

PENCE-CENTS ERA STUDY GROUP

Of the British North America Philatelic Society
Volume XII, No. 1, January 2023



12d and 10c Consort Composite Die Proof in Brown
Purple, Ex Sir Gawaine Baillie collection 2006,
courtesy of Sparks Auctions

Lot 13 – The Athena Collection (Part 1) Jan 21, 2023

Dear Study Group Member,

Happy New Year! And what a first-rate start we have to a Philatelic 2023. It's auction paradise for collectors as January and February will see some superb items coming from the major Auctionhouses here in Canada. Sparks has not one, but two 12d Blacks up for Sale along with a bunch of 12d Proofs of all sorts including three Scar Die Proofs over two Auctions. Not to be out done, Eastern has the first of four Auction Sales for the Ron Brigham Estate of Pence and Decimal Issue items. Maresch is showing off rare high value Modern Errors from Ex-Auctioneer Rick Sheryer's personal collection. These sales should not be missed by collectors who are looking for the pieces that don't come up for sale often. With so much available, I'm sure that even looking at these Auction Lots will be exciting.

Looking far off into the future. BNAPEX 2023 will be held in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia in the Best Western on 15 Spectacle Lake Drive, Dartmouth NS, B3B 1X7 September 14-17, 2023.

Jim Jung

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The Brigham Estate Sale Preview by Yohann Tanguay

Part I – Sale is in March 2023, catalogue out in February... Other dates are not confirmed...

Each sale will have 3p, 6p, 12p, 1/2p, 7 ½p, 10p, 1c, 2c, 5c, 10c, 12 1/2c and 17c items being offered in Part I, Part II, Part III, and finally, Part IV.

For layout and presentation, we decided to have the 3p (1, 4, 12) and 5c (15) together... then 6p (2, 5, 10, 13) and 10c (16, 17)... then 12p (3)... then 1/2p (8, 11) and 1c (14)... then 7 ½p (9) and 12 ½ c (18)... then 10p (7) and 17c (19)... followed by 2c and Bradbury Wilkinson essays...

Sale 1 will have some of the rarities of the 3p – 5c Beaver, Part II will have some of the rarities of the 6p – 10c Consort, Part III will have some of the rarities of the 12p Queen Victoria, and Part IV will have some of the rarities of the 10p – 17c Cartier.

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The Athena Collection of exceptional quality mint and used Canada, including this 12d black Queen Victoria, will be sold in two parts in early 2023. This collection includes: regularly issued Canadian stamps up to the 1940s; imperforate pairs, blocks and multiples; plate proof singles, pairs and blocks; as well as die proofs, progressive proofs, varieties and more. The major Canadian rarities present are numerous, including all of the tête-bêche booklet panes.

The quality of the collection is consistently very strong, as the owner bought only the best from the most reputable sources, with cost not being an impediment. These stamps are sure to be remembered and referenced for years to come, as "Ex Athena Collection".

Please contact us to request a catalogue for this very exciting sale.

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1c Decimal Position 47 – The T Flaw by Jim Jung

The beautiful block below, cropped from Mike Smith's Proof Sheet of the 1c Decimal, shows position 37 (Whitworth's Flaw 15), position 38 (The Q Flaw) and position 47, an unlisted constant flaw that Mike Smith and Earl Noss have found and plated. This newly discovered flaw is constant and appears on both Proof Sheets and stamps. The earlier proof sheets show the flaw much stronger than on the Dr. Jim Watt's later proof sheet. As we already know, the Q Flaw also becomes less noticeable in the later printings. Whitworth's Flaw 15 is barely visible on the later proof sheet. This new flaw, dubbed the T Flaw, also fades in the latter states of the plate.

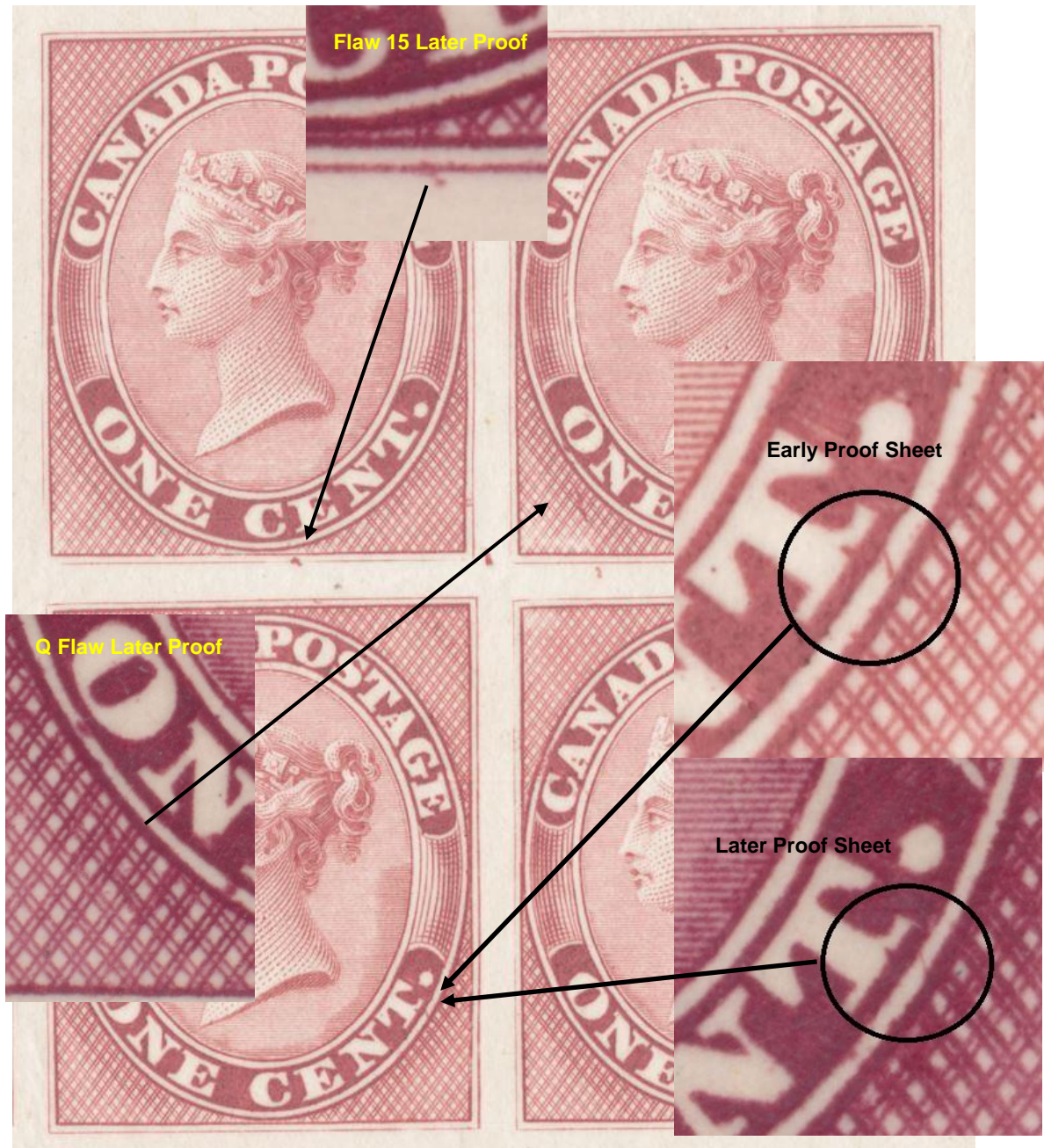


Figure 1 – Position 37 38 47 48 from Mike Smith's Proof Sheet with closeup of the newly discovered Flaw

1c Decimal Position 47 – The T Flaw by Jim Jung



Figure 2 - This pair found by Earl Noss is an earlier printing with an early state of the T Flaw.



Figure 3 – A single stamp showing the early state of the T Flaw in a slightly darker shade.



The Brigham Estate Province of Canada Part I



**Public Auction
March 17, 2023**



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exclusively on our website
January 20, 2023



The Passing of a BNAPS Icon, Ken Lemke



BNAPS regrets to announce the passing of Ken Lemke OTB on Saturday, 17 December. Ken was President of the Society from 2018 to 2020. Until his passing, he was the Circulation Manager for BNA Topics and editor of the King George VI Study Group newsletter, King George VI Post & Mail.

Ken was also Vice-President of the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada, Secretary of the Postal History Society of Canada, and Director of Programming for the Philatelic Specialists Society of Canada.

A memorial to Ken will be posted shortly on the [BNAPS website](#). A new contact for the circulation and back issues of BNA Topics will also be announced.

A letter from his wife Jane:

I'm sorry to let you know that Ken passed away yesterday afternoon. He was surrounded by family. Our three kids, their spouses, and all but three of our seven grandchildren were at the hospital and Ken had opportunity to say goodbye to each and tell each of them how much they were loved. And he was aware of all the love around him. It will take a while to realize he is no longer part of my/our life.

You likely have no idea how much he valued and enjoyed his involvement with the BNAPS and his many friendships within the organization. We are in the process of drafting his obituary which I will forward to you.

Sincerely, Jane

For Ken's Obituary on the web and to sign his guest book or send flowers, please follow the links below. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Matthew's Distro Drive or to [Burlington Teen Tour Band - Angel Fund](#).

Ken's Funeral and Celebration of Life was on January 3 but you can information and the Obituary from the Dodsworth and Brown Funeral Home [here](#).

A public Obituary from the local Halton News where Ken lived can be found [here](#).

A Memorial for Ken is on the BNAPS Website [here](#).

r. maresch & son

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Printed Matter Postage Rates and Destinations During the Decimal (Cents) Period by Ronald E. Majors, OTB

Printed matter mail, under the general classification of non-letter mail, consists of items such as printed circulars, prices current, handbills and similar paper materials. The 19th century Canadian Post office considered these types of mail to generally promote Canadian business and thus postal rates were considerably lower than for letter mail. In this issue of Decimal Postal History, I will focus on the most ordinary type of printed matter mail such as printed circulars and prices current. In this issue, I will show examples of printed matter mail mainly for domestic mailings the numbers of which have survived more than the limited printed mailings to interprovincial-, cross border- and overseas- destinations. In a later article, less common examples of other non-letter mail as transient newspapers, postal wrappers, booklets, and judicial papers will be featured and later examples of parcel post, soldiers/sailors letters, photo rate adjoining neighbor rate and ferriage rates will be highlighted.

Printed Circulars: Domestic

Printed circulars were used as direct mail to promote various types of commercial products and, without radio and television or other promotional vehicles, printed circulars, in addition to newspaper ads, were one way for a merchant to reach potential customers for a reasonable cost. As a carryover from the pence period where the postal rate was $\frac{1}{2}$ d per 1 Ounce (oz), on July 1, 1859, the postal rate was changed to 1¢ per 1 oz and it remained the same until the end of the decimal period on May 1, 1868.

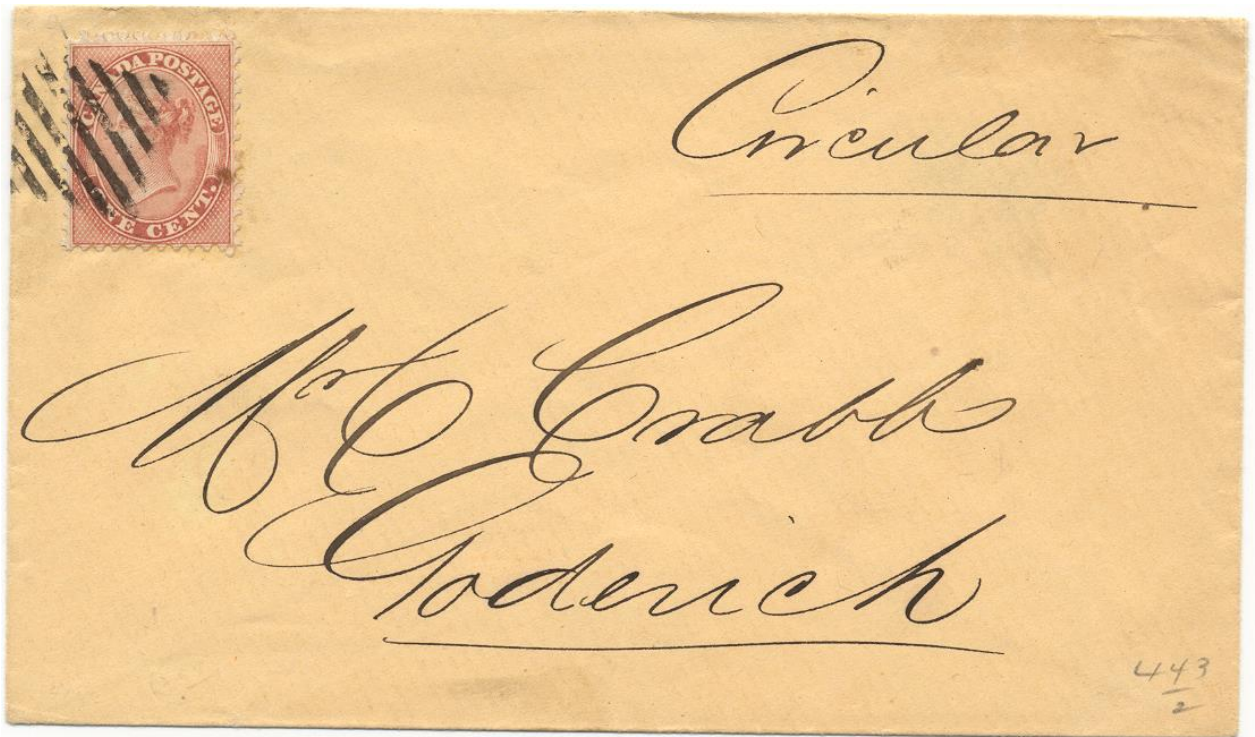


Figure 1. Single-weight Circular to Goderich

Figure 1 shows the simplest example of a printed circular. Besides the weight for a single-rated circular the entire contents being 1 oz or less, there were some specific postal rules governing the features of a printed circular. First, as indicated in the figure, the name "circular" should appear on the front of the cover, usually at the top.

Printed Matter Postage Rates and Destinations During the Decimal (Cents) Period by Ronald E. Majors, OTB

Second, the envelope should remain unsealed so that postal clerks could examine the contents to make sure that it contained the appropriate circular. Although the cover in Figure 1 doesn't show a Central Dated Stamp (CDS), the familiar Toronto squared grid that ties the 1¢ Victoria indicates it was posted in that city.

The simple cover depicted in Figure 2, shows a more typical example using a Printed Circular handstamp which makes it easier when sending many circulars in a short period of time.



Figure 2. Single-weight Circular to Goderich

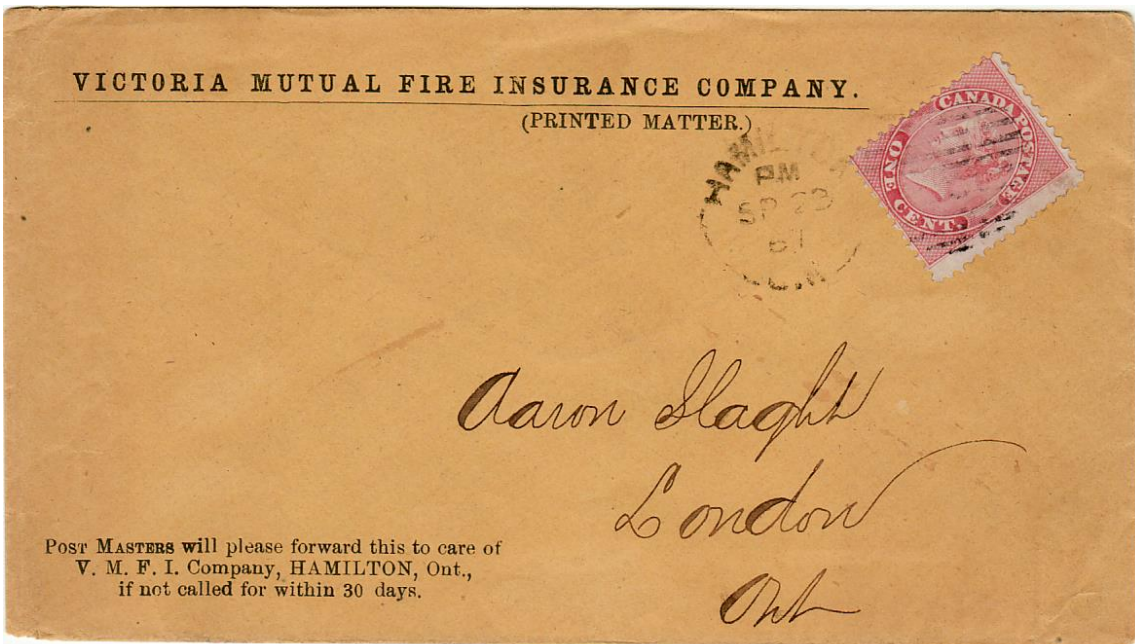


Figure 3 Preprinted Printed Matter Envelope

Printed Matter Postage Rates and Destinations During the Decimal (Cents) Period by Ronald E. Majors, OTB

Figure 3 shows a cover from the Victoria Mutual Fire Insurance company located in Hamilton. Note the mailing date of SP23, 1867 & the designated city as London, Ont. This period of time is close to Confederation where older designations of C.W. or U.C. were being phased out.

The cover in Figure 4b could be treated in two ways:

1. Printed Matter
2. London-London Drop Letter

A drop letter is a letter that was dropped off by the sender at a post office and picked up at the same post office by the recipient. Here the letter was postmarked in London, C.W. and the stamp tied with a London duplex cancellation and was addressed to a person in London, C.W.

Canadians felt that a drop letter shouldn't be charged the same postage as a regular letter (charged 5 cents for ½ oz). The Post Office agreed as noted in the 1863 Postal Guide, the rate for a drop letter was confirmed at 1¢.

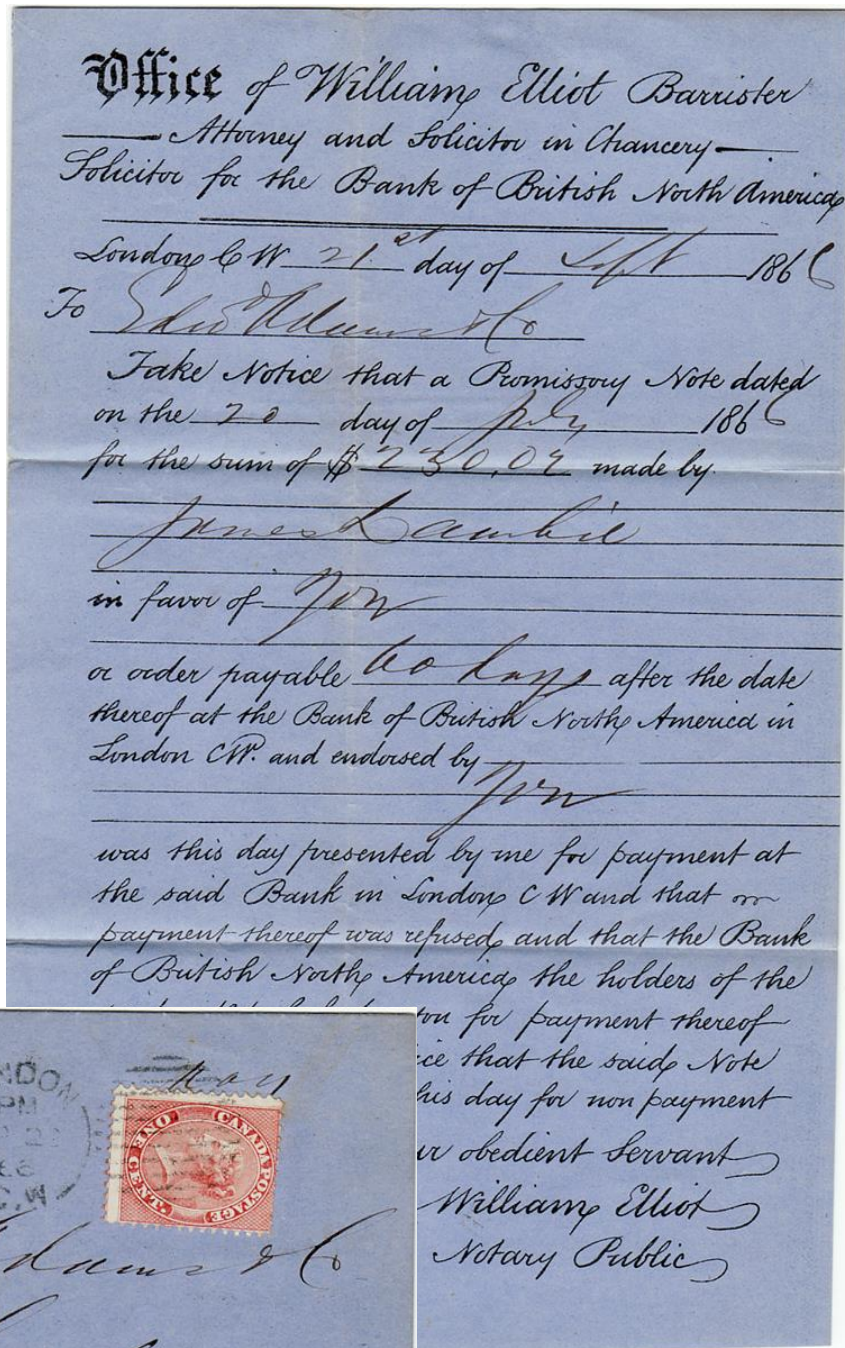


Figure 4a (above) and 4b (left)
Legal Circular and Drop Letter

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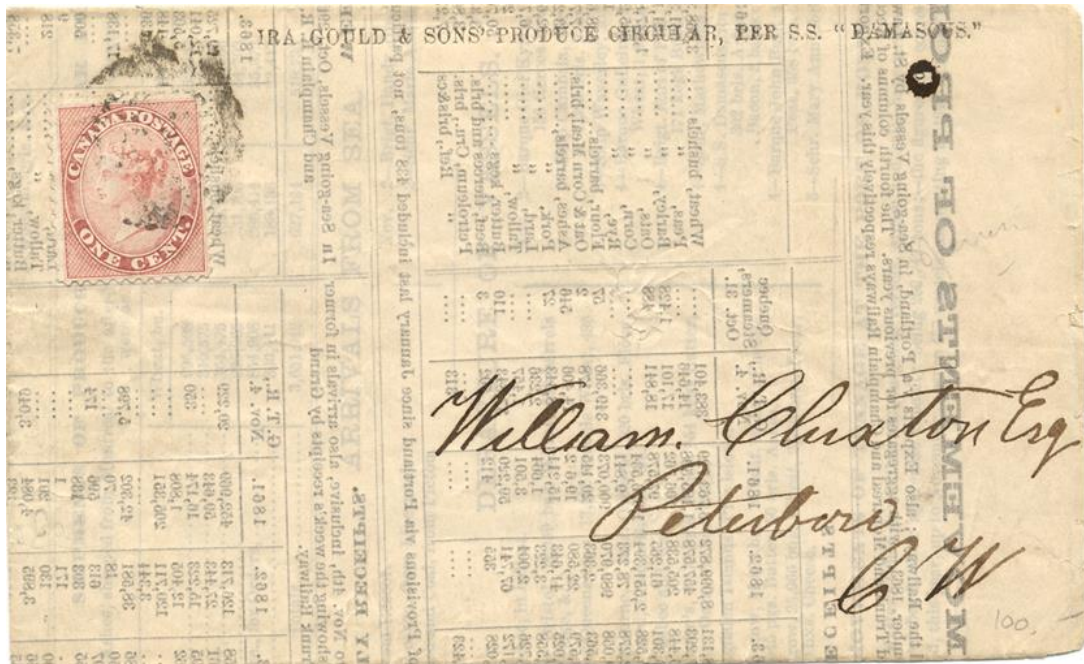


Figure 5. Ira Gould and Sons Produce Circular, circa 1861

Circulars with current prices for fresh fruit- and vegetable-prices were published weekly. Wholesalers would be the main customer. Sometimes, the sailing ships were designated listing the total weight of foodstuffs (e.g. bushels of grain, flour, corn, etc.).

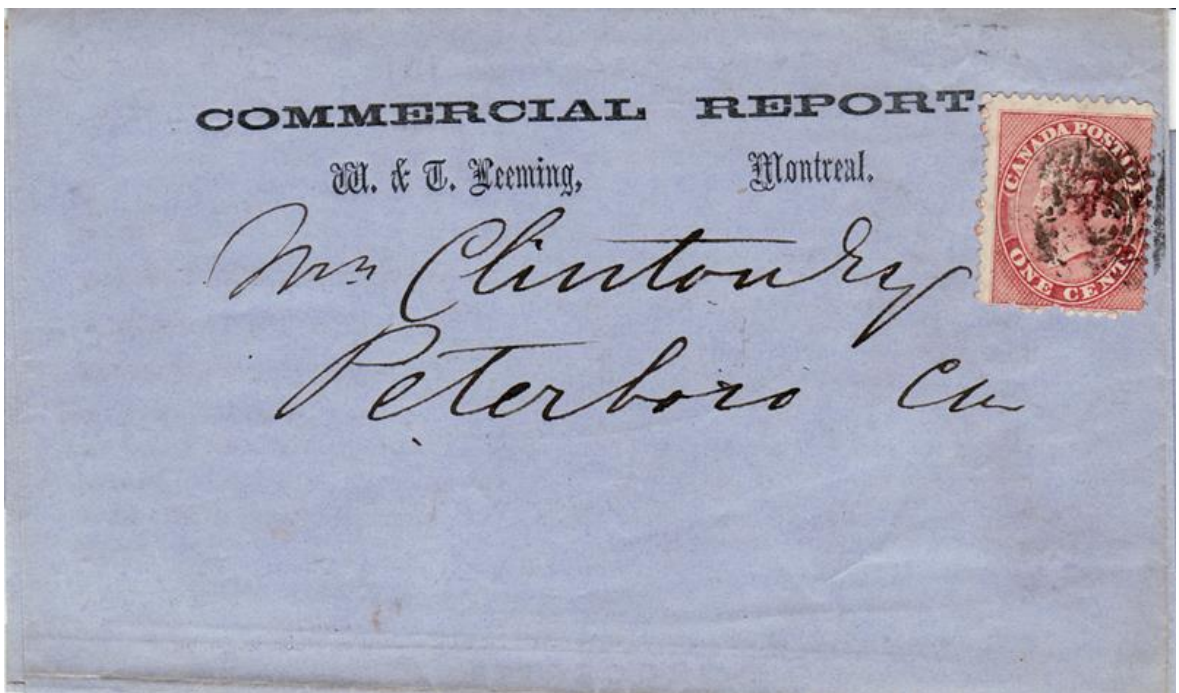


Figure 6a cover (above) and 6b insert (next page) show the cover and a cropped portion of a weekly report of produce from the commercial Montreal marketplace. Cover was sent from Montreal to Peterboro.

Printed Matter Postage Rates and Destinations During the Decimal (Cents) Period by Ronald E. Majors, OTB

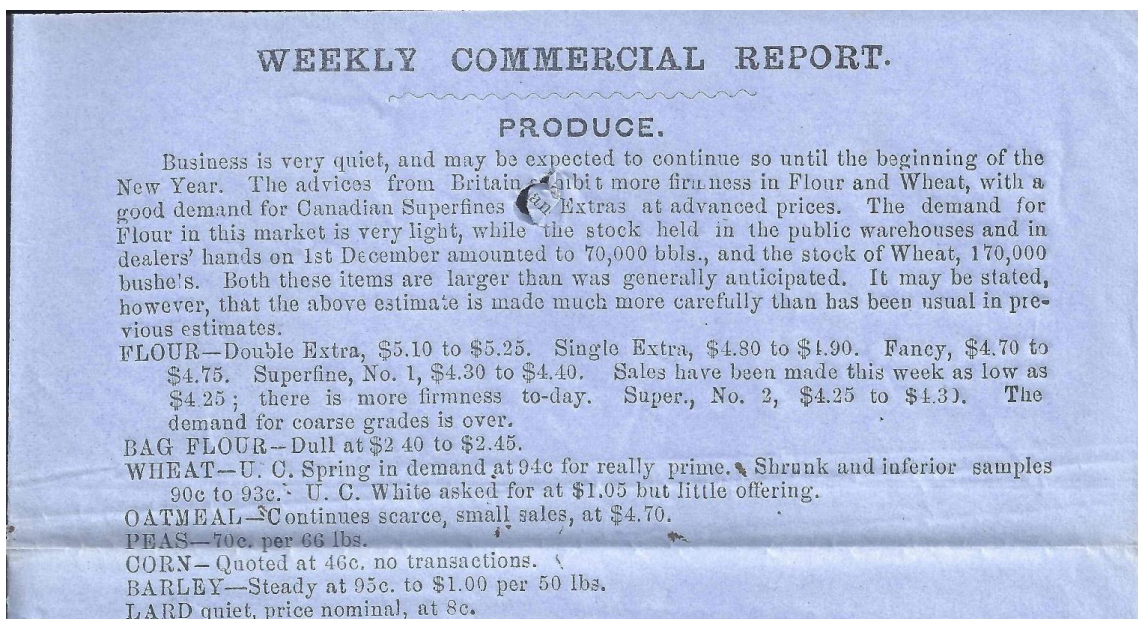


Figure 6b. Besides providing current prices, the weekly commercial report also covers the current state of the business.

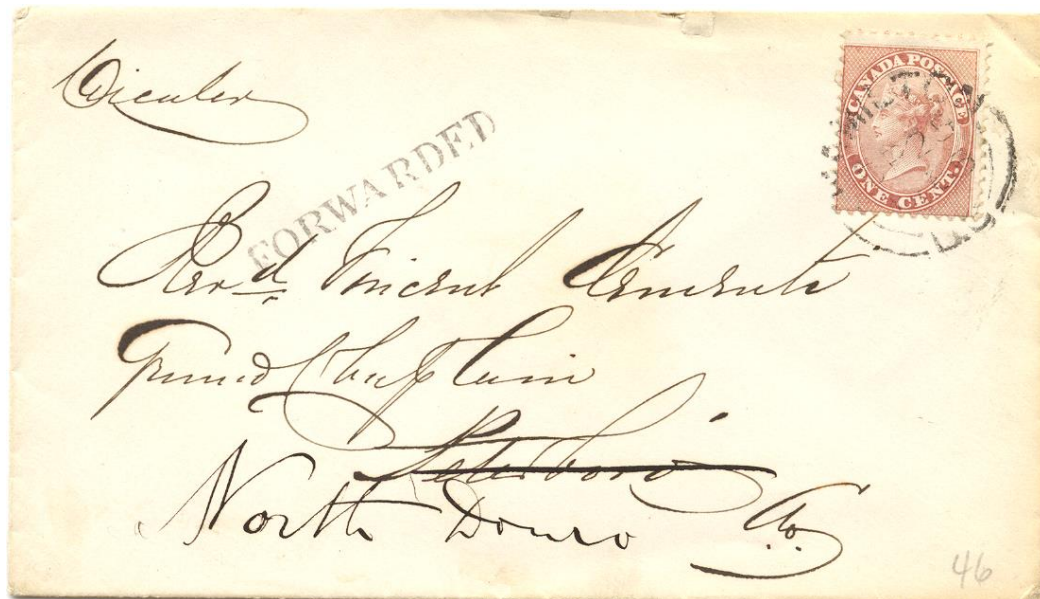


Figure 7.
Forwarded
Circular

For domestic mail, prepayment was optional for printed matter. If the circular was sent unpaid, then the recipient would have to pay but there was no penalty. Sometimes as a reminder, the mailing post office would use a black handstamp "1" indicating to the delivery post office to collect the 1¢ postage.

Figure 7 represents a forwarded printed circular. The letter was originally mailed to Peterboro but addressee had relocated to North Douro, a few miles north of Peterboro. The addressee had left instructions for the Peterboro postmaster to redirect the mail to his new location. However, forwarded printed matter was not charged a forwarding fee. The handstamp FORWARDED was applied in Peterboro to explain what had been done.

Printed Matter Postage Rates and Destinations During the Decimal (Cents) Period by Ronald E. Majors, OTB



Figures 8 Triple Circular Rate Covers - This front is in rough shape but it is legitimate.

Figure 8 shows a printed matter (Front) which included an 1867 List of Voters for Hullett Township, Huron Co., sent to Clerk of the Peace, Goderich P.O., pen cancelled, countersigned filed 30 Sept. 1867 by Dan Lizars, Clerk of the Peace. This front is in rough shape, it is legitimate. Although the Firby Census claims that there is one usage of this franking recorded, paying the triple circular rate (under 3 oz) using three 1¢ Victorias, Figure 9 is an additional one to add to the census.



Figures 9. Triple Circular Rate Covers

The cover in Figure 9, has three copies on very thick paper (Unitrade 14ii) applied to a yellow legal envelope with manuscript "Printed Papers". It was mailed from Peterboro to Oakwood PO on JY 18, 1861. Stamps were cancelled with a 4-Ring 30.

Printed Matter Postage Rates and Destinations During the Decimal (Cents) Period by Ronald E. Majors, OTB



Figure 10

Figure 10 has a strip of four 1¢ Victorias on a homemade envelope (lined paper), showing a List of Voters to Dan Lizards, Clerk of the Peace, Goderich, C.W., CDS "Sept 17 (18)64" in manuscript, marking on reverse, perhaps filed Sept 19. According to Firby Decimal listing, there is only one such cover with 4X circular rate. This cover was from the same correspondence as Figure 8, but for a list of voters from a different township in Huron County, C.W., with a different weight and in a different year.



Figure 11

Figure 11, cover franked with two strips of 3 and a pair of 1c Victoria (pair tied) to buff cover dated MY13 1868 to Office of the Clerk of the Peace, Goderich, Ontario, seems to be 8X circular rate but the cover was posted in the Large Queen period, just a month after the stamp series was introduced. The cover was trimmed at right, and there is an outside chance that a stamp was clipped off (then 9¢ in total or 3 X 3¢), but nevertheless it is a rare rate, unlisted in Firby Decimal census (no 8X circular rate covers). Goderich, U.C. backstamp "May 14 1868". My guess is that, due to the size of the envelope, with contents, may have weighed as much as 9 oz of voter records, the closeness to the date of introduction of the Large Queen stamps, and the resemblance of the previous mailings to the office of the Clerk of Peace in Goderich, the letter passed through the mails under the decimal (cents) period postal rate.

Printed Matter Postage Rates and Destinations During the Decimal (Cents) Period by Ronald E. Majors, OTB

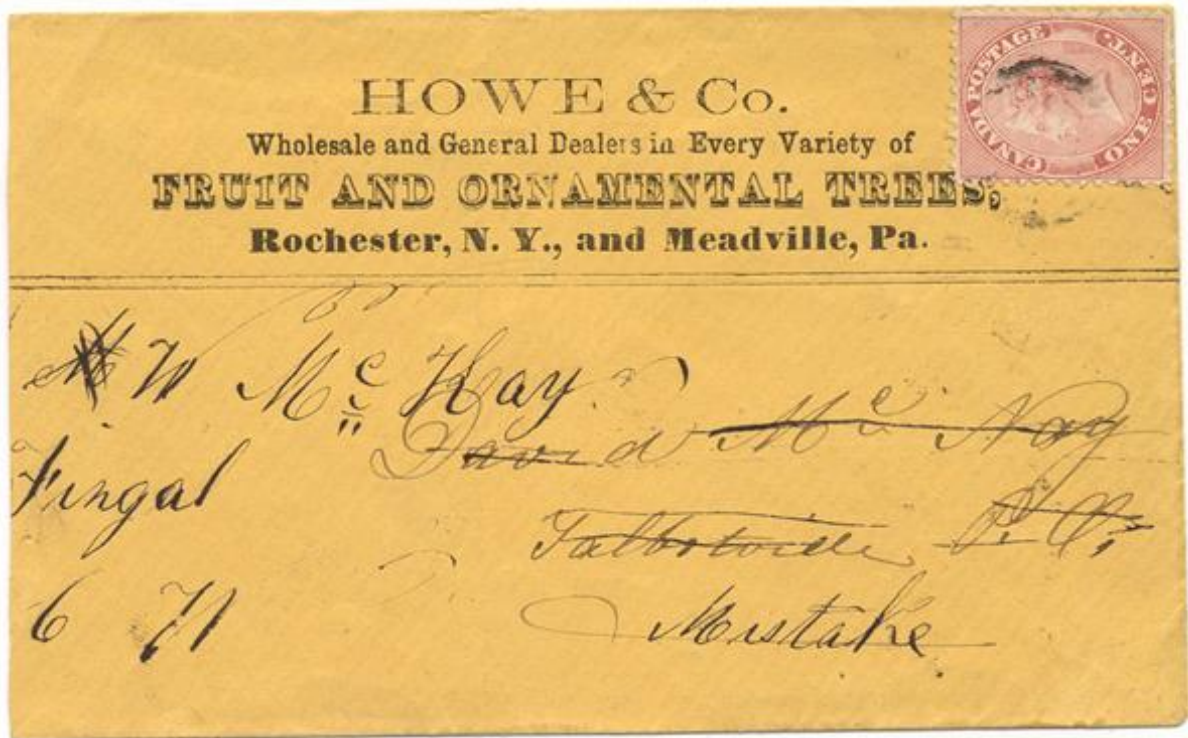


Figure 12. U.S. Advertising Circular Sent within Canada

Figure 12 shows an interesting example of a U.S. advertising cover of Lowe and Co. located in New York and Pennsylvania used in Canada. The cover was sent as a circular to an address in Talbotville, NS but that address was crossed out and "Mistake" written below the original address. The circular was then forwarded to Fingal, C.W. to a different person. No forwarding fee was imposed. Had it been sent to Nova Scotia, the postage would have been the same.

Conclusions

The intent of this article was to show examples of printed matter that passed through the domestic mail during the decimal period. The lower postal rates allowed the possibility for businesses to do more "mass" mailings to potential customers, allowing market reports such as prices current, to get to the wholesaler and didn't burden local governments with high costs of sending tax, census, and school reports, and judicial forms and legal notices at letter mail rates.

In the next Pence-Cents Newsletter, I will focus on rates and routes of printed matter mail to the provinces, cross-border to the U.S. and to overseas destinations to the United Kingdom and France. Overseas printed matter is tough to obtain. For example, only 5 pieces of decimal printed matter to all Continental European countries are reported in the Firby census.

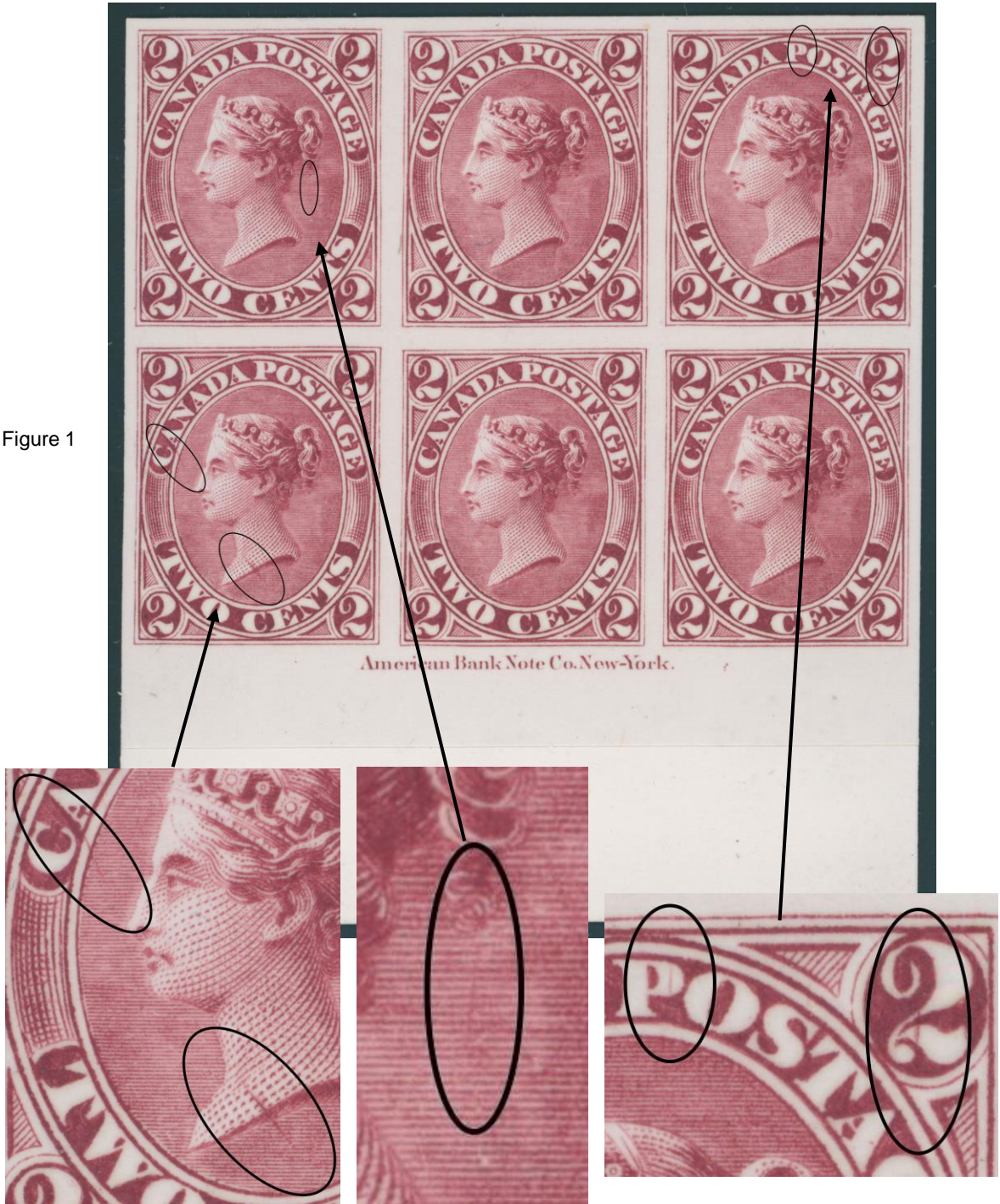
Reference

Charles G. Firby, The Postal Rates of Canada, Part II. The Canada 1859 Issue Stamps, Sept. 1984 Revision.

The 1864 Two Cent Decimal issue "scratches on the neck" by Jim McCormick jim@jimmc.ca

I have viewed scans of two different proof sheets of the 1864 Two Cent issue which clearly show a diagonal scratch in the neck for plate position 97. Figure 1 shows scratches in the lower left stamp, and the alignment of the American Bank Note Co. New-York imprint matches positions 97-99.

Figure 1



The 1864 Two Cent Decimal issue "scratches on the neck" by Jim McCormick jim@jimmc.ca

The Unitrade catalogue describes the variety as #20vi "scratches on neck (pos. 77, 97)", and Robin Harris confirmed that the variety was first included in 1994.

Position 77 on the better quality proof sheet scan shows two faint and parallel scratches on the Queen's cheek. I only actually noticed these faint scratches when Scott Robinson showed me a hand drawn diagram from a BNAPS handbook by A. H. Groten "Plating Canada's 2c Stamp of 1864". The handbook states "PF 2 below bust, not on proofs. Calder: at pp. 77 and 87. Scratches across face seen at pp. 77 on proofs only, to date." Dr. James Watt kindly provided a scan of a block/4 showing the face/neck scratches on position 77 on the lower left stamp. The scratches are actually stronger on the stamp than on the proof sheet! The lower left stamp is displayed in figure 2 with an unsharp mask to bring out the variety.

Figure 2



The 1864 Two Cent Decimal issue "scratches on the neck" by Jim McCormick jim@jimmc.ca

Mystery

After more than 20 years of searching, I can not recall ever seeing the position 97 variety on an actual stamp. My hopes were high in 2019 when a fuzzy image on ebay was described as #20vi, however to my disappointment the variety was not there.

Figure 3 shows example of positions 92 and 97. Both show the left part of the plate inscription, and clearly the stamp on the right is a match for position 97. There is no sign of the diagonal scratch. From analysis of the scan, the horizontal and vertical perforations have an identical spread indicating that it is from the perf 12x12 group, and therefore not from the first printing order.



Figure 3

The 1864 Two Cent Decimal issue "scratches on the neck" by Jim McCormick jim@jimmc.ca

Geoffrey Whitworth describes the variety in his book *The First Decimal Issue of Canada*: "Plate flaw 2 is found on positions 77 and 97. Could it also be found on 87?". The accompanying diagram displays a smaller marking but in a significantly different location below the Queen's neck. He referenced Senator Calder having examined proof sheets of early / later printings, who had made records. Could it be that the Unitrade references to this variety originated from Senator Calder who passed 10 years prior to Whitworth's book?

It is possible that the variety exists only on the proofs, and was corrected prior to issuing the stamps in 1864. An alternate theory is that the variety exists only on early printings, and had worn off or was corrected at a later time. The first printing order for 2000 sheets represents roughly 23% of the stamps printed, and if by chance the variety only exists from these early printings, it would appear in roughly 1 in 430 stamps, making it understandable not having seen it on a stamp.

It would be interesting to find these plate positions on proofs in green (#20TCii) to see if the variety is present. However it is unclear when the proof sheets in green were made.



Figure 4 - LAC Proof Sheet, Position 77 showing Plate Scratch on Cheek.

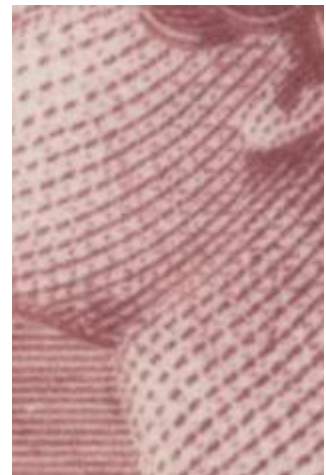


Image used by permission Library and Archives Canada, American Bank Note Company fonds, accession 1990-241.21 CPA, Queen Victoria [detail].

The 1864 Two Cent Decimal issue "scratches on the neck" by
Jim McCormick jim@jimmc.ca



Figure 5 – Dr Jim
Watt's Block of 4
Positions 67 68 77 78
showing the plate
scratch at position 77

Request

Can anyone from the group here offer a scan of the variety on an actual stamp, or any other information on the subject?

References

2022 The Unitrade Specialized Catalogue of Canadian Stamps
Geoffrey Whitworth, The First Decimal Issue of Canada, London England, White Crescent Press Ltd, 1966.

**The 3d Gouge Flaw Position A96 by Jim Jung
(Images Courtesy of Earl Noss, Michael D. Smith and Terry Wilson)**



Figure 1 – 3d Plate Proof from Position A96 with closeup at right. Image courtesy of Earl Noss.

Earl Noss sent this 3d Proof out to our email group. It's something I had not seen before. There is a large plate scratch running from the DA in CANADA down through the beaver's head. It looks very similar to the *Split Beaver* variety on the 5c Decimal Issue. There is also a mark bulging out of the red area between the D and A of CANADA that is similar to the Gouge Flaw in the 5c Beaver. Both the scratch and the Gouge are constant.

**The 3d Gouge Flaw Position A96 by Jim Jung
(Images Courtesy of Earl Noss, Michael D. Smith and Terry Wilson)**



Figure 2 – 3d Beaver used stamp from Position A96 with closeup at right. Image courtesy of Michael D. Smith.

Mike Smith answered Earls email with this copy of the variety on a Used 3d stamp. The large plate scratch is more difficult to see, especially due to the postmark covering it near the beaver's head. The gouge mark above DA is clearly seen and appears just slightly larger and more square-ish in shape.

Figure 3 on the next page shows something even more interesting about this flaw. When Mike Smith checked copies of the 3d A Pane Proof sheets that we have, the scratch is seen on the stamp above Position 96 at Position 86. On Position 86, the scratch goes through the R of THREE, the waterfall, in front of the beaver's nose and through the background bushes. It is longer on Position 86 but not as strong. There is also a small scratch through the last A of CANADA which is constant on two Proof sheets. I think it would be difficult to see on Position 86 stamps but when we find out, we will know.

**The 3d Gouge Flaw Position A96 by Jim Jung
(Images Courtesy of Earl Noss, Michael D. Smith and Terry Wilson)**



Figure 3 – 3d Beaver late Proof from Position A86 and A96 with closeup at right. Image courtesy of Terry Wilson.

Upcoming Shows



ORAPEX
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Edmonton Stamp Club
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Upcoming Shows

BNAPEX 2023 HALIFAX 15-17 September 2023

Welcome! Bienvenue!



Halifax skyline at night

Credit: JerryUnderscore from Pixabay



BNAPEX 2023 Halifax BNAPS convention, exhibition, and bourse 15-17 September 2023

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

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Upcoming Shows

