

PENCE-CENTS ERA STUDY GROUP

Of the British North America Philatelic Society
Volume VIII, No. 4, Dec 2019



Perforated 3d – The Weeping Sun Position A50
Courtesy of Michael D. Smith

Readers Comments



"Another nice issue. The notes on paper restoration were very interesting. I've never used it, but Horace Harrison was a firm believer in using it when warranted, insisting of course that the restored item should be carefully documented as restored.

There is a photo caption error on page 17 at top. There are indeed many past presidents of BNAPS in the picture (as well as the current one), but many in the line have never held that particular office. It's actually a photo of the Order of the Beaver members - Ron Majors, who was inducted at this time (and who is our incoming President) had just been announced, and the applause you see is for him.

See you in Dartmouth - and I too am awaiting that 2 pound lobster (one of a number I expect to enjoy)."

Bill Walton

Charles Verge sent us this message on the Ron Leith cover recently illustrated in our newsletter.

Rob Taylor brought to my attention the article of page 2 of the recent Sept. 2019 edition of your newsletter (Vol. VIII, No. 3).

The philatelic information in the article is accurate. I have an answer to your question and, more importantly, two messages that you need to convey to your readers in your next newsletter.



1. The cover sold for \$800 at Sissons Auction 545, Lot 287, January 6, 1994. Your readers should note that the Harry Sutherland Philatelic Library (HSPL) of the Vincent Graves Greene Philatelic Research Foundation (Greene Foundation) has a vast collection of Canadian Auction houses' catalogues and BNA name sales from other auctions houses around the world. In many cases, the HSPL also has the prices realized.
2. Readers should note that the cover mentioned in the article and illustrated on the cover of your previous newsletter has not yet been sent by Ron Leith to the Greene Foundation's Expert Committee for review. In fact it has not crossed our desks since 2008 when we first automated the submissions sent in to the Expert Committee. It is possible that we may have reviewed it prior to 2008 but at this time it is difficult to retrieve this information without having the certificate number. I notice that the cover was listed in Ron Leith Auctions sale 51 (March 16-17, 2019) as lot 38 with an estimate of \$5000 but was not sold.
3. Readers should not take for granted that notes written on ads or other documents are accurate even if written by as prominent a BNA dealer as Chuck Firby. Over the years, with technological advancements and new research, philatelic items which were thought to be fakes turn out to be genuine and genuine ones turn into fakes. It is always wise to obtain a recent certificate for items that could be controversial or before putting out a large sum of money for an item.

The Greene Foundation's Expert Committee will take a good look at this item, as we do all items submitted, if and when it arrives for review.

SPARKS

★ AUCTIONS

Sale #32 — January 30th-February 1st, 2020

Dear Study Group Member,

Winter is on our doorstep and cold weather keeps us indoors searching for nice stamps and covers on the internet. There are websites such as eBay or Amazon. Then there are Auction sites for all the major Auctionhouses, many which can be reached at Stamp Auction Network. The internet is now filled with places to look for, talk about, even research stamps and covers. You can lookup the address on your cover on Google Maps and see what the building looks like now using the Street View feature or search the name of the addressee on Ancestry.com and find out who the person was. It's an amazing place to spend time with your hobby with a warm cup of tea on a cold winter's day.

Christmas is coming and January means Auction catalogs to look through, trying to find that nice rarity that you've always wanted. February Sales have historically been the largest of the year and where the biggest and best items show up for sale. These catalogs should be available soon, either on the web or in the mail. The excitement is just around the corner and the world is yours to discover.

In this issue, Vic Willson describes an important new find in a Decimal Issue cover and Ron Majors Part Two of his article on Post-Decimal Usage of Decimal Issue stamps. Ron has an Award Winning collection of Decimal Issue covers which is sure to have you salivating.

Jim Jung

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A Significant New Decimal Cover – Vic Willson



In a recent Skanfil (Norway) auction several lovely Decimal covers were lotted. Of most significance was the cover shown below, a 33¢ ½ oz. rate to Norway paid with 17¢, 10¢, 5¢, and 1¢ stamps. What makes this important is not only the franking but essential confirmation of the rate for the early Decimal period to Norway., Chief Judge at the PHSC Symposium, presenting Ron with a GOLD medal for his PHSC exhibit.

The cover was posted at Quebec Nov. 29, 1861, sent to Portland to catch the Allan Line steamer Norwegian, which departed on Nov. 39 and arrived in Liverpool on Dec. 11. The cover was received in Tonsberg Dec. 20?, not quite clear. The sender intended this routing with a manuscript "per Norwegian via Portland" at the top left of the cover. The cover's London transit mark of Dec. 12 is consistent with this sailing. There are indistinct transits that appear to be Liverpool markings.

In the Arfken and Leggett Canada's Decimal Era 1869-1868 (1996), there are only 7 covers listed, and I have not added any to my own census in 20+ years. The first has two missing stamps and is useless for guessing a rate, the second is a 38¢ rate mailed at Quebec Oct. 14, consistent with a Cunard Oct. 16 sailing of the Niagara. The third cover from the same correspondence is a 33¢ rate paid with the same stamps as the cover above. It has an Oct. 19 Quebec dater with a same day Norwegian sailing from Quebec, and an Oct. 30 London transit, consistent with the Oct. 28 arrival in London. The fourth cover is from the same correspondence, a 35¢ franking from Quebec Feb. 22, 1862, London March 8 transit. This is consistent with the Feb. 27 sailing of the Allen liner Jura out of Portland with Mar. 6 arrival in London. This is a 2¢ convenience overpayment. In 1864 the rate to Norway was 40¢ and later covers support that change.

Continued next page ...

A Significant New Decimal Cover – Vic Willson continued ...

The newly seen cover here confirms the 33¢ rate as it is to a different town and receiver than the previous common correspondence. All its markings are consistent with the previously recorded covers in this period discussed above. Arfken and Firby discuss the rate markings.

References

Arfken, G., & Firby C. (1996). Canada's Decimal Era 1859-1868. Toronto: Vincent Graves Greene Philatelic Foundation.

Skanfil Auctions (2019). November 8 2019 Moldnhauer 78 Auction lot 179.

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 (jimjung8@gmail.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.

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Use of Decimal Stamps and Postal Stationery in the Post-Decimal Era of 1868 and beyond, Part II Cross Border and Oversea Destinations by Ronald E. Majors

Part I section of this topic provided examples of the late usage of decimal stamps in the Large Queen era (starting 1 April 1868) and beyond. Both domestic and interprovincial uses were demonstrated. In Part II, I will show examples sent cross border to the United States as well as overseas destinations. 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). 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.

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¢

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 Part II will be to show examples of decimal stamps used alone or in combination with Large and Small Queen stamps after 1 April 1868 sent cross border and to overseas destinations.

Use of Decimal Stamps and Postal Stationery in the Post-Decimal Era of 1868 and beyond, Part II Cross Border and Oversea Destinations by Ronald E. Majors continued ...

Cross Border Use of Decimal Stamps in LQ Period

Six Cents Rate: On 1 April 1868 the rate to the United States was reduced from 10¢ to 6¢. The cover of Figure 1 sent to California shows the new rate paid with decimal stamps only. During the decimal period, there were two different rates to CA, the latest being 10¢ up to March 31, 1868. The new rate was reduced to 6¢, the same as for the rest of the U.S. This cover is the only one using this franking to CA during LQ period. (Smith)

Figure 1. Six cent rate to California paid with 5¢ Beaver and 1¢ Queen Victoria. Posted in Trout River, UC on May 7, 1868.



Figure 2. Six cent rate to New York. Posted in Montreal, CE on May 11, 1868. Paid with 1¢ LQ and 5¢ Beaver. According to the Smith survey there have been 17 examples of this franking reported so far.

In Figure 2, a more common franking paying the 6¢ rate is demonstrated. Compared to the cover in Figure 1, this letter didn't have to travel very far since it was sent to Champlain in upper NY State. A similar cover is pictured in Figure 3 but the paper of the 1¢ LQ is different. The LQ Unitrade #22b is printed Bothwell paper and it also appears to be a darker brown red. Two illustrated covers (Figures 4 and 5) also have a slightly different shade of the 1¢ LQ. In the absence of radio, TV, etc. illustrated envelopes were one way of promoting products and services. There are very few advertising covers used in the LQ era that are franked with a decimal issue stamp.

Use of Decimal Stamps and Postal Stationery in the Post-Decimal Era of 1868 and beyond, Part II Cross Border and Oversea Destinations by Ronald E. Majors continued ...



Figure 3. Posted to Elk Rapids, Michigan on 22 AP 1868; ex-Lussey.

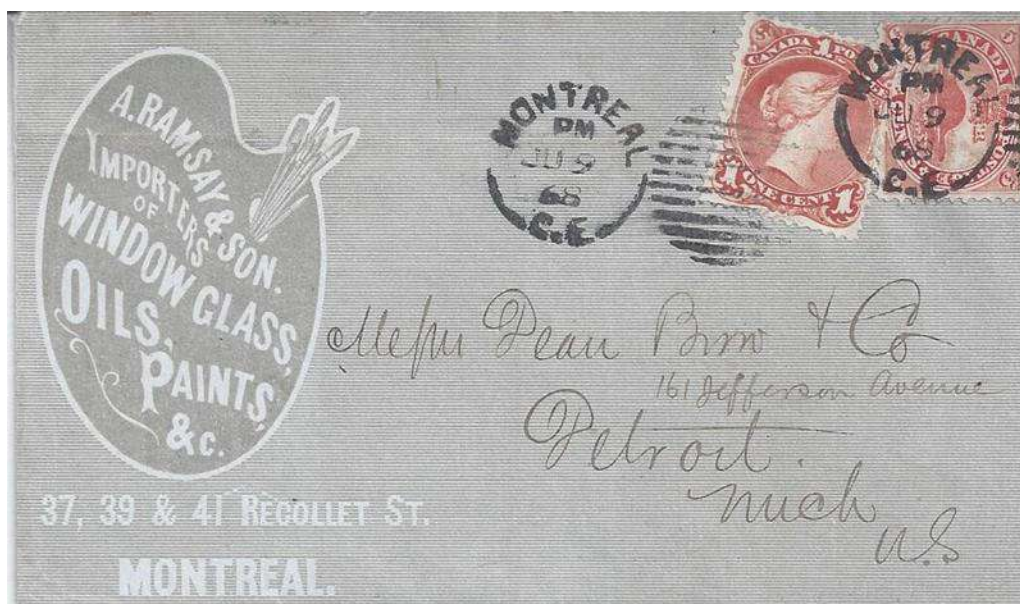


Figure 4. Illustrated Cover sent from Montreal to Detroit franked with 1¢ LQ and 5¢ Beaver; posted 9 Ju 1868, cancelled with Montreal duplexes.

Use of Decimal Stamps and Postal Stationery in the Post-Decimal Era of 1868 and beyond, Part II Cross Border and Oversea Destinations by Ronald E. Majors continued ...



Figure 5. Illustrated Cover sent from Montreal to Detroit franked with 1¢ LQ (darker shade) and 5¢ Beaver; posted 24 JY 1868. cancelled with Montreal duplex

Figure 6. Posted from Whitby, C.W. on NO 7 (18)68 to Quincy, Plumas County, CA. Forwarded to San Francisco; received there on 31 Dec 1868 (as docketed by recipient); only recorded example of this franking to CA (Smith).



Cross Border Use of Nesbitt Postal Stationery to US in LQ Era: The first embossed printed postal stationery was produced by the Geo. F. Nesbitt Co. of NY. The 10¢ dark brown embossed design was first available between 1860 and 1864. They were never popular with the public and thus not widely used.

Use of Decimal Stamps and Postal Stationery in the Post-Decimal Era of 1868 and beyond, Part II Cross Border and Oversea Destinations by Ronald E. Majors continued ...

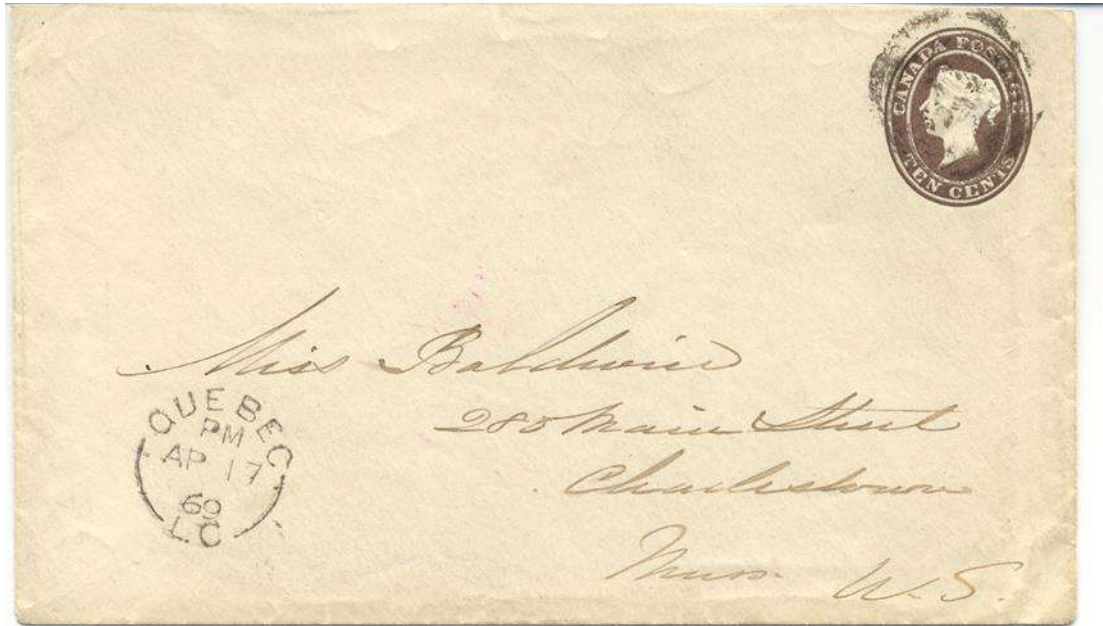


Figure 7. This letter was sent to Charlestown, MA and posted on 17 AP (18)69. Since the rate to the US was 6¢, this letter represented an overpayment of 4¢,



Short Paid to Maine

Figure 8. Franked with a single 1¢ Victoria decimal stamp and not identified as a printed circular which would qualify for 1¢ rate, postmaster did not accept stamp and handstamp "10" in black was applied as UNPAID and recipient would have to pay postage. No credit was given for 1¢ stamp (as per Canadian postal regulations). The cross border rate was 6¢ and the UNPAID rate was 10¢; posted from Quebec on AP 26 (19)68. Ex. Dale Lichtenstein.

Use of Decimal Stamps and Postal Stationery in the Post-Decimal Era of 1868 and beyond, Part II Cross Border and Oversea Destinations by Ronald E. Majors continued ...

Cross Border Use of Decimal- and Small Queen-Stamps: On January 1, 1875, the rate for ½ oz. or less was lowered to 3¢ for letters from Canada to the US. By 1875, one would think that most decimal stamps had been used up. Small Queen stamps were now in vogue.



Figure 9. The 3¢ rate for this cover [posted JA 39 (18)82] to New York was paid by the postal stationery (1¢), two ½ ¢ SQ stamps and a 1¢ Queen Victoria decimal stamp.

Mail to United Kingdom Using of Decimal Stamps in LQ Period

The 12 1/2¢ Letter Rate to United Kingdom: The Canadian Packet rate (sometimes referred to as the Allan rate) to England in the LQ era was still 12 1/2¢. Since decimal stamps were acceptable, a few early LQ period letters can be found with the 12 ½ ¢ decimal alone or in combination with LQ stamps. Even a couple of covers with decimals and small Queen stamps have been reported (Leggett/Arfken, Ref. 4). For registered mail, throughout most of the decimal period, the registration rate was an additional 12 1/2¢ over the regular letter rate. However, effective 1 Feb. 1866, the registration rate was lowered to 8¢. The additional fee had to be prepaid by using decimal- or LQ-stamps or cash. Figures 10-12 all represent the LQ rate to three different United Kingdom destinations.

Use of Decimal Stamps and Postal Stationery in the Post-Decimal Era of 1868 and beyond, Part II Cross Border and Oversea Destinations by Ronald E. Majors continued ...

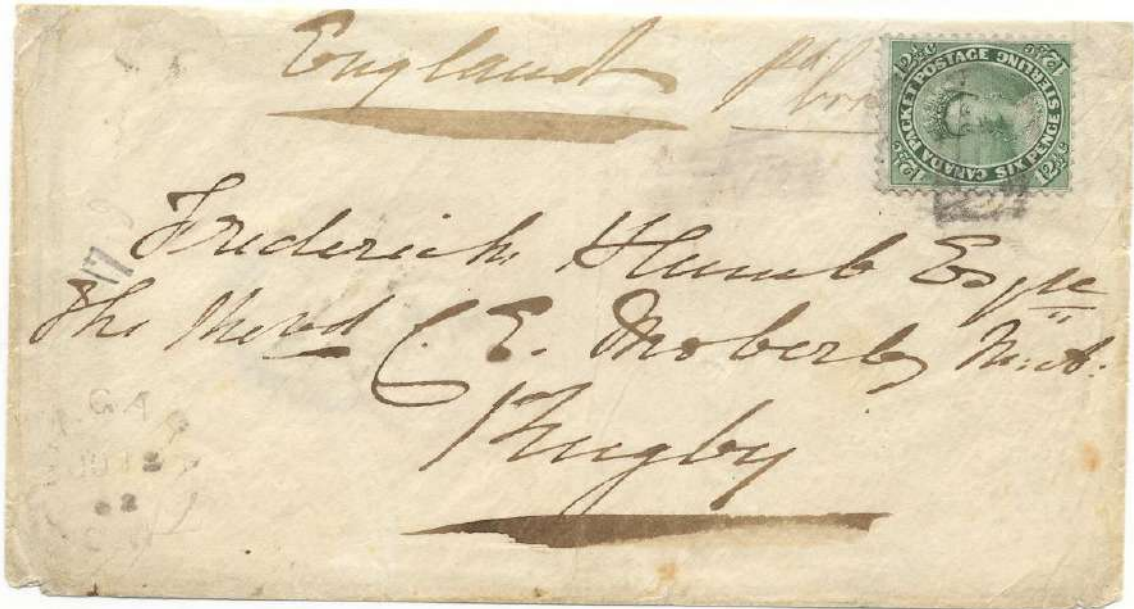


Figure 10. Cover sent to Rugby, England, paying with 12 1/2¢ decimal, posted on JU 16 (18)68; rate in LQ era same as during decimal period.



Figure 11. Mourning cover sent from Montreal to Glasgow, Scotland; posted on 1 May 1868. Glasgow receiver.

Use of Decimal Stamps and Postal Stationery in the Post-Decimal Era of 1868 and beyond, Part II Cross Border and Oversea Destinations by Ronald E. Majors continued ...



Figure 12. Sent to Ireland, posted JU 30 (18)69; since Canadian Line packet rate wasn't changed in 1868; postage remained at 12 1/2¢ during LQ period; Derry Colonial Packet handstamp (in RED) applied.

The Cover below is shown Courtesy of Vic Willson



Figure 13. The Canadian Packet rate to England was 12 1/2¢ and registration was also 12 1/2¢. Effective Feb. 1, 1866, the registration rate was lowered to 8¢. For this cover, the registration should have been pre-paid by the addition of a 6¢ stamp and two 1¢ LQ stamps. However, the sender applied a 6¢ LQ and 1¢ LQ (not correct registration postage) so here an additional 1¢ LQ was added at the upper left of the envelope to show proper franking.

Use of Decimal Stamps and Postal Stationery in the Post-Decimal Era of 1868 and beyond, Part II Cross Border and Oversea Destinations by Ronald E. Majors continued ...

Short Time Special British Overseas Packet Rate to United Kingdom using Decimal Stamps in LQ Era When No LQ Stamps were Available.

Packet rate by 2¢. On Jan. 16, 1868, the Canadian Department Circular No. 1 announced a new Cunard packet rate of 15¢ per ½ oz. The Circular promised that 15¢ stamps would be “issued as soon as they can be prepared”. However, 15¢ LQ stamps didn’t appear until April 1, 1868, although a few new LQ stamps found use before that date. So to pay the new rate until LQ stamps were widely available, other combinations of stamps had to be used. Here are two examples of this franking used in the correct period Jan. 16-Apr. 1, 1868 where no 15¢ stamps were available.



Figure 14. One method paying new 15¢ rate was to use three 5¢ stamps. The 19 Feb. 1868 mailing date of this cover fell within the small window of no 15¢ LQ stamps available. As a bonus, the pair of stamps (positions 28 & 29, State 11) show major re-entries. (M. Smith, Dots and Scratches, Vol.3, No.5, Whole No.11, Oct. 22, 2016); 1 of 3 recorded with this franking

Use of Decimal Stamps and Postal Stationery in the Post-Decimal Era of 1868 and beyond, Part II Cross Border and Oversea Destinations by Ronald E. Majors continued ...



Figure 15. A second method of paying new 15¢ rate with decimal stamps was to combine 5¢ and 10¢ stamps as shown on this cover. Posted MR 30 (18)68, letter traveled on Cunard Java. and has an AP 11 1868 receiver for Glasgow, Scotland; this is the only cover with this franking during this limited period

Overseas Rate to France using Decimal Stamps in LQ Era



Figure 16. Posted in Ottawa OC 21 (18)68, this cover (front) was carried on Canadian (Allan) Line and passed through London (RED transit stamps) and Calais, France transit (black). Originally sent to Paris, letter was forwarded to Chatillon. This is the only recorded double rated letter to France during LQ period paid for with decimal stamps.

Use of Decimal Stamps and Postal Stationery in the Post-Decimal Era of 1868 and beyond, Part II Cross Border and Oversea Destinations by Ronald E. Majors continued ...

Overseas Rate to France using Decimal Stamps in SQ Era

Figure 17. Use of a decimal stamp on mourning cover cancelled with Montreal, QUE broken circle duplex without a year date took some detective work. Practice of not using a year date in duplex cancellations was in force between December 1879-December 1880 (Stéphane Cloutier, personal communication, May 13, 2017).



This was also period where broken circle dater duplexes were in use. The earliest date for Montreal to use a broken circle duplex with QUE at bottom was 1875. Based on the red French receiver which appears to be 1 / JUN / 80 which would be a normal 10-11 day transit period from Quebec. The rate for UPU triple rate to France in 1880 would be 10¢. Thus the 17¢ franking would represent a 7¢ overpayment of convenience in SQ period.

Overseas Pre-UPU Double Rate to France using Decimal- & SQ-Stamps in SQ Era

Figure 18. This cover posted in St. Francis-Montmagny, Quebec on 19 Dec. (18)72 to Toulouse, France was franked with a 10¢ Consort decimal and a 6¢ SQ. The original 10¢ stamp was badly damaged and was replaced with the above Consort for appearance



reasons. London PD and PAID (light) transits (both in RED) and Calais, France transit (in Black). On reverse, Montreal and French transits. Red "6" on front is a British accountancy mark for 6 pence due.

Use of Decimal Stamps and Postal Stationery in the Post-Decimal Era of 1868 and beyond, Part II Cross Border and Oversea Destinations by Ronald E. Majors continued ...

Combination of Postal Stationery, Decimal- & SQ-Stamps to Pay Single 10¢ UPU Registered Rate to Hungary

Figure 19. A unique combination of 3 X 1¢ & 2 X 1/2¢ SQ, 1¢ postal stationery and 5¢ Beaver totals 10¢, 5¢ for postage and 5¢ for registration. Letter was sent from Montreal on No 23 (18)92, has an frontal unknown transit handstamp (in RED) & various registration markings, Amsterdam transit on back.



May be philatelic but pays proper rate; only cover to Hungary with decimal stamp but out of time period.

1870 Cover to Peru Franked with Decimal Stamps During LQ Period

Figure 20. This unrecorded letter is a recent discovery and was posted in Montreal [DE 1 (18)70] and sent to Peru in LQ period. Constitutes 2nd known cover with Decimal stamps to So. American country & only known cover to Peru during decimal period. Postage was 25¢. NY transit in red dated DEC 12. A Callao receiver on reverse.



Manuscript "22" in red at top left center may be related to actual postage rate to Peru which would imply a 3¢ overpayment. Most likely after NY transit, letter went by ship to Panama, across Isthmus by rail and then by ship to Peru. The letter was sent to Grace Bryce Co. which was the predecessor to the Grace Chemical Co., still in existence in the U.S. Even, in the 1800's, Peru was a source of minerals and fertilizers. VGG certificate.

Use of Decimal Stamps and Postal Stationery in the Post-Decimal Era of 1868 and beyond, Part II Cross Border and Oversea Destinations by Ronald E. Majors continued ...

Epilogue

Charles Firby's original updated 1 Sept. 1984 listing of pence and decimal stamps (1) used by themselves or in combination with Large Queen- and Small Queen-stamps has been the reference used by many to determine rarity (and often the value) of these special covers. His original listing totaled 89 covers fitting the above category. Wayne Smith (2) used similar information gathering methodology (e.g. auction listings, auction prices realized, dealer listings, personal contacts with collectors and dealers, society journals and handbooks). In his many years of collecting this data, Wayne has increased the listing to 160 covers giving an average rate of 2 new additions per year over the 33-year span since Firby's original publication.

Without a doubt, as more collections and "finds" come on to the market, the number of these late usage decimal covers will continue to increase but at a slow rate—there just aren't that many of them around. So, the hunt goes on!

References

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.

Wayne Smith, 1859 Issue Covers-Post April 1 1868, Pence-Cents Study Group Newsletter, BNAPS, Vol. VII (No. 3), August, 2018, pp. 2-9.

Frank W. Campbell, *Canada Post Offices, 1755-1895*, Quarterman Publications, Boston, 1972, p.3.

George B. Arfken & Arthur W. Leggett, *Canada's Decimal Era*, Vincent Graves Greene Research Foundation, Toronto, 1996.

Canada's Five Cents Beaver Proofs Part Two

By Michael D. Smith

15TC iv
Positions 3, 4, 13, 14 State 1



Canada's Five Cents Beaver Proofs Part Two

By Michael D. Smith continued ...

Position 3 State 1

North margin guide dots. Marginal dot below 'C' of CENTS.



North margin guide dots NW and NE. Marginal dot below 'C' of CENTS.

Canada's Five Cents Beaver Proofs Part Two

By Michael D. Smith continued ...

Position 4 State 1

North margin guide dots. Stamp stands higher on plate than positions 3 or 5.



North margin guide dots. Stamp stands higher on plate than positions 3 or 5.

Canada's Five Cents Beaver Proofs Part Two

By Michael D. Smith continued ...

Position 13 State 1
Marginal dot below 'C' of CENTS.



Marginal dot below 'C' of CENTS

Canada's Five Cents Beaver Proofs Part Two

By Michael D. Smith continued ...

Position 14 State 1
Normal.



Canada's Five Cents Beaver Proofs Part Two

By Michael D. Smith continued ...

Positions 9 and 10 State 1



Position 9 State 1

North margin guide dots. R. 37 = fresh entry. Short entry NW and E spandrels.



Canada's Five Cents Beaver Proofs Part Two

By Michael D. Smith continued ...

Position 10 State 1

North margin guide dots. Only one dot at NE. R. 11 = fresh entry. Pf. 68 = 'The burning Bush'



Blurriness to outer frame line
Pf. 68 = 'The Burning Bush'

Upcoming Shows – Winter 2020



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2 TO 9 MAY
2020

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STAMP EXHIBITION

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If you have an interest in early Canadian and BNA stamps, covers and postal history including stampless, please fill out and e-mail the following information to: jimjung8@gmail.com (We really just need your info in an email and you're in for free, as a BNAPS member)

Name: _____

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E-mail _____

FAX: _____ Telephone: _____

Describe your interest area(s):
