



PENCE-CENTS ERA STUDY GROUP

Of the British North America Philatelic Society

(Volume VI, No. 3, August, 2017)

Dear Study Group Member,

Welcome to the 11th issue of the Pence-Cents Study Group Newsletter. It's the middle of summer and this means that BNAPEX is coming up on Labour Day Weekend. **BNAPEX will be held in Calgary this year on September 1-3 at the Calgary Hyatt-Regency Hotel. Our Pence-Cents Study Group will have a one hour meeting on Saturday Sept 2 between 3 PM-4 PM in the hotel's Herald Room.** Calgary is a city I've heard described as a cross between a friendly small town with the excitement and entertainment of a big modern city. Just don't jaywalk there as they hand out traffic fines for this.

Jim Jung, Editor Pence Cents Newsletter



BNAPEX 2017 CALTAPEX CALGARY

BNAPS annual convention in conjunction
with CALTAPEX

exhibition and bourse

Friday, Saturday, & Sunday
1 - 3 September 2017
Calgary, AB

Hosted by the Calgary BNAPS Regional Group and the Calgary Philatelic Society

Calgary Hyatt Regency
700 Centre St SE
Calgary, AB, T2G 5P6
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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: rthompson1939@gmail.com (We really just need your info in an email and you're in)

Name: _____

Street Address: _____ City: _____

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

FAX: _____ Telephone: _____

Describe your interest area(s):

Articles or Ideas for the 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 us an e-mail (fab4@rogers.com) with a description of something you are collecting. **We would be interested in researching and writing an article about your area of interest. We will do some legwork for you !!**

Articles or ideas about 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.

John George Beddows (1939-2017)

John Beddows passed away suddenly on Friday, July 21, 2017. Born December 18th, 1939 in Winnipeg, John worked as a secondary school teacher in Sturgeon Falls before joining the teaching staff of the adult education program in North Bay. Later he became a respected stamp dealer.

He had booked a table for the Postal History Society of Canada's Symposium in Hamilton. Apparently John had been living with a rare heart condition and Monday July 17 had to be flown from North Bay to Toronto St. Michael's Hospital and passed away on Thursday.

John made BNAPEX2011 in North Bay work. I remember walking down a corridor in the hotel to breakfast, John passed me going in the other direction, as he passed he said, "That bus is going to kill me." He must have sorted it out as there were no reports of a tour being cancelled. On another occasion I forgot my perforation gauge at John's table, when I approached his table the next morning John having seen me coming had the gauge in his extended hand before I had a chance to say a word.



On learning that John had passed away Andy Elwood wrote. "What a shock this is. I knew John very well as he was a mainstay in Eastern Ontario. He and Betty were always present at the RA stamp show as well as many other Ontario shows. He was known for his familiar approach to philately and was friendly and helpful to everyone. He is missed."

I can only echo Andy, John will be missed.

Noel John Austin Hillson (1933-2017)



John Hillson passed away on Saturday, July 15, 2017. Born December 9th, 1933.

John's early forays in BNA collecting were quite widespread but later he became a Small Queen specialist. It is said that at the time he converted to Small Queens he thought it looked straight-forward and relatively inexpensive to collect.

He was first and foremost a stamp collector. He had a few covers in his collections but only to show the rates the stamps were intended to pay.

He wrote two books on the Small Queens and co-authored a third with Ted Nixon, and made regular contributions to; *Maple Leaves*, *Confederation* and *Gibbons Stamp Monthly*.

He had some curious theories to explain unusual phenomenon found on Small Queens and defended these very tenaciously.

Some people found this to be annoying but, as Ted Nixon has observed, when he told John he was a "wee bit stubborn", John always replied, "That is because I am usually right, Ted!"

Most recently, in an article in *Maple Leaves*, on the Six cent Small Queen controversy, he concluded with, "Now if all the easily verifiable hard evidence does not convince you that the 1871 and 'A' plates are quite separate entities, then I will give up and take up knitting – or even worse – postal history."

We will miss him.

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. This second article on the 7½d value of the pence issue, will highlight another repeating constant plate variety that generally remains undocumented and uncatalogued. The variety consists of two clear marks that appear within the left-side frame lines. The upper mark appears as a parallelogram (almost a diamond) that crosses from the white space of the left frame lines into the outer white portrait oval just to the left of the "CA" in "CANADA". The lower mark is a smaller and less defined shape that appears between the frame lines to the left of the lower "6d" value. I refer to this variety as the "Left Frame Flaws" variety. A damaged but clear copy of a stamp with the variety is shown in figure 1 below.



Figure 1: "Left Frame Flaws" variety (probably position 14) courtesy of Jim McCormick.

This variety appears at six separate positions that are all located in the second column of the sheet. The curious aspect of the variety is that the positions where it occurs are not contiguous. The variety appears at the top five positions of the second column (2, 14, 26, 38, 50) and then again at the very bottom position (110). This variety is seen on multiple proof sheets and should appear on 5% of all stamp copies if it occurred during the initial creation of the plate and went uncorrected. The variety is currently unrecognized in the Unitrade Specialized Catalogue of Canadian Stamps and I have not found any reference to it in the philatelic literature. I have observed several unidentified copies for sale on eBay and also in a Sparks Auctions lot.

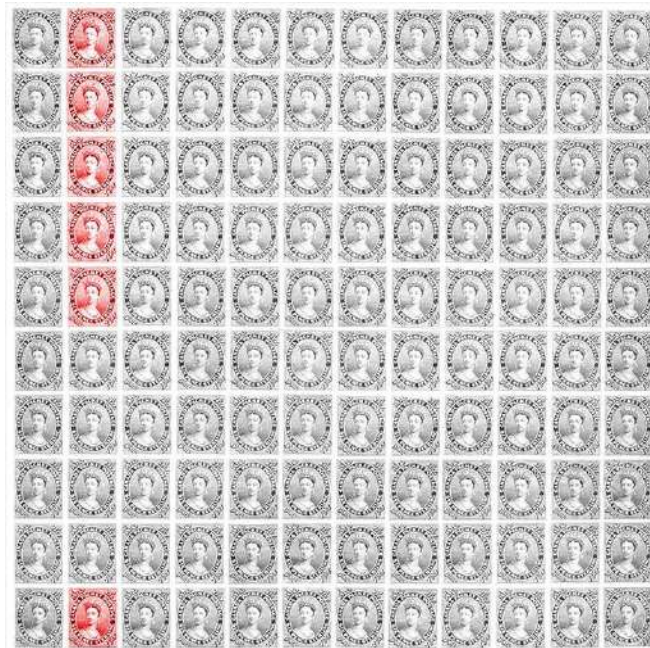


Figure 2: Sheet positions of "Left Frame Flaws" variety highlighted in red.

The variety is extremely consistent in appearance at all six positions although my plate proof reference suggests that the marks may be slightly lighter towards the top of the sheet. Examples from each position from a single plate proof sheet are shown in figure 3 below. It is safe to assume that any small differences in the variety that may show on a proof would not be so easily distinguished on stamp copies that are subject to changing papers, inconsistent inking, and other printing anomalies. Of course, there are numerous other very minor constant marks that appear throughout this unhardened plate that may aid in plating specific stamp copies. An example of this would be the unerased centre guide line that appears on two of the positions shown below in the area of the "CA" of "CANADA".



Figure 3: Plate proof positions 2, 14, 26, 38, 50 and 110 adapted from a proof sheet scan courtesy of John Jamieson, Saskatoon Stamp Centre.

Normally a mark or flaw that appears at more than one plate position is assumed to be caused by a fault of the transfer roll used to lay-down the plate. Such faults can occur when there is damage or some kind of artifact defacing the impression on the transfer roll. The mark or flaw will continue to appear at successive positions on the plate as the defaced impression on the transfer roll is rocked-in until the impression is repaired, cleaned, or another impression on the transfer roll is substituted for the remainder of the transfers to the plate. The Left Frame Flaws variety would likely be caused by some hard foreign matter becoming attached to the transfer roll impression as the plate was being laid-down. The foreign matter would either eventually fall from the transfer roll or be removed by the siderographer once it was noticed. Given that the plate is generally assumed to be laid out in a linear fashion, it is hard to explain the non-contiguous appearance of this variety. Some possible explanations include:

- **The plate was not laid down linearly.** This would seem extremely unlikely as there are functional reasons and documentation to show that the impressions on Canada's early plates were laid down in a standard sequential order.

- **The faulty transfer roll impression was discovered but mistakenly used again.**

In this scenario, the Left Frame Flaws were discovered and an alternate impression from the transfer roll was substituted. For some reason the siderographer switched back to the faulty impression before discovering his mistake and then re-substituting the correct impression to finish the plate. This is also very unlikely since substituting one transfer roll impression for another is a labour-intensive task and not one that is likely to be done in error or without proper care. I am also unaware of any conclusive proof that the transfer roll actually contained more than one impression for this stamp.

- **The variety occurred during a later plate repair of specific positions on the plate.** This scenario would account for why the variety might occur intermittently and why the impression on the transfer roll may have acquired this fault. However, the entire issue of this rare stamp originates from a single printing order for less than 850 total sheets. It is extremely unlikely that more than one print operation was used and even more unlikely that plate repairs or re-entries would be required for such a limited issue quantity.

- **The variety occurred during re-entries of specific positions on the plate when it was initially laid down.** This scenario would also account for why the variety might occur intermittently. Fixing specific impressions on the plate, possibly to strengthen short transfers, could introduce some foreign matter or damage to the transfer roll impression that would then be transferred to the plate. The problem with this theory is that although there is evidence of initial re-entries to several stamp positions and even the imprints on this plate, there is no solid evidence of any re-entry doubling or even a stronger impression at any of the positions which show the variety. I have scrutinized a high definition scan of a plate proof sheet and found absolutely no evidence of re-entry or repair to the positions with the variety.

So, there does not seem to be a satisfactory explanation for the non-contiguous appearance of this variety. While the variety almost certainly occurred during the initial production of the plate, its irregular appearance only in the second column of the sheet is hard to explain. I welcome correspondence to feedback@flyspecker.com from any readers that may have additional insight into this variety. However, despite its unexplained origin, the "Left Frame Flaws" remain a very collectible naked-eye variety on this issue.



Figure 1 – Above: Strip of 5 x 1c stamps (pp51-55) paying the 5c Domestic Rate. Position 51 is Whitworth's Re-entry 3. Right: A pair of 5c stamps with bottom margin selvedge still attached.

The Decimal Issue stamps were printed in sheets of 100 and were almost always separated into individual stamps with the selvedge removed and placed on envelopes or Folded Letters. There were rare instances when vertical or horizontal pairs or strips of three or more were applied together. In the Decimal period, these cases are scarce and stamps in blocks and strips of three or more are hard to come by as well as stamps with selvedge, aside from on the 1c stamp, where many times, 5 stamps were used to make up the common 5c Domestic Rate.



The Postal Rates were not that complicated in this early Decimal Period between 1859 and 1867. 5c for Domestic Mail, 10c for Crossborder mail to the United States and either 12 1/2c for the Allan Line or 17c for the Cunard Line for the Trans-Atlantic Rates to England and Europe. If your letter was too heavy, an extra stamp was added and you paid a double-rate. If you wanted Registered Mail, it was 2c extra or 12 1/2c extra for Trans-Atlantic Mail. There were some exceptions such as mail to British Columbia and countries in other areas of the world such as Australia. These are rare and the rates for these exotic mails are not part of this article.



Figure 2 – Above: Double Rate Allan Line Trans-Atlantic cover to England paid with a pair of 12 1/2 c stamps (pp83-84). Below: Double Rate Cunard cover to France paid with a pair of 17c stamps. Double Rate covers are far scarcer than the standard single-rate covers. The Arfken/Leggett book shows this cover as the 2nd of 8 such covers beginning on page 199.





Figure 3 – 10c Consort Strip of Four from positions 61 to 64

This article is more about collecting blocks and strips (which I call multiples), especially ones that have a known variety attached to it. The beauty of having the variety is that you get to know the plate positions that make up the multiple. When you see a multiple, it looks impressive and many collectors see the stamps as a block or strip and don't check each stamp individually. But when I see a multiple like this strip of four 10c Consorts, I want to see if there is anything about each stamp that might help me determine the plate positions of the stamps. With this strip, it is quite easy because the first stamp has the well-known Double Epaulettes Misplaced Entry from position 61. This means that the strip comes from positions 61-64.



Figure 4 – Closeup of position 61 showing the Double Epaulettes Misplaced Entry. This is the left stamp in the Strip of Four in Figure 3.

Here is another multiple of the 10c Consort in a Block of Four. You might look at the scuff on the bottom right stamp or the choppy perfs or even the Four Ring 19 postmarks from London but do you see a plate variety on any of the stamps? It's hard to tell from a small scan but I noticed it looking at an Auction Catalog on the internet from a poorer scan than this. There was no mention of the well-known String of Pearls variety in the top left stamp in the Auction description.



Figure 5 (above) – Block of Four of the 10c Consort

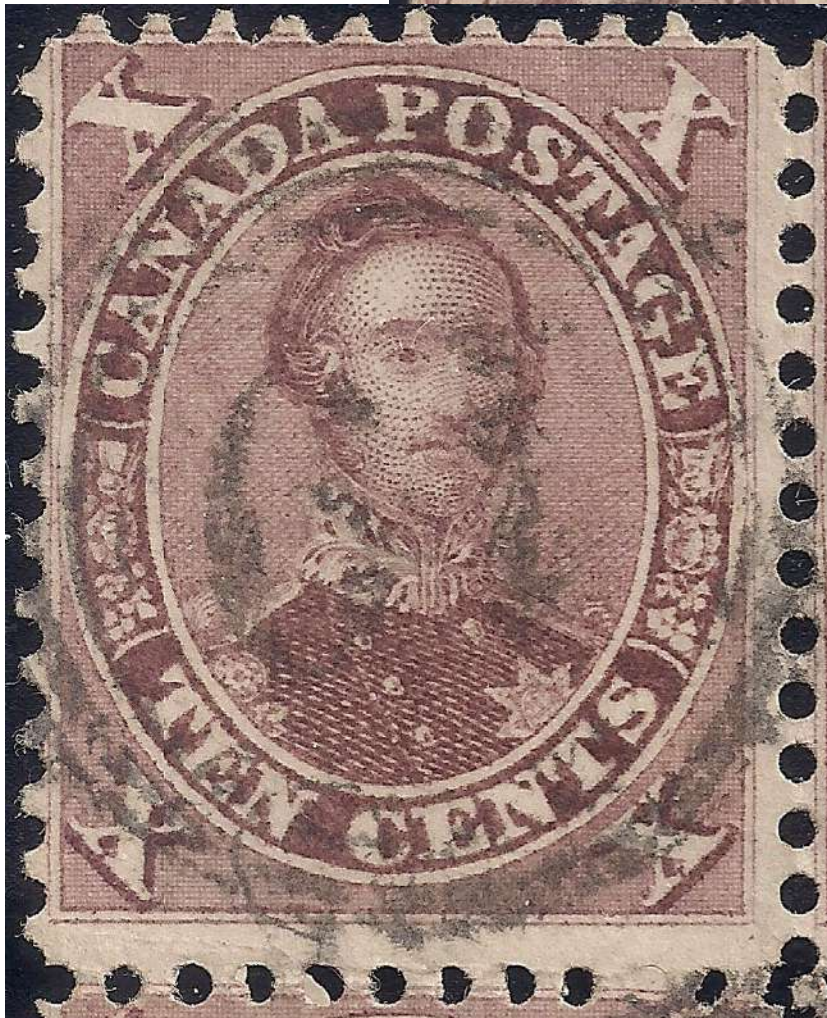


Figure 6 – Closeup of the String of Pearls variety. This is the top left stamp in the Block of Four in Figure 5.

The block of twelve of the 10c Consort in Figure 7 is the 2nd largest block that I have seen. There was a Block of 15 (3 wide x 5 high) in the Daniel Cantor Collection, Ex Art Leggett. See Figure 10. Even though this block is damaged, has obvious faults and has perforations that are off-center, you might notice the nice and complete straight line REGISTERED cancels or the printer's IMPRINT on the left side of the two bottom left stamps. There is so much to see in this big block that the position 61 Double Epaulettes and the position 51 Major Re-entry are hardly noticed. It's difficult to see the tiny marks that makeup variety stamps when you look at scans or photos, and it is not until you see the closeups or the stamps themselves in person, that you can see them more easily.



Figure 7 – Block of 12
of the 10c Consort
from positions 51 - 83

Figure 8 – Right: Double Epaulettes variety (2nd stamp from top on left side of the Block of 12 in Figure 7) from position 61 of the plate. You can see the vertical mark coming out of the Consort's shoulder on the left side. The marks on the right side are obscured by the postmark but still visible as these marks are slightly stronger..



Figure 9 - Below: Position 51 Major Re-entry (1st stamp on the top left of the Block of 12 in Figure 7.) You can see the doubling in the bottom of the lower right "X".





Figure 10 – The largest known multiple of the 10c Consort is this block of 15 from the Art Leggett Collection. This block transferred ownership to the Daniel Cantor collection and was later sold in the Daniel Cantor Auction in September 24, 2011 by Matthew Bennett with a hammer price of \$3750 USD. This block is featured in the recently released BNAPS Book: **"The Arthur W. Leggett Exhibit Decimal Stamps of Canada"** by Arthur W. Leggett.

This block begins at position 8 – 10 in the top row and continues down to positions 48 – 50 in the bottom row. The right two columns show the "C" Flaw in all stamps except the top row. The Chin Flaw is in position 20, the Major Re-entry is in position 29 and the Imprint is on Position 20 and 30. The stamps are postmarked with a WHITBY OC 24 64 single split ring.

References

The Arthur W. Leggett Exhibit Decimal Stamps of Canada - Arthur W. Leggett
Released June 2017. Exhibit series # 94. 144 pages, 8.5x11, spiral bound.
Colour C\$ 66.00 [ISBN 978-1-927119-79-2].



This is a cover I found in a collection purchased in England. I bid on it remote from my home on the internet. There were some nice covers in the collection all mounted on older quadrille pages. This cover caught my eye, and when I showed it to our Chairman Ron Majors, he offered to buy it right away. I decided to keep this little gem. Even though it is obviously damaged, it is a Rare example of a Canadian stamp used (unsuccessfully) from the United States. It has a dated dispatch postmark of APR 28 1862 from BUFFALO N.Y and two BROCKVILLE receivers on the back for two delivery attempts, first to Maitland and then Beverly C.W. The large manuscript 10 in black is the delivery "Postage Due" charge to the receiver for the Unpaid postage. There is a note on the front at the lower left: "Should not be paid with Canada Stamp P.M.B." (Postmaster Buffalo). However, they still let the letter pass across the border to Canada.

