PENCE-CENTS ERA STUDY GROUP

Of the British North America Philatelic Society Volume XI, No. 3, August 2022



Dear Study Group Member,

Now that we are half way through the summer, we need to think about planning the trip to the BNAPEX coming up at the beginning of September on Labour day Weekend. Wouldn't it be nice to have your hotel and trip to Calgary planned so that you could dream about it for the next 5 weeks! Now is a good time to book since the airlines provide cheaper rates when you book far in advance. And August 5th is the last day for the special Convention Hotel Room rate of \$169.00. After August 5th, the rate jumps right up to \$265. So please take a look at the BNAPEX page on the bnaps website.

If you arrive before Friday morning, you can tour and have dinner at the largest Military Museum in Western Canada. On Saturday, you can visit the BAR U Ranch and try living like a cowboy in late Victorian era of Western Canada. The Rocky mountains are an hour away, Banff National Park is 1-2 hours away and beautiful Lake Louise is a 3 hour drive. Travel safely and hope to see you soon!

Jim Jung



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While I think of it - its like doing your dirty laundry in public to pull sheets of a screwup. There could even be another Q flaw on the other sheet.

Mike and I think two sheets only one pulled for proofs. Here's my modern thoughts for the 5c beaver. I don't believe you will ever find a round rock in waterfalls on a proof. They would scrub the steel plate with a wire brush and get rid of the round dust bunny in PP53 resulting in square rocks only.(ie state 9) won't exist

in proofs & here's another thought — doesn't the "sickle flaw" PP58 look like it could be off the steel wire brush left there after plate cleaning and then there it is on my two proof sheets in PP58 no change in either state 10 or 11.

The gouge PP23 was the only slight difference otherwise the sheets are practically identical.

Dr Jim Watt

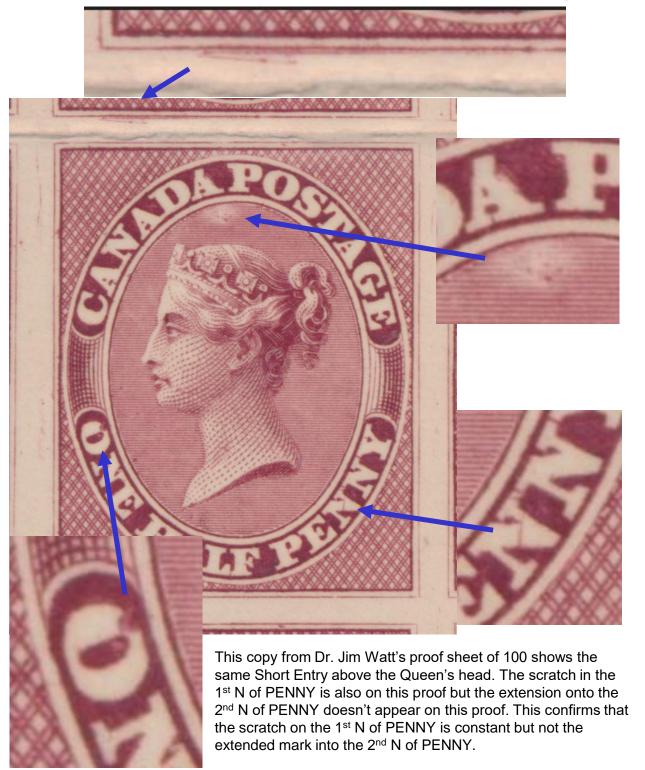


Of course the Half Penny stamp itself is one of the most interesting stamps in the Pence Issue, with a known number of Major Reentries, but this book records the large number of Printing Flaws, their positions, with images and sometimes states of the Flaw. We do also have an early draft of the information on the BNAPS website under Online Resources and Exhibits (ORE) called Canada's 1/2d Plate Varieties. If you cannot buy the book, please take a look.

Position 64 has a known and recorded mark that looks like a Short Entry above the Queen's head. This is constant and listed in Dr. Jim and Mike's book. The new mark is a scratch in the 1st N of PENNY. This has been confirmed as constant but only appears in the trimmed plate of 100 subjects. It does not appear in the original plate of 120 subjects. I will show this on the next few pages.

There is a 2nd mark in the 2nd N of PENNY that looks like it may be an extension of the first mark but this 2nd mark has not been confirmed as constant and this is the only proof I have seen it on.

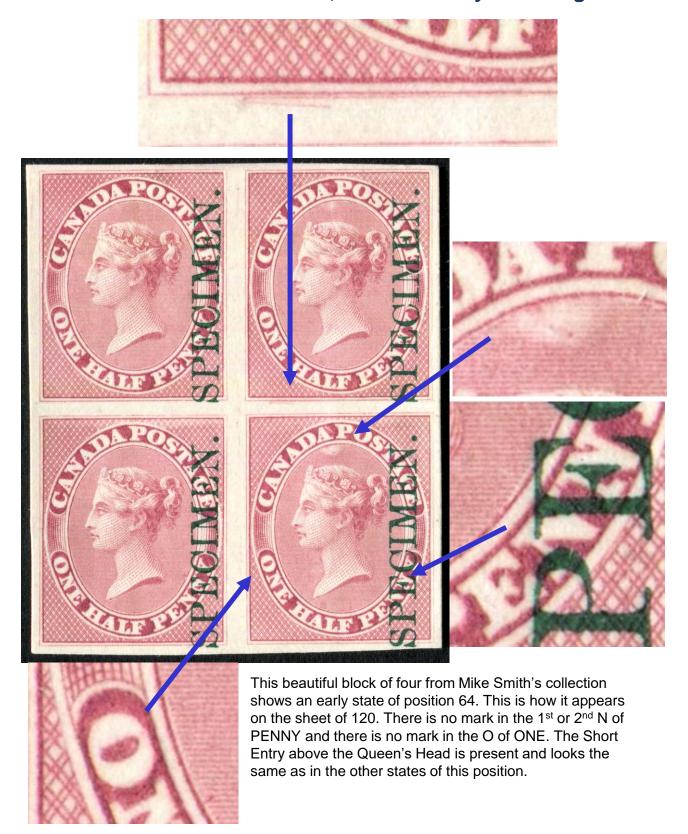
There is also a large heavy mark in the O of ONE that has not been confirmed as constant but a 2nd proof from Dr. Jim Watt's proof sheet (see below) does show a smaller mark in O of ONE.

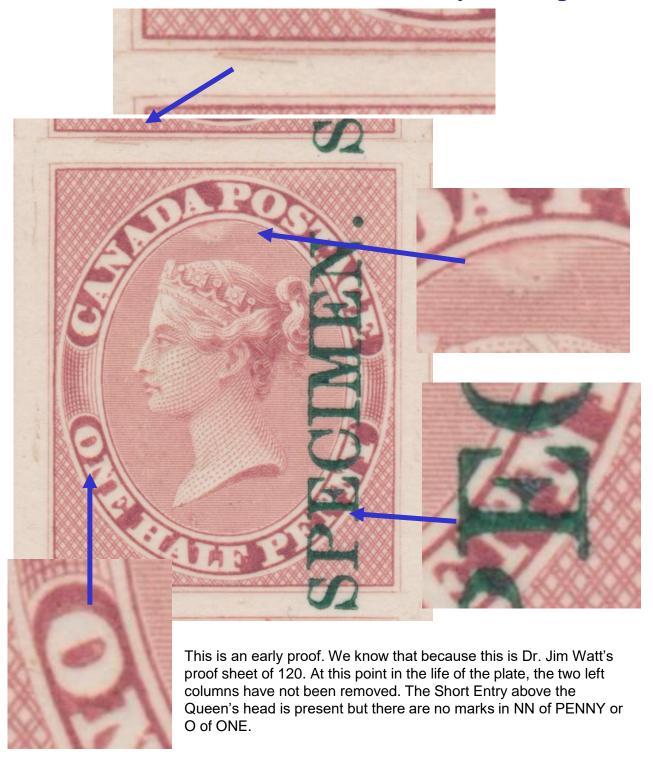


There is also a mark in the O of ONE but it doesn't look like the same mark on my proof single above. This raises the question as to whether these extra marks seen on my proof single are constant or not.

Note that the above position 52 has the Engraver's slip in the lower margin.







If anyone finds any of these marks in their collection of Half Penny stamps, please send us a scan. We would be interested to find out more information on this stamp.



One last image for you to look at. This is a copy of the printed stamp from position 64. The only mark seen on this copy is the Short Entry above the Queen's head. There are no marks in the NN of PENNY or the O of ONE. There is a partial date on the stamp that looks like JU ?? 58. This stamp

must come from the plate of 120, as in Dr. Jim Watt's proof sheet in the above page, where no marks exist in the NN of PENNY. The release date of the perforated stamp was Dec 1858.

I think to have the marks that Dr Watt and Mike Smith have discovered, that only appear on either the 100 or 120 Proof sheets, there had to be some repairs made to the plate at some time between April and December 1858, likely closer to Dec when the two left columns were removed to fit sheets into the perforator. Maybe the removal of the two left columns caused some minor damage to the plate causing the need for the repairs. Or maybe the plate just went through some wear and tear during all this work on the plate. The proof sheets of 100 were pulled just after the two left columns were removed. There had to be repairs for there to be a difference. And it is generally known that Proof Sheets are pulled after a repair of the plate.

Our thanks and congratulations go out to Dr Jim Watt and Michael D. Smith for their work on the Half Penny stamp. We've had such interest following this over the last few years.

Tidbits of History from Dr. Jim Watt and Mike Smith

When we talk about sending emails to a group of collector friends, we assume that we share images and information about stamps. But there is much more about this friendship because you can hear stories of history from the source. Here are a couple of stories from Dr. Jim Watt and Michael D. Smith about some real history.

Dr Jim Watt says:

Here's a very little known tidbit of info.

Vinnie Greene actually fought in that battle and was shot and wounded on the inside of his left arm....a couple of inches more medially it would have hit his heart! I knew this since the 70's when I visited him often in Toronto.

Certainly, philately would not be the same had we lost him.

He also gave me memories of the great fire of 1904 Toronto telling me how all of the north of Wellington Street was ablaze. He knew Mrs Jarvis of Jarvis Street Toronto.

He told me stories of great collectors like Alfred Caspary and Lichtenstein.

Michael D. Smith says:

I also have a unique experience in life but not as colorful as yours. My father was in the Special Engineering Detachment that was sent to the Manhattan Project in WWII. My mother also came and joined him there a few months later. Both of them worked at the Y- 12 Plant. All was top secret work there during and even after the World War II. If you don't know Y-12 was one of the plants set up to refine uranium for the Atomic Bomb. My father completed his degree at Columbia University and returned to Oak Ridge after the war.

He worked at the Y-12 Plant until he retired. I still don't know what he did. It was all top secret.

A unique thing about Oak Ridge when I was growing up is there were very few people in the town that were in an age group prior to my father's. So it was a young town (in) my father's generation and mine.

I often wish there had been a better generational mix here.

The Manhattan Project displaced three small towns and many farms in east Tennessee. It was built to enrich the uranium. There were three separate plants built in separate valleys. The plants were designated as K-25 (Gaseous Diffusion Plant), X-10 (Laboratory), Y-12 (Calutron Enrichment). Both Y-12 and K-25 were successful in enriching the uranium for use in weapons. Each plant was in a separate valley in case there was an accident at one of the facilities.

If there had been an accident at one facility it was hoped the different valleys would keep the other plants safe. Even The residential area was in a different valley as well. This was a huge project.

See: https://exploreoakridge.com/the-atomic-city-why-oak-ridge-was-chosen-for-the-manhattan-project/ys or do a search on the history of Oak Ridge, TN to get more details.

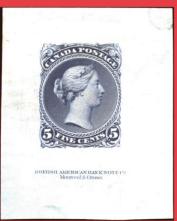
r. maresch & son

CANADA'S PREMIER STAMP AUCTION HOUSE SINCE 1924









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Triple Cunard Rate to England overpaid by 1/2¢.

I collect Canadian postal history of the decimal period with a focus on rates, destinations, and routes. The decimal period (1859-1868) falls after the pence series (1851-1859) and before the Large Queens (1868-1876). For many years, the only census of pence- and cents-postal history was work by dealer Charles Firby who published a two-part typewritten census covering this area (1). This publication is now over 38 years ago and since then new discoveries have been made which added to the total. Wayne Smith took it upon himself to do an update Firby's listing on pence covers and has done a really great job on updating the known pence covers (2) greatly adding to the number covered by the Firby listing. The Smith census can be found on the BNAPS.org website under the Online Resources and Exhibits heading for free of charge. Wayne frequently updates his tables so that more covers are added every year.

In addition, Wayne has also done a census of Large Queen Covers by rate (3) and of 1859 Cents stamps used on cover after April 1, 1868 (4), the beginning of the Large Queen period. This latter census covers cents stamps used for paying the proper postage or in mixed franking with Large Queen stamps used in the Large Queen period.

However, Wayne has never tackled the subject of doing a census of decimal stamps used within the proper period (July 1, 1859-April 1, 1868). The Firby census was adequate at the time. Mr. Firby was a dealer (now retired) and many Canadian decimal covers passed through his dealership and his auctions. In addition, Chuck also collected decimal covers himself and served as an agent for collectors so had a vested interest in keeping track of cents covers through other auctions and dealers. I don't believe that Firby had photocopies of all of the decimal and pence covers and back in the time of his collecting it wasn't as easy to send scans or photos over the internet as it is today. I have a copy of Firby's wonderful postal history exhibit and sometime in the future may show some of the highlights in this Newsletter. In addition, I also have a copy the postal history exhibit of the cents issue by Arthur Leggett, another Canadian postal history dealer who collected and exhibited his fantastic collection.



Letter rate to Cuba via U.S. was reported in Canadian Almanac at 15¢ for ½ oz. 1859-1863. This cover was postmarked Montreal DE 18 61 and thus paid double letter rate.

I have collected decimal postal history for over 40 years and have a decent number of properly used examples. I have exhibited my 8-frame decimal collection in Canadian (receiving Grand Award) and APS exhibits [achieving Large Gold (94 points) and reserve Grand Award]. So over the years I have received many auction catalogs where I have bid on all sorts of covers and have attended many of the named auctions sold in the U.S. and Canada. So, I have a fairly large assemblage of auction catalog listings and photos and copies of decimal covers.

In additions, have copies of most of the books pertaining to Canadian decimal postal history including the Arfken-Leggett (5), the Canadian Posted Letter Guide...the Classic Period, 1851-1902 by Firby and Wilson, Vol. 1, 1996 Edition (6) and access to the The Canadian Posted Letter Guide for Letters Mailed in the 1851-1902 Period, 2nd edition (html) - Victor L. Willson and Charles G. Firby (7).



U.S. Civil War Registered Patriotic Cover sent to New York; paying 15¢ rate with registration portion paid in cash.

PROPOSAL

With that in mind, I would be willing to begin assembly of a database beyond the Firby listings. It would be a Wayne Smith-like census of decimal postal history for inclusion in the BNAPS.org, On-line Resources and Exhibits website. Unlike Firby and Smith, I would welcome stampless covers to any crossborder and foreign location. Many foreign countries have no franked covers sent to them during the decimal era and stampless covers are the only source of information such as postal rates and routes. However, what I need from those of you who are decimal postal history collectors is to provide me with scans or photos of covers that you have in your collection that would add to the knowledge of other decimal collectors who are members of our Study Group and beyond. The best would be to have high quality scans (300 dpi or greater) of the front and back of your decimal covers. If you don't want to scan them, then maybe some iPhone snapshots would work. Any additional information which you feel would be helpful to classify the cover for example, the rate to the destination or postmarks that would help understanding the route. I would put the information into an easily understandable format that may help other decimal postal history collectors and those of the future. I would keep you posted through this newsletter on my progress of populating the tables with information. I would not identify you as a contributor unless you wanted a citation in the census.



Letter sent from St. Agatha, U.C., Nov. 1859 to Papal States in Rome, Italy. Postage paid was 2 shillings and 4 pence (in manuscript). Transit markings on front and reverse. Note that in the Firby census, there were only 6 franked covers sent to Italy/Papal States. So stampless covers had a role to play in mail to foreign destinations during the decimal period and, as such, should be included in the proposed census.

You can email your scans to me at ronald.e.majors@gmail.com or post them to Ron Majors, 253 Caleb Drive, West Chester, PA 19382, U.S.A.

REFERENCES

1) Charles G. Firby, The Postal Rates of Canada, 1851-1868. The Provincial Period-A Recording, Part I pence issue) and Part II, the 1859 (cents issue), 1976, revised Sept. 1, 1984.

2)Canada Pence Issue 1851 – 1859 Cover Census, January 2022 revision (html) - Wayne Smith Census of over 4,500 Pence Issue covers. The census is presented in two ways:

1) By stamp/paper variety – lists the number of covers known for each rate paid by the stamp.

2) By rate – lists the number of covers known for each way to pay the rate. This census is available free-of-charge on the BNAPS.org website.

1) Census of Large Queen Covers by Rates, End of 2021 update (html) - Wayne Smith Census of 1868 Large Queen covers, almost 8,000 of them, sorted by postal rate and destination. Domestic mail: over 5,000 covers. Foreign mail to Newfoundland and PEI: 88 covers. To the United States: over 1,500 covers. To Great Britain: over 1,000 covers. To other foreign destinations (broken down by country): almost 250 covers. The end-of-2021 update added 103 covers.

2)1859 Cents Issue Used on Cover after April 1, 1868 (html) - Wayne Smith Census of covers with 1859 Cents Issue stamps mailed after April 1, 1868, when the Large Queens were issued. The census is broken down by domestic mail and registered domestic mail and by foreign destination (U.S., Great Britain, and other destinations). Latest update: May 2022.

1)G. B. Arfken and Arthur W. Leggett, Canada's Decimal Era, 1859-1868, VGG Foundation, Toronto, 303pp, 1996

1)C.G. Firby and V.L. Willson, Eds., *The Canadian Postal Letter Guide, the Classic Period, 1851-1902, First Edition.* Charles G. Firby Publications, Waterford, Ml.

1) Ibid, On-line and Updated Edition of Above, 2nd Edition, BNAPS.org, On-line Resources and Exhibits.





Early in April we learned of the passing of Rhonda Kavanagh. She was the wife of the late PSSC member Rob Taylor who passed away about a year ago in April 2021. Rhonda was also active in philately and was an active board member of the West Toronto Stamp Club. She carried out her responsibilities as club secretary, auction data entry person, and June year end banquet organizer with enthusiasm. Those who knew her will miss her flamboyant, nononsense personality, her generosity and fine sense of humour.



An N-flaw is a "Smudgy" flaw above "N" of "CANADA". Pane A, Position 17. Each N-flaw is unique to a certain position on the Plates.

The N-flaws were brought to my attention in **VOLUME 1. THE THREE PENNY BEAVER PLATING THE 3d BEAVER, THE CRITERIA USED AND THE DEVELOPMENTAL BACKGROUND**, Kenneth A. Kershaw, Privately Printed. In his book on page 82 he introduces us to the N-flaws. He surmises The N-flaws were introduced **during** the cutting of the printing plate. I believe I have evidence that shows the N-flaws were present prior to the cutting of the plate, and since Kershaw clearly shows a perforated 3d on page 89 some of them may show on the last printings from the plates.

I will now present the evidence of early printing I have. Here are two examples of #1 and #1a.





The paper texture of the laid paper makes it a bit difficult to see these flaws as the printing is not as clear.

The next image is a proof block from Pane B, positions 86, 87, 96 and 97. Position 97 should show "rk." of the bottom right imprint on the selvage. This block does not. Position 97 does show an N-flaw.



Proof block showing Pane B, positions 86, 87, 96, 97. Position 97 has an N-flaw but there is no sign of the imprint in bottom right margin.



Pane A, positions 6, 7, 16, 17, 26, and 27. N-flaws present on positions 16, 17, and 26.

The image above shows three of the N-flaws but there is no sign of the upper right imprint above position 7, if it were there it would show "Rawd" of the imprint in top right margin. These two proof pieces show the N-flaw was present prior to the imprints being added to the plate.

I have a photograph of Pane B as a proof sheet. I will use this and some of my stamps to illustrate the positions. I present it here.



The picture shows some evidence of pre-printing creases. Image courtesy of Eastern Auctions Ltd.

I will use enlargements from this photo to illustrate various positions I do not have as stamps or proofs in my collection. Unfortunately I do not have an image of Pane A that shows the N-flaws but I have a few so will share what I have.

The N-flaws are scattered throughout both sheets. Pane B shows N– flaws at positions: 26, 46, 54, 67, 74, 75, 77, 78, 82, 85, and 98. Pane A shows N-flaws at positions: 4, 12,15, 16, 17, 26, 36, 37, 57, 62, and 65. These are positions according to Kershaw.

I have another one to add to the list for Pane B, position 65. There is a very nice re-entry on this position so it is easy to plate. I noticed an N-flaw on the proof sheet at this position. I then checked my used copies of the re-entry and noticed two of them also have the N-flaw shown on the proof sheet. It is missing on other copies of position 65 so it either wore away or didn't take ink on the others. I have also included positions not listed by Kershaw.

I have also added Pane A, position 33. I have a used copy showing what appears to be an N-flaw. This is the only copy I have so a few more need to be found before we can say it is a constant flaw.

Pane B



Position 3
Very mild may not show on a stamp.





Position 7





Position 13





Position 17





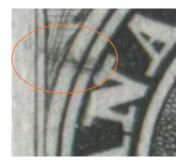
Position 26





Position 46





Position 46







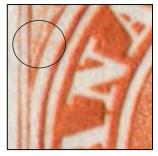
B Pane Positions 46 and 47



Position 47
Very mild may not show on a stamp.



The "N-Flaws" on the 3d Beaver Stamp by Michael D. Smith Pane \boldsymbol{B}



Position 49
Very mild may not show on a stamp.





Position 50





Position 54





Both of these copies are Position 54. The ink took differently on these during printing.





Position 55





Position 65
N-flaw not listed by
Kershaw.
Easily identified by the
major re-entry. I have
two copies showing the
N-flaw
and others that do not.





Position 65
Verification on proof sheet enlargement



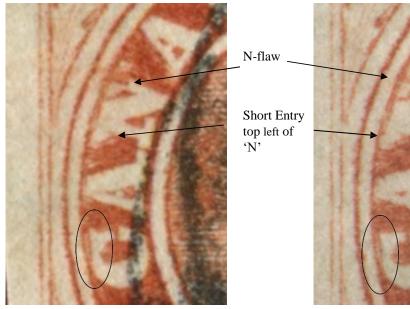


Position 66



Two used examples showing an N-flaw. There is short entry at left. Whitworth also mentions a re-entry which could have been an attempt to strengthen the left side. "CANA" appears to be re-entered.





I circled what appears to be an extra line in top of "C" of CANADA. This line may also appear at the top of "ANA" but does not show well on my copies. Kershaw feels these marks are a possible re-entry. I believe they are part of the short entry present in this area.



Position 66
Strong mark at top of N
lighter marks at inner and
outer oval bands.



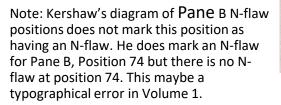


Position 67
Marks in oval bands

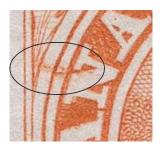




Position 73
Very strong marks breaking the N and in ovals above.







Position 75
Nice strong N-flaw.





Position 78
N-flaw affects the left



Kershaw indicates on his chart in volume 1 that an N-flaw is on position 77. I do not see it on the proof sheet. He does not mention position 78.



Position 82
N-flaw appears to be 3 marks one in the outer oval band and two in the inner oval band above the N.





Positions 82 and 83



Position 82 has an N-flaw that looks to be three small lines above the N in the inner and outer oval bands. It is always nice to see the difference between a proof and what actually appears on a stamp. The N-flaw is not as sharp on the coarser paper of the stamp.



Position 85
N-flaw appears to be a single line above the N in the outer oval band.





Position 96
This N-flaw is in the outer oval band.







Position 98

This N-flaw is a mark that is in both oval bands above the N.

This is cropped from the block of four presented on page two. Nice N-flaw and absolutely no sign of the imprint. This definitely shows that this is an early printing. Fred Jarrett's STAMPS OF BRITISH NORTH AMERICA states: "It is probable that the imprints were added to the plate or plates, in December, 1852."

Pane A

Pane A shows N-flaws at positions: 4, 12,15, 16, 17, 26, 36, 37, 57, 62, and 65. These are positions according to Kershaw. I have some proofs and stamps from Pane A showing the N-flaws from this pane. I will present what I have on the next few pages. I am still trying to find the ones I do not have and perhaps even a full proof Pane image to check.



 $\begin{array}{c} Position \ 16 \\ \\ \text{Strong N-flaw from center of N} \\ \text{to just into the outer oval band.} \end{array}$



The first three red proof images are cropped from my top margin proof block of 6. These are positions 16, 17, and 26. I am also including a black proof of position 17 as well.



Position 17



This is my black plate proof of position 17. Interestingly the N-flaw has a slightly different appearance from the position 17 on my block of six. Another little interesting puzzle when studying these flaws. It would help to have a complete proof sheet for identification verification. See next page for an image of this position from the block of six.

Positions 17 (Continued)





This is cropped from my proof block of six. The frame line breaks compare favorably with the black proof. The ink appears to have taken with a slight difference in appearance from the black proof N-flaw.





This is a pre-imprint pair of positions 7 and 17. Position 17 shows a nice example of the N-flaw. Again position 7 does not have evidence of the imprint showing.



Position 26
This N-flaw is straight line from the top of the N to the outer oval.







This is nice strong example of the N-flaw. I have several copies of this one. The proof copy is cropped from my block of six. I have a used single pictured here. A used vertical strip of three and a used vertical pair will be shown on the next page.



Two nice multiples showing two of the Pane A N-flaws.



Position 33
This N-flaw is small mark in the inner oval above the N.



Here is one that appears to be an N-flaw. This is the only copy I have seen. I have several copies of the 'PE' re-entry from this position, but only this one copy shows a mark above the 'N'. This one needs to be verified by other copies.



Positions 37 and 38. Early printing with N-flaw on positions 37 and 38.





Position 38
This N-flaw is mild and shows in the outer oval. May not show on actual stamp.





Position 57
This N-flaw Appears as a single line centered on the N and slanting slightly



Conclusions

With two copies of N-flaws on the laid paper these flaws were apparently on the original plate. The lack of the imprint on the Pane B sheet and block of four Pane B, positions 86, 87, 96 and 97 indicates early printing. My Pane A block of six positions 6, 7, 16, 17, 26 and 27 also shows no sign of an imprint. These findings indicate the N-flaws were on the two pane plate prior to the separation of the panes.

Kershaw shows a N-flaw on a perforated beaver. Kershaw identifies a perforated stamp as Pane B, Position 82 showing an N-flaw. Interestingly I have an image of a proof sheet of Pane B with imprints and there is no sign of an N-flaw at position 82.



No N-flaw present at position 82, Pane B. Imprinted sheet.

The material I have indicates the N-flaws were probably on the early plate of two panes. I have both number 1's and various number 4's. They either were burnished off or removed by plate wear. Each flaw is unique to a certain position allowing one to identify the plate positions.

I thank Kershaw for bringing these flaws to light in his book and hope more study will take place on these. I have an image of the Pane B sheet showing these flaws but I am still searching for one of Pane A. More study of these may reveal more detail on when they were present and when they disappeared.

References

VOLUME 1 - THE THREE PENNY BEAVER PLATING THE 3d BEAVER, THE CRITERIA USED AND THE DEVELOPMENTAL BACKGROUND,

Kenneth A. Kershaw, Privately Printed #6.

I wish to thank Eastern Auctions for providing a scan of the pre-imprint Pane B proof sheet.

r. maresch & son

CANADA'S PREMIER STAMP AUCTION HOUSE SINCE 1924





For three generations and nearly a century it has been our privilege to serve the philatelic community at home and abroad. We are always looking to take on new consignments, so if you're interested in selling your collection at auction we would love to help. Call 1-905-726-2197 or e-mail info@maresch.com to discuss taking part in an upcoming sale.

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Upcoming Shows





The Philatelic Specialists Society of Canada cordially invites you to attend our meeting at



CPS 2022 BNAPEX

Friday Sep 2, 2022 2:00 pm

Hyatt Regency Hotel Calgary



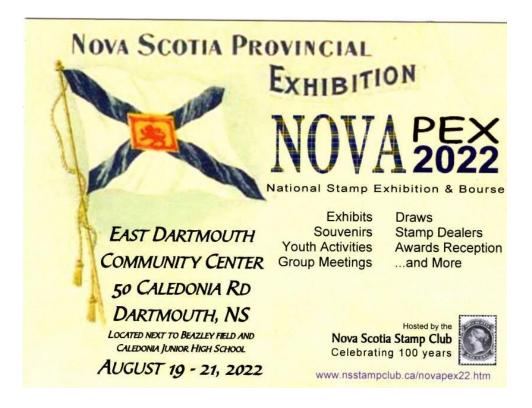
Guest Speaker

James Taylor FRPSC FRPSL

Foreign Destinations of Pre-UPU Mail from St. Pierre and Miquelon: The Use of Nova Scotia and Canada Stamps.

Everyone Welcome Wheelchair accessible

Upcoming Shows





National Philatelic Exhibition

Exposition Philatélique Nationale

October 15 - 16, 2022

The Hellenic Community Centre 133 Southdale Rd West, London, ON

Hours: Saturday, October 15, 10 am to 5 pm Sunday October 16, 10 am to 4 pm

150 Frames of Exhibits – National Dealers – Door Prizes Free Admission - Free Parking - Lunch Counter www.canpex.ca

Upcoming Shows

Welcome to the Indonesia 2022 World Stamp Championship







Awards



Grand Award – Jean Wang - *Blood: A Modern Medicine* Reserve Grand Award Sam Chiu - *Hankow, China 1891 to 1919*

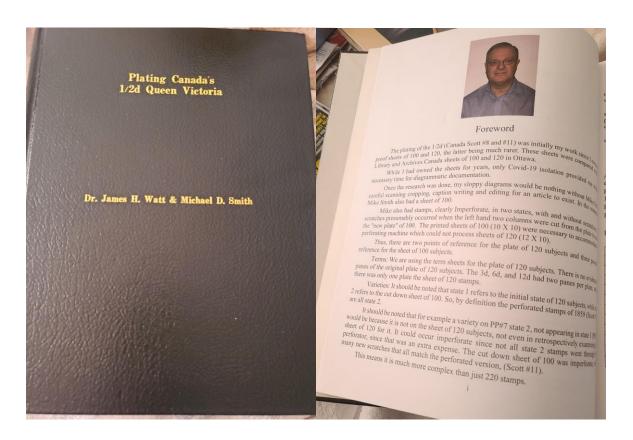


Awards

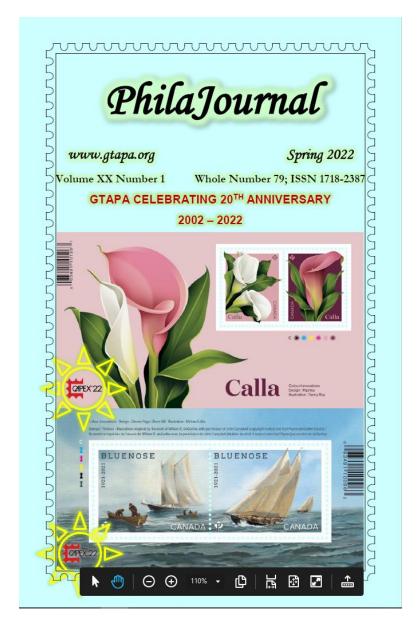




Dr. Jim Watt and Michael D. Smith received a Large Silver for their new book "Plating the Halfpenny" at CAPEX 22.



Awards



The PhilaJournal was awarded a Vermeil medal at CAPEX22. Congratulations to all the contributors, it is thanks to you that the PhilJournal thrives.