

Pence-Cents Era Study Group

Of the British North America Philatelic Society

Volume XIV, No. 3, Sept 2025



6d Scott 2b Brown Purple on Laid Paper
on crossborder Kennedy correspondence
cover - Courtesy of Jim Jung

Dear Study Group Member,

There is so much going on in the stamp collecting business right now. It is an exciting time for us to enjoy the philatelic offerings. Unitrade has changed hands and will be out this Fall. See Page 19 for details. There is also a second catalog to rival the Unitrade catalog: the 2026 Trajan Canada Specialized Stamp Catalogue which is available now.

[Eastern Auctions](#) has announced they will be selling the Camellia Collection over the next two years. This is a superlative, blue chip collection known to be in the highest quality and may even surpass the Brigham. Check page 20 for exciting details.

September is a busy month for Canadian Stamp collectors as there are two [major Auctions](#) - [Maresch](#) on September 17 in the east and [Garden City](#) on September 25-28 in the west. Both have a wide range of good lots to bid on.

The National Stamp and Coin Show starts us off on September 6 in Mississauga. This is a big and popular show with lots of Dealers. Vancouver also has their show the following week on September 13. There are alot of smaller local shows this year if you are unable to travel far. I like to keep an eye out on the [Canadian Stamp News Events](#) page.

September also means [BNAPEX](#) is here. This year the show is in Vernon, B.C. and the people running the Show have promised shuttle service from the Kelowna Airport to the BNAPEX Hotel in Vernon. All the information is on the [BNAPS website](#) so please take a look and try to attend. The Pence Cents Study Group will be having their annual meeting during the BNAPEX and Ron Majors has some great presentations for you, including one which will give you insider information on some of the contents of the Camillia Collection, which has stayed hidden for so long. You won't want to miss that.

Jim Jung
Editor

In This Issue.....

Page No

Title Page: 6d Scott 2b Brown Purple on Laid Paper crossborder cover - Courtesy of Jim Jung

Welcome to 44 rd Edition	Jim Jung	2
Letters to the West During the Decimal Period of Canadian Philately	Ron Majors	6
VGG A Day of Philately	Jim Jung	16
Unitrade Catalog of Canadian Stamps	Jim Jung	19
The Camellia PLC Collections	Ron Majors	20
Canada's Five Cents Beaver Proofs with Various Plate Flaws Part 3	Michael D. Smith	21
Upcoming Shows		32
"Black '47"- The Irish Famine	Jim Jung	34

Pence Cents Newsletter #44

Canada & Newfoundland

Unlocking the Greatest Collections Ever Formed



We invite you to discover these
once-in-a-lifetime collections!

November 2025: Canada Part I
Canada Pence, Cents & Large Queens

Spring 2026: Newfoundland Part I
Newfoundland Pence to Airmails



Eastern Auctions Ltd.

P.O. Box 250 - Bathurst - New Brunswick - E2A 3Z2 - Canada

Tel: 1(506) 548-8986 / Fax: 1(506) 546-6627

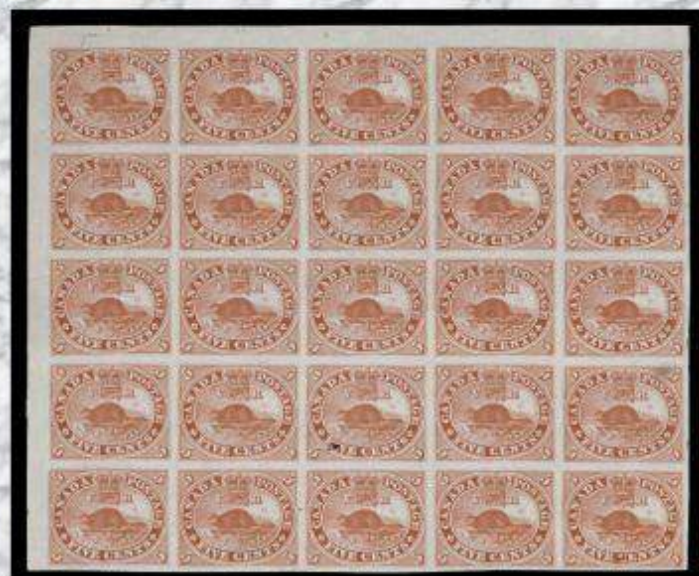
Toll Free Tel: 1(800) 667-8267 / Fax: 1(888) 867-8267

Email: contact@easternauctions.com / Website: www.easternauctions.com



r. maresch & son

CANADA'S OLDEST STAMP AUCTION HOUSE. DEALERS IN
FINE STAMPS SINCE 1924.



Our unreserved auctions have wonderful Canada, Provinces, British Commonwealth, and Foreign, from classic singles, sets, Postal History, covers, and large estate lots. Call or write us for a free catalogue, or to discuss getting top realizations for your collections.

Don't forget to sign up online to receive email notifications about upcoming sales.
<https://www.maresch.com/about-us/e-mail-notifications/>.

2 VATA CRT UNIT 6 AURORA ON L4G 4B6 CANADA
☎ (905) 726-2197 www.maresch.com



**Please join us in our exciting *LIVE* internet auction!
September 25-28, 2025**



Earliest recorded use of a fancy cancel in Canada: a blue cover mailed Hamilton on OCT. 13, 1856 (U.C double broken circle), endorsed "Paid For British Steamer" to Glenfield, England, with OCT. 27 Liverpool transit tombstone transit in red and OCT. 28 Leicester transit on back. The cover is franked with a four margin (close but clear at bottom) 10d blue Jacques Cartier imperforate on thin paper, tied by a rare Hamilton segmented cork cancel, which is a new earliest recorded date for this by one month, as it was previously recorded from 1856-11-24 to 1857-01-21. Hamilton stopped using its 7-ring obliterator in June 1856 and were using this cork in the short period until they received their 4-ring #16 obliterator in March 1857. This appears to possibly be the earliest use of a segmented cancel, likely made of cork in Canada. Very fine and desirable.

**Visit our website and sign up for our email
announcements!**

WHY BID WITH US?

- *Friendly personalized service
- *Industry low 17% buyer's fee
- *No reserves and everything starts at C\$50
- *Extensive online photos

AUCTION HOST SITE

www.StampAuctionNetwork.com

*Easy live and advance bidding with access
to pictures and thorough descriptions*

Garden City Philatelic Auctions

**Mailing Address:
PO Box 5096 Stn 9
Victoria, BC V8R 6N3**

**info@gcpauctions.com
www.gcpauctions.com
250-380-5423**

Letters to the West During the Decimal Period of Canadian Philately

Ron Majors Ph.D., OTB

Vancouver's Island and British Columbia were early crown colonies but were united during the decimal period as British Columbia in 1866. During the decimal period (1859-1868), there were three different rates depending on the time period.

July, 1859-December 1861:	15 cents per ½ oz.
January, 1862-June 1864:	25 cents per ½ oz.
July, 1864-June 1870:	10 cents per ½ oz.

This article will show examples of all three rates.

Figure 1 The 15 Cent Rate (Panama Route)

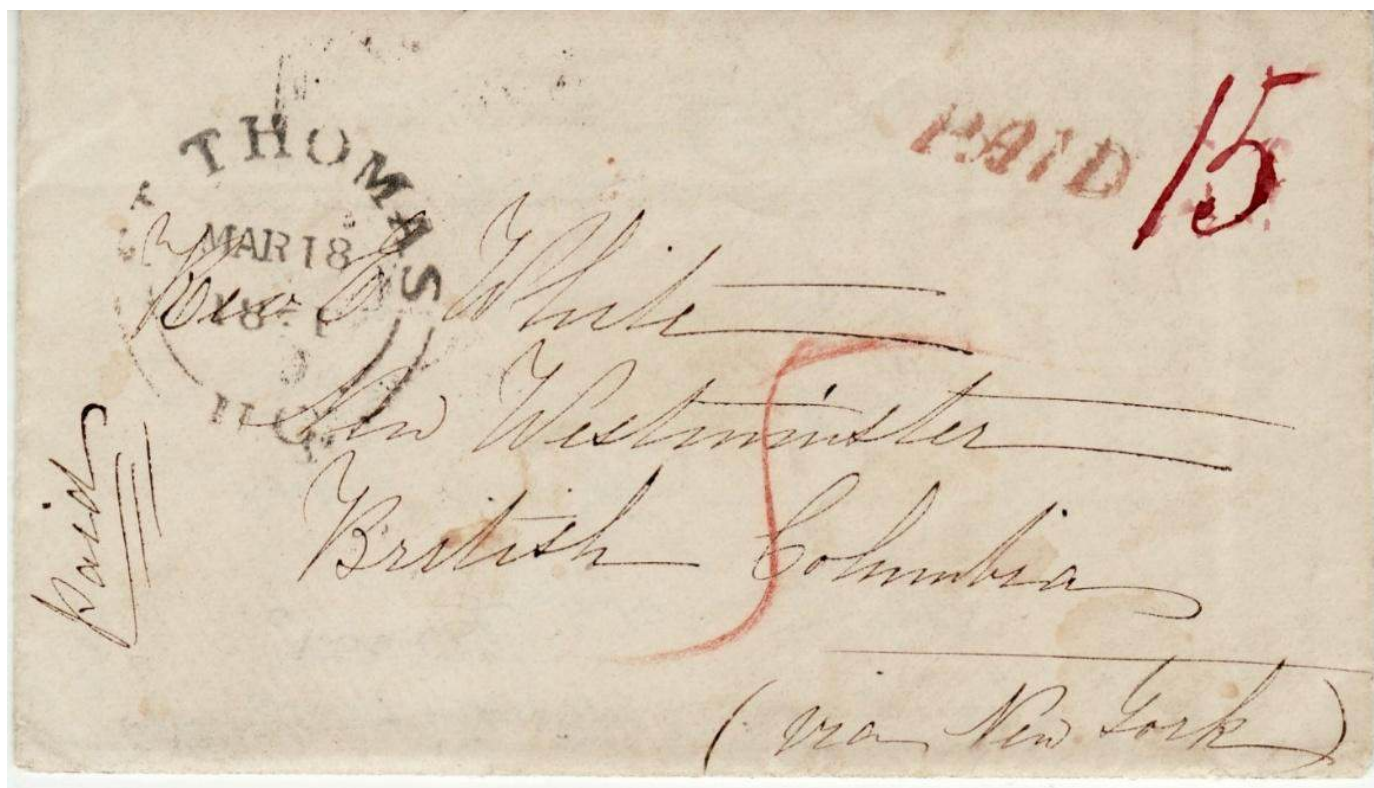
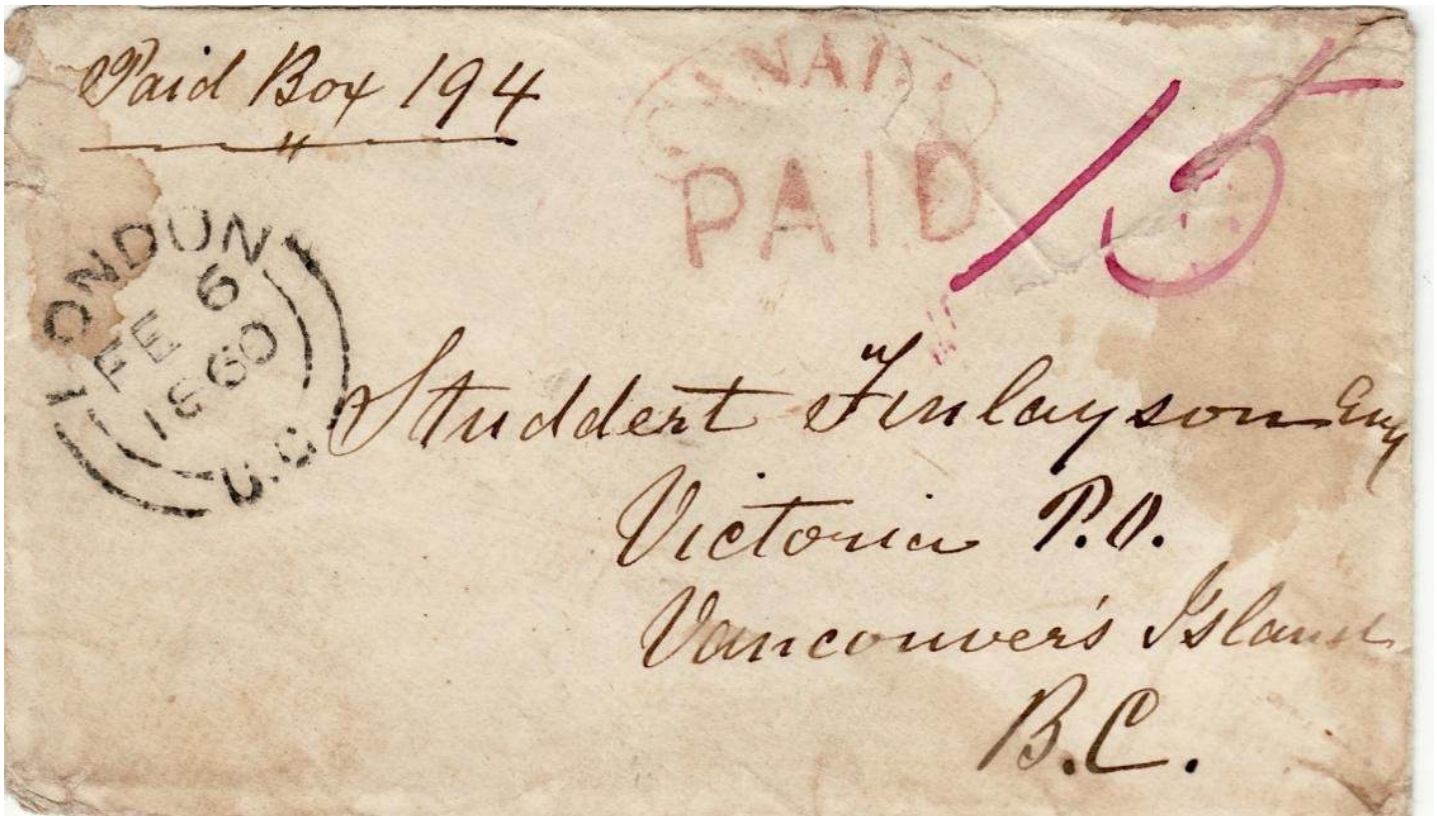


Figure 1 shows the 15 ct Rate via New York, by ship to Isthmus of Panama, by ship to California to British Columbia. The bold PAID 15 in red indicates that the postage was prepaid in St. Thomas, U.C. to its final destination in New Westminster, British Columbia. A backstamp (not shown) indicated the cover was sent by rail to New York (G.W.R. JA 10 61) by ship via Panama via California and finally to B.C. by ship or coach. The "5" in red crayon indicated that "5 d" was due to BC charges for incoming letters. Note that the British Columbia did not adopt the decimal currency until 1867 (Ref.: Geo. Arfken and A. W. Leggett, *Canada's Decimal Era, Postage Usage during the Decimal Era, 1859-1868*, pp.113, ISBN (0-9680270-0-8).

Letters to the West During the Decimal Period of Canadian Philately
Ron Majors Ph.D., OTB

Figure 2. The 15 Cent Rate (Overland Route)



A similar cover is shown in Figure 2 but this cover went the overland route via Salt Lake City. It was posted in London, U.C. on Feb. 6 1860 to Victoria, Vancouver's Island. This was an alternate route. Most of the time, the actual transportation time via mail coach was similar to the alternate route, but on occasion, if there was trouble on the U.S. cross country route, such as bad weather or Indian attacks, the Panama route was used to transport the West Coast mail.

Letters to the West During the Decimal Period of Canadian Philately
Ron Majors Ph.D., OTB

Figure 3. 15 ct Rate to Vancouver's Island Featuring 10 ct. Black Brown Consort Stamp



Figure 3. This letter was mailed on DE 16 1859 to Victoria, Vancouver's Island but didn't arrive until September 20 of the following year, a very long transit time. The black brown Consort (Unitrade 16) is quite scarce to find on a cover especially to Vancouver's Island.

Table 1. Decimal Covers to Vancouver Island and British Columbia - 15¢ Rate, July 1859 - December 1861

	Date	Franking	From	To	Reference
1.	? ? 59	10,5		Vic., VI	[5]
2.	DE 31 60	5,5,5	Arkona	Vic., VI	F-584, 11/13/91, Fig. 1
3.	JA 24 61	5,5,5	Arkona	Vic., VI	[5]
4.	NO 22 61	5,5,5	Guelph	VI	[5]
5.	NO 22 61	8x12 ¹ / ₂ ,5	Guelph	VI	Topics vol 14, [6]
6.	?	5,5,5	Arkona	Vic., VI	[5]

Table 1 from Arfken Leggett showing known 15c rate covers to British Columbia and Vancouver Island

Letters to the West During the Decimal Period of Canadian Philately
Ron Majors Ph.D., OTB

Figure 4. 15 ct. Rate to British Columbia, Underpaid Since Rate Changed but Accepted



Figure 4 depicts the 15 Ct. rate to British Columbia via New York and Panama but was underpaid due to a rate change but letter was accepted anyway. This cover is from the well-known Willis Coates correspondence, a watchmaker in New Westminster, BC. This cover was mailed in Brockville, C.W. on May 26, 1862 well after the 10 Ct. increase in postage charges were implemented in January, 1862.. However, this letter got through the postal system short paid.

Letters to the West During the Decimal Period of Canadian Philately
Ron Majors Ph.D., OTB

Fig. 5. Rate Increased to 25 Cts. per $\frac{1}{2}$ oz on January 1 1862 and Didn't Change for 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ Years



Figure 5 is a stampless cover from same correspondence as Figure 4 but this time within the proper 25 ct. postage being paid. Mailed from Brockville, U.C. on OC 16 (18) 63 to Prescott (transit on reverse), to U.S. exchange office in Ogdensburg, NY with transit handstamp on the front of the cover. The cover was then shipped via New York City by rail to the American Packet to Panama, and onwards to San Francisco. The letter arrived in Victoria, VI on Nov. 22, a fairly rapid transit considering distance traveled.

Letters to the West During the Decimal Period of Canadian Philately
Ron Majors Ph.D., OTB

Fig. 6. Proper 25 ct. Postage Paid with Stamps--the Coates Correspondence



Figure 6 provides a franked example showing the 25 ct. rate paid by two 10 ct. Consort Prince Albert stamps and a 5 ct. Beaver stamp. The United States Mail Steamship Company, operating out of New York City, then took the cover to Colon, Panama; transporting the cover across the isthmus by rail. On the Pacific side, the Pacific Steamship Co. carried the cover to San Francisco, and then the cover was transported by ship, and perhaps, partially by steamer to Victoria, Vancouver Island; its final destination.

Letters to the West During the Decimal Period of Canadian Philately
Ron Majors Ph.D., OTB

Fig. 7. The 25 ct. Rate January 1862 to June 1864 Paid with Two Queen Victoria 12 ½ ct. Stamps



Figure 7 is part of the Coates Correspondence sent during the 25 ct. postage era. The letter went by the Panama route. Listed in Table 2 (below), cover number 10 (page 115) in the Arfken Leggett “Canada’s Decimal Era”. Less than 12 frankings are reported to have used the Panama Route, as explained earlier.

Table 2. Decimal Covers to Vancouver Island and British Columbia - 25¢ Rate, January 1862 - June 1864

	Date	Franking	From	To	Reference
1.	SP 20 62	17,5,111	Prescott	Vic., VI	Hen58-801, 10/27/90
2.	OC 30 62	2x12½	Lydenoch	Vic., VI	Topics 1990, [11]
3.	JA 16 63	2x12½	Brockville	Vic., VI	Hen58-802, 10/27/90
4.	JA 17 63	2x12½	Prescott	Vic.	Hen58-805, 10/27/90
5.	JA 28 63	4x12½	Toronto	N. Westm.	F-587, 11/13/91, [10,11]
6.	FE 4 63	2x12½	Prescott	Vic., VI	Hen58-804, 10/27/90
7.	JY 13 63	10,10,5	Brockville	Vic., VI	Hen58-807, 10/27/90
8.	AU 27 63	2x12½	Quebec	N. Westm.	[5]
9.	OC 15 63	2x12½	Lydenoch	Vic., VI	[5]
10.	NO 27 63	2x12½	Brockville	Vic., VI	Hen58-803, 10/27/90
11.	no date	10,10,5	Prescott	Vic., VI	Hen58-806, 10/27/90
12.	JA 21 64	2x12½	Delhi	VI	[5]
13.	FE 25 64	2x12½	Hyde Park	VI	[5]
14.	MY 12 64	5x10	Goderich	N. Westm.	M244-268, 10/17/90
15.	DE 4 65	2x12½	Warwick	Vic., VI	M264-687, 6/17/92

Table 2 from the Arfken Leggett Cents Era book showing the known covers to Vancouver Island and British Columbia under the 25c rate

**Vancouver's Island & British Columbia Postage Reduction on July 1, 1864
from 25 Cts. to 10 Cts.**

A significant decrease in postage rate to the West occurred on July 1, 1864. This decrease may have been precipitated by the strong reduction of the U.S. domestic, to the Western United States, in the basic ½ oz. rate of postage on July 1, 1863. The basic U.S. postage went from 10 cts. To 3 cts. A year later, the Canadian post office reduced its rate from 25 cts. to 10 cts for Vancouver Island and British Columbia. This rate remained in effect until June 1870 into the Large and Small Queen era.

According to the Firby September 1, 1984 Census, a total of 6 covers showing this 10 ct. rate have surfaced, while the more recent 1996 Arfken and Leggett Canada's Decimal Era book reported a total of 15 such postings.

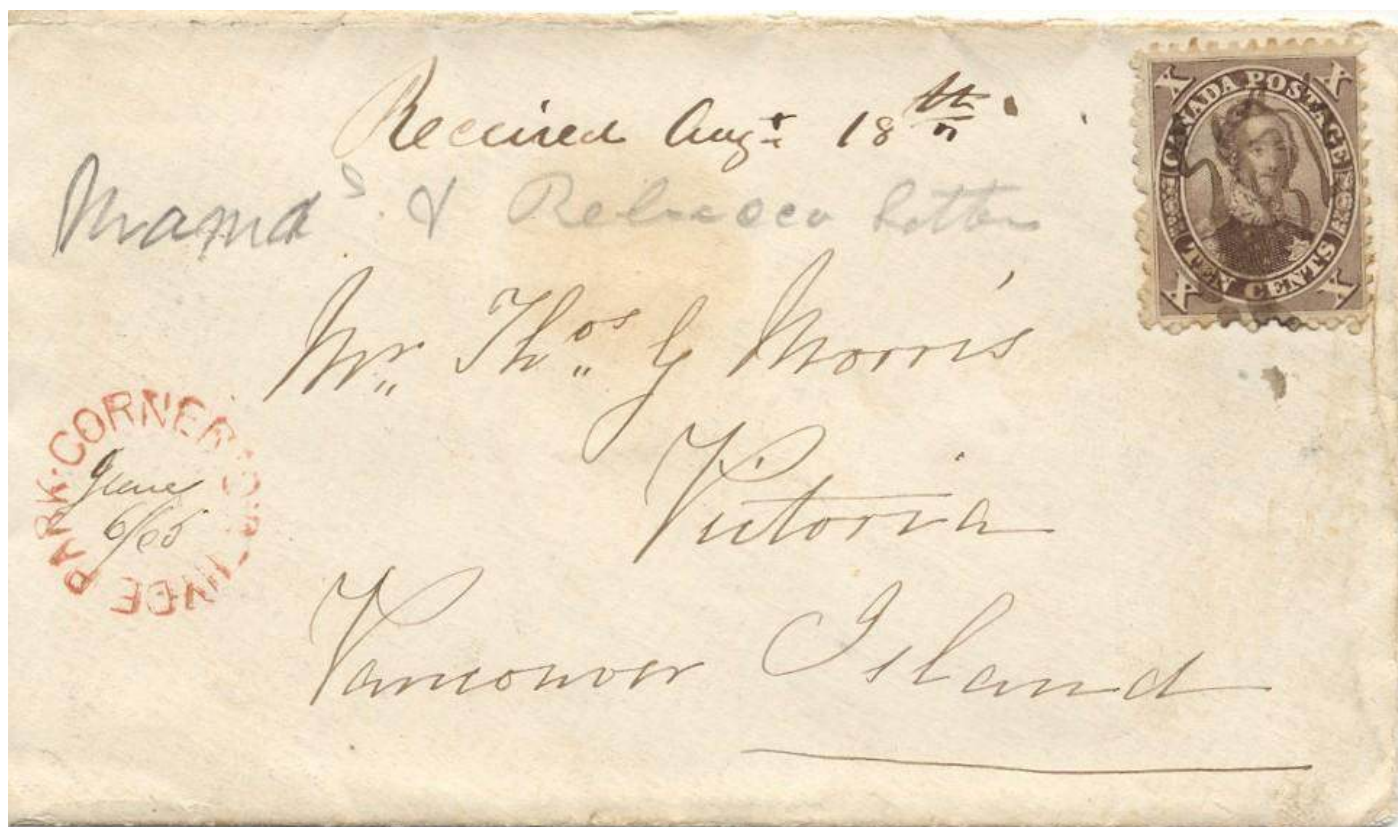


Figure 8 shows an example of the 10 ct. rate to Victoria, Vancouver Island from the Morris correspondence of Hyde Park Corner. Mailed on June 6, 1865 as indicated in the Hyde Park Corner dater, the letter arrived on Aug. 18th as shown in the manuscript at the top of the cover, taking just over 2 months to reach Victoria on the West Coast.

Letters to the West During the Decimal Period of Canadian Philately
Ron Majors Ph.D., OTB

Figure 9. 10 Ct. Rate to Nanaimo, Vancouver Island in Large Queen Period

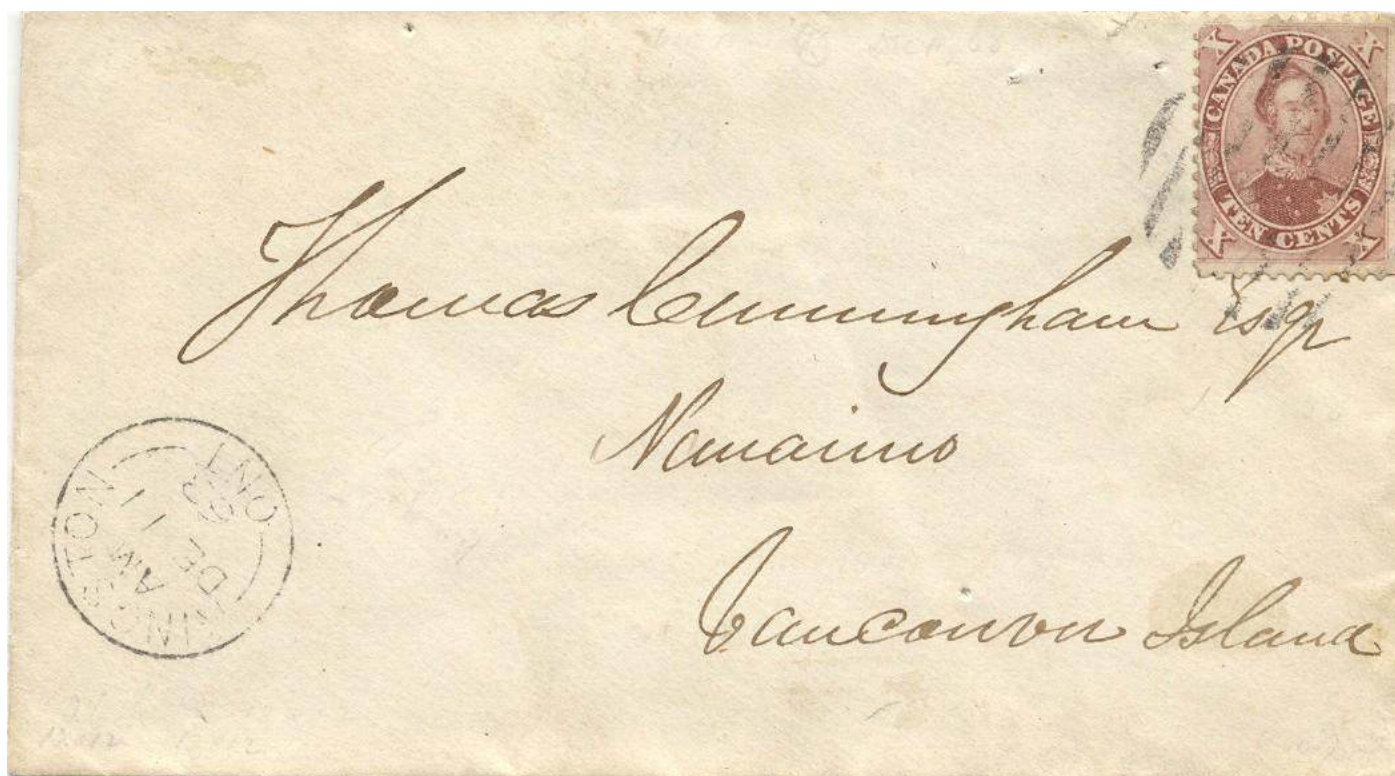


Figure 9 shows another letter posted from Kingston, U.C. and sent to Nanaimo, on the northern part of Vancouver Island. Although the letter was sent outside of the decimal period, the 10 ct. rate to VI and BC remained in effect until the introduction of the small Queen stamps in 1870.

Table 3. Decimal Covers to Vancouver Island and British Columbia - 10 Rate, July 1864 - June 1870

Date	Franking	From	To	Reference
1. AU 11(?) 64	10	Hyde Park Cnr.	Vic., VI	Sgl762-2358, 9/29/94
2. OC 8 64	10	Brockville	Vic., VI	Chr-507, 3/19/93
3. JA 13 65	5,5	London	Vic., VI	[5]
4. FE 18 65	5,5	London	Vic., VI	[5]
5. JU 6 65	10	Hyde Park Cnr.	Vic., VI	Sgl762-2359, 9/29/94
6. JY 11 65	10	Hailton	Vic., VI	M225-606, 5/17/89
7. OC 28 65	10	Hyde Park Cnr.	Vic., VI	Figure 7.
8. NO 24 65	10	Newmarket	Vic., VI	M244-284, 10/17/90
9. JA 6 66	5,5	London, C.W.	Vic., VI	Sgl762-2360, 9/29/94
10. AP 5 66	5,5,5	P. Stanley	N.Westm.	Topics 1990, [11]
11. AP 20 66	5,5	London	Vic., VI	M268-603, 10/08/92
12. AP 27 66	10	Aurora	Gold Cr.	Chr-521, 3/19/93
13. NO 29 67	10	Ardtree	Vic., VI	M268-700, 10/08/92
14. DE 11 68	10	Kingston	Nanaimo	Topics Jan. 1964, [10]
15. ?	10	Hyde Park Cnr.	Vic., VI	[5]

Table 3 from the Arfken Legget Cents Era book showing the known covers to Vancouver Island and British Columbia under the 10c rate

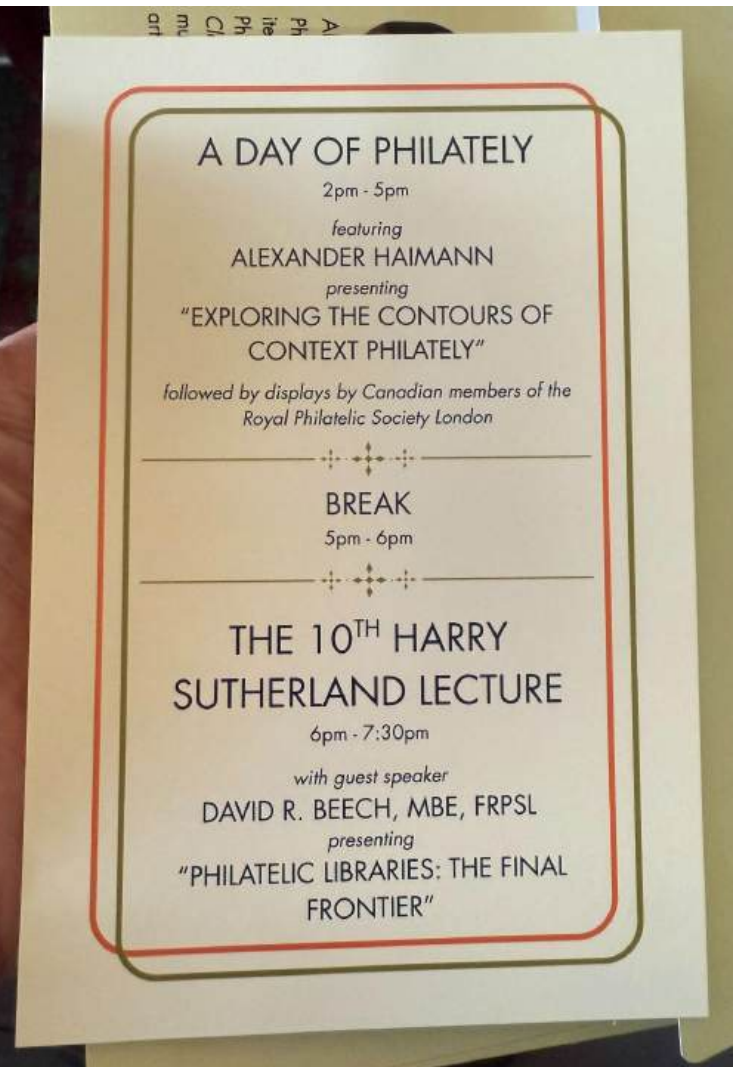
Figure 10. The Only Recorded Registered Decimal Period Cover to British Columbia



The 15c registered rate from Port Stanley, C.W. to New Westminster, BC, with a certificate stating "one stamp added and hinged in place", two 5 cent Beaver stamps are tied with 7-ring circular and third was added to show additional 5c for REGISTERED rate with the appropriate straightline REGISTERED handstamp, transits from Clifton, U.C. AP 6 1866 and London, C.W. AP 6 (18)66. The 15 Ct. registration rate with usage in the proper time period.

Firby identifies the same cover as having 10 Ct. paid with two 5 Ct. Beavers and registration paid in cash.

Vincent Graves Greene - A Day of Philately



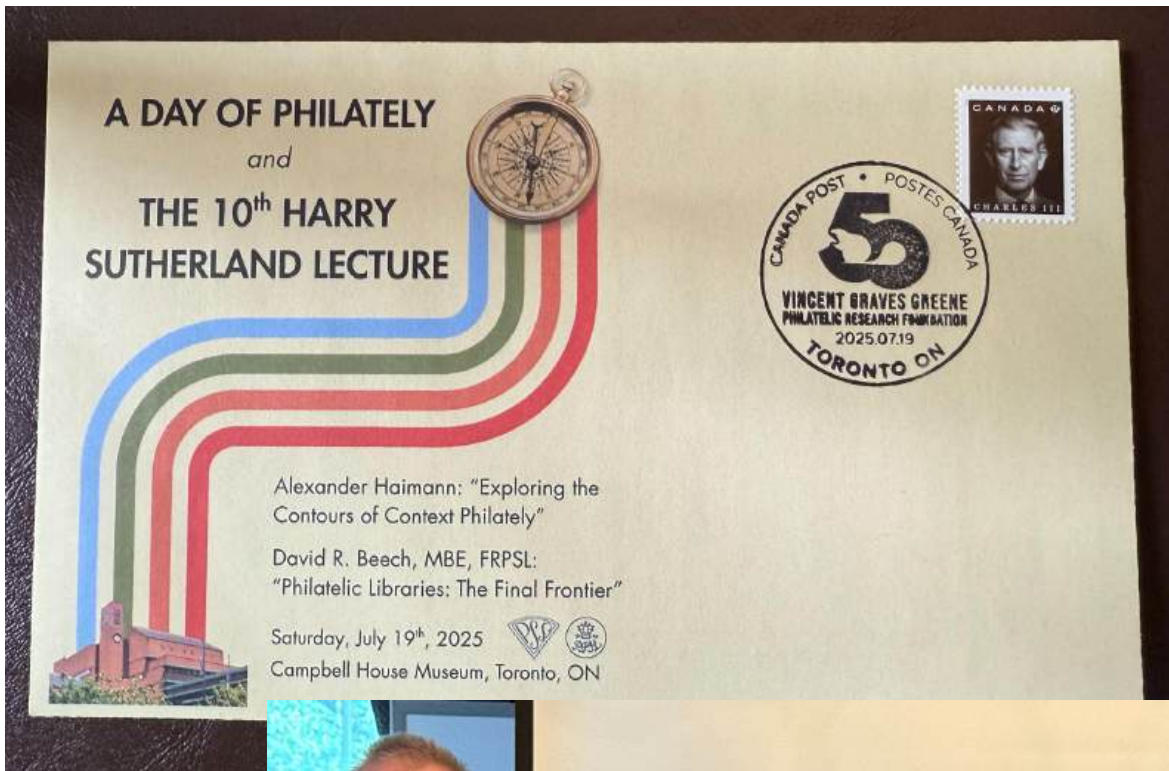
Above left: The staircase at The Campbell House Museum.
Above and Left: A card with the day's activities.



The Vincent G. Greene Foundation had **A Day of Philately** as part of their 50th Anniversary Year celebrations. This included the 10th Harry Sutherland Lecture with guest speaker David R. Beech, MBE, FRPSL; a wonderful talk on the need for libraries being the "Final Frontier" if disaster ever struck the human race. If all the computers died, the libraries would indeed be in high demand.

There was also a talk by Alexander Haimann on **Exploring the Contours of Philately** and small exhibits by members of the Royal Philatelic Society London.

Vincent Graves Greene - A Day of Philately



Above: A special cover for the day with the 50th Anniversary Vincent Graves Greene postmark. Below: Alexander Haimann and David Beech receive a gift of Canadian Philately and a Certificate to remember this wonderful day. Both remarked that they loved being in Canada and enjoyed their stay in Toronto.

Vincent Graves Greene - A Day of Philately

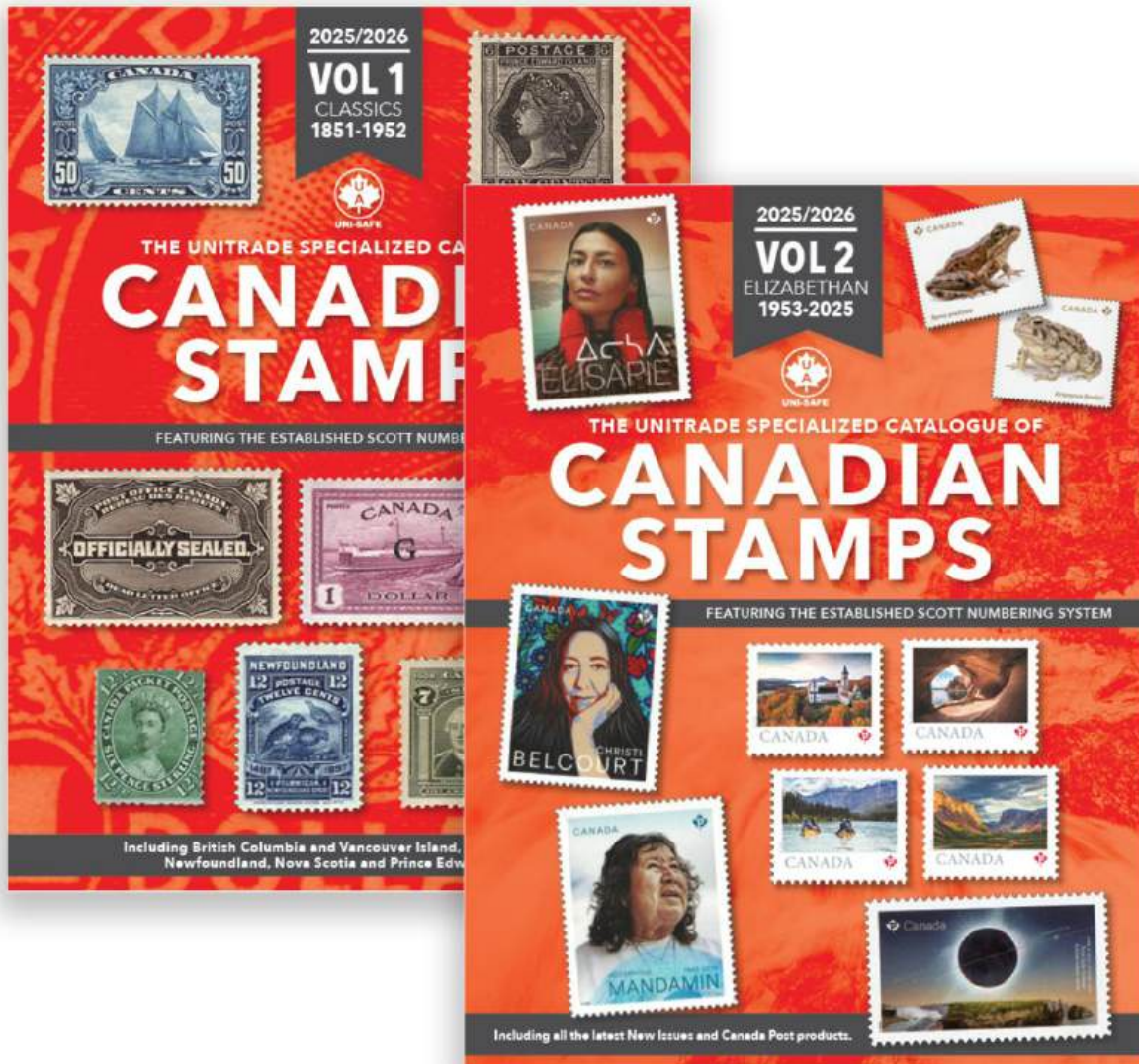


Above: New members Jean Wang and John Wilson sign the Roll of Fellows of the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada (RPSC) Book on this historic day.

Left: Vinny Greene medals and photos on display in the lobby beside the signing book.

Some wonderful memorabilia honouring the namesake of the day, the library and the Philatelic Certificate.

Unitrade Catalog of Canadian Stamps



As many of you have probably heard, the new Unitrade is at the printers and is expected to arrive late in the Fall. It will come in two volumes, which gives you a chance to partner up with a friend and save on the cost, if you only need one of the two.

For more information or to order your copy, please contact Patrick Durbano, Editor Unitrade Specialized Catalogue of Canadian Stamps

Email: UnitradeEditor@gmail.com

Phone: 416-407-2422

Upcoming Camellia PLC Collections Auctions by Ron Majors



Recently, it was announced that another magnificent collection of early Canadian classical postal history, stamps, proofs and essays and will soon be re-introduced to the philatelic world. The Camellia Collection, for years housed in Great Britain, consisting of early Canadian and Newfoundland postal history will be auctioned by Eastern Auctions, who throughout its history, has handled some of the greatest of Canadian collections. The upcoming Camellia Collections sale is no different and may even outclass previous collections.

Ron Majors, Pence-Cents Study Group (PCSG) Chairman had the opportunity to view some of the items in the Decimal- to the Large Queen-era. At the Pence-Cents Study Group meeting at BNAPEX 2025 in Vernon, he will report on some of the notable covers that will appear in the auctions, which commence on November 22, 2025 and continuing through the next two years. Many of these covers were totally unknown to current classic Canadian collectors so the auctions should pose some interesting competitive bidding. The collection rivals (or perhaps exceeds) other classical collections that have made it onto the philatelic marketplace in the past three decades such as the Nickle, Arfken, Carrington, Robertson, Cantor and most recently Brigham. Many items, especially foreign destination material, have never been seen in auctions or in dealer's boxes in the last six decades. So, if you collect Classical Canada and Newfoundland postal history and stamps prepare to see some outstanding philatelic rarities.

This collection holds large intact portions of the late Richard Laycock, Geoffrey Whitworth and H.E. Duckworth collections. Click on the picture at the upper left to read the official announcement on the Eastern website.

A candid observation about the sale from Yohann Tanguay (Chief Describer, Eastern Auctions):

"All I can say (is), there are hundreds of covers... select items will be showcased in hardcover sale catalogues, while other material will be placed in our General sale catalogues in the months ahead. In addition to the unmatched Pence & Cents and Large Queen postal history, the collection has exceptional proofs and stamps, replete with varieties, which it seems, people are forgetting about! And Camellia's Newfoundland collection, a subject by its own, is simply the best ever!"

P.S. I do like (the) excitement the Camellia collections has generated so far... Can't wait to present Canada Part I to our clients. They will surely be astounded!"

Canada's Five Cents Beaver Proofs with Various Plate Flaws Part 3

by Michael D. Smith

15TCiv - Position 28, 29 State 1



Position 28 State 1



R. 71 = fresh entry

Canada's Five Cents Beaver Proofs with Various Plate Flaws Part 3

by Michael D. Smith

15TCiv - Position 28 State 1



R. 71 = fresh entry. Entire outer frame line left is doubled.



Canada's Five Cents Beaver Proofs with Various Plate Flaws Part 3
by Michael D. Smith

15TCiv - Position 29 State 1



Short entry at NE. Doubled 'C' dot.



Canada's Five Cents Beaver Proofs with Various Plate Flaws Part 3
by Michael D. Smith

15TCiv - Position 31 State 1



W. margin guide dots. Short entry NE spandrel.



Canada's Five Cents Beaver Proofs with Various Plate Flaws Part 3

by Michael D. Smith

15TCiv - Position 31, 32, 41, 42 State 1



DEVENEY STAMPS LTD.

ESTD 1977

🍁 Specializing in Canadian Varieties & Re-entries 🍁



Featuring high resolution images

ONE OF CANADA'S LARGEST ONLINE STAMP INVENTORIES

WWW.DEVENEYSTAMPS.COM

TOLL FREE: 1-888-232-0282



info@deveneystamps.com

Canada's Five Cents Beaver Proofs with Various Plate Flaws Part 3
by Michael D. Smith

15TCiv - Position 31 State 1



W. margin guide dots. Short entry NE spandrel.



Canada's Five Cents Beaver Proofs with Various Plate Flaws Part 3

by Michael D. Smith

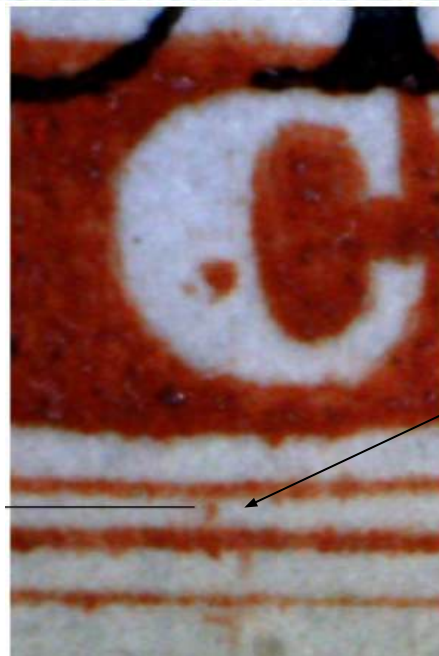
15TCiv - Position 32 State 1



PF 86a



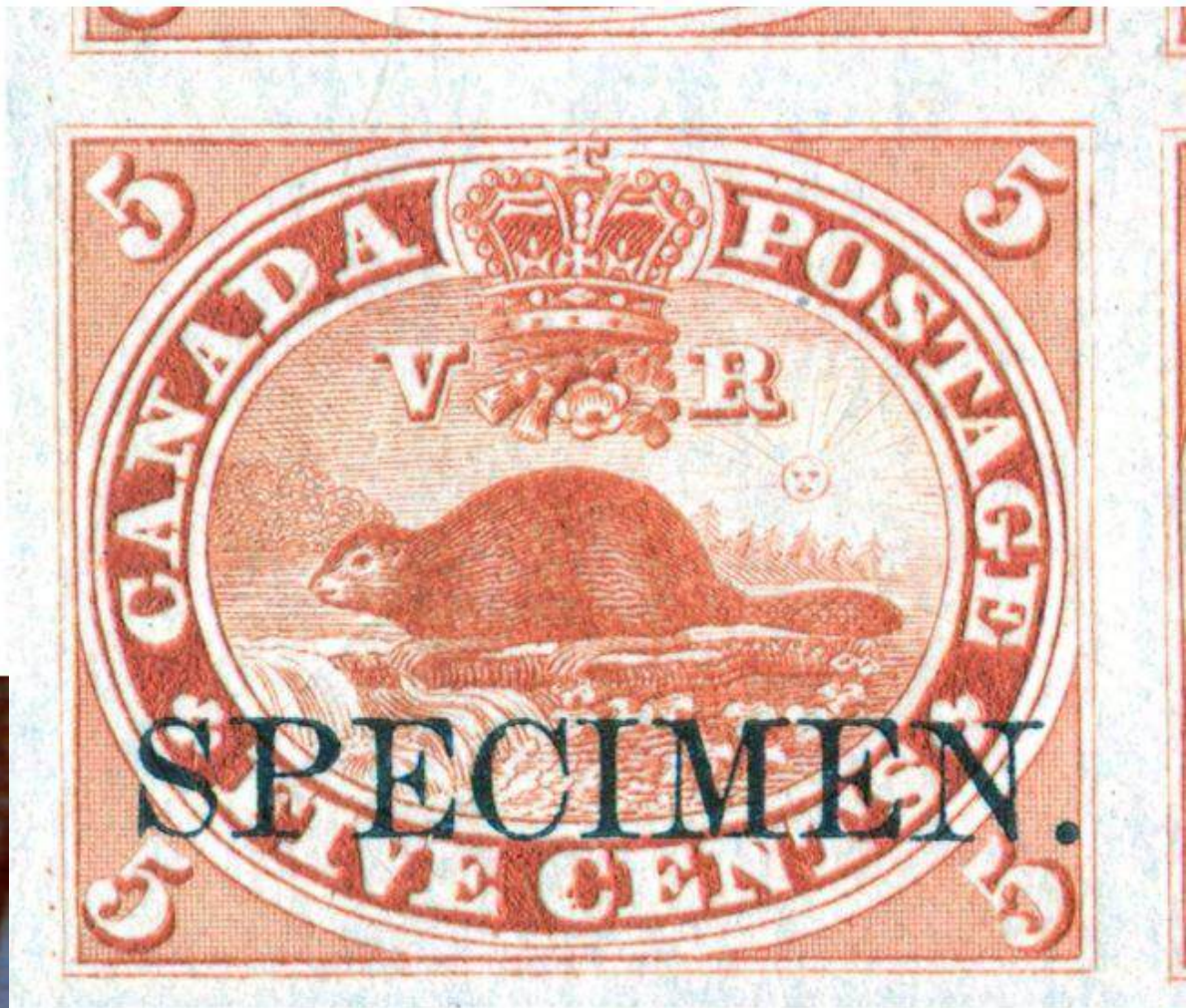
PF 114a



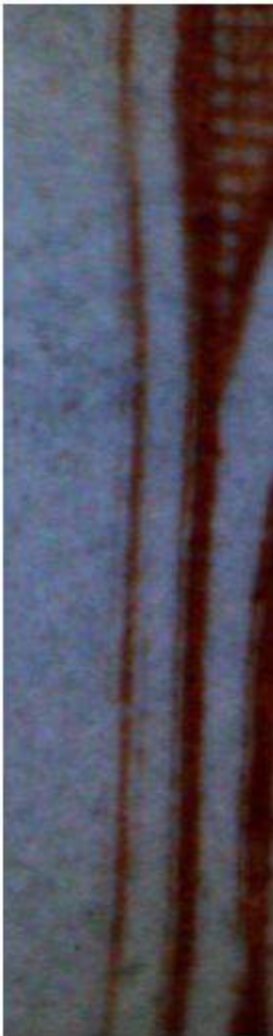
Canada's Five Cents Beaver Proofs with Various Plate Flaws Part 3

by Michael D. Smith

15TCiv - Position 41 State 1



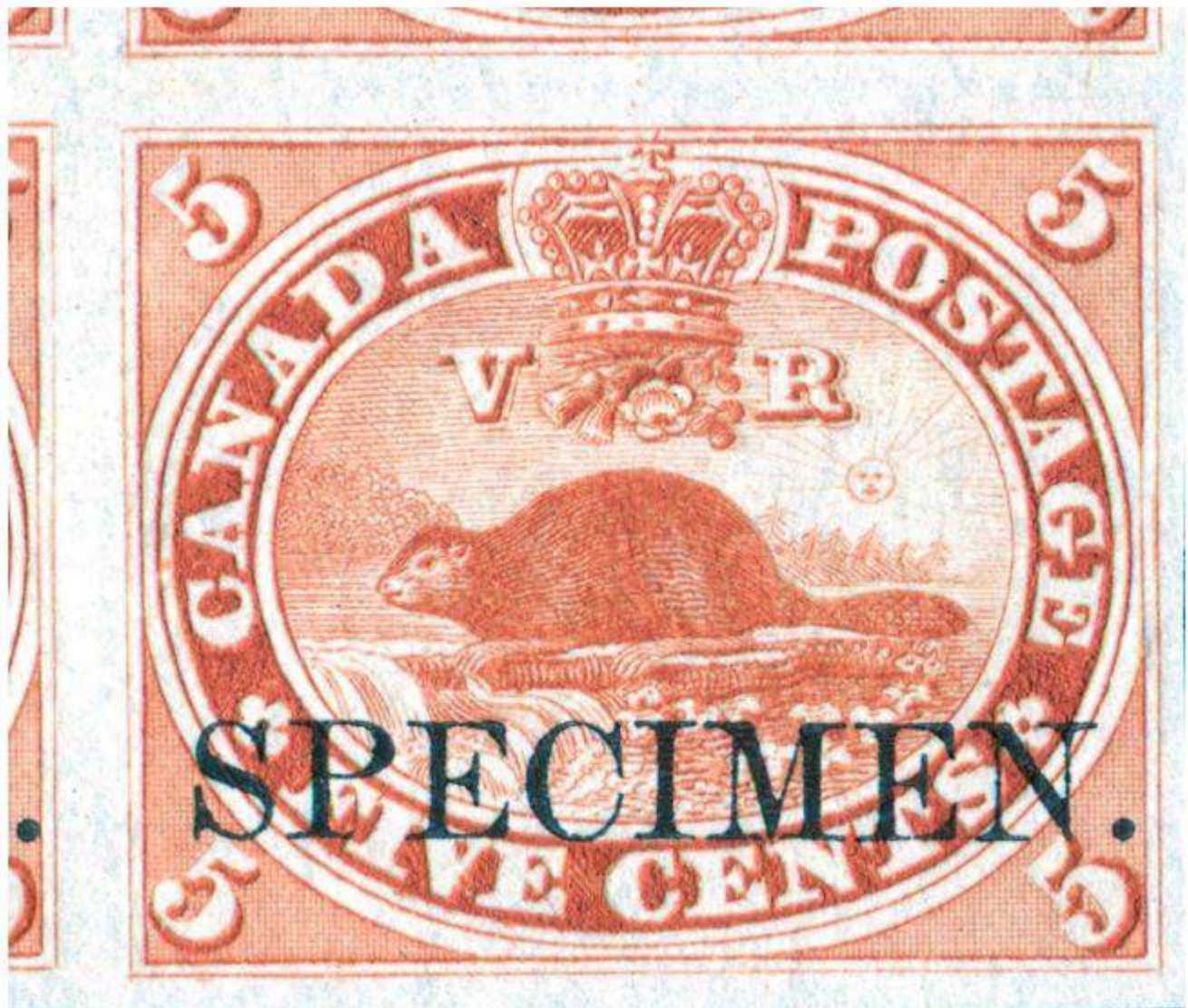
W margin guide dots. Traces of fresh entry at W. Two 'C' dots.



Canada's Five Cents Beaver Proofs with Various Plate Flaws Part 3

by Michael D. Smith

15TCiv - Position 42 State 1



R. 16 = fresh entry. No 'C' dot

Canada's Five Cents Beaver Proofs with Various Plate Flaws Part 3 by Michael D. Smith

R. 16 = fresh entry: Doubling around crown. Doubling in 'VR'.



Canada's Five Cents Beaver Proofs with Various Plate Flaws Part 3

by Michael D. Smith



R. 16 = fresh entry

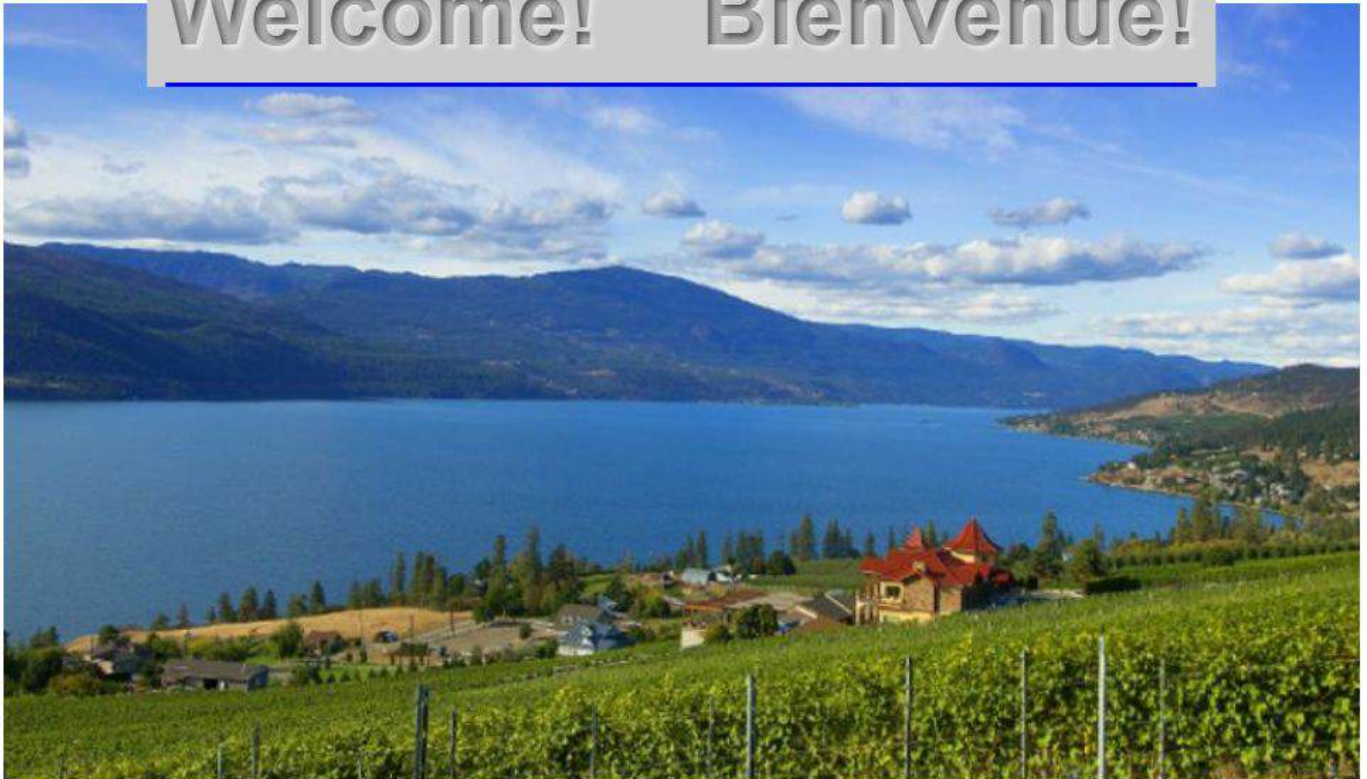
Marks in '5' and below.



Doubling in 'CE'.

Upcoming Shows (Ctrl + Click on image for website)

Welcome! Bienvenue!



Credit: Gray Monk Estate Winery

View of Okanagan Lake from the Gray Monk Estate Winery

BNAPEX 2025 Vernon

BNAPS convention, exhibition, and bourse
19-21 September 2025

Friday (10:00-17:00)

Saturday (10:00-17:00)

Sunday (10:00-15:00)

The convention venue is
Prestige Vernon Lodge and Conference Centre
3914 - 32nd Street, VERNON BC V1T 5P1

Upcoming Shows (Ctrl + Click on image for website)



Welcome to Dubai 2026 World Stamp Exhibition

4-8 February



"Black '47"- The Irish Famine

The Great Famine in Ireland (1845-1849) triggered a major wave of Irish immigration to British North America, including Canada. The year 1847 saw an exceptionally high number of Irish immigrants arriving in Canada, with Grosse Île, a quarantine station near Quebec City, being a major entry point. Many Irish immigrants arrived weakened by famine and disease, including typhus, which spread rapidly in the overcrowded and unsanitary conditions at quarantine stations and port cities.

Grosse Île and other locations in Canada experienced high mortality rates due to typhus, with thousands of Irish immigrants buried in mass graves. The quarantine station at Grosse Île became a focal point of the tragedy, with a large number of burials and a memorial erected to commemorate the Irish immigrants who died there.

The influx of Irish immigrants during the famine years significantly shaped the demographics and culture of Canada, particularly in areas with large Irish populations like Montreal and other cities.