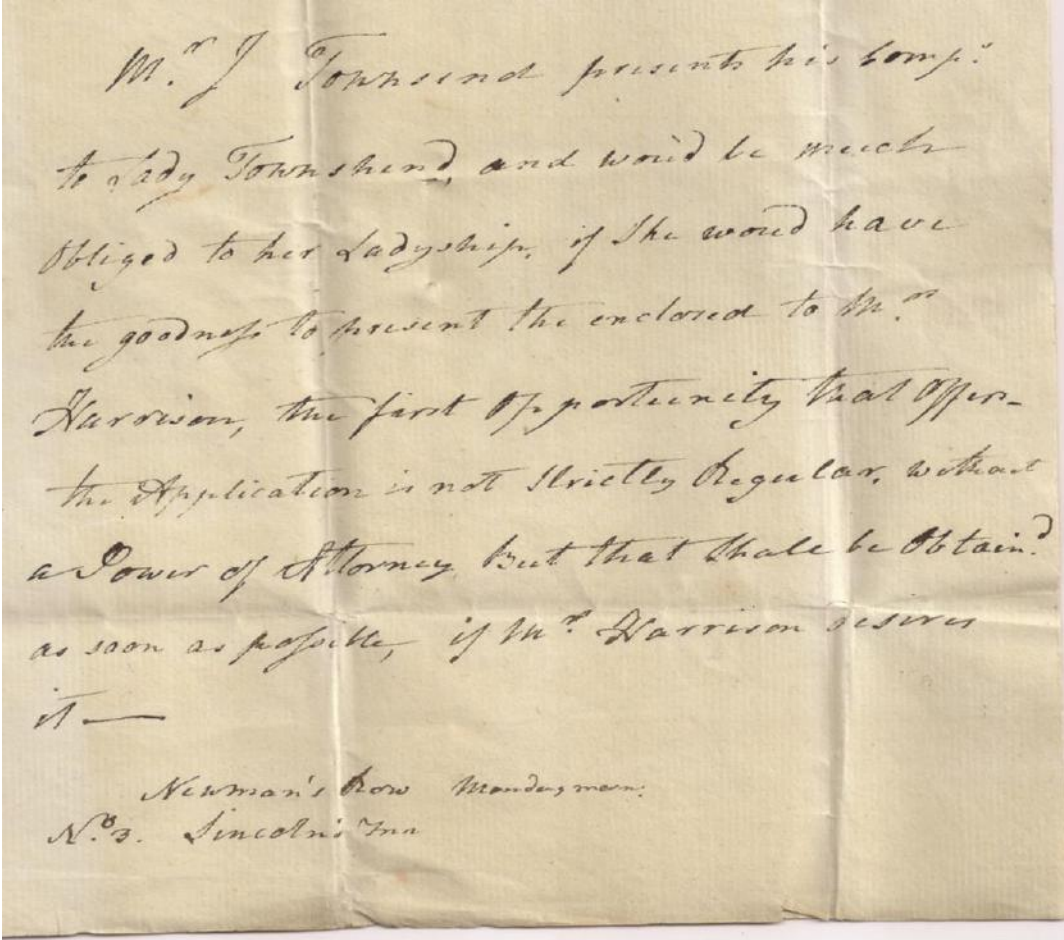


1786
To
the
Lady Viscountess Townsend
Whitehall.

Postal History Corner – A Canadian Connection
by Jim Jung continued ...

As a Field Marshall, George Townsend was given command of a brigade in Quebec under General James Wolfe in the Seven Year's War (1756-1763), where the British attacked disputed French positions in New France (Quebec and Montreal), Florida and the Caribbean. During the battle at the Plains of Abraham, when General James Wolfe had died, and 2nd in command Robert Monckton was wounded, George Townsend took full command of the British Forces during the famous Battle of the Plains of Abraham. It was actually Townsend who eventually received Quebec City's surrender from the French forces on September 18, 1759.

The letter is from Mr. J Townsend. This could be George Townsend's 2nd son, Lord John Townsend (1757-1833), by his 1st marriage to Charlotte Compton. He asks Lady Townsend (George's 2nd wife) to have his application given to Mrs. Harrison in the letter. This could be either his grandmother, Audrey Harrison, or a relative of hers, who would be surnamed Harrison.



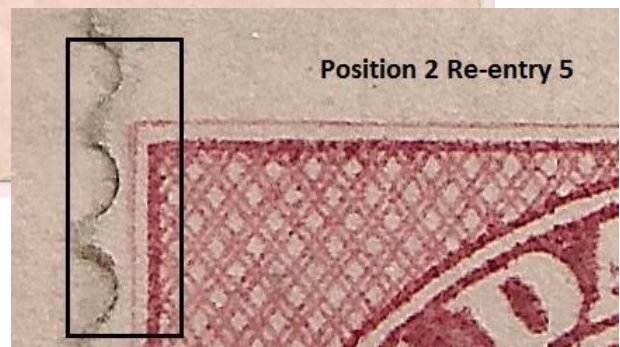
M^{rs} J Townsend presents his comp^y
to Lady Townshend, and would be much
obliged to her Ladyship, if she would have
the goodness to present the enclosed to M^{rs}
Harrison, the first opportunity that offers.
The Application is not strictly Regular, without
a Power of Attorney, but that shall be obtain^d
as soon as possible, if M^{rs} Harrison desires
it—
Newman's Row Monday morn.
N^o. 3. Lincoln's Inn

References

Wikipedia – The Free Encyclopedia: George Townshen, 1st Marquess Townsend
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George_Townshend,_1st_Marquess_Townshend

Hunting for Constant Plate Varieties on Covers Part 2 – “Little Ones” by Jim Jung

This is the 2nd part of my article on hunting for Constant Plate Varieties on cover. In the first part, I displayed some listed varieties like the 3d Major Re-entry A47. These are covers where the stamp is well known, and for the most part, these covers had been identified previously. For this Part 2 of the article, I'll present more of the same, but also some covers where the stamp variety is more specialized and not listed in the Unitrade Catalog. These stamp varieties are listed in Whitworth's Book, “The First Decimal Issue of Canada”.



#14vii 1866 5 x 1c Queen Victoria (two joined pairs and a single), paying the 5c Domestic Rate with a scarce franking from UXBRIDGE to MARKHAM and tied to cover with matching 7 RING circular Grids and nice double arc UXBRIDGE SP 19 66 despatch with nice WHITBY SP 19 66 single split ring transit and beautiful blue double arc MARKHAM SP 20 1866 receiver on reverse. Top pair at left showing plate position 2 and 3 Printer's Imprint in the top margin. The left stamp in the top pair also displaying Whitworth's Re-entry 5 (see close-up middle right). The single stamp at the right has the plate position 1 guide dot in the upper left margin. The bottom pair appears to be from a different sheet as the centering on the stamps is different.

Hunting for Constant Plate Varieties on Covers Part 2 – “Little Ones” by Jim Jung continued ...

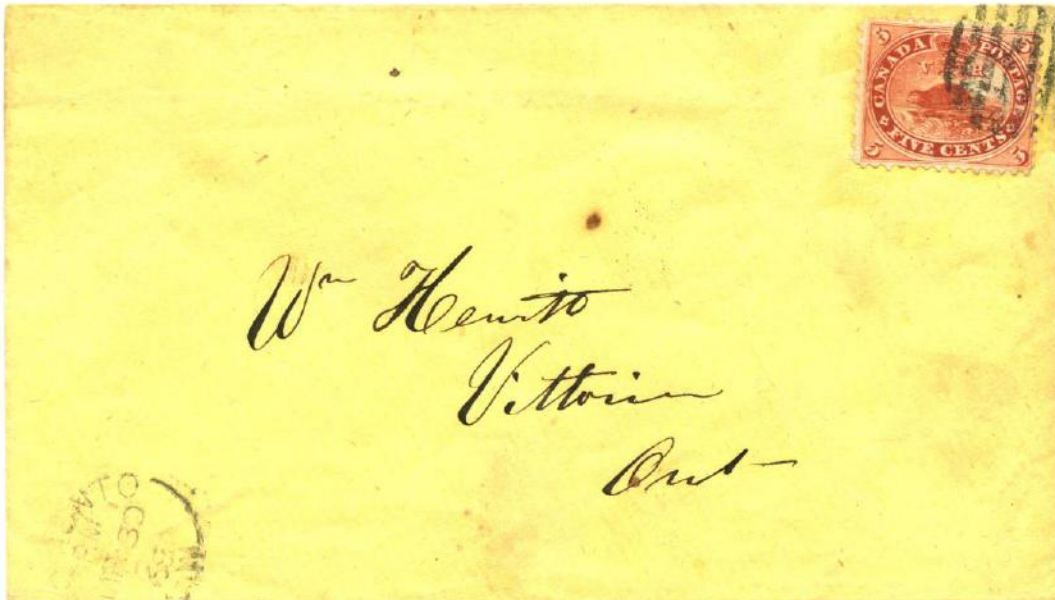


#15 var., 1859 5c Vermilion, “Burning Bush” variety, tied to cover to Granby by blue four-ring numeral “45” of Stanstead (Rarity Factor 6), with matching “Stanstead, L.C./DE 11, 1859” datestamp at left, Grand Trunk Railway DEC 10 1859/No. 8 and GRANBY DE 13 1859 transit and receiver postmarks on back and part of third transit backstamp, cover reduced diagonally at top, but still a very rare on cover usage of this four-ring numeral.

The Burning Bush variety is listed in Whitworth’s as Plate Position 10 with single guide dots at both upper corners and doubling of the right side of the crown as well as the letters POS of POSTAGE and right side of the R in VR. The variety is named for the blurred and doubled center tree underneath the sun.



Hunting for Constant Plate Varieties on Covers Part 2 – “Little Ones”
by Jim Jung continued ...



Scott 15v: - 5c The Major Re-entry (Plate Position 28), on light yellow cover with TORONTO circular split ring date stamp MR 30 68 and matching Toronto circular grid, dated two days before the release of the new Large Queen Issue, sent to VITTORIA, C.W. with SIMCOE, C.W. receiver dated MR 31 68 on back. Scarce to find on cover as this Re-entry has an observed usage after Nov 1867 according to Whitworth. The Large Queen issue was released on April 1, 1868 only 4 months later. Richard Thompson has seen undated copies from as early as Printing 6 used in March 1861.



Hunting for Constant Plate Varieties on Covers Part 2 – “Little Ones” by Jim Juna continued ...



Scott 14: 1c 1859 Decimal Issue tied to **Wm. Nivin & Co.'s Produce Circular, Per S.S. Bohemian** paying the 1c Circular Rate to Peterboro, C.W. The Prices Current is dated Friday A.M. July 3, 1863 Montreal with printing on the front indicating the routing was on the **Allan Line Steamer S. S. Bohemian** which departed the summer route from Quebec July 4 to Liverpool. The stamp has Whitworth's Re-entry 3 which is a small but clear re-entry in the upper left corner frameline; very scarce to find on cover.

The circular is addressed to William Cluxton (March 31, 1819 – February 16, 1901) was an Ontario businessman and political figure. He represented Peterborough West in the Canadian House of Commons from 1872 to 1874 as a Conservative member. Cluxton served as reeve of Peterborough. He was manager of the Commercial Bank at Peterborough and later president of the Peterboro and Monaghan Gravel Road Company, the Little Lake Cemetery Company and the Midland Railway Company.

WEEKLY PRICES CURRENT IN MONTREAL.

No. 9. MONTREAL, FRIDAY, A.M., July 3rd, 1863.

DEAR SIR,

Advices from Europe by the "Hecla," "City of Baltimore," "North American," and "China," have been received since Circular of 26th ult. The dullness then noted in Flour has continued; for, although the latest news from Britain rather tended to strengthen the market for Breadstuffs, the scarcity of tonnage restricted operations.

PRICES OF PRODUCE.

The equivalent Sterling quotations are f.o.b., calculated at 9 per cent. exchange, on outside values, excluding Commission.

	Currency.	Sterling.		Currency.	Sterling.
GRAIN, per bushel:—			ASHES, in barrels:—		
WHEAT		s. d.	Pots, per 112 lbs.,	\$6.00 to 6.05	per 112 lbs. 25 1
White Winter, per 60 lbs.,	\$1.04 to 1.06	per 480 lbs. 35 2	Pears,	6.80 to 6.90	" 28 7
Red Winter, "	1.03 to 1.05	" 34 10			
U. C. Spring, "	0.99 to 0.94	" 34 3	LARD, in brls., per lb.,	0.07 to 0.07½	" 34 11
Chicago Spring, "	0.97 to 0.98	" 32 7	in kegs, "	0.08 to 0.08½	" 39 6
Milwaukee Clns., "	1.01 to 1.02	" 33 10			
PEASE, White, "	0.64 to 0.67	" 22 4	TALLOW, in barrels, per lb.,	0.07 to 0.07½	" 34 10
MAIZE, mixed, per 56 lbs.,	0.49½ to 0.50	" 17 11			



Hidden behind the stamp is the word **BOHEMIAN** which can be seen with bright backlighting

Hunting for Constant Plate Varieties on Covers Part 2 – “Little Ones”
by Jim Jung continued ...



Scott 4v, xiii 1857 3d Beaver Pair, pre-paying the 6d Crossborder Rate from Dundas, U.C. to New York City, tied to Cover with a 7 Ring target postmark and addressed to *Yankee Notion Sewing Machines*. There is a DUNDAS OC 20 1857 double arc dispatch at lower left and no receiver (as usual) with covers to New York. **The right stamp in the pair has the position A80 Major Re-entry which is the 2nd strongest re-entry on the 3d Issue.**



I. M. Singer & Co. New York showroom of the mid-1850s, as illustrated in Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper, August 29, 1857; only manufacturing machines are shown in this illustration. (Smithsonian photo 48091-B.)

Hunting for Constant Plate Varieties on Covers Part 2 – “Little Ones”
by Jim Jung continued ...



The stamp has a noticeable **plate flaw** and **broken frameline** in the upper right corner.

John Dougall & Co.'s Produce Circular.

(Published Weekly, by JOHN DOUGALL, C. R. BLACK, and J. D. DOUGALL,
270 St. Paul Street.)

MONTREAL, 22ND Nov., 1864.

DEAR SIR,

We respectfully call your attention to the following quotations, and beg leave to offer our services for the sale of Produce in this market.

Wholesale Produce Prices Current.

	\$	c.	\$	c.		\$	c.	\$	c.
FLOUR:					BUTTER, per lb:				
Superior Extra	4.90	@	5.00		Ordinary.....	0.17	@	0.17½	
Best 4.50	@	4.50			Good	0.18	@	0.19	

Scott 14: Very Fine condition stamp tied to “John Dougall & Co.'s Produce Circular” and datelined in Montreal 22nd Nov., 1864 paying the 1c Circular Rate to Peterboro, C. W. It is addressed to **William Cluxton**, who became the **Member of Parliament** for Peterboro West from 1872 to 1874 and was a well respected businessman and president of the Midland Railway Company.

Troubles with Perforations on the 10 Cent Brownish Black **by Jim McCormick**

Background:

In my reference library, I have a re-printed article on the 10 cent Consort by Henry G. Saxton from BNA Topics Volume 8, #83 (Sept 1951), with a typed and signed letter from the author. In there, he credits a high profile study group for this issue in 1926 where 569 dated examples were studied. This lead to the discover of three perforations groups for the 26 POs (printing orders), classified as follows:

Group 1	perforated 11 3/4 x 11 3/4	PO 1-9	Mar 16, 1859 to May 31, 1862
Group 2	perforated 12 x 11 3/4	PO 10-17	Sept. 2, 1862 to July 9, 1864
Group 3	perforated 12 x 12	PO 18-26	Nov 28, 1864 to Aug 21, 1867

Mr. Saxton further wrote that "every copy one gets or sees, seems to be a different colour or shade from the one seen previously". That does seem the case given two or three batches of ink were mixed for most of the 26 printing orders.

The studies continued for decades which lead to a 1966 publication by Geoffrey Whitworth "The First Decimal Issue of Canada 1859 to 1868". While we have the two general perforations (12 and 11.75 perforations per 2 cm), Whitworth describes four perforating machines that were used at differing times through the Pence/Cents period, resulting in perforations that measure as low as 11.6 and as high as 12.1. They can be summarized as follows:

Machine 'A'	11.6 – 11.75	1859-1862	Ragged perfs
Machine 'B'	11.75-11.85	1862-1864	Clean cut perfs
Machine 'C'	11.85-11.95	1862-1868	
Machine 'D'	12.05-12.15	1863-1868	

Richard Thompson's continued research shows that Machine 'A' was retired in 1862 (rather than 1864 as stated by Whitworth) around the time that 'B' and 'C' were put into service. Machine 'A' should be the only perforation used for the first 7 printing orders, and the remaining 19 printing orders should all gauge higher.

Measuring perforations:

When taking measurements, the instrument used is of great importance. The Stanley Gibbons Instanta gauge is best for making fine measurements. However there are thick yellow ones which first appeared in the 1940s and the newer clear ones. Yellow gauges produce results that are roughly 0.1 lower than the clear gauge. I heard rumour that the clear ones are most accurate while the yellow ones had shrunk over time. If that were the case, then I would expect some inconsistency depending on the environment they were exposed to over the years. So I purchased three old yellow gauges from different parts of the world for comparison. Two measure between 9.8 to 18.2 and the third 9.8 to 16.2. All three produce consistent results, while my clear gauge measures higher. Regardless of which one is most accurate, the yellow gauges were used in Whitworth's and Saxton's time, and I used the yellow gauges here for consistency with publications from decades ago.

Troubles with Perforations on the 10 Cent Brownish Black
by Jim McCormick continued ...



Figure 1 - Measurement technique using old and new gauges

I find measuring perforations to be very finicky. The lines on the gauge are on the bottom side, and therefore the gauge must be placed on top of the stamp and held flat to prevent parallax. The perforation gauge needs to be aligned perfectly square to the stamp, which can be accomplished by using the left most vertical gauge line as reference. A magnifier with good lighting should be used to ensure accuracy. The gauge lines should run through the center of the perforation holes. The arcs of the perforations must be the reference points to find the centers. Both sides must be measured as one side might have been reperfected. Multiples are useful to get additional readings, but take care as creasing along the perforations or separation can throw off the results.



Figure 2 - 11.7 x 11.7 - (2nd printing order)

Figure 1 shows the horizontal measurement for a 16th printing order, and how the old thick yellow gauge measures 11.9 while the new clear gauge measures 12.0. If you have the newer clear gauge, subtract 0.1 from your measurement for comparison against most publishing's.

Figures 2, 3 and 4 show multiples from each of the three perforation groups. Figure 2 was perforated by machine 'A' on all sides. Figure 3 was perforated vertically by machine 'B' and horizontally by machine 'D'. Figure 4 was perforated by machine 'C' on all sides.

Troubles with Perforations on the 10 Cent Brownish Black
by Jim McCormick continued ...

Re-perforated stamps:

Figure 5 shows an example of a pair from the 9th printing order where the perforations at top and left are not genuine. Likely the vertical perforations at far right have been tampered with, probably to remove perf chad that was not cleanly punched. The only perforations usable for measurement are along the bottom, and the vertical ones between the pair.

Re-perfs are done usually to clean up the appearance of the stamp by improving centering or to remove a fault in the margin. Unfortunate for this example, the re-perf job detracts from the string-of-pearls variety on the right stamp (plate position 3)!

Here are the things that identify the re-perf:

1. Margins are abnormally tight (stamps are small).
2. Cleanly scissor cut along perforations at top and left.
3. Perforations at left do not form a perfect straight line.
4. Perforations at left are not equidistant.
5. Perforations at left and top are very clean cut, while rough at bottom and right.
6. Perforations at top are not directly above the perforations at bottom. Others have pointed out that lack of alignment is normal, however from my observations, it adds suspicion.



Figure 3 - 12.1 x 11.75 (17th printing order)



Figure 4 - 11.9 x 11.9
(23rd printing order)



Figure 5 - Re-perforated
at left and top

Troubles with Perforations on the 10 Cent Brownish Black
by Jim McCormick continued ...

Mysterious perforations on the brownish black:

The two shades from the first printing order are very rich / dark, significant enough for an independent Scott catalogue #16. All of the later printings, many of which are brown, are hardly close in comparison.

Figure 6 compares stamps from the first printing order (top row) with others that have been confused with #16 or #16i. The first four from the top row are brownish black and the fifth is deep chocolate brown. The bottom row shows printings 4A "agate", 7A "blackish brown", 12B "rich dark brown", 15A "rich deep chocolate brown" and 19A "deep dark violet".



Figure 6 – shade comparison between Scott #16 and #17

The top row, if from the first printing order, should have perforations which measure close to 11.7 on all sides. But the horizontal perforations for the 2nd, 3rd and 4th stamps measure 11.85 to 11.9. The difference is subtle perhaps, but that places them in the second perf group done by machine 'C' horizontally.

How can this be? I do not believe they were re-perforated. The shades are correct for #16. But machine 'C' did not come into service until the 10th printing order more than three years after the 1st.

I do not think that 11.85 is within the margin of error for machine 'A'.

Perhaps the sheets were printed on a damp day in June, and the paper shrunk horizontally a little on a drier day.

Perhaps these stamps were printed in 1859 but were perforated with machine 'C', three years later (that's a stretch!).

Troubles with Perforations on the 10 Cent Brownish Black by Jim McCormick continued ...

I found some interesting articles on the 1859 issue and perforations in the BNA Topics archives:

- BNA Topics volume 3 number 4 (May 1946), page 64 "Perforations – 1859 Issue" by W. T. White notes that he has a 5c Beaver on cover dated August 1861 with perforations that measures 11.75 x 12 (having his perf gauge "eulogized by Dr. Holmes")

- BNA Topics volume 11 number 4 (April 1954), page 123 "Perforations on the 1859 Issues" by H. G. Bertram with Arnold Banfield had examined "some 2000 of the 10c Prince Consorts", and noted that "we were disturbed to find the distinctive stamps-red violet, of the last four orders, sometimes perforated 11.75x11.75 and 12x11.75." Also "we examined our imprint copies and also our late dated copies, and here again, we found 11.75 perforations".

I now call upon the assistance of the readers for ideas. If you have an early printing which perfs 11.85 x 11.75, I would appreciate a high resolution scan. Even better if it has a dated postmark.

References:

THAT TEN CENT ALBERT 1859 CANADA by Henry G. Saxton, in BNA Topics Volume 8, #83
THE FIRST DECIMAL ISSUE OF CANADA 1859 to 1868 by Geoffrey Whitworth,
THE PRINTINGS of the 1859 ISSUE OF CANADA by Richard Thompson, Pence-Cents

Great Bargains Can Be Found By Michael Smith



Unitrade #17v "Double Epaulette" Position 61

This stamp is listed in Unitrade as #17v with a catalogue value of \$1000.00 VF used. This stamp was listed "Buy It Now" for US \$19.59 with free shipping. The description said "*Canada SC# 17 Used VF+ Light cancel*" with no mention of the variety. The #17 lists for about \$200.00 in very fine condition. Very fine centered copies of this issue are hard to come by and all of my other copies of this variety are VG to Fine condition. This stamp is sound with one blind perforation at left and is a remarkable example.

References:

2016 UNITRADE SPECIALIZED CATALOGUE OF CANADIAN STAMPS, Ed. D. Robin Harris, The Unitrade Press, pg.44.