



# PENCE-CENTS ERA STUDY GROUP

Of the British North America Philatelic Society

(Volume VI, No. 2, May, 2017)

Dear Study Group Member,

Welcome to the 10<sup>th</sup> issue of the Pence-Cents Study Group Newsletter. Spring has sprung and the Stamp Shows are plentiful so make plans and support your local show. Stamp Shows are becoming much more than just about the Dealers and the Exhibits. There are Presentations, Club Meetings, Dinners and Tourist styled Sightseeing Tours. Such fun with people, friends and fellow collectors. Hope you attend one or two this year. The Canadian Stamp News lists all the Canadian shows on their website.

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.

Jim Jung, Editor Pence Cents Newsletter



This year's ORAPEX will be held on May 6-7 at the RA Centre in Ottawa. ORAPEX is part of the American Philatelic Society's "World Series of Philately." Leading Canadian philatelists are usually present so it can be a great learning experience and enjoyable weekend. We have in the past had meetings

of members of our group at this very special show and event.

Information about meetings of our group and other philatelists will be distributed as information becomes available. [Website](#)



The PHSC Symposium July 20-23 2017 will be held in the Hamilton/Toronto area. *"The PHSC introduces a new concept in postal history research, designed to increase collaboration amongst members, to interact, to learn from experts and each other. The event will span four full days, from Thursday July 20 to Sunday July 23. Centered in Hamilton, Ontario, we will visit several different sites of historical interest in Hamilton and the greater Toronto area at which invited members will speak about a variety of postal history topics. We will also host a National-level postal history exhibition as well as a bourse with fifteen dealers."* [Website](#)



## BNAPEX 2017 CALTAPEX CALGARY

BNAPS annual convention in conjunction  
with CALTAPEX

exhibition and bourse

Friday, Saturday, & Sunday  
1 - 3 September 2017  
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Calgary Hyatt Regency  
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Calgary, AB, T2G 5P6  
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## Royale 2017 Royal

This exhibition, sponsored by the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada, will take place at Hotel Montagne in Boucherville, not too far from Montreal, on **May 25, 26, 27 and 28, 2017.**

The 210 frame exhibition will be comprised of many prestigious exhibits of both postage stamps and postal history.

Many well-known Canadian stamp dealers will preside over more than 45 bourse tables.

Several activities will be appealing to Quebec philatelists including the annual meeting of Club presidents and a Volunteer recognition evening. [Website](#)



Brasilia 2017 is a Fédération Internationale de Philatélie (FIP) patronized World Class Show to be held **October 24-29, 2017** in Brasilia, capital city of Brazil. Brasilia is a spectacular city which should average 15° – 30° Celsius in October. [Website](#)

## Death Through the Letterbox: Early Canadian Mourning Covers by Ron Majors

Normally, mourning covers were used to convey a message of the loss of a loved one to family and friends. Those in mourning used letter paper and envelopes that were edged in black (below). Such mailings were often as much about etiquette as it was about personal grieving. In the absence of telephones, e-mail, texting and two-hour plane flights, it is important to remember that letters were often posted across great distances which, crossed once, were never retraced. Their use was prevalent in the mid-1800's into the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. The letter could convey announcement of the death, an invitation to the funeral or a reply/followup to a letter of condolence. In addition, black-bordered writing paper with accompanying black-bordered envelopes were also used as a personalized sympathy note to the bereaved. In the days of scarcity and expense of paper, sometimes left over letter sheets and even envelopes were later used for regular mail, even after the mourning period.



**Pre-Confederation Canadian Mourning Cover**, 5c Beaver paying domestic rate, ½ oz or less; DAILLEBOUT AU 6 66 dispatch; Upper Canada refers to present-day Ontario. Right: back of cover (reduced) with JOLIETTE AU 6 66, MONTREAL AU 8 66 transit and indistinct receiver.



This article is an introduction to mourning covers used during the decimal period of Canadian postal history. Mourning letters were used during the pence period mostly up to the Admiral period. The practice mostly died out during the 1920s to the 1930s but occasionally mourning covers are found even later.

### Anatomy of a Mourning Cover

There are two important characteristics of mourning envelopes. First, the width of the front border and of the back undulated flap border could vary from narrow to broad. There are several theories about these variations in border width [1-2]: the width is based on: 1) the relationship of the writer to the deceased; 2) the amount of time that has passed since the death; or 3) the importance of the deceased. Although not always present, another characteristic is the presence of a printed monogram, sometimes personalized, on the top flap. More often than not, for commercially available mourning envelopes, the monogram consisted of various flowers and flower arrangements. Some may also be embossed surrounding the floral design. The commercial monogrammed envelopes were more popular because they were cheaper and could be purchased locally. Personalized monogrammed envelopes were more expensive since they had to be ordered.

**Border Widths:** to illustrate the variation in black border widths, the figure below are scans of some of the mourning covers in my collection. To fit on the page, all covers were reduced but equally.





## Examples of Monogram Designs: There are three types of monogram designs:

### Floral Designs without Embossing:



### Floral Designs with Embossing



### Custom Designs (more expensive)



Initials

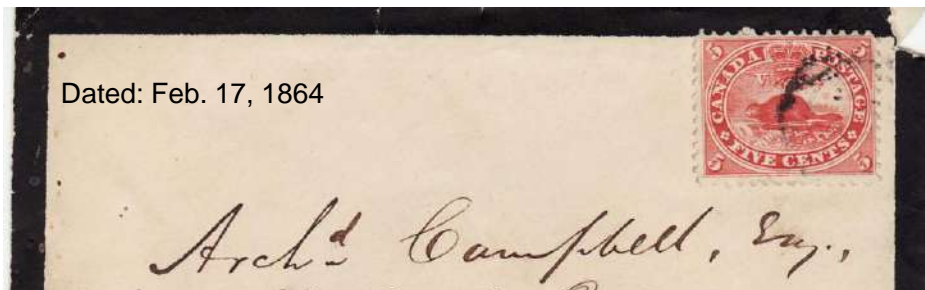


Floral

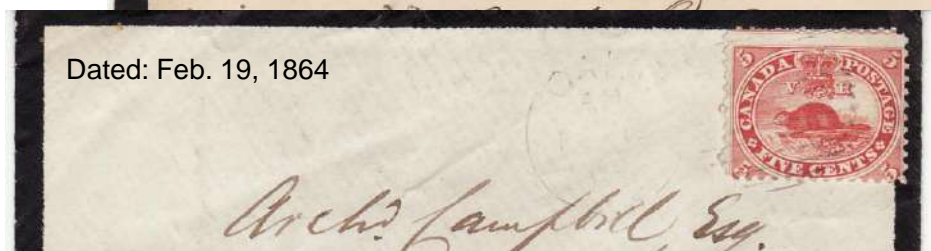
## A Series of Mourning Covers Related to the Same Deceased

Of the three theories relating to the width of the black border, the commonly accepted one is that the border width is inversely proportional to the date of death of the deceased (i.e. the wider the border the closer to the day of death). However, unless one has a complete set of mourning covers with a series of mailing dates or containing dated correspondence, it is difficult to prove this "theory". The author has not been able to find such a series of correspondence in over 30 years of searching. However, recently a series of decimal mourning covers were purchased from the same lot and may give some credence to the belief that the width of the black border is related to the time passed since the death. Below are a series of four dated envelopes (unfortunately not containing any letter sheets, which is typical). Note narrower bands as Feb. 1864 goes on.

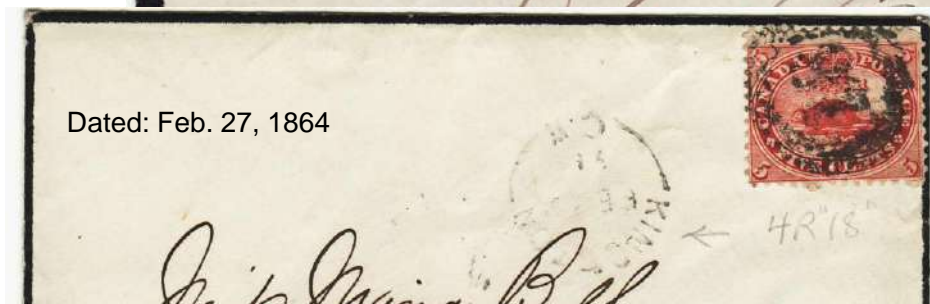
Dated: Feb. 17, 1864



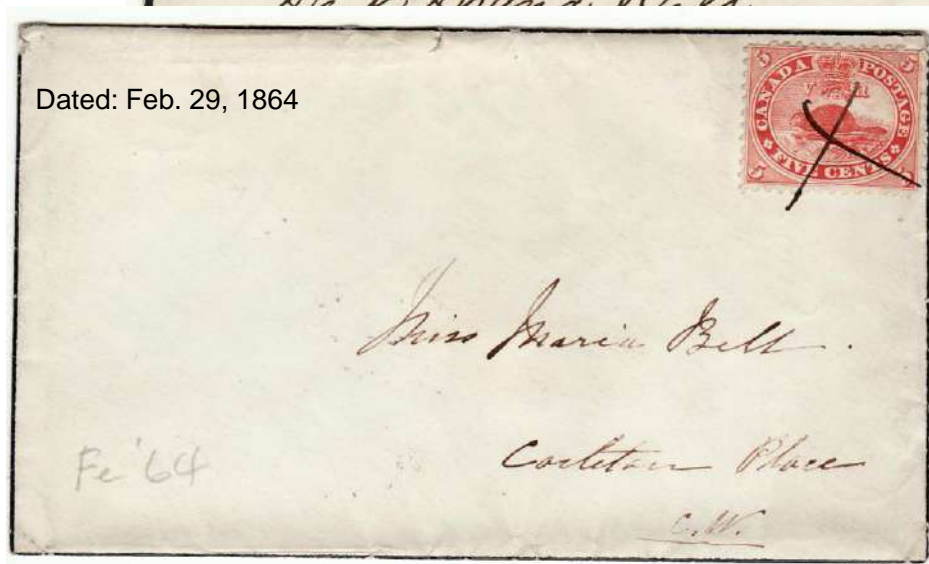
Dated: Feb. 19, 1864



Dated: Feb. 27, 1864



Dated: Feb. 29, 1864



## Examples of Mourning Covers

Here I will present some examples of mourning covers sent domestically, interprovincial, cross-border and to overseas destinations. Several have some philatelic significance.

### Domestic Use:



A domestic stampless mourning cover (dated May 21, 1862) with a Legislative Assembly seal (Jarrett 1518) which denoted FREE postage when the Assembly was in session. The cover was endorsed by a minister of Parliament (name unintelligible). The letter was mailed from Quebec, L.C. to Peterboro, C.W. with receiver on back of envelope.



Receiver  
handstamp  
on back

A domestic cover sent from Woodstock, C.W. to Hamilton. The wide black border indicates that the death of the loved one was very recent. The 5¢ Beaver stamp is used to pay the letter rate for a weight of  $\frac{1}{2}$  ounce or less. This letter was sent late in the decimal period. The Woodstock receiver on the back of the cover indicated that the province is "ONT." (for Ontario) rather than C.W. (Canada West).



## Interprovincial Mourning Letters to the Martimes



The above cover is an historic Royalty mourning letter sent by the 19 year old Albert Edward, Prince of Wales (POW, later to become King Edward VII), during the first Royal Tour of British No. America [3-4]. On September 10, 1860. the POW was in Toronto. The recipient was Admiral Milne whose ship, the *H.M.S. Nile*, was docked in Halifax, Nova Scotia. Admiral Milne's 9 year old son had just died. The 5 x 1¢ paid the interprovincial letter rate (1/2 ounce or less). The handwriting is that of the POW verified by Argyll and Etkin's Ltd., Royal Memorabilia Dept., London, UK. The stamps picture his mother, Queen Victoria, who sanctioned the trip to BNA.



This mourning cover traveled a special route via Boston. Sometimes, especially in the winter when the St. Lawrence River was frozen, a preferred mail route to Halifax was by railway to Boston, then Cunard steamer to Halifax. The steamer then went on to England. As shown above, the normal rate to Nova Scotia was 5¢ but this route was more costly, 12 1/2¢. Posted in Quebec on OCT 20 66, countersigned by at lower left "Monck". Viscount Monck was Governor General of the Colony of Canada and letter was sent to Williams of Kars, Governor of Nova Scotia. Endorsed "By Cunard Mail via Boston".

## Cross-border Mourning Letters to the United States



This mourning cover was sent from Toronto to Texas posted in 1867 after the U.S. Civil War. Letters from Canada to Southern States, especially Texas, during this period are hard to find. The cross-border letter rate was 10¢ per ½ ounce and this letter was paid with a 10¢ Consort stamp.



Dr. J.B. Hunter was a Canadian surgeon who served with the Union Army in the 60<sup>th</sup> Indiana Volunteers. I own several covers sent to him while in New Orleans, Alabama, Kentucky AND Indiana. He retired in NYC where this cover was sent in 1868.



## Mourning Letters to the United Kingdom

### Scotland

#### Canadian Packet Rate



This mourning cover was franked with a 12 1/2¢ Queen Victoria stamp paying the Canadian packet rate to Scotland. Since this letter was sent on May 1, 1868, after the introduction of the Large Queen stamps on April 1, 1868. However, Canadian stamps were never demonetized so the use of a decimal stamp was legal. The Glasgow Packet Paid handstamp was applied upon arrival.

### England

#### British Packet Rate



This mourning cover is franked with a 17¢ Cartier paying the British Packet rate (sometimes referred to as the Cunard rate, the steamship company that had the British contract to New York with stops in Halifax). This rate of 17¢ was more expensive than the Canadian packet rate by 5¢, based on the U.S.-British treaty via New York.

## Mourning Letters to the United Kingdom

### Ireland



This combination of two 5¢, one 2¢ and one 1¢ stamps (13¢ total) on this mourning cover to Dublin overpays the Canadian Packet rate by 1/2¢. Sometimes, the postmaster would sell the normal 12 1/2¢ to patrons for 12¢.

## Mourning Letters to Overseas Destinations



A late usage of a 17¢ Cartier stamp to France. The above Montreal CDS was not used during the decimal period (1859-1868) and, in fact, dates into the 1870's. Again, Canadian stamps have never been demonetized so the use of older stamps is still valid. The 17¢ stamp overpays the rate in the small Queen era of the 1870's where the rate for the same cover would have been 5¢.



# Mourning Letters to Overseas Destinations

## Gibraltar



This mourning cover was sent from London, C.W. to Gibraltar on December 22, 1864. The letter traveled on the Allan Line SS *Hibernian* that left Portland, Maine on December 24, 1864 and arrived in Liverpool Jan. 4, 1865; it then traveled by rail to London where a LONDON PAID transit red handstamp was applied ("JA 4 65"); next a steamer P. & O. line to Gibraltar, a major military fortress. There was no receiver date applied. The payment by two 12 1/2¢ represented an overpayment of 2¢ by convenience; in this correspondence other covers were franked similarly. The Crutchley family was well known in London, C.W.

## Epilogue

Mourning covers were routinely used in Canada up to World War I. Occasionally, these covers can still be encountered into the 1930-1940s. With the widespread usage of telegraphy, telephones, improved transportation and other 20<sup>th</sup> century "social media", there were more efficient and heartfelt ways of expressing one's sympathy.

## References

1. Janet Klug, *Linn's Stamp News*, Feb. 8, 2010.
2. Ernest A. Mosher, *Mourning Covers: The Cultural and Postal History of Letters Edged in Black*, Mosher, Self Published, 2003, 341 pp, ISBN-10: 0974317802.
3. Ronald E. Majors and CR McGuire, *A Princely Tour: The 1860 Royal Visit of the Prince of Wales to British North America and the United States, Part I*, *BNA Topics*, Vol. 73 (#3), Jul-Sep 2016, p. 10-16;
4. Ronald E. Majors and CR McGuire, *A Princely Tour: The 1860 Royal Visit of the Prince of Wales to British North America and the United States, Part II*, *BNA Topics*, Vol. 73 (#4), Oct-Dec 2016, p. 25-29.



## The Secret Varieties of the 10c Consort by Jim Jung

There are many collectors of the 10c Consort, and others that find this stamp glamorous, generally because of the reputation of the 10c Black Brown which was made important by its' value and listed entry in the Scott catalog. It may be second only to the 12d Black for its' heritage in collecting Canadian stamps.

The 10c Consort issue has a few well-known named plate varieties; the Double Epaulettes and the String of Pearls. The fact that these stamps have names makes them appealing along with their extra value, prominence, relative scarcity and that they are errors created in making of the plate used for printing these stamps.

I purchased Ken Kershaw's book on the 10c Consort years ago when it was released in 2009. It is a very interesting book where he shows pictures of all the shades of the 10c Consort for each Printing Order as listed in Whitworth's book: "The First Decimal Issue of Canada". He goes on to point out with images all the flaws that Whitworth describes and some that he did not find. Then he has large images of each plate position from both an old proof sheet in a violet shade and a late printing proof sheet in the lake shade.

When I first went through the book I found that there were many varieties that I never knew existed on this stamp. If you carefully check Whitworth's book there are actual drawings that show some of these varieties but seeing them in the flesh really makes it clear what you are looking for. This book is highly recommended for anyone interested in the 10c Consort.

Before actually finding any of the stamps which Ken Kershaw described in his book, I felt I may never find these stamps because I had not seen them before, even though I had searched through many thousands of copies looking for any flaw. How could I have missed these errors when I so carefully check each copy? It seems that many of these errors are found only in certain printings and were only available for a short time period. But some of these are just hard to see unless you know exactly what you are looking for. Here are some of these Secret Varieties that are in this book.

The book is available at the BNAPS Bookstore on Sparks Auction website. You can also email or use the Contact info below. We hope you enjoy the stamps I found so far!

B4h040-1 Plating the Ten Cent Prince Consort -  
Scott #17, 2009 by Kenneth A. Kershaw. \$120.00  
(BNAPS members \$72)

Website: <https://sparks-auctions.com/bnaps-books-list/>  
Email: [info@sparks-auctions.com](mailto:info@sparks-auctions.com)  
Phone: 613-567-3336



Figure 2



Figure 1

**The Lower Right Plate Flaw at Position 96** – this plate flaw is strong and is clearly seen in the lower right X and the lower right frameline. This flaw only occurred in late printings.



Figure 3



Figure 4

The Hair Flaw at Position 2 and Position 12 – this flaw shows up as a small bit of whitespace at the upper left side of the Prince's hair. It occurs on two positions of the plate: 2 and 12. The whitespace is stronger at position 12 than in position 2. But on position 2, there is a second flaw in the upper left frameline. If you find this flaw, that is how to distinguish between the two positions. On later printings, the 2<sup>nd</sup> flaw does not appear on position 2.

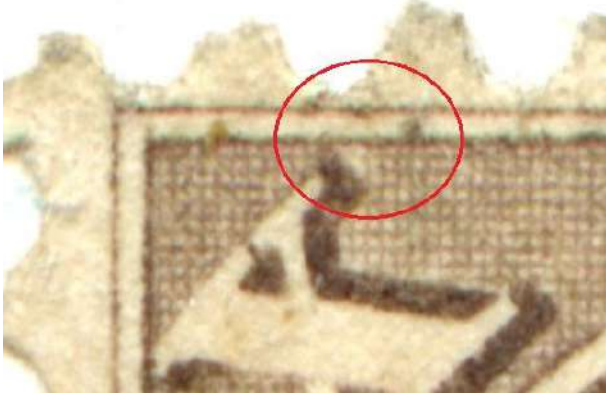


Figure 5

Above: the flaw in the upper left frameline on position 2 looks like set of dots, one of which has been cut off by the perforations on this copy. This flaw is easily missed, especially when the shade of the stamp is light.

Top Right: the stronger whitespace on position 12 is fairly easy to see but it almost looks like it is part of the normal design.

Bottom Right: the weaker whitespace on position 2 is just a lightening of the background lines in the same area as the position 12 Hair Flaw.



Figure 6

Figure 7





Figure 7



Figure 8

Plate Scratch in the E of POSTAGE at Position 60 plus The "C" Flaw – the "C" Flaw appears in a number of positions in Columns 9 and 10 of the plate, but if you are fortunate to get the one at position 60, there is a nice plate scratch in the E of POSTAGE. As you can see, this is faint and difficult to see unless you look at the closeup above.



Figure 9



Figure 10

**The Long Tooling Flaw at positions 47 to 50 –**  
When I first found this stamp, I had no idea what it was but it sure looks like an error stamp. There is extensive and clear doubling of the framelines at the top, right and bottom. Then at the bottom right corner the frameline is extended straight out to the right. I had this stamp in my collection for about a year before I matched it to position 47, the leftmost stamp in the Long Tooling Flaw shown in Kershaw's Book.

The main part of the Tooling Flaw is in Positions 48-50 and looks more like two very large plate scratches, however, the marks between positions 47-48 look like a separate flaw altogether. These marks occur only in the late printings and is shown on the Proof Sheet in the Lake shade on the next page courtesy of Michael Smith, editor of Dots n' Scratches, the Re-entry Study Group newsletter.





Figure 11 - Plate positions 47-50 from a Proof Sheet in the Lilac Shade (Unitrade 17TC) showing the Long Tooling Flaw – *Image courtesy of Michael Smith*



Figure 12 - Plate positions 2 and 12 from a Proof Sheet in the Brownish Purple shade (Unitrade 17TCi) showing the Hair Flaw - *Image courtesy of Michael Smith*



In the book, Canada's Pence Era, the Arfken, Leggett, Firby, Steinhart work on Pence stamps, they list five soldier's letters going to England (3), Scotland (1), and Ireland (1) paid at the 1d rate for a letter under 1 oz. In the Pence period, the book states that the rate was only available to British soldiers and seamen. In 1865, the Soldier's Rate was extended to the Canadian Volunteer Militia. This was in the Decimal Period when the rate had been converted to 2c. Only one of the five letters was franked with a pair of Imperforated ½d stamps and sent to Ireland in 1857. All of the letters went via Allen line.

A new Pence franked cover (front) has surfaced. It was purchased from a dealer in England. It has a pair of the perforated ½d paying the Soldier's Rate and was sent from Quebec City Feb. 13, 1859, then onward to Portland, Maine and departing there Feb. 26. This was the first available date for a Canadian packet, the Allan Line steamer *Indian* carried the letter which arrived in Liverpool Mar. 10, bearing the Colonial Packet red transit stamp. From there the letter was sent to Killarney, County Cork, Ireland, arriving Mar. 12, then finally sent to the village of Killorglin, northwest of Killarney.

The cover was sent from John Spillane, Private No. 218, 39<sup>th</sup> Regiment (Dorsetshire Regiment of Foot). The battalion was posted to North America for service in the War of 1812 and took part in the Battle of Plattsburgh in September 1814 before returning to England in July 1815. The regiment formed part of the Army of Occupation in France from 1815 to 1818 when it embarked for Ireland. The regiment arrived in the British colony of New South Wales toward the end of 1825 and saw service guarding convicts and establishing settlements at Hobart, Sydney, Swan River Colony and Bathurst before leaving for India in July 1832. It saw action at various skirmishes in spring 1834 during the Coorg War and at the Battle of Maharajpore in December 1843 during the Gwalior Campaign. The 39<sup>th</sup> Regiment embarked for Crimea in the Spring of 1854 and saw action at the Siege of Sevastopol, in the Winter of 1854 before returning to Canada in 1856 and then moving on to Bermuda in 1859.<sup>1</sup>

The commanding officer's name is not quite clear but appears to be M Manus, Colonel, CB.

1. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/39th\\_\(Dorsetshire\)\\_Regiment\\_of\\_Foot](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/39th_(Dorsetshire)_Regiment_of_Foot)





This 10c Consort cover is clearly countersigned with the initials GB but who is GB? The name that comes to mind is George Brown but how can you tell if it is indeed George Brown's pen? First, some initial information. George Brown was born November 29, 1818 in Alloa, Scotland; died May 9, 1880 in Toronto, Ontario. At the time of this letter, in January of 1861, George Brown fell ill and withdrew from politics, returning to England, and in 1862, he married Anne Nelson, the daughter of a Scottish publisher. It would be difficult to prove that

this letter was countersigned by George Brown, however, he was the only Member of Parliament in the period of 1861 with the initials "GB" so who else could it have been? Here is an example of George Brown's signature from the internet for comparison. Certainly, the letters G and B from his signature look to be a match to the initials on the cover.



### 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](mailto: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, take a few pics and share your story with us. We would love to hear from you.



## Repeating Constant Plate Varieties on the 7½d - Part 1 Addendum

By Scott Robinson, FlySpecker.com

In my previous article, I presented some examples and an explanation for similar misplaced entries that appear at positions 47, 69, and 83 of the 7½d plate. Although that article included numerous images of stamps and proofs to illustrate the varieties, it has come to my attention that it did not provide images of the full stamps for positions 47 and 83. These are presented in figure 1 below. Notice that the differences between these two positions are much less obvious with stamp copies than they are on proofs.



Part Two of Scott's article on the 7 1/2d plate will appear in our next newsletter. Please go to [bnaps.org](http://bnaps.org) to read Part One of Scott's article.

### 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](mailto:rpthompson1939@gmail.com)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_

Province/State: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal/Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

FAX: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Describe your interest area(s):  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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