

# PENCE-CENTS ERA STUDY GROUP

Of the British North America Philatelic Society

Volume VIII, No. 1, March 2019



**Nova Scotia Scott 3 (Strip of 3, right stamp bisected)**, tied to cover with matching Nova Scotia Oval Grids and red LONDON BC MR 23 58 PAID transit paying the 7 ½ d TransAtlantic Rate from PARRSBOROUGH, Nova Scotia to Guildhall Yard, London England. Large PARRSBOROUGH MR 9 1858 N.S. single split ring despatch and small H MR 11 1858 N.S. Halifax transit on reverse. This cover travelled on the 68th trip of the Cunard ship **America** departing Boston on March 10, 1858, stopping in Halifax March 12, 1858 and arriving in London March 22. *Ex Wilkinson.*

The lettersheet has black edges signifying a Mourning Letter and a death in the family. (See reverse next page)



Dear Study Group Member,

Spring is certainly welcome after a snow filled winter here in Southern Ontario. We've heard that our friends south enjoyed more rain than usual in February. A number of Stamp Shows are near such as Orapex, The Royal and the Postal History Symposium. We've heard through the grapevine that Peter Maresch will host part of his next Auction Sale at one of the Spring Shows so look for this. Ron Majors award winning exhibit covers are displayed in Part One of his article on **Post Decimal Postal History** starts off this newsletter. Enjoy the companionship of the upcoming Shows, exhibits and Philatelic Sales as our hobby becomes more popular.

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# Canadian Postal History: Use of Decimal Stamps and Postal Stationery in the Post-Decimal Era of 1868 and beyond, Part I

## by Ronald E. Majors

The decimal period in Canadian philately covered the range 1 July 1859 to 1 April 1868. This period is often referred to as the cents period since the prior stamp issue had the pence designation, a carryover from the British influence. Canadian postage stamps were never demonetized and thus, even today, the pence and cents stamps can be legally used for mailing purposes. However, in the pence-cent periods, folks didn't buy and stockpile stamps since they were relatively expensive.

Near the end of the decimal period, Confederation occurred in 1867. The Dominion of Canada (formerly Canada West, Canada East), New Brunswick and Nova Scotia passed the Post Office Act of 1867 to unify the 3 postal systems effective 1 April 1868. A new series of stamps series were issued, first the Large Queens (LQ, 1868) and later Small Queens (SQ, 1870). In addition, a new letter rate system (see Table) was introduced for domestic, cross-border and for mail to overseas destinations (UK rates only shown here).

Rate (up to ½ oz.)	Decimal Era	LQ Era
Domestic	5¢	3¢
Domestic Registration	2¢	2¢
Cross-border	10¢	6¢
Cross-border Registration	5¢	5¢
UK (Cdn. Packet)	12 1/2¢	12 1/2¢
UK (Brit. Packet)	17¢ (15¢ effective 1/16/1868)	15¢

However, people continued to use decimal stamps in their possession until they were gone. Surprisingly, covers franked with decimal stamps used by themselves or mixed with LQ and SQ stamps by making the correct postage are relatively scarce.

Charles Firby, in his listing of covers of the pence- and cents-eras (1) did cover a listing of decimal stamps used outside of the 1859-1868 timeframe. His detailed listing showed a total of only 89 covers. A more recent compilation by Wayne Smith (2) has greatly increased the number to 160 franked covers, still a relatively low number.

The purpose of this article will be to show some examples of decimal stamps used after the introduction of the LQ stamps on 1 April 1868. I will cover domestic and interprovincial usage here and then cross-border and overseas will be covered in Part II in the next issue of the *Pence-Cents Newsletter*.

# Canadian Postal History: Use of Decimal Stamps and Postal Stationery in the Post-Decimal Era of 1868 and beyond, Part I

by Ronald E. Majors ... continued

## Domestic Use of Decimal Stamps in LQ Period

Basic Letter rate: The 5¢ rate (up to 1/2oz) of the decimal period was lowered to 3 cents on 1 April 1868. Rather than going to the Post Office to purchase 3¢ LQ stamps, the simplest action to pay the new rate would be to use up three of the “old” 1 cent Queen Victoria stamps and this franking is the most common.

The cover in Figure 1 was dated AP 2 (18)68 only a day after the official rate became effective. The stamps were pen cancelled. Since Allanburg was a very small post office (generated only \$250-\$350/yr for 40 years, 1840-1880) (3), it was not given a duplex canceler, so a pen was used to hand cancel the stamps. Reverse side has Welland Railroad RPO (Ludlow RR181, RF 295). One of 17 known with this franking.



**Figure 1. Three 1¢ Queen Victorias paying the 3¢ rate**

The cover in Figure 2 is also dated AP 2 (18)68 and was sent from Toronto and cancelled with Jarrett Type 921. Again one of 17 covers franked with 3 three 1¢ Victoria decimals. Figure 3 shows another franking to make up the 3¢ rate. Here a 1¢ Victoria was combined with a 2¢ Victoria making the new 3¢ rate. Unlike the other denominations in the decimal issue, the 2¢ Victoria was not issued until September 1864. It had a specialized use for soldier's letters, double drop letter rate and drop letter with 1¢ for ferriage fee. It is very difficult to find on cover, especially single use. Only 9 of the 2¢ stamps in combination with a 1¢ Victoria are recorded (2).

Most people sending domestic letters during the decimal period would have used 5¢ Beaver stamps to pay the normal 5¢ letter rate. Thus, for convenience reasons, one would expect to see frankings in the early LQ era covers using 5¢ stamps (Figure 4). There are currently 17 examples (2) of the 5¢ Beaver being used; however, the sender was actually overpaying the rate by 2¢.

Figure 5 shows an interesting rare example of the 5¢ Beaver paying the 3¢ postage as well as the 2¢ domestic registration fee.



# Canadian Postal History: Use of Decimal Stamps and Postal Stationery in the Post-Decimal Era of 1868 and beyond, Part I

by Ronald E. Majors ... continued



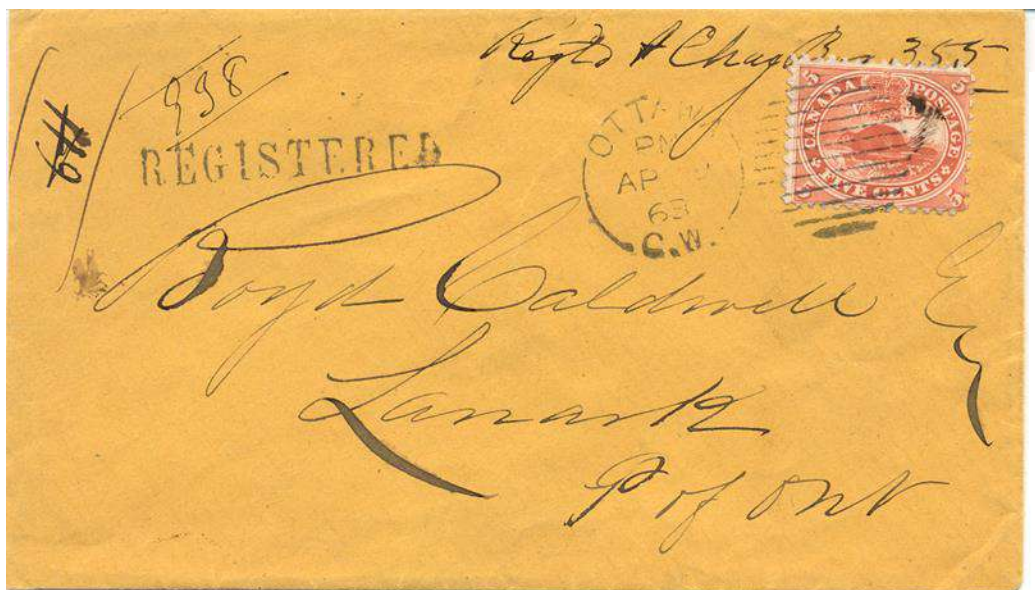
**Figure 2. Three 1¢ Victoria decimal stamps paying the new 3¢ rate**

**Figure 3. Late but legal usage of 1¢ and 2¢ decimals paying the 3¢ domestic rate effective 1 April 1868**



**Figure 4. This cover, postage overpaid by 2¢ was posted on JY 7 (18)68 several months after the new 3¢ rate. Stamp is #62 from state 10 of the plate showing the 46b flaw.**

**Canadian Postal History: Use of Decimal Stamps and Postal Stationery  
in the Post-Decimal Era of 1868 and beyond, Part I  
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**Figure 5. A 5¢ Beaver pays the 3¢ postage and 2¢ registration.**

**Posted in Ottawa AP 9 (18)68; straightline REGISTERED handstamp. Only 4 covers known with this franking (2).**

**Additional Domestic Uses of Decimal Stamps in LQ Period**

The 8-Fold Printed Matter Rate: Figure 6 shows an oversize envelope with 8 1¢ Queen Victoria stamps affixed. This envelope contained voter registration



**Figure 6. The 8-fold printed matter rate; unrecorded; cover was posted on MY 13 (18)68 just into LQ period.**



# Canadian Postal History: Use of Decimal Stamps and Postal Stationery in the Post-Decimal Era of 1868 and beyond, Part I by Ronald E. Majors ... continued

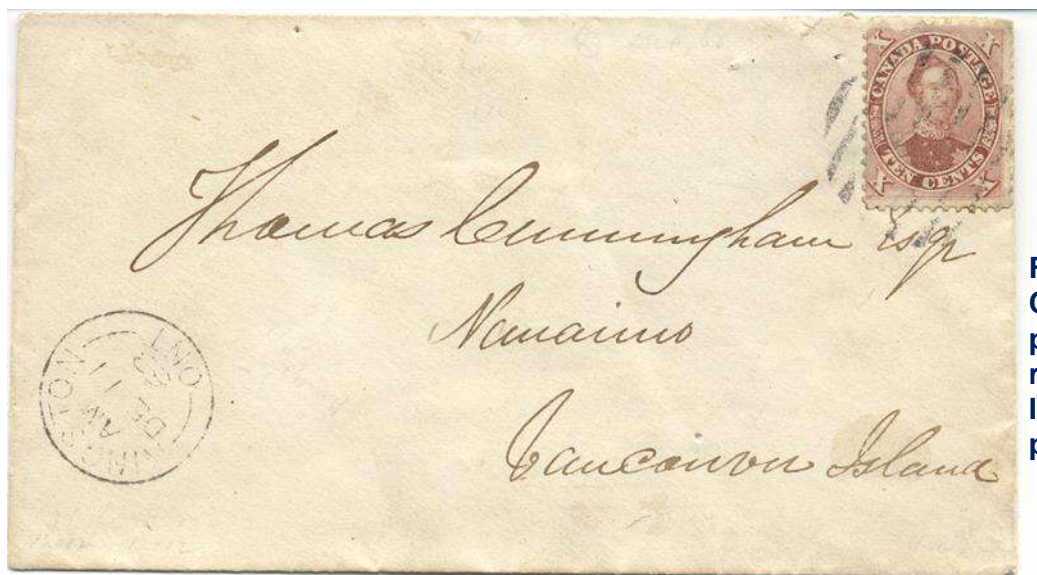
The 3-Fold Letter Rate: The large cover depicted in Figure 7 (reduced in size to fit onto page) shows a 10¢ Consort which would suggest that it held at least 1 ½ ounces in weight posted during the LQ period.



**Figure 7. Large cover posted on AP 17 (18)68 paid the 3X letter rate with a 1¢ overpayment.**

## Interprovincial Use of Decimal Stamps in LQ Period

British Columbia didn't join the Confederation until July 20, 1871 and thus the prevailing postage rate for a letter under ½ oz. was 10¢. Cover (Figure 8) was posted on DE 11 (18)68. It is the **only reported cover** with a decimal stamp to Vancouver Island during the LQ period (1-2).



**Figure 8. The 10c Consort stamp paying the correct rate to Vancouver Island during LQ period.**

**Canadian Postal History: Use of Decimal Stamps and Postal Stationery  
in the Post-Decimal Era of 1868 and beyond, Part I**  
by Ronald E. Majors ... continued



**Figure 9 (above)** depicts the new 3¢ rate to Halifax, Nova Scotia (effective Apr 1, 1868); both the 1¢ and 2¢ stamps tied by Montreal 11 AP 68 duplexes, manuscript 'via Portland', 16 AP receiver on reverse.

**Domestic Combined Use of Decimal- and LQ-Stamps in LQ Period**



**Figure 10.** The new 3¢ rate; posted JU 12 (18)68 to Ingersoll, Ontario; cannot read city of origin; Ingersoll, C.W. receiver on reverse; 8 reported covers with this franking (2).



**Canadian Postal History: Use of Decimal Stamps and Postal Stationery  
in the Post-Decimal Era of 1868 and beyond, Part I**  
by Ronald E. Majors ... continued



**Figure 11.** Posted in Thurso, L.C. (Quebec) on JA 4 (18)69. Two transits and a Vanklee Hill, C.W. receiver in blue on reverse; 7 reported covers with this franking in LQ era (2).



**Figure 12.** This cutdown cover front was posted in Windsor on 9 14 (18)68 and shows a straightline REGISTERED handstamp; the 3 copies of the 5¢ Beaver paid the 5X postage rate and the 3¢ LQ overpays the 2¢ registration by a penny; this is the only franking with this combination of stamps (2).

Part II will be continued in the next issue of Pence-Cents Newsletter

# Canadian Postal History: Use of Decimal Stamps and Postal Stationery in the Post-Decimal Era of 1868 and beyond, Part I by Ronald E. Majors ... continued

## References

- 1) Charles G. Firby, *The Postal Rates of Canada: 1851-1868, The Provincial Period- A Recording, Part II*, for Canada 1859 Issue Stamps, 1976; revised September 1, 1984.
- 2) Wayne Smith, *1859 Issue Covers-Post April 1 1868*, Pence-Cents Study Group Newsletter, BNAPS, Vol. VII (No. 3), August, 2018, pp. 2-9.
- 3) Frank W. Campbell, *Canada Post Offices, 1755-1895, Quarterman Publications, Boston, 1972, p.3.*
- 4) . George B. Arfken & Arthur W. Leggett, *Canada's Decimal Era*, Vincent Graves Greene Research Foundation, Toronto, 1996.



## The 5c Beaver “Unlisted” by Jim Jung

When do you start seriously collecting stamps? The old saying goes that “*Philately starts when the catalog ends.*” There is no further truth when it comes to the 5c Beaver. The varieties listed in the Unitrade Catalog are flaws that are readily visible without using any magnification. This fascinating stamp has many unknown but wonderful Plate Flaws and Reentries that are easily seen. Many of these beauties are documented by Whitworth, and if you get into his books on the Decimal Issue and the 5c Beaver, these stamps are all there. These flaws appeared in a particular state of the printing plate and then they were generally corrected or disappeared through plate wear. Even though these flaws are as dramatic as the listed flaws, they haven’t really been popularized by collectors yet.



Position 75 State 4  
(Plate Flaw 7) – This is one of the three Sunray Flaws. There are lines streaking across the sky above the sun from the R in VR to the right framelines. This flaw occurred in just State 4 and was removed before State 5. It is normally very faint, but this stamp has a darker shade and a very strong appearance of this flaw.

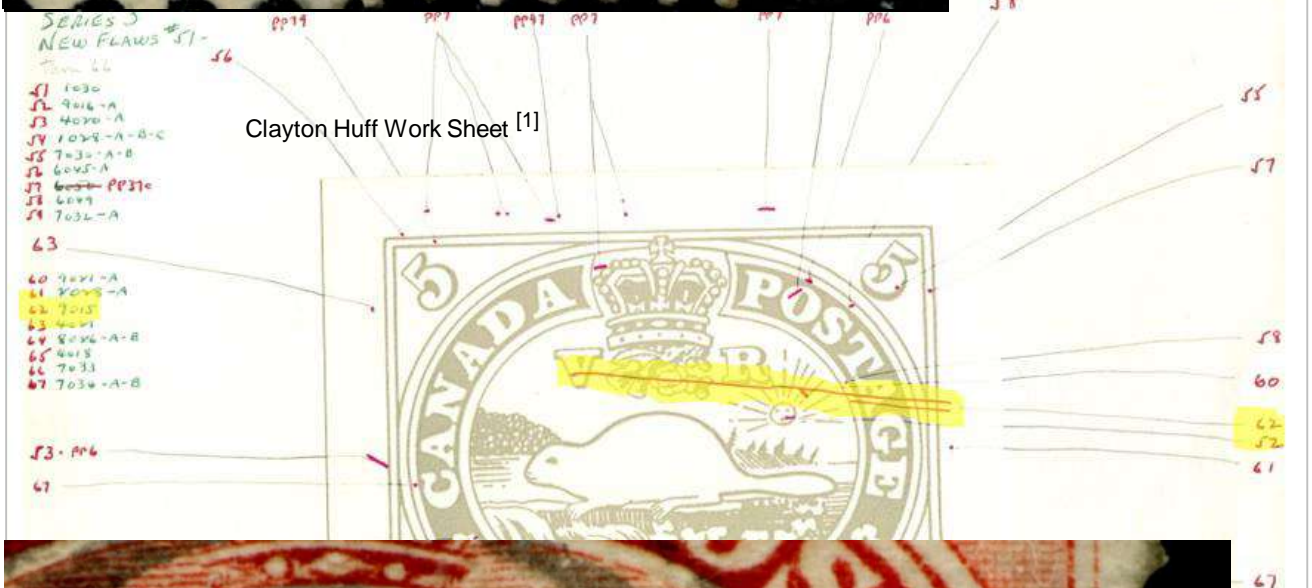




## The 5c Beaver "Unlisted" by Jim Jung continued ...



Position 61 State 4A (Huff Flaw 9015) – This large flaw was matched by Michael Smith to a drawing on a Work Sheet (below) belonging to Clayton Huff. There are lines streaking across from the V in VR through the A of POSTAGE to the right framelines. From the dots in the LL margin and reentries in all four corner framelines, we can plate this at Position 61 and we believe the flaw appeared briefly between States 4-5. **This flaw is a new discovery aside from this Clayton Huff Work Sheet and was virtually unknown until this copy was researched by our group of collectors. If you have one or find one, please let us know !**







Position 34 State 9 to State 11 (Plate Flaw 59) – The Low Moon Flaw is a large dot between the sun and the letters AG of POSTAGE. The dot has irregular edges. This appeared in late printings as did the Major Reentry at position 28. Whitworth lists this flaw with an Earliest Observed Date of June 15, 1867. Of course, the Large Queen issue was released less than a year later in April 1868.





Position 10 State 2a (Plate Flaw 124) – The Bubble Flaw is an outline of a round object below the E of FIVE. This appears in the later part of State 2 and was corrected before State 3. That makes this little gem very difficult to find.



The 5c Beaver “Unlisted” by Jim Jung continued ...



Position 64 State 4 (Plate Flaws 13 and 28a) – these plate scratches are usually faint but quite large and are formed in two separate flaws. Plate Flaw 28a is larger and is composed of two parallel scratches running from the beaver's back through the trees to GE of POSTAGE. A third scratch runs from the R of VR through the sun and down to the E of POSTAGE. Plate Flaw 13 is the Railroad Track variety with two parallel scratches running through NT of CENTS down to the



lower margin. These scratches appeared only in State 4 and wore away quickly and are not known in State 5.



The 5c Beaver “Unlisted” by Jim Jung continued ...



Position 65 State 4 (Plate Flaw 23a) – This is a large scratch that runs from the beaver's bum through the trees and then through the G in POSTAGE out to the frameline at the right.



## The 5c Beaver “Unlisted” by Jim Jung continued ...

### References/Endnote

[1] Clayton Huff, *Huff 5c Beaver Study Notes*, Unpublished Notes from Clayton Huff correspondence with Geoffrey Whitworth detailing new 5c Beaver flaws that he had discovered.

1. Geoffrey Whitworth F.R.P.S., L., *The Five Cents Beaver Stamp of Canada*, The Royal Philatelic Society, London 1985.
2. Geoffrey Whitworth F.R.P.S., L., *The First Decimal Issue of Canada 1859-68*, The Royal Philatelic Society, London 1966.



## Upcoming Shows – Spring/Summer 2019



ORAPEX 2019  
Theme: Elizabethan Era Philately

OTTAWA'S NATIONAL STAMP EXHIBITION  
EXPOSITION PHILATELIQUE NATIONALE D'OTTAWA

May 4 - 5, 2019  
RA Centre  
2451 Riverside Dr.  
Ottawa, Ontario



# Ottawa Philatelic Society





## ROYAL 2018 ROYALE

Canada's National Stamp Exhibition

June 22-24, 2018



Holiday Inn & Suites

Parkway Convention Centre

327 Ontario St.

St. Catharines, Ontario



## POSTAL HISTORY SOCIETY OF CANADA

**PHSC Symposium 2019**

**Sheraton Hamilton Hotel, July 18-21 2019**

## Upcoming Shows – Fall 2019



### **BNAPEX 2019 Ottawa** **BNAPS convention, exhibition, and bourse** **30 August - 1 September 2019**

Friday (10:00-18:00)    Saturday (10:00-17:00)    Sunday (10:00-15:00)

Delta Hotels Ottawa City Centre, 101 Lyon Street North, Ottawa K1R 5T9

[Hotel information and reservations](#)

In cooperation with  
**St. Lawrence Seaway Regional Group of BNAPS**  
**Ottawa Philatelic Society**  
**RA Stamp Club**



Parliament buildings at night



October 19 – 20, 2019    London, Ontario  
**CANPEX 2019 National Philatelic Exhibition**  
The Hellenic Centre,  
133 Southdale Road West,  
London, Ontario  
Show hours; Saturday 10 AM – 5 PM  
Sunday 10 AM – 4 PM  
Free admission, Free parking, Lunch counter  
Information; [info@canpex.ca](mailto:info@canpex.ca)  
Web site; [www.canpex.ca](http://www.canpex.ca)

## 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) (We really just need your info in an email and you're in for free, as a BNAPS member)

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

Street

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

Province/State: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal/Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

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

Describe your interest area(s):

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### 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](mailto: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.



## Errors, Freaks and Oddities by Jim Jung

During the BNAPEX in September 2018, I gave a presentation that was in two parts. The first part was presented at our annual Pence-Cents meeting. This included general information about Reentries, Plate Flaws and the collecting of Canadian Pence and Cents Era stamps with varieties.

Due to our time limit of one hour in the presentation room, I did not have time to deliver the 2<sup>nd</sup> part of the presentation. Included here are the Powerpoint slides from this 2<sup>nd</sup> part titled Errors, Freaks and Oddities.

- Items that are Not Normal
- Degree of “Not Normal” = More Money
- Value also comes with Rarity of the Error
  
- Design – Incorrect Picture (Dinosaur National Park), words misspelled, etc.
- Value – wrong denomination (5c on 6c Small Queen)
- Omission – Missing Colour or Overprint
- Double Impression – 6c Large Queen, PEI 3d Blue.
- Invert – Inverted Center or Inverted Overprint
- Colour – Stamp is printed in the wrong colour.
- Paper – stamp is printed on the wrong paper type. 2c Large Queen on Laid Paper.

Errors, Freaks and Oddities by Jim Jung continued ...

EFOs – Errors - Inverted Center





## Errors, Freaks and Oddities by Jim Jung continued ...

### EFO's - Freaks

- No catalog status
- Value dependent on the size of the Error
- Large Printing errors
- Preprint Paper folds (expanded)
- Inking Errors





## Errors, Freaks and Oddities by Jim Jung continued ...

### EFO's – Freaks - Inking Errors



Errors, Freaks and Oddities by Jim Jung continued ...

EFO's – Errors - Double Prints





## Errors, Freaks and Oddities by Jim Jung continued ...

### EFO's – Errors – Pitted Plate



1c Decimal Issue Position 78, 79, 88, 89

1c Decimal Issue Position 78





Errors, Freaks and Oddities by Jim Jung continued ...

EFO's – Freaks - Imperf or Missing Perforations





Errors, Freaks and Oddities by Jim Jung continued ...

EFO's – Freaks - Inking Errors





## Errors, Freaks and Oddities by Jim Jung continued ...

### EFO's - Oddities

- No catalog status
- Less retail value
- Left over errors
- Wrong Dates on Postmarks
- Minor Issues
  - Lesser Preprint Paper Folds (Not expanded)
  - Colour or Perforation Shifts





## Errors, Freaks and Oddities by Jim Jung continued ...

### EFO's – Oddities - Minor Issues

