

# PENCE-CENTS ERA STUDY GROUP

Of the British North America Philatelic Society  
Volume X, No. 3, July 2021

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7 1/2d Proof Block of Four Positions 83-84-95-96 with the upper left stamp showing the position 83 Misplaced Entry (Unitrade 9iv)

Dear Study Group Member,

Up and down we go on the Covid roller coaster .Things get better, then there's another wave. We are staring down the 4<sup>th</sup> wave now, and with the kids going back to school, hopes are that we don't go back to closing down any stores or restaurants. I'm still ordering takeout but many folks are risking the trip to a nice restaurant, especially for those special occasions.

Some local shows are opening this Fall in the Canadian Stamp Auction world and we are waiting for the big Fall Sales. Hopefully, people will go back to work soon so that we can have the nice Auction Sales in Canada that we are used to. There were a couple of high price Sales in the United States where legendary stamps changed hands over the summer. Of course, there was the Sotheby's Sale of the British Guiana 1 Cent Magenta selling for \$8.3 Million (\$1 Million+ less than previous price) and the Inverted Jenny Plate Block which sold for \$4.97 Million. Stuart Weitzman is said to have paid Donald Sundman of Mystic Stamp Co. between \$4.5 to \$5 Million for the block in a private sale around 2007.

Closer to our stamp collecting pleasures, Matthew Bennett sold three copies of the 12d Black on Laid Paper in a Sale a few days after the Sotheby's sale. Prices realized were \$45,000, \$26,000 and \$26,000 for the 3 stamps. Judging from these prices, it may be a good time to buy with prices this low.

Selling stamps may be lucrative soon, however, so it may be a good time to plan your sales for the Capex 22 show next June 9-12, 2022. Some of the Auction House owners are setting up consignment sales in ready for the hopeful boom in Canadian stamp sales. Some big stamps will be changing hands over the next year. Will you stock up or sell some of your gems?

Jim Jung

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### 3 x 3d Beaver Cover by Bill Sutherland/Wayne Smith

Here is a small cross border cover measuring approximately 13 cm x 7 cm (5.125" x 2.75") sent from Brantford, UC to Waterville, NY on 24 June, 1856. The stamps are # 4ii orange red on medium wove paper. The two left-hand stamps are a pair and the right-hand stamp is a single, although they look like they came from the same row. What makes the cover unusual is that the charge for a cross border letter to the US was 6 pence at the time. Why this one was overpaid by 3 pence is a mystery because the envelope is too small to have been over weight and I was wondering whether anyone in the Study Group might have an explanation and whether anyone is aware of other similarly overpaid 3 pence covers.

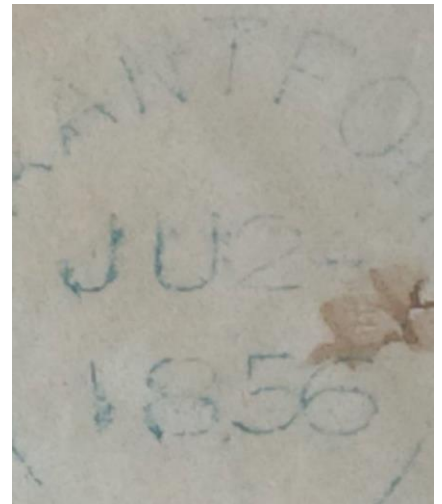


I have seen this cover sold by Maresch, Vance and Eastern. None have offered a good explanation. At the time the letter was sent, the rate for letters over 3,000 miles was 9p. This basically meant to California but could also be to Oregon territory. Quite unlikely there could have been confusion but there are some examples known of other rates being over paid. In Canada the domestic registration system was implemented May 1, 1855. A 1d fee was charged. With no 1d stamp this would be paid in cash.

The US started its own registration system in July 1855. There was no formal agreement for handling these letters across the border until Oct 1, 1856. If a letter was sent registered from Canada to the US prior to Oct 1856, it would be handled as a regular letter once in the US mail system. The post Oct 1856 registration rate to the US was 3d. If someone was thinking they could send a registered letter to the US pre Oct 1856, the logical rate would be 6d + 1d as charged in Canada, since there was no hint that US registration would be 3d when it was implemented 3 months later. In the scan, the year is not clear - is it definitely 1856? If 1858 the rate would make sense but it should of had rate marking. Is it possible a 3p stamp is missing?

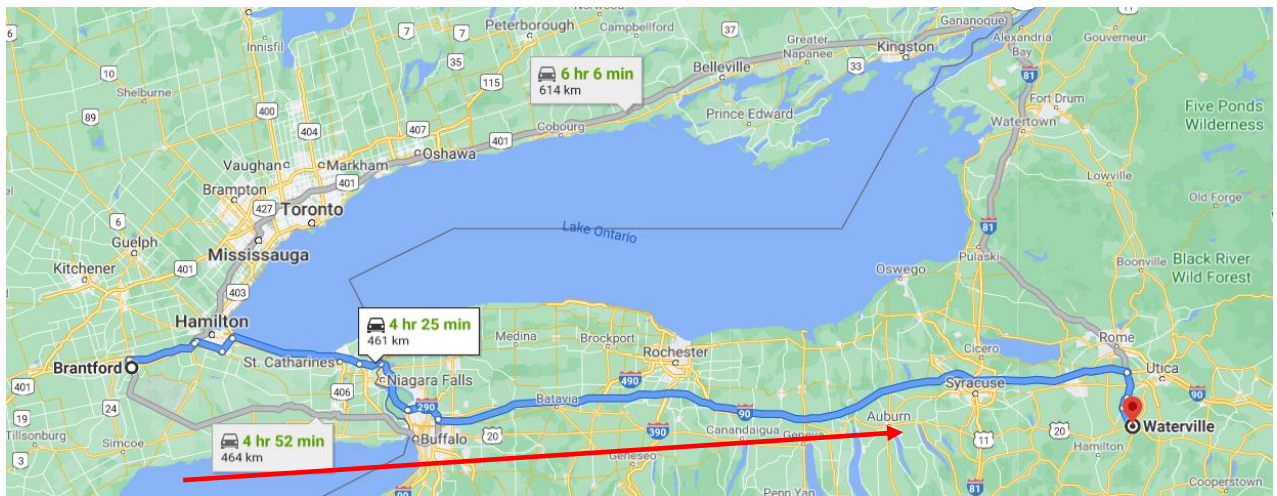
### 3 x 3d Beaver Cover by Bill Sutherland/Wayne Smith

A closeup of the date stamp shows that the date year is clearly 1856. If there was a stamp missing, I believe that there would be some blue bits of the cancellation showing to the right of the stamps that would have tied the “*missing*” stamp to the cover. The theory of the registration payment is interesting even though there was no such payment implemented at the time.



Below is a map of the area showing Brantford at the left and Waterville at the right. Could the extra 3d been for a Ferry charge from Hamilton to Oswego, New York, as shown with the red line?

If anyone has a plausible explanation for this 3d additional charge, please let us know what you think.



### Caveat Emptor by Jim Jung

There has been a scourge of new style digital fakes being sold, most notably on eBay. These fakes come in all shapes and sizes so be very careful when bidding on eBay. These stamps do look good and are always in Very Fine condition. They are also always in an auction format where the lot starts at a low price, for example \$1, with the lot going to the highest bidder.

I have seen many of the early issues, including Large Queens, Small Queens, Jubilees and Pence Issue fakes. Here are just two examples.



## Wayne Smith Update

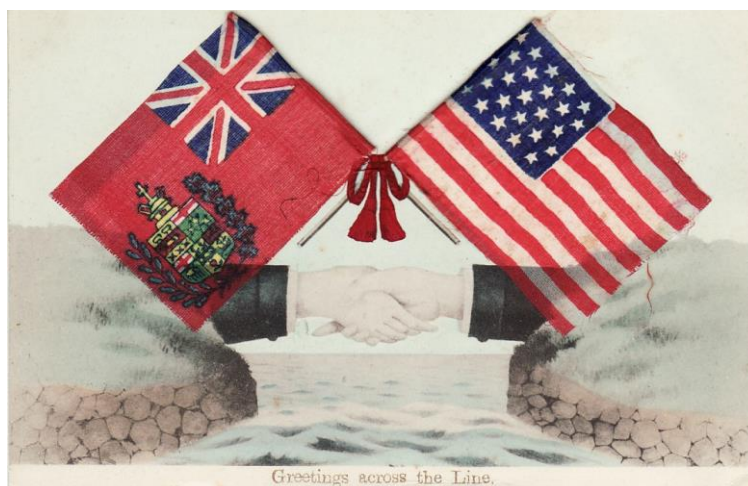
Over the past several months I have created some new census and updated prior ones.

- Feb 7/21 Prior census of Pence issue covers updated - with about 50 new covers added with a new total over 4,500.
- My 31/21 New census of covers with 4 ring cancels. List totals for each hammer for Pence, Cents, Large Queen and stampless covers. If known on Small Queen that is noted but total was not recorded. Postal Stationary also not included except for a single early date. Early and late dates are included for each hammer. Also there are a table listing known off cover examples for Cents and Large Queen issue.
- Ju 19/21 Prior census of Cents issue stamps used post April 1, 1868 when they were replaced by the Large Queen issue.  
Many of the covers have stamps from both the 1859 issue and the new stamps - total now is 171 covers.

All census can be found on BNAPS website -in the article section of the online library.  
New item scans/information are always desired - waynesmithtor@yahoo.ca

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### Want to Give CAPEX22 a Helping Hand



Recently, BNAPS has introduced a matching funds program to allow members to make a monetary donation to CAPEX22 and the Society will match your donation 1:1, in effect doubling your contribution. The program will run until February 2022. As you know, CAPEX22 (June 9-12, 2022) is the first single-frame international exhibition and is the first major international show in Canada since 1996. If you have never been to an international show, you will be in for a treat. Because of this program, BNAPS will become a Partner Sponsor and will have a premium position with a booth on the exhibition/bourse interface, a relaxation room for guests and members to meet or just get off of their feet, a seminar room named BNAPS Room for the entire conventions, sponsorship of the Awards program and a few other perks—all high visibility activities.

You can donate direct on the BNAPS website, click on “Donate”. Canadians can donate directly on the CAPEX22.org website. Don’t forget to identify yourself as a BNAPS member in order for CAPEX to get the matching funds. Thanks in advance for your help for Canadian philately!

## Early Canada to California by Vic Willson

Shown below (next page) is a stampless cover from Belleville to San Diego, California. While the date is a bit unclear, I make it to be Sept. 29, 1851, corroborated by a same date in the heading of the letter. The franking is 9 15, 9d or the equivalent of 15 cents US per half oz., the rate in effect as of April 6, 1851. The US rate at the time to California was 10 cents, equivalent to 6d, so the additional 3d can be construed as the domestic component. In addition to the manuscript rating are two PAID handstamps in red and an arc CANADA. There is no receiving mark. I have seen perhaps 3 other stampless covers to California in the Pence period. Wilkinson exhibited a double rate with manuscript 1/6, from the same correspondence with the same handstamps, dated Sept. 26, 3 days earlier than the one shown here.

The letter itself implores the young man addressed to, James Fidler, to come home by Christmas by both his mother and father. The unlikelihood that this could occur is based on the three routes, overland, around the Horn, and across Panama. Overland was shortest at perhaps 100 days, the Horn up to 6 months or more, and the Panama cutoff at 3-4 months. The Horn route was the most expensive, but somewhat "standard", while the other two were cheaper but more dangerous.



According to the Arfken, Leggett, Firby, Steinhart book on the Pence Issue, only one unique, stamped cover exists to the United States West Coast (California and Oregon). It is franked with a 3d pair and single paying the 9d rate from Three Rivers, L.C. to Texas Hill, California. Two other California covers are pictured in the Arfken/Leggett book.

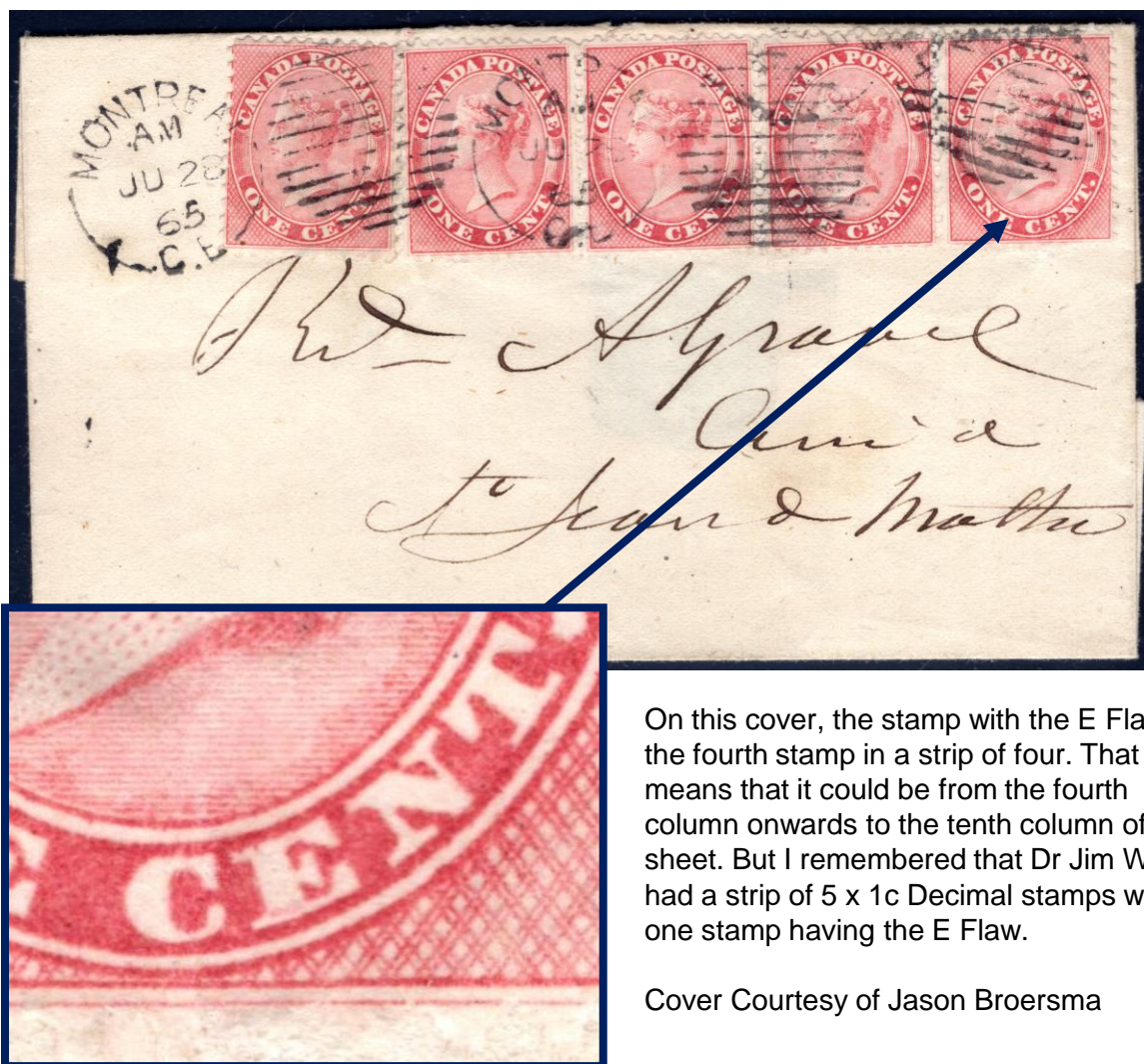
Both the Pence and Decimal Issue Arfken/Leggett books from the VGG are excellent references for early Canadian Postal History and is filled with pictures of some of the best and rarest covers. A complete history of postal rates, routes and everything you need to know about Canadian Postal History. An invaluable reference.

## E-Flaw in Strip of Four on Cover by Jim Jung

While spending some time on Facebook, I noticed this cover posted by Jason Broersma. The cover has a strip of 4 x 1c Decimal stamps plus a single to pay the 5c domestic rate. As usual, I examined the 1c stamps closely and found that the rightmost stamp has the E Flaw. This makes the cover quite nice in itself. With this stamp, being in a strip of four, I thought about the doubts over the actual position(s) of the E Flaw on the sheet and whether this find could solve any part of that mystery. To date, the E Flaw has not been discovered on any Full or partial proof sheets of the 1c Decimal. This adds to the mystery of the E Flaw's plate position.

In MAPLE LEAVES in 1969, Geoffrey Whitworth discusses the fact that there is more than one position with the "E" flaw present, and speculates a transfer roll flaw developed at position 44 and possibly continues down to position 84 before being discovered and the transfer roll shifted to another relief to complete plate repair in 1864. <sup>1</sup>

Later in the CANADIAN STAMP HANDBOOK for the First Decimal Issue, published in 1982, Whitworth mentions that this transfer roll flaw shows on positions 34, 44, 54, and 64. The 2015 Unitrade Catalogue lists this variety as #14v and states that it is from position 34. <sup>2</sup>



On this cover, the stamp with the E Flaw is the fourth stamp in a strip of four. That means that it could be from the fourth column onwards to the tenth column of the sheet. But I remembered that Dr Jim Watt had a strip of 5 x 1c Decimal stamps with one stamp having the E Flaw.

Cover Courtesy of Jason Broersma

## E-Flaw in Strip of Four on Cover



Jason Broersma's stamp (left) and Mike Smith's Proof Sheet from position 34 (right). The Guide dots at the left of the inner oval show that Jason's stamp is from position 34.



Courtesy of Dr. James Watt

This strip from a photo sent to us by Dr Jim Watt, we see that the stamp with the E Flaw is the leftmost stamp in a strip of five. The rightmost stamp in the strip is the Q Flaw. Since the Q Flaw is position 38, we can confirm that this strip is from positions 34-38 with the E Flaw in position 34.



Position 34 – E Flaw

## E-Flaw in Strip of Four on Cover



Position 38 – Q Flaw

## Whitworth's Flaw 2 and Flaw 6 Position 54 on Cover by Michael D. Smith

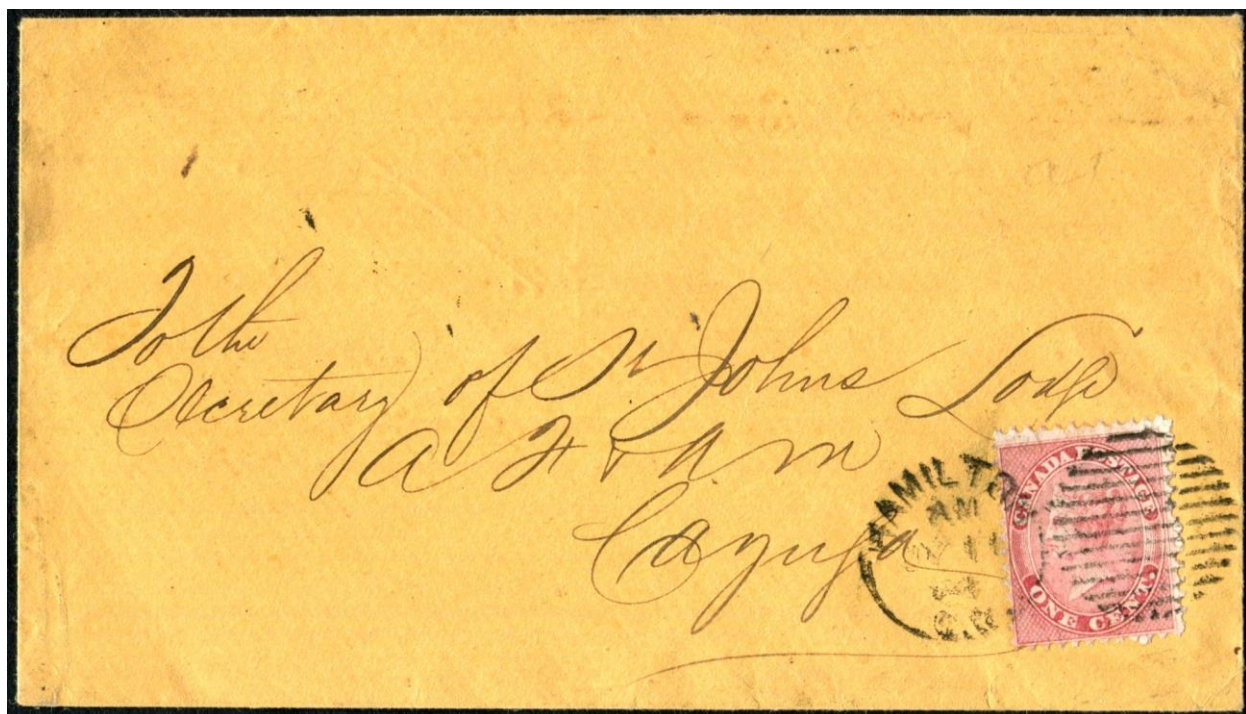


Fig. 1a : Front of cover above.

## Whitworth's Flaw 2 and Flaw 6 Position 54 on Cover by Michael D. Smith continued ...



Fig. 1b: postmarks on the back of cover.

The cover is postmarked:  
HAMILTON, AM, JY 11, 64, CW.  
Back stamps indicate it transited  
through SENECA, JY 11, 64 (CW  
hidden by flap). It was received in  
CAYUGA, JY 11, 1864 (11 is  
slanted but I believe correct). The  
stamp is perforated 12 X 11.75  
which is correct to the year of  
usage.

Fig. 2: The stamp showing Whitworth's Flaw 2,  
line in 'E' of CENT, and Flaw 6, frame line  
extension upper right.



## Whitworth's Flaw 2 and Flaw 6 Position 54 on Cover by Michael D. Smith



Whitworth lists Flaw 2 as perforation group 2 or 3. This stamp is clearly group 2. It maybe from printing order 17 (Mar. 1, 1864). Whitworth documents these two flaws being present on perforated stamps 12 X 12. He lists usage dates of Dec. 27, 1865; Jan. 11, 1866; and March 20, 1867. This cover pre-dates the dates for this combination of flaws and is considerably earlier than Whitworth's observations.



Position 54 from the later 1c Proof Sheet courtesy of Dr. Jim Watt. This proof sheet shows an extended frameline in the UR corner but there is no E Flaw here.

### Conclusions:

As more material is studied and shared it is interesting that more detail about the production of the stamps of the Cents Issue needs further documentation and study. I won't say my cover is an earliest use date as someone out there may have yet another earlier one. I will say this is the earliest one I have seen to date.

### References:

THE FIRST DECIMAL ISSUE OF CANADA 1859-68, Geoffrey Whitworth,  
The Royal Philatelic Society, London, 1966.

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### 3d Beaver Position 41 Railroad Tracks variety

The position 31 and 41 stamps on the 3d Beaver on the A Pane have the well known Plate Crack , sometimes referred to as the Railroad Tracks variety. The position 31 stamp is listed as Unitrade 4ix. These stamps are scarce but the Position 31 variety shows up as the most popular, having the larger sections of the Plate Crack. The variety only appears on wove papers printed between 1857 and 1859, making it rarer than the Major Reentry A47. This may have been caused by the separation of the two panes , A and B, into two separate plates. This happened in 1857.<sup>1</sup>

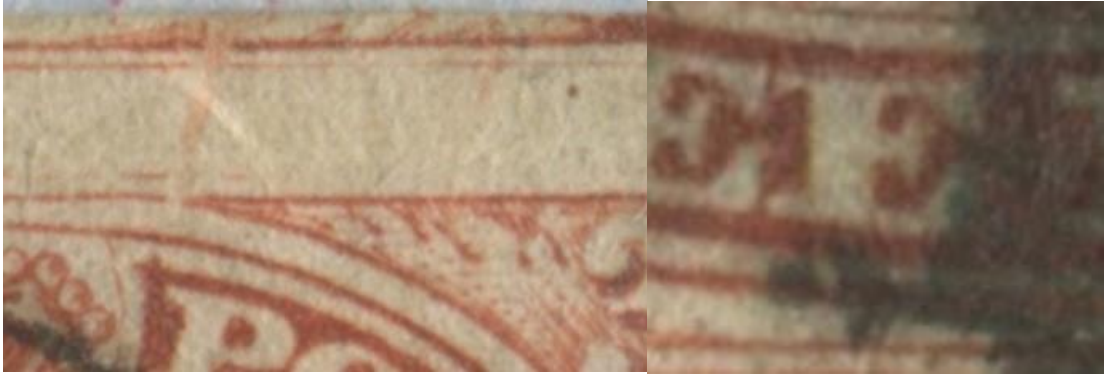
Here's the less popular position 41 Plate Crack which is not listed in the 2020 Unitrade. The Plate Crack extends beyond the lower margin of Position 31 into the stamp below. With the nice red shade, the marks are quite noticeable in the upper margin above the P of POSTAGE with a smaller mark to the right. With a lighter orange shade, the marks are not that clear, and may not even be noticed unless you look for it closely. There is a reentry at the top of the 2<sup>nd</sup> E in THREE, the right side of the upper frameline at right is worn away and there is a horn above and to the left of P in POSTAGE.<sup>2</sup>



Closeup of the marks in the Plate Crack at position 41. Stamp courtesy of Earl Noss.

### 3d Beaver Position 41 Railroad Tracks variety ... continued

Left: Position 41 flaw in an orange shade is difficult to see. Right: The reentry at the top of the 2<sup>nd</sup> E of THREE.



I find that the Reentry is difficult to see in many copies as the target covers the bottom central area of the stamp. The two stamps together do make a nice pair.

### 3d Beaver Position 41 Railroad Tracks variety ... continued

This beautiful block of positions 31, 32, 41, 42 with no Imprint show that there was no Plate Crack early in the production of the 3d. The position 41 doubling of the 2<sup>nd</sup> E of THREE, the small horn above the P of POSTAGE and the worn upper right outer frameline is used to plate the bottom left stamp in this block.



Courtesy of Michael D. Smith

### 3d Beaver Position 41 Railroad Tracks variety ... continued

Here is Position 41 on cover postmarked MONTREAL JA 28 1858. It may be an idea to check those later 3d covers you might have in your collection to see if you are fortunate to have one of these variety stamps. The lighter orange shade of this stamp makes it difficult to notice the marks in the upper right margin.



Courtesy of  
Michael D. Smith

### 3d Beaver Position 41 Railroad Tracks variety ... continued



Being part of the later life of the 3d A plate, the Railroad Tracks variety also appears on perforated copies of the 3d Beaver. Here is a copy of the position 31 stamp showing the cracks that seem weaker than the variety from the Imperforated stamps.



### 3d Beaver Position 41 Railroad Tracks variety ... continued

Bill Sutherland contributed this pair of 3d stamps from positions A31-A41 showing the scratches partially hidden by the strong target cancel. The variety is so strong that it is still clearly visible. It's nice to know that these wonderful possibilities exist for collectors who are looking for good stamps to find and purchase.



#### References

1. 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. Vincent G. Greene Philatelic Research Foundation, Toronto Canada. 1997.
2. The Three Penny Beaver Plate Proof A, Volume 5, Kenneth A. Kershaw, Ph.D., D.Sc., F.R.S.C., Privately Printed. Pgs., 62, 63, 64, 65, 82, 83, 84, and 85.

## Unusual Perforations in the First Decimal Issue by Richard Thompson

Most collectors think that in the compound perforation period, approximately December 1862 to July 11, 1865 all stamps are perforated 11.9 or 12.1 X 11.8 except for the five cents beaver which is perforated 11.8 X 11.9 or 12.1 because its long axis is horizontal. But there are at least five exceptions to this “rule” and I will deal with three of them here.



The sixteenth printing of the one cent stamp was ordered November 21, 1863 and used from July to October of 1864. It was printed in shades of carmine-reds and perforated 11.8 X 12.1.



The nineteenth printing of the one cent stamp was ordered July 9, 1864 and used in July of 1865. It was printed in a pale carmine shade and perforated 11.8 X 11.9.



The second printing of the two cents stamp was ordered November 28, 1864 and used in 1865. It was printed in Pale carmine-red shade and perforated 11.8 X 11.9.

To be continued.

## Lois Trimble



I have never met Lois Trimble but of course we all know Ralph. So it was heartbreaking to hear that his wife of 47 years had passed away unexpectedly on July 26, 2021 after a recent hospital visit following a bad fall in the kitchen where she broke her hip.

Lois had suffered from an illness in December 2019, having been admitted to hospital but fought to improve her health well enough to live at home for 2020, only to recently find that a number of critical health conditions still plagued her.

All of us here at *Pence Cents* send our prayers and condolences to Ralph in this moment of grief in his life. We wish you all the best so that you can come back to us soon.

## John Talman



It was sad for me to hear that notable Stamp Dealer John Talman passed away peacefully at the E. W. Bickle Complex Care Centre in Toronto after months of declining health.

I will always remember John from when I visited his store on Yonge Street. I would climb upstairs to an office hidden in hallways above Yonge Street into a room filled with literally 1000's of binders and boxes, all filled with stamps. He always seemed to be able to sell me a nice stamp or two out of this library of collections.

We will surely miss him. May he Rest In Peace.

## Upcoming Shows

Now that there are Covid-19 vaccines, it may be worthwhile talking about these shows and finding out if there will be a physical show to attend. Wouldn't that be nice !



For those of you on Facebook, there is a Facebook Page for this event. [Click here](#)



ROYAL-2021-ROYALE

National Virtual Exhibition  
Exposition Virtuelle Nationale

Hosted by  CANPEX

October 14-17, 2021

14-17 octobre 2021

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 **WHEN:** SEPTEMBER 11 & 12, 2021

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## Upcoming Shows



CAPEX 22 Opening Ceremonies – June 9, 2022. Plan to attend CAPEX 22, the first International One Frame Stamp Championship Exhibition June 9-12, 2022 at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre, Toronto, Canada. Press the Ctrl key and Click on the Capex 22 logo to see the Capex 22 Facebook page. There is information about exhibits and photos on this event.