

PENCE-CENTS ERA STUDY GROUP

Of the British North America Philatelic Society

Volume VII, No. 4, November 2018



#14vii 1866 5 x 1c Queen Victoria (two pairs and a single), tied to cover with matching 7 RING circular Grids and clear double arc UXBRIDGE SP 19 66 despatch paying the 5c Domestic Rate with a scarce franking from UXBRIDGE to MARKHAM. 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. 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.

Dear Study Group Member,

Wayne Smith's Census of Large Queen Covers by Rates is a larger list of covers, part of which we published in our last issue of this newsletter. This has now been published in Canadian Stamp News and on our BNAPS website. Congratulations to Wayne on a tremendous achievement and continue with the good work! Here's a link to the CSN webpage:

<https://canadianstampnews.com/canadian-postal-history-articles-added-to-bnaps-website/>

With Fall comes the beginning of the big Auction Sales and a flurry of Stamp Shows. Try to visit a show and join in the fun. We have a report of what happened at the BNAPEX in late September in Quebec City. Anything that happens in BNAPEX stays in BNAPEX.

Included in this issue is the first half of Mike Smith's presentation of the 1/2d Plate Varieties from the BNAPEX Show. I was honoured to have been asked to present this wonderful research that Mike provided us on Canada's 1/2d stamp. It is such an interesting stamp with all its' Re-entries and Plate Flaws.

Next year's BNAPEX will be held in the Nation's Capital Ottawa, Ontario. With the National Postage Museum amalgamated into the Library and Archives Canada, the city will be an exciting place to visit for those who have not seen the rare items stored here.

The new Unitrade is set to be released. There has been some controversy over the last couple of years about the size of the catalog overwhelming the wire coil binding. Will the Unitrade be split into two books or will there be a new binding? Maybe we'll get the answer this year.

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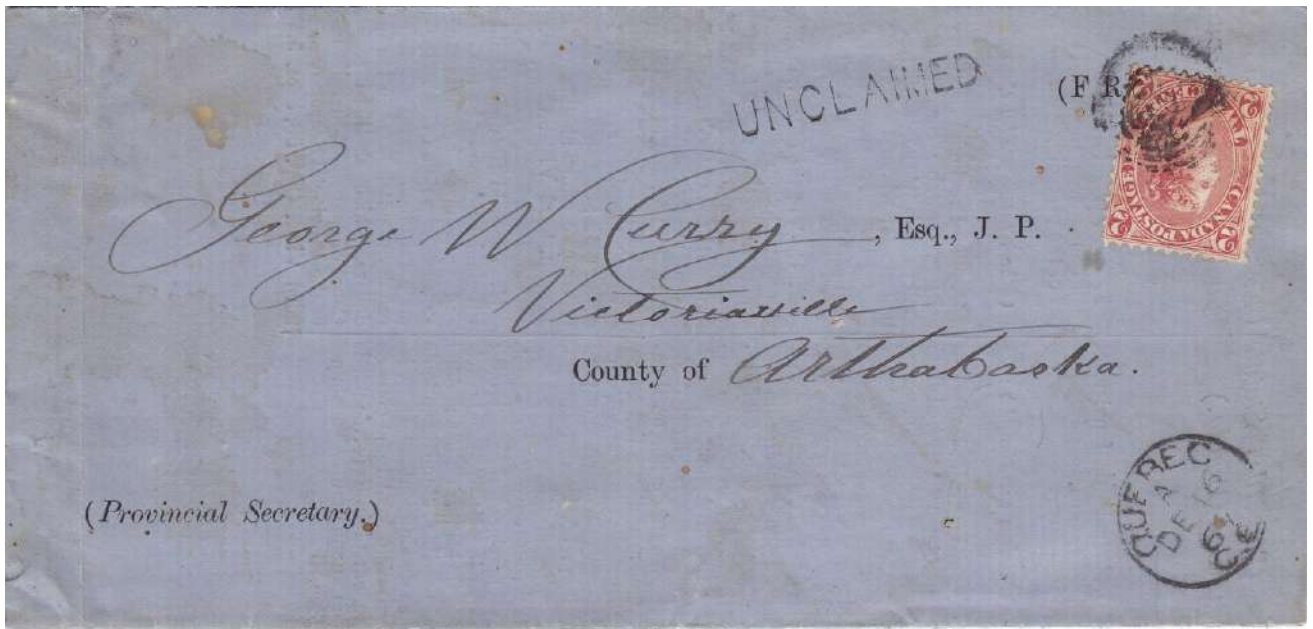
Two Cents Circular Rate by Richard Thompson

I recently acquired this listed as an example of the two cents circular rate, but I ask myself why is it a two cents circular? Up to December 31, 1868 certain institutions were exempt from paying postage and these included provincial Governments. And indeed this item is marked FREE; the last two letters of FREE are covered by the stamp.

And if it were not exempt from postage the rate for printed matter (circular) was 1¢ per ounce, see Whitworth pa. 93. This item when unfolded only measures 27.7 X 18.3 mm. And there is no way it could have weighed more than one ounce so it could have qualified for the 1¢ rate based on weight.

It has been suggested there might have been an enclosure but this item has never been sealed so I do not think anyone could have expected an enclosure to stay with it, I do not think this can be the explanation.

Do any of the postal historians out there have a better explanation?



California Gold Rush Letters to Canada via Nicaragua by Luc Frève

Historical background

In order to connect Oregon with the rest of the United States, in 1847, the Navy Department awarded ten year contracts to the United States Mail Steamship Co. (East coast) and to the Pacific Mail Steamship Co. (West coast). The contracts stipulated that the service was to begin in October 1848 in order to allow enough time for the construction of the steamers. As the United States had been at war with Mexico since 1846, a route via Mexico was impossible. So Panama was chosen because the United States had a postal treaty in effect with New Granada postal authorities since 1844. Panama was responsible for the transit of mail on its territory.

In February 1848, the war ended and Mexico ceded California to the United States. Gold was discovered near Sacramento in January 1848 but the word only spread out in May 1848. Within five years, 300,000 people moved to California. The first steamer carrying contract letters arrived in San Francisco on February 28, 1849 (previously, the writer had to arrange for his letter to be carried privately by ships stopping by San Francisco). On board was the first postal agent who had to organize the distribution of mail in California. Wages offered were insufficient to retain postmasters as most people were leaving for the gold fields. With arrival of more than 10,000 letters per month, San Francisco's post office was overwhelmed. Miners had to go into town to claim their mail as there was no distribution system in place. Due to limitations imposed by Congress, the development of mail distribution had been very slow. There was an expectation that post offices should be self-sustaining but the reality of California's high cost of living and the difficulty recruiting staff was not understood by the authority. By the end of 1850, less than 20 post offices were in operation but, two years later, 123 post offices were established. Also, it is to be noted that California only received its first order of stamps in September 1851.



Figure 1 – Wells Fargo Postal Stationary carried by their agent on Accessory Transit Co.'s steamer Sierra Nevada that left San Francisco on September 4, 1855 for San Juan del Sur, Nicaragua

California Gold Rush Letters to Canada via Nicaragua by Luc Frève continued ...

People were complaining about long delays. It could take six weeks for a letter to go from San Francisco to New York due to irregular transit time in Panama and the absence of synchronicity between steamships operating on East and West coasts. A non-contractual alternative via Nicaragua was offered by the Accessory Transit Co. The company was owned by Cornelius Vanderbilt who envisioned the construction of a canal in Nicaragua. In order to increase traffic in Nicaragua, he began servicing the route in 1851 with bi-monthly steamers. As the Nicaragua route was shorter, shipment could be delivered within a month. Vanderbilt allowed the transport of mail free of charge on his line and made several attempts to obtain a mail contract without success. The U.S. post office initial reaction was to refuse the mail carried Via Nicaragua but changed its mind and accepted the mail if the letter was prepaid so the department was not incurring any loss of revenue. This route had been in operation until the end of 1856.

The difficulties in organizing mail distribution in California offered many business opportunities for express companies and these have been tolerated by postal authorities. Already involved in the transport of gold treasure, western express companies such as Gregory's Express or Wells Fargo also carried transcontinental mail for their clients. Express companies were not bound to the Panama route; they would select the first available steamer or the faster route in order to expedite their shipment.

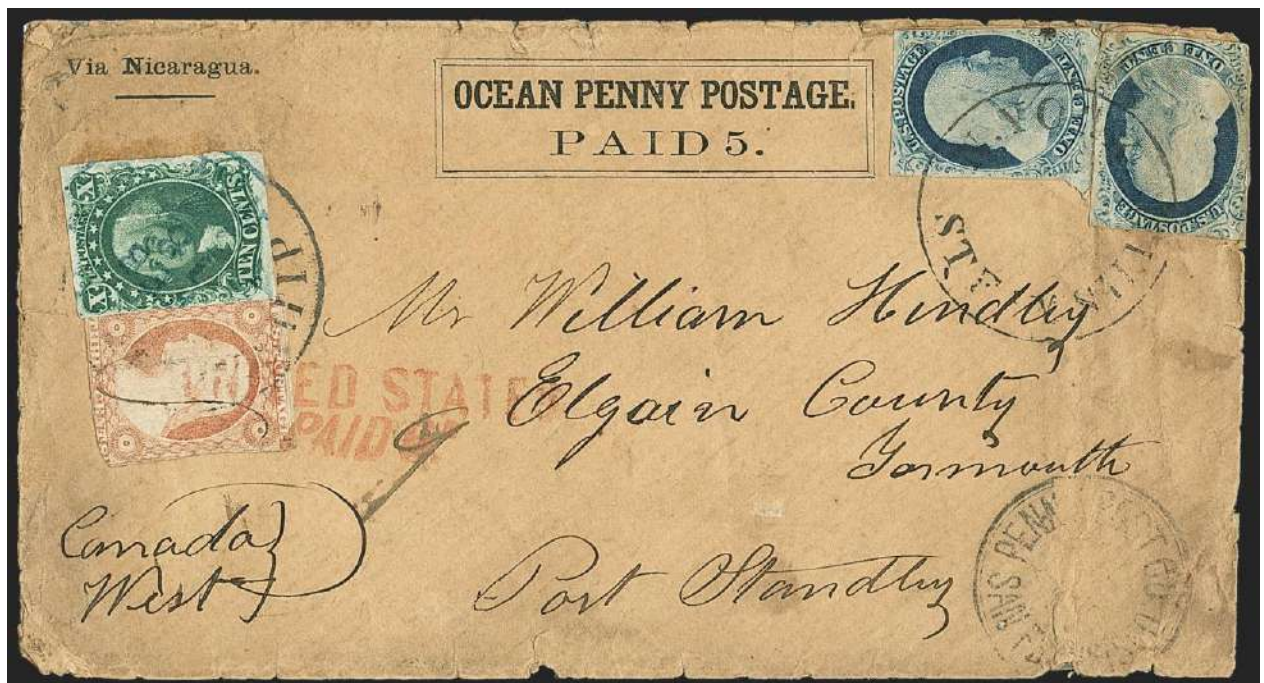


Figure 2 – Ocean Penny Postage imprint cover

California Gold Rush Letters to Canada via Nicaragua by Luc Frève continued ...

Via Nicaragua covers

Only two covers are known to Canada via the Nicaragua route. The earliest is illustrated in Figure 1. It is a Wells Fargo postal stationary carried by their agent on Accessory Transit Co.'s steamer Sierra Nevada that left San Francisco on September 4, 1855 for San Juan del Sur, Nicaragua. The shipment was carried by coach and river boat to San Juan del Norte (Greytown) on the East shore of Nicaragua. The mail bag along with the gold was then transferred to the steamer Star of the West. It was delivered to the New York's Wells Fargo office on Sunday September 30. As the post office was closed on Sunday, the Wells Fargo agent waited until the following day to deliver the mail which explained the «Oct 1» postmark. The 10 cents stationary was accepted for prepayment to Canada. The letter was sent by train to Montreal (Oct. 2, 1855 b/s) and delivered the same day to Huntingdon.

The second cover is an Ocean Penny Postage imprint cover (figure 2). Penny Post Co. operated a messenger service in San Francisco from June 1855 to July 1856. The rate to Canada was prepaid by stamps (note: the 10 cents does not belong to the cover). The cover was put in an Accessory Transit's wharf bag which was carried by steamer Uncle Sam to San Juan del Sur. After crossing the isthmus, the mail bag was turned over to steamer Northern Light and delivered to New York on December 11, 1855 for onward transmission to Port Stanley CW (December 13th b/s).

Conclusion

Since I have been keeping a census of correspondence from California to Canada and Maritimes, less than 20 covers are listed for the period of use of the Nicaragua route. As all mail from California to Canada sent through post offices followed the Panama route, the only way a letter to Canada could transit by Nicaragua is via an agent of an Express company or via an Accessory Transit Co. mail bag. In order to determine the route, we have to work from the New York entry postmark and check it against Panama or Nicaragua steamers' arrival date. Previously, this exercise was done using newspapers archives but it is easier since Richard Frajola published the sailing information in the appendixes of his book. The two covers described in this article are the only via Nicaragua to Canada I know of. If you know of others, please contact me at l_freve@videotron.ca.

Selected biography

Arfken, G., Leggett, A., Firby, C. and Steinhart, A. (1997), «*Canada's Pence Era, The Pence Stamps and the Canadian Mail 1851-1859*», Vincent Greene Philatelic Research Foundation, Toronto, 421 p.

Coburn, J. (1984), «*Letters of Gold*», U.S Philatelic Classics Society, Canton, 389 p.

Folkman, D. (1972), «*The Nicaragua Route*», University of Utah Press, Salt Lake City, 173 p.

Kemble, J. (1972), «*The Panama Route 1848-1869*», Da Capo Press, New York, 316 p.

Walske, S. and Frajola, R. (2014), «*Mails of the Westward Expansion, 1803 to 1861*», Western Cover Society, Lafayette, 305 p.

BNAPEX 2018 by Jim Jung

What happened in Quebec City was we had a great time, some fun, food and philately. There was so much happening that I had little free time to spend in the Hospitality Suite, which was generally well-stocked with all kinds of nice beverages and snacks. Here's a brief summary of what we decided to print.



Just in case you end up at the American Express Lounge in Jean Lesage Airport the food has a Quebec flavor and the bar is well-stocked. I enjoyed the huge lounge chairs and entertainment system. And the Massage chair there is Free with a bowlful of tokens to start it up. Thumbs up to Amex for a nice lounge.



In the hallway leading into the Dealer Bourse was Grégoire Teyssier's Museum of Postal artifacts with many nice items to look at and see.

BNAPEX 2018 by Jim Jung



A Collection of badges from the Royal Canadian Postal Corps in Grégoire's Museum.



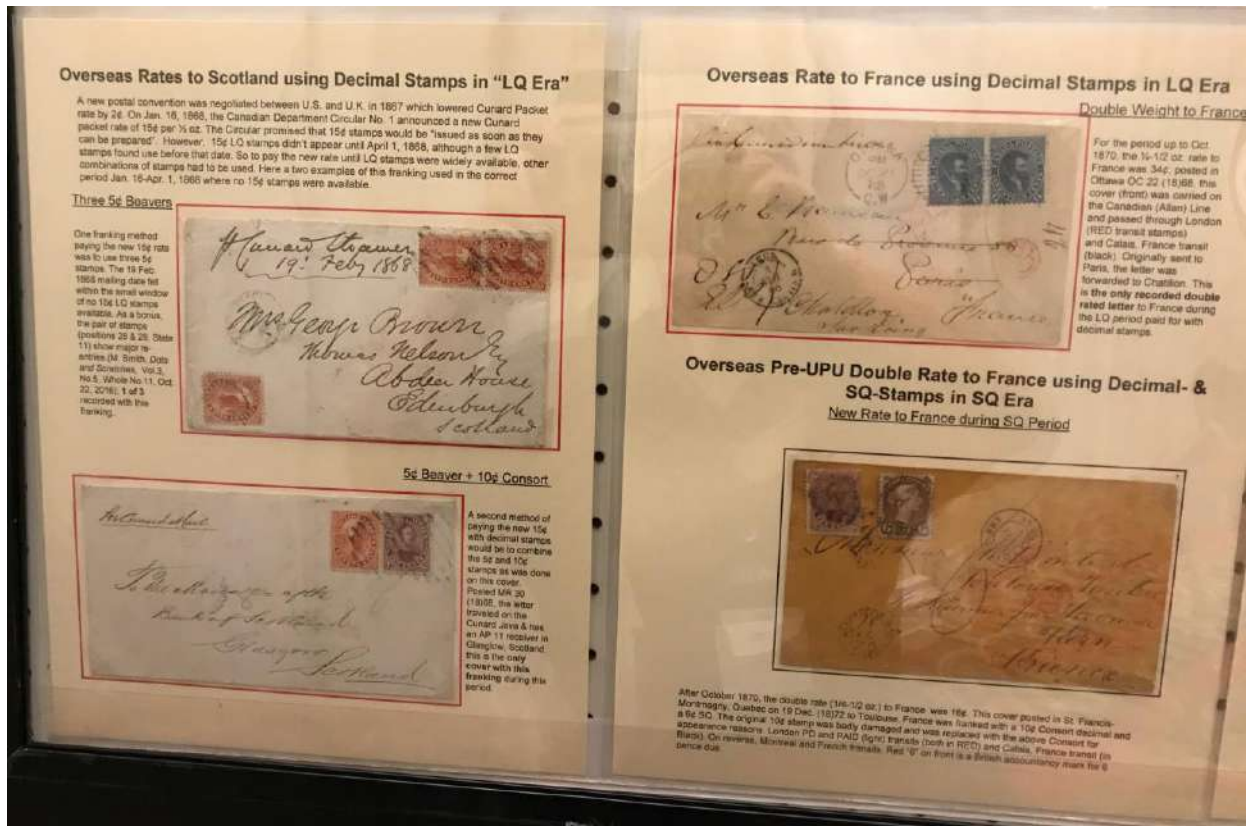
Postal hammers from Grégoire's Museum.

BNAPEX 2018 by Jim Jung



Chandeliers lighting up the Study Group Meeting Rooms. The Meeting Rooms were upscale and very professional. The Hotel was very clean and friendly.





There was a very large display of fantastic exhibits. All of the exhibits from the show are displayed on the BNAPEX 2018 website. Just follow this link to see some great Canadian Postal History and Philately.
<http://www.bnaps.org/bnapex/bnapex2018/exhibits.htm>



The two dinners were very friendly and entertaining. There was good food, wine, beer and merriment all rolled into a few hours of cheer and laughter. This is where a certain Beaver was kissed by a certain collector. And there were prizes! A good time was had by all accounts.

BNAPEX 2018 by Jim Jung



The two dinners were very friendly and entertaining. There was good food, wine, beer and merriment all rolled into a few hours of cheer and laughter. And there were prizes! A good time was had by all accounts.



There was a cocktail party at the Huron-Wendat Hôtel Nation. There was a museum of precious Native Indian historical artifacts for us to see accompanied by delicious homemade potato chips and beer, wine or Mixed drinks.



This is just a tiny sample from a large room full of Native Indian historical artifacts found at the museum in the Huron-Wendat Hôtel Nation. Some of the large items included various clothing from the 19th Century and Earlier. This is a fabulous exhibit which is well worth visiting if you are interested in Native Indian culture and history.

1. Bague en os / Bone ring

Début 19^e siècle / early 19th century
Musée huron-wendat 1977-9

2. Bague / Ring

Argent, turquoise / Silver, Turquoise gemstone
19^e siècle / 19th century
Musée huron-wendat 1977-10

3. Bracelet

Vers 1890 / About 1890
Musée de la civilisation, 2004-50
Cadeau de Marie-Isabelle d'Orléans, Comtesse de Paris, à Clémentine Picard Akwasen, fille du notaire Paul Picard

3. Boucles d'oreilles / Earrings

Argent / Silver, poinçon J.T. / Punch J.T.
Fin 18^e siècle / End of 18th century
Musée huron-wendat, 1977.11

4. Mocassins / Moccasins

Vers 1830 / About 1830
Musée canadien des civilisations III-H-449

5. Étui à cigarette / Cigarette Case

Écorce de bouleau / Birch bark
19^e siècle / 19th century
Musée de la civilisation 2007-305

6. Étui à cigares / Cigarette case

Écorce de bouleau / Birch bark
19^e siècle / 19th century
Musée de la civilisation 2007-306

Upcoming Shows



November 2-4, 2018 420 Sherbrooke St West Montreal, Quebec



CHICAGO PHILATELIC SOCIETY

CHICAGOPEX 2018 - OUR 132ND YEAR!

November 16-18, 2018
Westin Chicago Northwest
400 Park Blvd
Itasca, IL 60143



THAILAND 2018

WORLD STAMP EXHIBITION

Under the Patronage of FIP and the Auspices of FIAP

Exhibits Show

NOVEMBER 28 – DECEMBER 3, 2018

Venue
ROYAL PARAGON HALL 1-3
5TH FLOOR, SIAM PARAGON
BANGKOK THAILAND

Exhibition Area 7,100 sq.m.

Upcoming Shows

CANADIAN STAMP NEWS

Canadian Stamp News is hosting a Christmas Open House at its new office located in Welland, Ontario at 459 Prince Charles Drive South.

CSN subscribers attending the Open House will receive a special membership discount on supply purchases. Warm apple cider, coffee and Christmas goodies will be available as well. Come and join us, between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m.



ORAPEX 2019

Theme: Elizabethan Era Philately

May 4 - 5, 2019

RA Centre
2451 Riverside Dr.
Ottawa, Ontario



Ottawa Philatelic Society



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 (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.

Canada's 1/2d Plate Varieties

By: Michael D. Smith

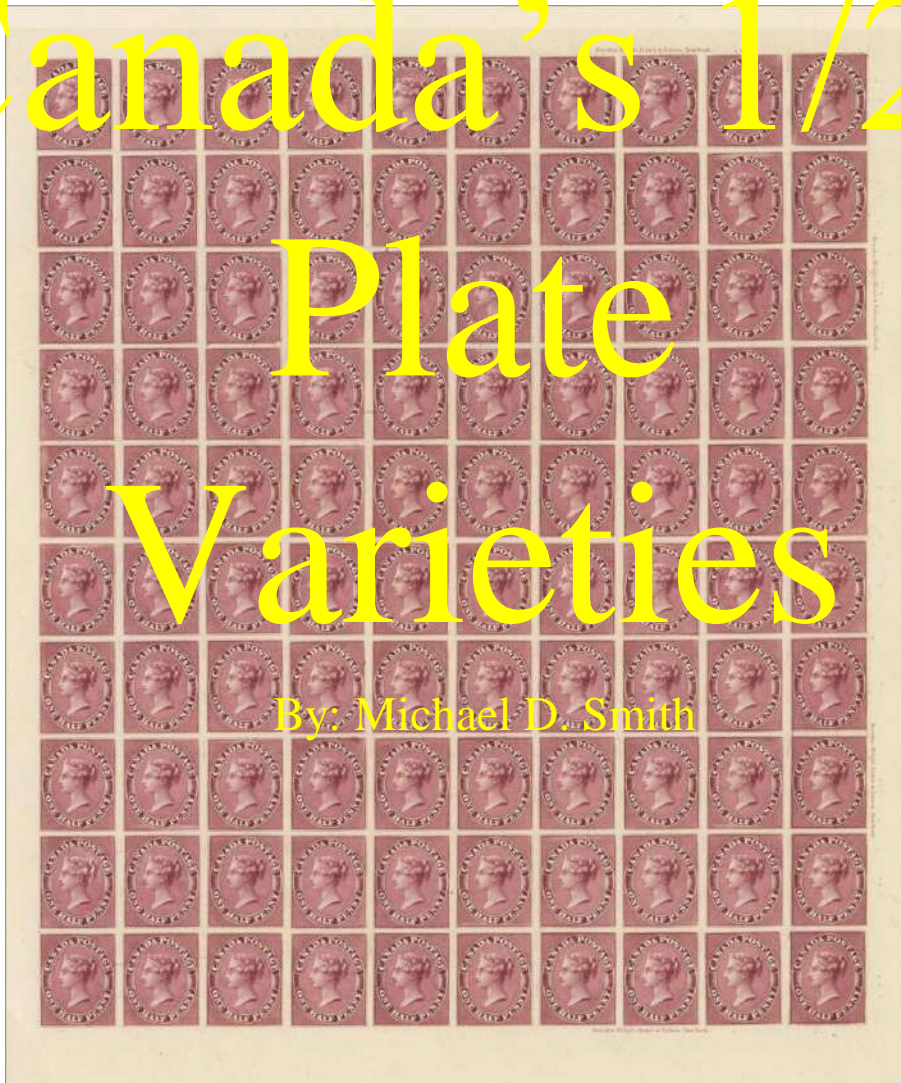


Plate Position Chart

The original plate had 120 positions. The numbers added in **red** are positions on the trimmed plate. The left two columns of the plate were removed so the sheets printed could be fed through a perforator. Imperforate stamps are numbered from the 120 stamp placements and perforated stamps from the 100 stamp **red** placements.

---IMPRINT---												---IMPRINT---	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12		
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24		
		11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20		
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36		
		21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30		
37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48		
		31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40		
49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60		
		41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50		
61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72		
		51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60		
73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84		
		61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70		
85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96		
		71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80		
97	98	99	100	101	102	103	104	105	106	107	108		
		81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90		
109	110	111	112	113	114	115	116	117	118	119	120		
		91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100		
---IMPRINT---												---IMPRINT---	

Top, bottom and side imprints at left were removed when the plate was trimmed.

This is a composite using a 100 position proof sheet with proofs from the two columns trimmed from the plate of 120 positions. The composite lacks nine positions to finish the reconstruction.

There are flaws and other marks on some positions of the trimmed plate of 100 that are not on the plate of 120.



POSITION 4 (2) CURVED TOOL LINE BOTTOM RIGHT



Note: When they occur on both sheets I list the position from the sheet of 120 and then in parenthesis the position from sheet of 100 will be in red.



On this position there is an interesting curved tool mark in the bottom right corner crossing the outer frame line. This flaw is present on the sheet of 120, stamp #4, which also shows "York ." of the imprint in upper left margin. On the sheet of 100, stamp #2, the imprint was removed but as can be seen here the curved line is still present. Position 16 (12) could have the bottom portion of this line in upper margin as it almost touches the top frame line.

POSITION 6 FROM PROOF SHEET OF 100



This plate flaw is present on the trimmed proof sheet of 100. It is not present on the proof sheet of 120. The flaw is a odd smear of ink under the "A" of HALF. I have two proof examples but have not found it on an actual stamp.



POSITION 10 (8) STRONG RE-ENTRY AND TOP RIGHT IMPRINT



A strong re-entry in the letters "CAN" and above, and in the letters "ON" and "H". This re-entry is found on both the sheet of 120 and the sheet of 100.

POSITION 22 (18) MAJOR RE-ENTRY



Fred Jarrett describes this re-entry as “Fine line runs parallel to inside bottom frame line; dot in N of ONE at bottom right; letters ADA POST show traces of doubling.” Note doubling of O of ONE.

POSITION 26 RE-ENTRY



Fred Jarrett describes this re-entry as “Doubling of “PE” and doubling of left frame line at bottom; other letters show doubling and there is a stroke of color above the last “A” of CANADA.”

POSITION 29 SCRATCH IN "E" OF POSTAGE



This is an interesting plate flaw which may be only on the plate of 100. There is a scratch that starts in the hatching above "A" of POSTAGE running through the "E" and ending in the portrait shading lines above the "Y" of PENNY. Easily spotted running through the "E".

POSTION 42 (34) MAJOR RE-ENTRY



Fred Jarrett describes this re-entry as follows: "Frame line doubled at bottom left; two dots in "D" of CANADA; dot in "P" and other letters."

Also note the marks above "CAN" of CANADA. There is also a small mark in portrait oval below "E" of POSTAGE.

POSITION 46 (38) MAJOR RE-ENTRY UPPER LEFT FRAME LINE



Fred Jarrett describes it as “Inner frame line doubled top left.”

The upper left corner is also doubled upward and top frame line doubling extends a good way to the right. Bottom left corner is slightly off vertical, a small mark under “H” in bottom margin can be found on stamps but is less defined. There is also doubling of the right vertical frame line lower right corner.

Position 52 (42) LINES UNDER BOTTOM FRAME LINE



This is a nice example of a guide line and an engravers slip at the bottom of this position. Fred Jarrett describes this one as follows: "One line parallel and one short oblique line under frame line at bottom under "HAL".

POSITION 58 (48) MAJOR RE-ENTRY



Fred Jarrett describes this re-entry as: "Letters CANA and P show signs of doubling; there are two dots at left side of "P" and a dot in "EN" and stroke of color at top right of "Y" of "PENNY".



POSITION 59 (49) UNERASED BOTTOM GUIDE LINE



This position exhibits an un-erased guide line running across the bottom margin and connecting two guide dots.

POSITION 60 (50) MAJOR RE-ENTRY



Fred Jarrett says the following about this position:
“A fine line runs through bottom portion of letters HALF. Guide dot in panel between ONE and CANADA is very pronounced.”