

PENCE-CENTS ERA STUDY GROUP

Of the British North America Philatelic Society
Volume IX, No. 3, June 2020



10d Cartier showing the difference in Wide and Narrow stamps on machine made paper that has either a vertical or horizontal weave.

“The cause of having some stamps wide and short while others are narrow and tall is unequal shrinkage in different directions of the paper.” ¹

Courtesy of Stéphane Cloutier of Sparks Auctions

¹ Arfken, Leggett, Firby, Steinhart. Canada's Pence Era The Pence Stamps and the Canadian Mail 1851-1859 Toronto: Vincent G. Greene Philatelic Research Foundation, 1997. Page 73

Dear Study Group Member,

In this issue, two 10d stamps, showing the difference in stamp size due to paper shrinkage gracing our cover page courtesy of Stéphane Cloutier. Stéphane mentioned that these two beauties will be up for sale in the next Sparks Sale in June.

Collectors are beginning to adapt to living with the Covid-19 virus and electronic meetings via Skype and Zoom are now the new rage. Having to work from home, I attend Skype meetings daily, usually as just an audio call. Employees choose whether or not to open up their video camera while the presenter gets to see everyone inside a small square on their screen. I have seen this on TV Shows as well. It's different but it simulates a Club Meeting fairly well. Ron and I have been talking about having a meeting like this in lieu of the BNAPEX 2020, which has unfortunately been cancelled. Let us know what you think about this? Enjoy this issue and please stay safe.

Jim Jung

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Reader Emails

I've been trying to ascertain the origins of the markings/cancels on a couple of New Brunswick blocks that I have in my collection. Although N. B. is outside the scope of this Study Group, since these blocks are in a similar time period, I thought that possibly some of our members might have seen or heard of similar marks. I'm attaching a scan of these items in the hope that you could circulate it in an up-coming Newsletter, to see if it gets any responses.

J. A. (Jack) Forbes FRPSC
email: JAFRBS@aol.com



I read Ron Major's article on the restoration of covers both now and when it first appeared in Topics back in 2015. I also remember a conversation with him on the subject. I don't see anything wrong with enhancing a cover as long as all the cancel markings are left undisturbed and the stamps are not altered and if exhibiting the item, the original be photocopied and placed alongside and the repairs and enhancements be noted. In the case of the illustrated cover herein, the stamps have been moved and I don't believe that should be done but of course that is a matter of opinion. I also believe that any repaired cover that is to be sold should first of all be made public through the philatelic media. A repaired envelope such as has been done to the illustrated cover certainly makes it more appealing to view.

Peter McCarthy

Reader Emails

The quality of the newsletter and the images is outstanding. I wonder what resolution and software you are using for the pictures in the newsletter?

Hi Gilles,

Thanks for the email. I'm glad you enjoy reading the newsletter. Most of the images we have are at 1200 or 2400 dpi. Mike Smith and I use the Epson Perfection line of flatbed scanners. The Epson scanners come with their own software. I find they are very good but I have heard that Canon makes a good scanner. Mike Smith also uses a Proscope Digital Microscope for some of his closeup images. There are a few of these in different formats but I believe Mike uses a 50x lense.

Stay safe,
Jim Jung

I will be offering two 10c Cartier imperforates in our (June) sale, both on thin paper. The interesting thing about these two stamps is that they have noticeably different measurements, especially vertical. I am including a side-by-side scan for your readers to ponder on. I am unsure as to why this may have occurred, and perhaps one of your readers will have seen this before?

Many thanks,

Stéphane

The reason for the difference in height and width of the 10d Cartier is due to the unequal shrinkage of the wet paper after printing the sheets. This is discussed on Page 73 of the Arfken Leggett Firby Steinhart Pence Issue book published by the VGG called Canada's Pence Era. Here is a pic of the paragraph.

Wide Stamps, Narrow Stamps. The existence of both wide 10d Cartiers and narrow 10d Cartiers was brought to the attention of the London Philatelic Society on February 3, 1894 by W.H. Brouse [7]. Figure 52 shows a wide – short 10d stamp on the left and a narrow – tall stamp on the right. Both stamps are on thin paper.

The cause of having some stamps wide and short while others are narrow and tall is unequal shrinkage in different directions of the paper. The paper is moistened before printing to help the ink adhere to the paper. As the paper dries after printing, it shrinks. Machine made paper has a preferred direction (unlike hand made paper). Shrinkage parallel to this preferred direction may be different than shrinkage perpendicular to the preferred direction. Some of the stamps were printed with the preferred direction of the paper vertical. For other stamps the preferred direction of the paper was horizontal. This phenomenon of wide stamps and narrow stamps appears on both the thin paper and the thick paper Cartiers. Since hand made paper is isotropic (same shrinkage in all directions), this implies that both the 1854 thin paper and the 1858 medium thick paper were machine made.

SPARKS

★ AUCTIONS

Sparks Auctions to hold next auction June 25-27, 2020.

Our next auction will offer our usual high-quality stamp offerings, as well as our familiar great postal history selection and much more, with something for every collecting interest and budget.

Pence and Cents collectors will be happy to see our excellent selection of Canada's first issues, both in our regular catalogue and in our "Outaouais" collection catalogue. One consignment entrusted to us contained many lots worth of early Canada material which had been purchased prior to the early 1960s and put away since then. Many Pence and Cents issues are offered from it, with an emphasis on the 1859 5c Beaver, with intact collections, including the following rare offering (lot 383).

As a reminder, our auctions are conducted in Canadian dollars, with an industry low 17% buyer's fee. Lots which have a "Rsv." in the description are reserved, and the amount shown is the minimum bid accepted to open the lot. All other lots are unreserved and start at \$5.



Lot 383 1859 5c Beaver Old Time Extensive Collection, purchased at auction in the early 1960s for US\$2,200 when it contained only 430 stamps (auction card and detailed description included), and the collection now contains 790 stamps. At the time it was purchased it contained some covers, which we have lotted separately, and the missing stamps appear to have been removed prior to that early 1960s sale. The collection, which appears to have belonged to Major G.A.E. Chapman of Ottawa (a well published and award winning student of this issue) is quite advanced, with many notes and remarks, and focuses on shades, papers, imprints, identified plate positions (many) and postmarks, many of which rarely seen. We note several paper types,

including thick, thin, a stitch watermark, one identified as "laid" (which was sent to the RPSL in 1953 who identified it more as a "ribbed", and to the E.B. Eddy Paper Co, with accompanying letters), a pair which appears imperf between but shows only two unpunched perforation holes between, perforation varieties including some imperforate singles, a single with a few perforation holes through the stamp and none around, many pairs, at least 19 mint and unused copies including the lovely block of four pictured in our catalogue. Postmarks noted include several with rate markings (1, 3, 5, 10, PAID), fancy numerals (16, 37, 21 roller, Toronto fancy 2, etc.), 4-rings noted are 4, 5, 18, 21, 27, many cork cancels, a complete Toronto mutilated Berri duplex, a lovely group of dated copies (calendar collection) from AUG.6.1859 to JUN.14.1870 all from a multitude of different towns, including many small. There is a selection of railway cancels on 12 stamps, and finally we note extensive plated material, a few of which are glued on an old time large positional cardboard, as well as the most imprint copies we have ever seen in one place. Catalogue value is for all regular stamps only. A unique, and once in a lifetime opportunity to acquire an old time untouched collection full of interesting material. For the most advanced collector, or would be a great start to an advanced study of this fascinating definitive, in use for at least ten years.

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3d Beaver Flaws - Part Two by Michael D. Smith

The Full Stop 3 variety

Pane B Position 30

The lower stamp in this pair is Pane B, Position 30 and shows a large mark in the lower right corner next to the 3 that looks similar to a period. This flaw is referred to as the 'Full Stop 3'. The flaw can vary slightly in shape but this is the only position on Pane B that has a strong mark in this corner. Figure 2 shows a horizontal pair of Pane B, Positions 29 and 30, with position 30 showing another example of the Full Stop 3.



Fig. 2

Fig. 1



3d Beaver Flaws - Part Two by Michael D. Smith continued ...

Tool Mark in the Upper Right 3

Pane B Position 20

Figure 3 shows my only copy of a very bold tool mark in the upper right 3. This is a constant flaw and makes it easy to plate this stamp position. When the stamp has a wide right margin, the imprint, 'Rawdo', could be present in right bottom corner. There is another constant mark in the bottom margin to the left of the lower right 3.



3d Beaver Flaws - Part Two by Michael D. Smith continued ...

Dot below the C of CANADA

Pane A Position 69



Fig. 4

This is another bold mark. This is a Pane A flaw at Position 69. Kershaw dubs this flaw the "Heavy Duty C-dot". It is located below the 'C' of CANADA just above the waterfall in the inner oval. This one is illustrated on a copy of #12 but, as with all these flaws, they can be found on all printings of the 3d Beaver.



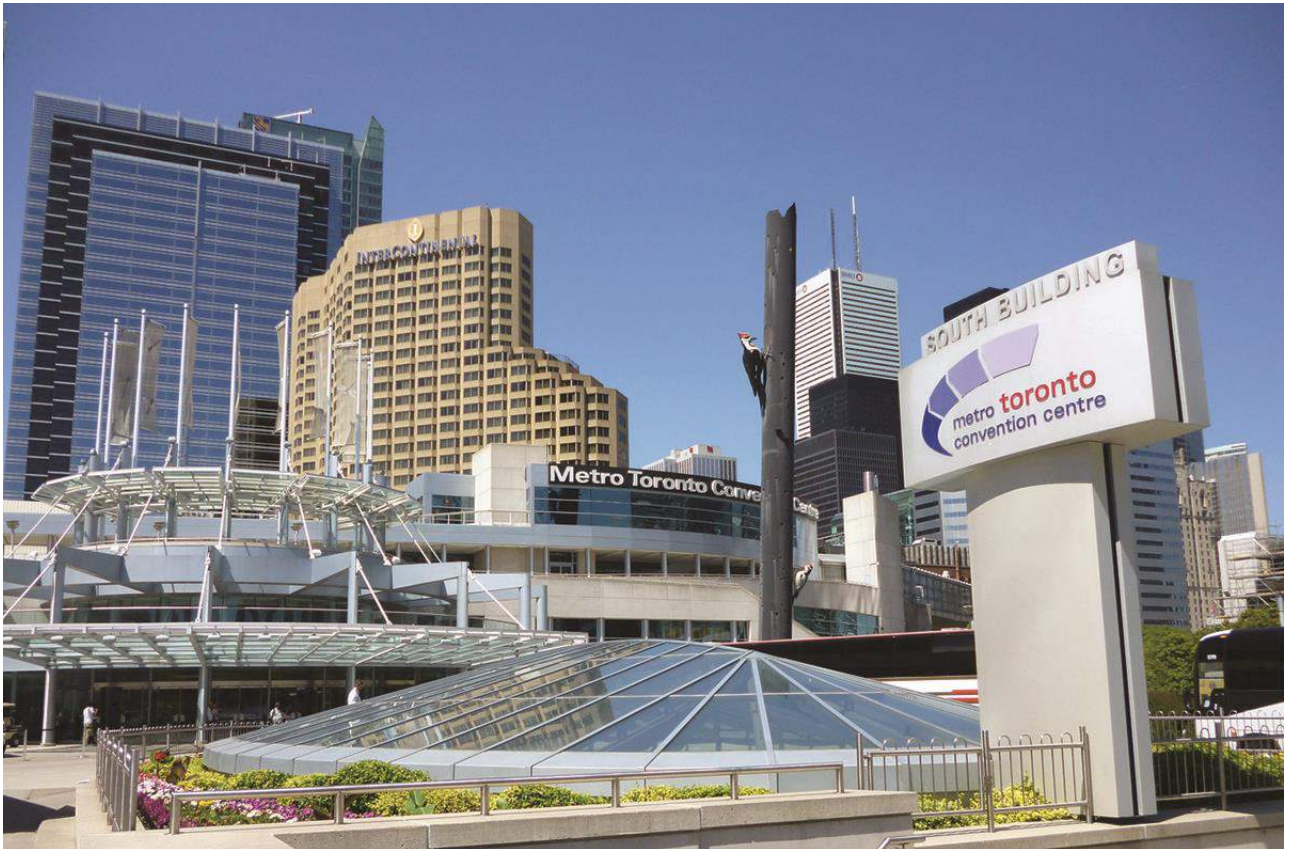
References:

VOLUME 4. THE THREE PENNY BEAVER PLATE PROOF B, Kenneth A. Kershaw, Privately printed.
VOLUME 5. THE THREE PENNY BEAVER PLATE PROOF A, Kenneth A. Kershaw, Privately printed.

TORONTO | Capex 2022 International Stamp Exhibition

9th June 2022 - 12th June 2022

[Click here or on the images to read about this exciting event to be held in 2022.](#)



After more than 25 years, Canada is getting a World Class Stamp Exhibition in 2022. Toronto is hosting Capex 2022 at the Metro Toronto Convention Center in downtown Toronto. This is a huge and gorgeous modern facility located in the heart of the Entertainment District in my home city within walking distance of where the Raptors, Leafs and the Blue Jays play; close to subways, trains, buses and hotels; and with a 20 minute train link to the Toronto International Airport.

I just had to say something about this show and hope that it gives you something to look forward to. I remember attending some wonderful and large Exhibitions in the 1990's in downtown Toronto but haven't seen any since. Collectors were mentioning the cost as rent in Toronto has skyrocketed in the last 20 years. You would now pay \$2000 CDN to rent a tiny apartment in downtown while Drake's house cost \$40 Million to build.

CAPEX 2022 is also the first World One-Frame Stamp Championship so exhibitors should read up on competing for the prizes.

Canada's First Patriotic Cover by Ron Majors

Being a Canadian postal history collector of the decimal era, I am always on the lookout for illustrated covers (e.g. hotel-, manufacturer-, merchandize-, military-themed, etc.). However, my favorite theme though is patriotic covers which are few and far between during the pence and decimal periods. In fact, in all my years of collecting, I have never seen a patriotic cover from the pence era.

The very first Canadian patriotic cover was one hailing the visit of Prince Edward Albert, Queen Victoria's eldest son in 1860, who later became King Edward VII (1). Several years ago, Ron McGuire and I contributed a two-part series on this historic first visit of a British royalty to pre-Confederation Canada and the United States (2-3). The focus of those BNA Topics articles was more on the details of the historic visit rather than the cachet. A cover that I obtained two decades ago from a Nutmeg Auction in the U.S. was shown in this first article (2). It was a domestic usage franked with a 5¢ Beaver (Figure 1). Until recently, only two other copies (both owned by Ron Brigham) matching mine to the same recipient in Smith Falls, C.W. had surfaced making this, besides the first patriotic cachet, the rarest patriotic cover in Canadian postal history.



Figure 1. Prince of Wales Welcome to Canada cover mailed from Montreal, L.C. to Smith Falls, C.W. Canada's first patriotic cover.

In the November 16th 2019 Eastern Auction, another Welcome to Canada cover to the U.S. was included as a part of a mixed cover lot of stampless and Small Queen covers. I couldn't wait to snap it up and placed a strong bid and was fortunate to get this rarity.

Canada's First Patriotic Cover by Ron Majors continued ...



Figure 2. Prince of Wales Welcome to Canada cover mailed from Montreal to Sanbornton, New Hampshire, USA.

This cover, pictured in Figure 2 tied with a Montreal AU 14 (18) 60 duplex, was mailed cross border to a Miss Anna E. Gilmore of Sanbornton, New Hampshire only two days before the domestic cover in Figure 1 was sent. The 10 cent Consort stamp paid the proper cross border postage in the decimal period. I believe that this cover could be unique used in the proper time period during the Prince's historic visit to Canada and the U.S.

References

1. Charles Firby, private communication, 1998.
2. R.E. Majors and C.R. McGuire, BNA Topics 73(3), 10-16 (2106)
3. R.E. Majors and C.R. McGuire, BNA Topics 73(4), 25-29 (2106)

News



Ralph Trimble sent me this photo which he read in a recent issue of National Geographic and remarked, "I wonder if her helmet still exists?" Well that would be an excellent auction item!

The U.S. Post Office Department launched airmail service in 1918. In this photo taken a year later, employees deliver a woman who traveled as cargo to San Diego, California. Later regulations prohibited sending people through the mail.

Photograph by Underwood Archives, Getty

[Stanley Gibbons One Page competition](#)

Although the competition is over, there are some very nice One page exhibits here at the Stanley Gibbons One Page competition. See if you agree with the judges on their selections. Something to work on for 2021.



An Interesting Proof Block of the Three Pence Beaver by Michael D. Smith



Fig. 1

Just recently I saw this marginal block of proofs (Fig. 1) for sale and bought it. I wanted to see if the positions could be plated. I felt I had a good chance of plating the block since I had four stamp images and they were from the left side of the sheet.

I did not see an imprint present nor any extremely obvious flaws, I started with Pane B images both of a proof sheet and Kershaw's VOLUME 4 THE THREE PENNY BEAVER PLATE PROOF B. I went all the way down the left two columns and found no matches for the four proofs.

I then checked the images of Pane A proof sheet along with images from Kershaw's VOLUME 5 THE THREE PENNY BEAVER PLATE PROOF A. In my mind I had already ruled out positions 31 and 41 because the railroad tracks flaw was not present so I skipped over that possible block. I got to the bottom of the first two columns and did not find the block.

I then started taking a very close look at the block I skipped. What I expected to see in this block is shown in the black proof image below (Fig. 2). Note the railroad tracks flaw between positions 31 and 41 (fig. 3). This would appear to be a stumbling block but other characteristics on all four positions seem to indicate that these are the same blocks. I will illustrate these characteristics in the next few pages.

An Interesting Proof Block of the Three Pence Beaver
by Michael D. Smith continued ...



Fig. 2

**An Interesting Proof Block of the Three Pence Beaver
by Michael D. Smith continued ...**



Fig. 3 - "Railroad Tracks" flaw circled in red.

The frame line breaks and alignment of the four stamp images are the same on both blocks of four. The "Railroad Tracks" flaw is the only significant difference. So I started looking for similar flaws in the stamp images and found just what I needed in positions 32, 41, and 42.

Pane A, Position 32 characteristics (Fig. 4): There is a double dot in the base of 'P' of POSTAGE, double line tooling marks in right margin, and the frame line break top right define this position. Figure 4 shows these flaws

An Interesting Proof Block of the Three Pence Beaver by Michael D. Smith continued ...



Fig. 4

An Interesting Proof Block of the Three Pence Beaver by Michael D. Smith continued ...

Pane A, Position 41 (Fig. 5) has some nice constant marks also. There is a small dot to the right of the cross that is fractionally higher than the frame line, a dash to the left of the crown in the top margin, a spike of color just left of the 'P' of POSTAGE jutting into the inner oval, and a mild re-entry in the last 'E' of THREE.

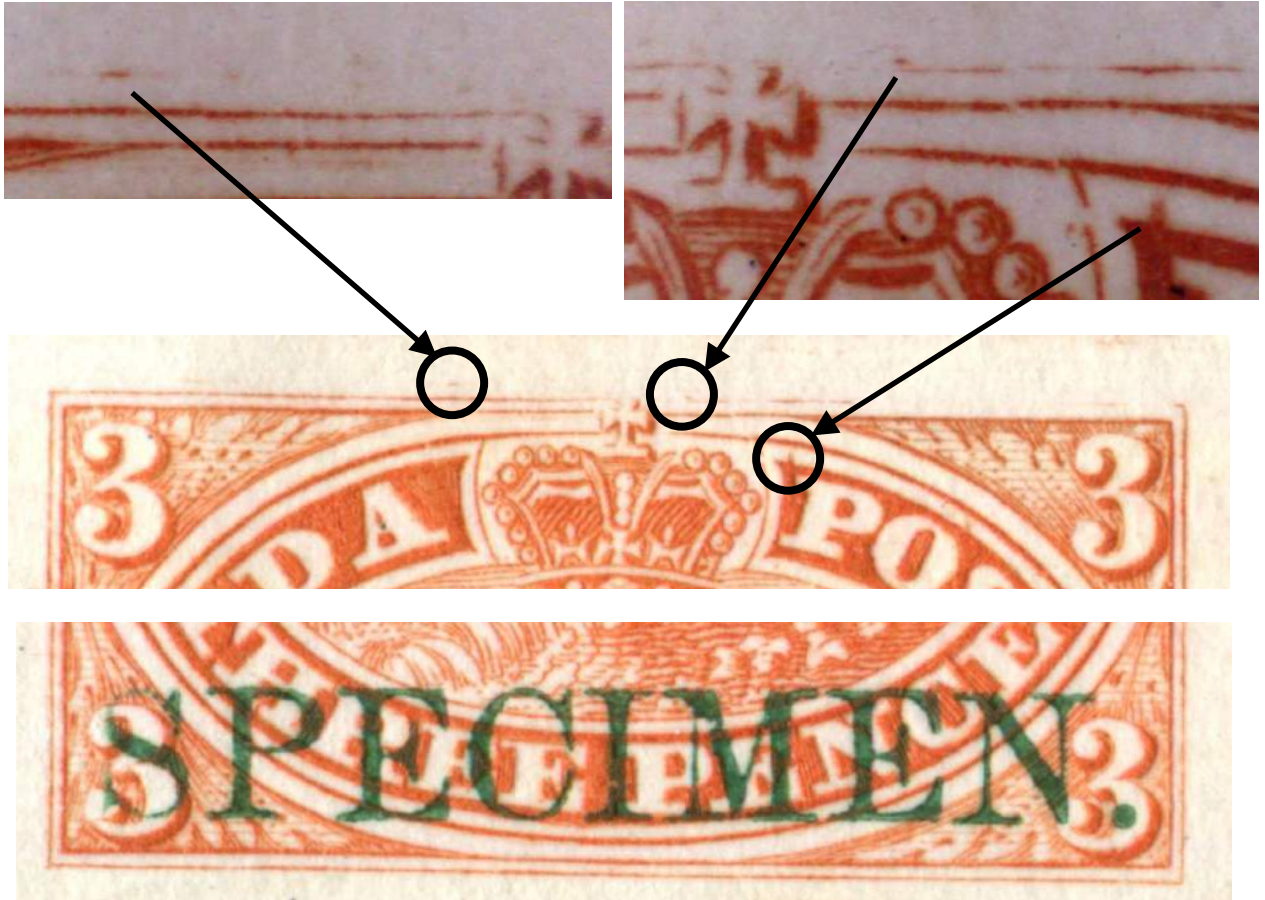
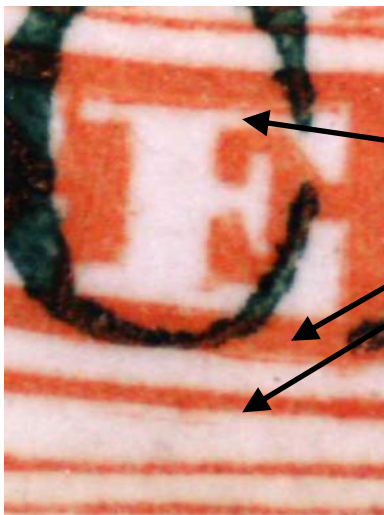


Fig. 5



The re-entry is most obvious in the last 'E' of THREE. The letter tablet is doubled slightly. And the oval below the 'E' shows traces of doubling.

An Interesting Proof Block of the Three Pence Beaver by Michael D. Smith continued ...

Pane A, Position 42 (Fig. 6) has a beautiful plate scratch in upper right upper margin (present on black proof but not mentioned by Kershaw), faint tooling marks in design center right, and a dash just right of the cross. The frame line breaks are also consistent.

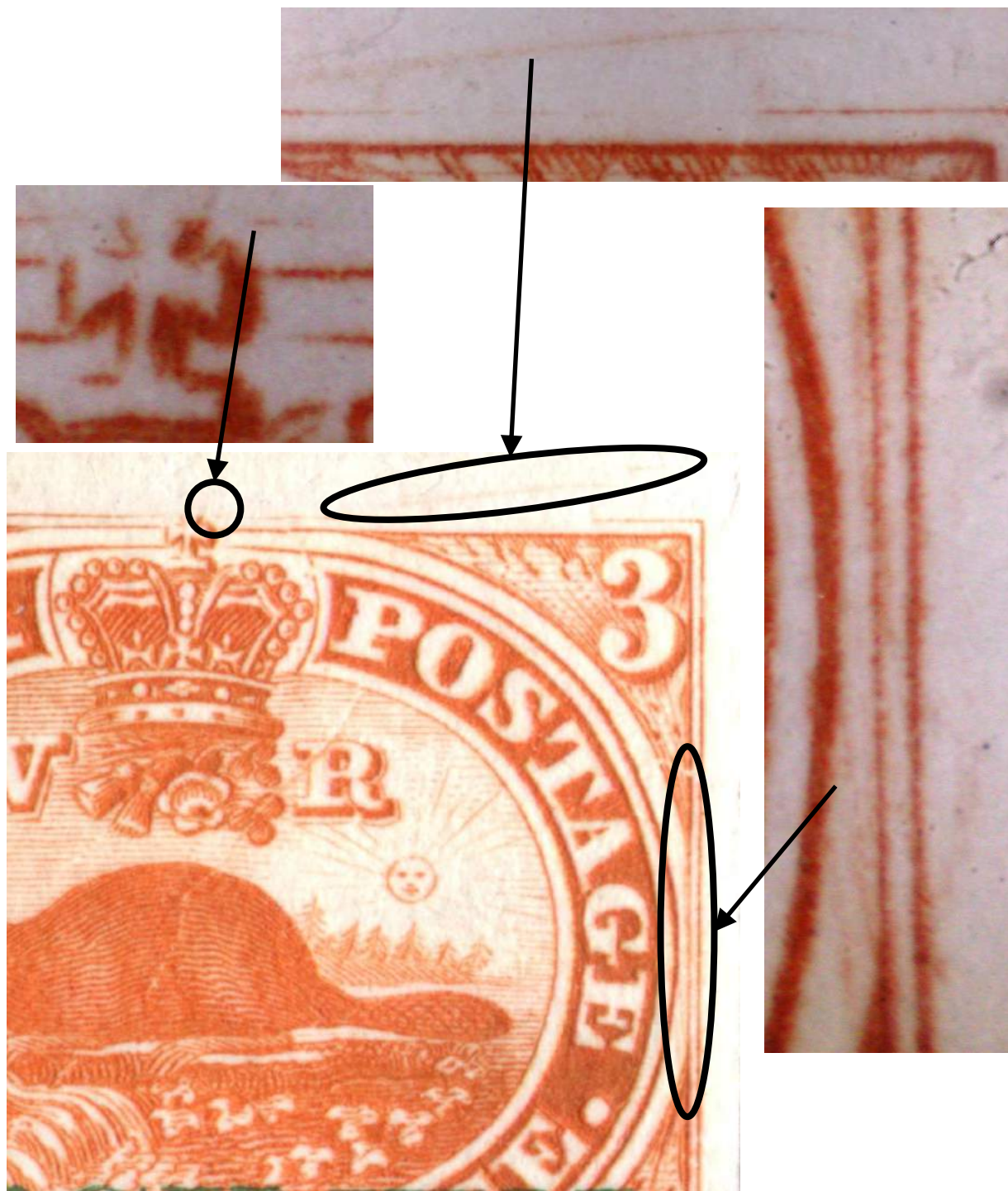


Fig. 6

An Interesting Proof Block of the Three Pence Beaver by Michael D. Smith continued ...

Now let us take a look at proofs of Pane A, Position 31. I just happen to have a single of the later state (Fig. 7) to compare to the early state (Fig. 6) in the block of four.

Fig. 7



Fig. 8



An Interesting Proof Block of the Three Pence Beaver by Michael D. Smith continued ...

Kershaw in his description of this position is so taken away by the tooling flaw that is known as the “railroad tracks” variety, and when present a portion of the imprint. He fails to mention other flaws that are constant when comparing my two proof copies.

The first small flaw that is a constant is a small tooling mark between the top frame lines to the left of the upper right 3 (Figs. 8 and 9). There is another small tooling mark in the margin below the lower right 3 (Figs. 10 and 11). Another tooling mark occurs in the right margin as a diagonal line in the right margin approximately at the level of the lower curve of the upper right 3 (Figs 12 and 13). Other extremely small marks can be found but don't show well in the scans.

Fig. 8
Early Proof



Fig. 9
Later Proof



Fig. 10
Early Proof

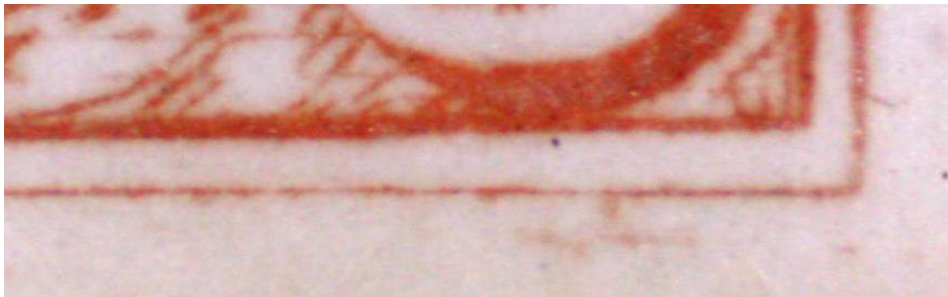
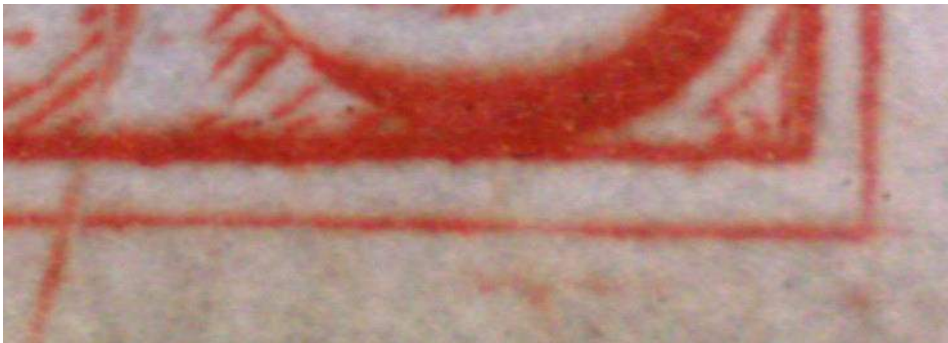


Fig. 11
Later Proof



An Interesting Proof Block of the Three Pence Beaver by Michael D. Smith continued ...



Fig. 12 Early Proof



Fig. 13 Later Proof

Conclusions:

All the marks present in Pane A, Positions 31, 32, 41, and 42 have been verified by examining plate proof information from Kershaw's books and images of panes of the proof sheets. We may never know the cause of the scratches making up the 'railroad tracks' flaw on the later states of the plate. It is probably storage damage at the printers. I believe that what I show here may mean that stamps printed prior to the imprint being added in 1856 may not have the "railroad tracks flaw", but without dated material one can not be certain. Even so we can say it is possible that some of the early printings of positions 31 and 41 may not show the flaw.

I had a lot of fun plating this block and think it is a significant find. I had always thought that the "railroad tracks" flaw was present on all copies of position 31 and 41 of Pane A and now I think there may be stamps out there that do not show the flaw from these positions. I would welcome reports from anyone having copies from positions 31 and 41 not showing the flaw.

References:

VOLUME 5 THE THREE PENNY BEAVER PLATE PROOF A, Kenneth A. Kershaw, Private Printing.

CANADA'S PENCE ERA THE PENCE STAMPS AND THE CANADIAN MAIL 1851-1859, George B. Arfken, Arthur W. Leggett, Charles G. Firby, Allan L. Steinhart, 1997, Vincent G. Greene Philatelic Research Foundation.

Upcoming Shows – 2020

Due to the Coronavirus, please check if the show has been cancelled before going.



Credit: JerryUnderscore from Pixabay

Halifax skyline at night



BNAPEX 2020 Halifax BNAPS convention, exhibition, and bourse **CANCELLED** due to COVID-19 pandemic 4-6 September 2020

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

Re-Scheduled to 2022

2 TO 9 MAY 2020 LONDON 2020 INTERNATIONAL STAMP EXHIBITION



2020

~~June 19 – 21~~ - Fredericton, New Brunswick

SHOW is CANCELLED due to COVID-19

ROYAL*2020*ROYALE, sponsored by the Fredericton District Stamp Club.

The 92nd Convention of the RPSC.

Fredericton Inn
1315, rue Regent St.
Fredericton, NB

Upcoming Shows – 2020



CANPEX 2020 National Philatelic Exhibition

October 31 – November 1, 2020, London, Ontario

The Hellenic Centre,
133 Southdale Road West,
London, Ontario

Show hours; Saturday 10AM – 5PM

Sunday 10AM – 4PM

Free Admission, Free Parking, Lunch Counter

Information, info@canpex.ca

Web site; www.canpex.ca

Online Virtual Exhibition



SAVPEX 2020

South African Virtual Philatelic Exhibition 22nd – 23rd August 2020
PROUDLY HOSTED BY
The Philatelic Society of the Orange Free State under the auspices of the
Philatelic Federation of South Africa



1. STATUS OF EXHIBITION

1.1 The Exhibition will be a competitive 'One Frame Virtual Exhibition' and open to all members of Societies affiliated to *The Philatelic Federation of South Africa* (PFSA) and all members of Federations affiliated to the *Federation Internationale Philatelique* (FIP)

1.2 The concept of this Virtual Exhibition may be explained as follows:

- (a)** Exhibitors, after assembling the exhibit, will scan the sixteen pages and send to the e – mail address in Clause 6.3
- (b)** The exhibits will be judged by appointed National and International Jurors.

(c) The exhibits will be available for display by request of a visitor to the venue of the Hobby Fair hosted by the Orange Free State Philatelic Society (Bloemfontein) in **August 2020**. A number of TV screens will be available for individual viewing of the exhibits.

(d) The exhibits will be available for viewing on the Federation Website after the judging is completed and Exhibitors have been notified of their results. This should be as of **22nd August 2020**.

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 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: _____

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 (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.