

Pence-Cents Era Study Group

Of the British North America Philatelic Society

Volume XV, No. 1, Feb 2026



1858 Nova Scotia SFL with Strip of 3 x 3d with Bisect, Ex Wilkinson Collection - Courtesy of Jim Jung

Dear Study Group Member,

The winners of the \$50 Gift Certificate Draw held live at the Virtual BNAPEX Pence Cents Study Group Meeting on January 31st were as follows: 1) Chris Fischer, 2) Wayne Smith, 3) John Breukelaar. Congratulations to all members who participated in the draw. Please continue trying as we will have more draws and more winners in the future.

I used to look forward to the February Sales because this was when alot of good stamps and Postal History was sold. This year there are two General Sales in February and one in March. These will be held by our sponsors **Eastern Auctions (Feb 25-28)** and **Maresch & Son (Mar 11-12)**. Garden City Philatelics had just completed their sale on Feb 14. I have looked through the sales and found items I liked in all three of them. They are each very complete with a full inventory of philatelic material and some wonderful finds I'm sure. I hope you take a look on [Stamp Auction Network](#) and on the [Eastern Auctions website](#) for details. The Eastern Sale is hailed as a Mega Auction by Ron Majors.

As many of you may know, BNAPEX 2026 will be held in Valleyfield, Quebec so veuillez pratiquer votre français. Valleyfield is a town about 50 minutes west of Montreal and is located on an island in the middle of the St. Lawrence River.

We have also found out that the next Camellia Collection Sale will be held in June 2026. From what we have heard this will be just as good as the first sale but we will keep you updated.

In This Issue.....

Page No

Title Page: 1858 Nova Scotia SFL with Strip of 3 x 3d with Bisect, Ex Wilkinson Collection - Courtesy of Jim Jung

Welcome to 46 rd Edition	Jim Jung	2
Lawrence Pinkney Obituary		3
Unfortunate Happening During the Prince of Wales Visit to Canada/US in 1860	Ronald E. Majors	6
The Mystery of the Elusive 4-Ring 48 Cancel...Mike Halhed & Alec Globe		7
Canada's Five Cents Beaver Proofs with Various Plate Flaws Part 5	Michael D. Smith	14
Newfoundland One Pence Re-entry Plate Positions.....	Jim André	25
Update on the 1864 Two Cent Decimal "scratch on neck" ..	Jim McCormick	30
Upcoming Shows		33
Boston 2026 World Expo	Ronald E. Majors	34

Pence Cents Newsletter #46

Lawrence Pinkney



Photo courtesy of Garfield Portch



Photo courtesy of the Postal History Society of Canada.

I am sorry to report to our members that our friend Lawrence Pinkney passed away early on the morning of December 26, 2025. Lawrence had undergone a successful surgery morning of December 23rd, and was scheduled to return home on December 26th, but a heart attack in the early hours took his life.

Lawrence began his philatelic collecting interests over 60 years ago. Very quickly, he focused his attention on a very detailed study of the Large Queens of Canada. Due to this acquired knowledge of the Large Queens, he was asked to join the Expertization Committee of the Vincent Graves Greene Foundation several years ago when the Committee was requested to expertise the third known copy of the 2 Cent Large Queen on Laid paper. He has been a member of that Expertization Committee ever since.

Lawrence's other philatelic collecting interests include the early 1890's Bar Precancel stamps, which has been exhibited to the Precancel Study Group, and also creating a future exhibit illustrating the Steele Briggs Seed Company corporate history through the use of its illustrated covers and ephemera over the course of its 90+ year history. Further, he has collected 1898 Map Stamps, particularly Plate 1, December 1898.

Lawrence's funeral service was held on January 24th at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church Islington at 3819 Bloor St. W. in Etobicoke.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Lawrence's memory to Passion for Parkinson (Client Challenge) or St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Islington. (Donate — St. Andrew's)

He is survived by his wife Janice.

References:

Pinkney, Lawrence (Date Unknown). Profiles of PSSC Members, Philatelic Specialists Society Website, private link.

Public Auction Announcement

General Sale - February 25-28, 2026

Featuring Canada Pence & Cents proofs, stamps & postal history

Visit our website for
auction catalogue & live bidding



12p "Goodall"
Die Proof in black;
ex. "Carrington"



1857 7½p green,
superb mint OG;
ex. "Provenance"



1857 cover to England with choice 10p blue
on thin paper with BLUE CONCENTRIC RINGS;
ex. Richardson, "Harbour"



"Six Pence Sterling" (7½p)
Queen Victoria "Goodall"
Die Essay in brown;
ex. "Lindemann" Brigham



12½c "Goodall"
Die Proof in black



Mixed-issue Ten pence franking to
U.K., the finer of the two known;
ex. Guilford, Wilkinson



1865-1868 1c rose,
mint block of six;
ex. Dale-Lichtenstein,
Nickle



A six pence perforated pair on
Hotel advertising cover to USA;
ex. Dale-Lichtenstein, Hilmer



1860 (August 1) Very early 25 cent
registered letter rate to U.K.
ex. Laycock



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Unfortunate Happening During the Prince of Wales Visit to Canada/US in 1860 by Ronald E. Majors, PhD, OTB



The first member of the British Royal Family to visit the main cities of what later would become Canada and to the eventual Civil War-bound United States was the 19 year old heir to the throne, Prince Albert Edward. His tour lasted four months. While in Halifax, Rear Admiral Alexander Milne, a high-ranking Naval personnel over the North Atlantic, was the Royal Party's host. On 10 September 1860, while the Royal Tour was in Toronto, Albert Edward was informed of the death of Admiral Milne's nine-year-old son. Above is a mourning cover, addressed in the Prince's own handwriting to his Halifax host. Rear Admiral Milne who resided on his flagship the HMS Nile located in Halifax harbour. The envelope—posted in Toronto on 10 September 1860—is franked with a strip of four plus one single 1¢ Queen Victoria stamp, paying the 5¢ interprovincial rate to Nova Scotia. The single stamp on the right was damaged—perhaps by the Prince himself! The franking for this cover is rare, with only two such recordings by Firby in his decimal census. Although not shown here, the reverse date stamp is a Montreal transit (SP 11 1860) and a Halifax receiver (SP 15 1860). At the lower left of the front shown above are the initials "A.E." (for Albert Edward) and on the back a Royal wax seal is easily identified. Patrick Frost, Managing Director of Argyll-Etkin in London and head of the Stamp and Royalty Memorabilia Department confirmed that the address and initials are in the Prince of Wales handwriting, and that the wax seal is consistent with that used by the Royal Family. If you would like to read the whole story (2 articles of BNA Topics of the Prince's visit). Search the O.R.E. section of the BNAPS website to get the volume and page number under Majors or my coauthor Ron McGuire.

The Mystery of the Elusive 4-Ring 48 Cancel by Mike Halhed & Alec Globe

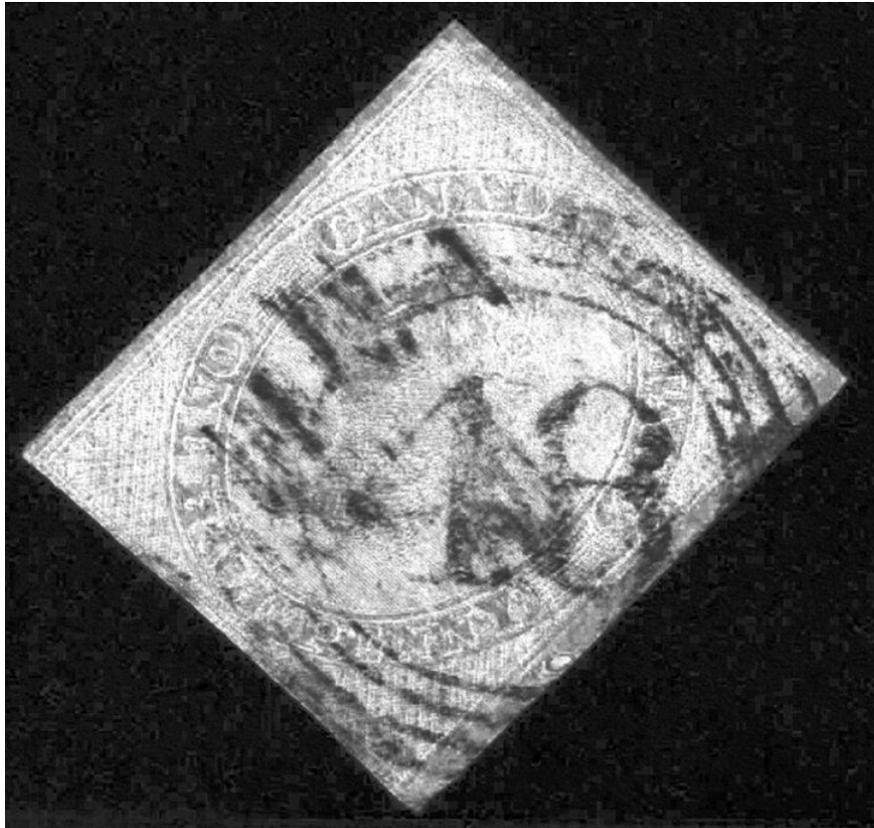


Figure 1: A 4-Ring 48 on a 1/2d Queen Victoria stamp (Unitrade #8). Image generated with colours removed by Postmark Reveal.com to better show the numeral.

Around March 3rd, 1857, the Canadian Post Office Department issued stamp obliterators with four rings surrounding over fifty different numbers. The largest post offices were selected, starting alphabetically with Barrie (population 2,600) as Number 1. The largest city at the time, Montreal (population 75,000), was down the alphabetical list. It received two numbers: 21 which was used on most mail and 516 which used primarily on circulars starting in late 1867.

For collectors of 4-Ring cancels, the Number 48 (shortened henceforth to 4R48) has always been the most challenging number to add to our collections with a Rarity Factor 10 classification. It's typically been assigned to Thorold, UC or listed as being of unknown origin. This article examines historical thinking on the matter while identifying new information which strongly suggests that the correct city must be Toronto.

In 1911, Clifton A. Howes (Canada: Its Postage Stamps and Postal History, p. 79) reported that, to that point, only twenty-four 4-ring hammers had been identified from covers. Trying to fill in the holes, he speculated that Toronto was assigned the 4R48 because of the size of the city and its alphabetical position after Three Rivers (4R47) and before Whitby (4R49).

The Mystery of the Elusive 4-Ring 48 Cancel

by Mike Halhed & Alec Globe

In 1929, Fred Jarrett (Stamps of British North America, pp. 375-6, 387-96) published a full list of all 52 hammers, which he described as being “thoroughly identified.” All but three of his identifications agree with current assignments. Brighton was given 6 in error. Number 6 and 9 were never issued to any town to prevent confusion. Number 39 was not St Hyacinthe, but rather St Johns, Canada East. Jarrett allocated #48 to Thorold without explanation but likely since there were almost no strikes known. Further, Jarrett listed 4R48s on the 3d Beaver and First Cents stamps, probably on the basis of clogged 4R46s or modified 4R18s as illustrated below:

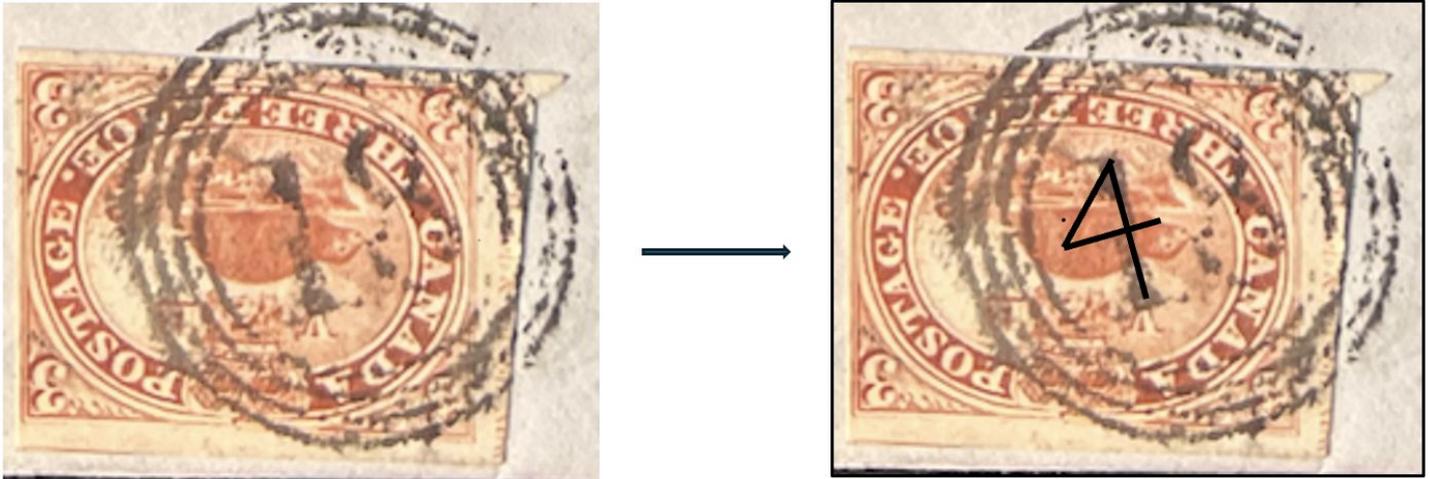


Figure 2: The 4R18 could easily be modified to look like a 4R48 There's no intent to deceive in this example. Source: Halhed Collection using PowerPoint

Figure 3: Fake 4R48
(likely a modified 10 or 18)
on 3 Cent LQ. Source:
Halhed Collection



The Mystery of the Elusive 4-Ring 48 Cancel by Mike Halhed & Alec Globe

The next figure shows a perfect strike of a 4R46 on the left. The sort of smudged 4R46 to the right (and others like it) have been misidentified by some as 4R48s. All 4R48s identified on First Cents have generally been smudged 4R46s or modified 4R18s.



Figure 4: Two 4R46 strikes on #15. The one on the left is clear. The smudged one on the right, with the colours reversed to show the strike, has been misidentified as a 4R48. Source: Halhed Collection.

Moving back to historical references, in 1946, Winthrop S. Boggs (*The Postage Stamps and Postal History of Canada*, vol. 1, pp. 593-603) repeated all of Jarrett's assignments, including Thorold for #48, and announced, without supplying a source, that "Toronto being the headquarters at that time was not assigned a number." That arbitrary guess keeps getting repeated as if it was fact, but the argument seems specious and without merit. Several capital cities in other British colonies had numbered hammers, and London, England, had many. The only exception was Sydney, New South Wales, which did not get a numbered obliterator because it had special stamps with a view of the city.

In 2008, H.E. and H.W. Duckworth (*The Large Queen Stamps of Canada and Their Use*, 2nd edition, page 203) stated that "four-ring numbers 1-52...were issued to important post offices in Upper and Lower Canada" and "Toronto seems not to have received a number (unless it was 48), for which a convincing identification has not been made". To their credit, the Duckworths listed 4R48 as "Unknown" on page 204.

Today, Thorold has been repeated to the point where the 2025/2026 Unitrade Specialized Catalogue of Canadian Stamps assigns 48 to Thorold, with the note "Only 1 strike known." (p. 176, Vol.1). However, no Thorold cover has ever been found with a 4R48 cancel, and that assignment makes no sense given the post office's alphabetical protocol for issuing 4-ring hammers (Thorold alphabetically precedes Three Rivers 4R47).

The Mystery of the Elusive 4-Ring 48 Cancel by Mike Halhed & Alec Globe

The only disruption to the alphabetical order occurs between numbers 5 and 10, which also impacts the end of the list. It appears that Brockville was originally assigned 6 (after Brantford's 5) and Clifton was given 9 (before Cobourg's 10). Once the difficulty of distinguishing a 6 from a 9 was realized, those two numbers were withdrawn and remained unassigned. Brockville and Clifton were moved to the end of the list as 51 and 52. Whoever arranged the three towns after number 6 confused the alphabetical order. Chatham (8) should be after Brantford (5), Cobourg (10) should be next, and Collingwood should be last (not 7 before Chatham). Incidentally, 4R34 was not assigned to Sarnia, as in Unitrade, but to Port Sarnia, its name back then according to Lovell's Gazetteer of British North America (Montreal, 1873), page 258.

Five collectors of 4-rings have never found a genuine 4R48 on cover. Henry G. Lubke, Jr.'s gold medal CAPEX 1987 exhibit showed two in-period Thorold covers without 4-ring cancels and concluded that "I have neither seen or heard of a verifiable 4R48 on cover, though many bogus strikes have been reported on stamps. Until a cover appears I must assume this numeral does not exist." Richard Thompson's CAPEX 1996 exhibit of "The Four-Ring Numeral Cancels of Canada" (via photocopies at Toronto's Greene Foundation Library) assigned 48 to Thorold. He states "There are only three strikes known of the 4-Ring 48, one on a 5¢ beaver and two on large Queens. The reason for this paucity of strikes is unknown. A copy of a 3d red with a Thorold OC/26/1857 CDS was sold from the Barclay collection so perhaps the Postmaster at Thorold just did not care to use the 4-Ring obliterator." In the Eastern Auction October 28th, 2005 sale of Jim Hennok's 4-Ring numeral collection, no 4R48s were listed, on or off cover. Bill Radcliffe and Mike Halhed both own extensive collections of 4-ring cancels. Neither collector has ever seen a 4R48 on cover. Wayne Smith's census of 4-ring cancels has found not one cover with a 48 over the thousands of pence, cents, and Large Queen covers recorded.

There is simply no evidence supporting the theory that Thorold was #48 beyond the fact that there is a gap between 4-Ring 47 (Three Rivers, CE) and 4-Ring 49 (Whitby, CW). This is quite a weak argument because Thorold belongs alphabetically before Three Rivers.

There are several reasons why the Post Office would not assign a 4-ring obliterator to Thorold. Three places on the Niagara peninsula did receive 4-ring cancellers. Niagara (the settlement on Lake Ontario at the mouth of the Niagara River, now called Niagara-on-the-Lake) received 4R23. It had a population of 3,400 and retained some of its previous glory as capital of Upper Canada. Clifton received 4R52. Lying at the Canadian side of the railway bridge to the United States, it was Canada West's most important port of entry, transiting millions of pounds sterling/dollars of imports and exports annually. St Catharines, with a population of 6,500, received 4R38. It was the most important commercial centre on the peninsula. It lay at the critical transportation junction of the Welland Railway and Canal (both running from Lake Ontario to Lake Erie), and the Great Western Railway (running from the bridge across the Niagara River to Hamilton, Toronto, and Windsor). Thorold, with a population of 2,500, lay just 6 kilometers from St Catharines. It had little commercial or strategic importance, so there would have been no reason to supply it with a 4-ring canceller.

The Mystery of the Elusive 4-Ring 48 Cancel

by Mike Halhed & Alec Globe

Given that Toronto falls alphabetically between Three Rivers and Whitby and it had a population of 50,000, wouldn't the 48 obviously be assigned to Toronto? Well, what could therefore account for the fact that there are so few 4R48 strikes known?

The answer to this riddle is becoming quite clear. Two "new" 4R48s have been uncovered over the past few years bringing the total known to four. A very clear trend emerges given that all strikes appear on 1/2d stamps:



Figure 5: Radcliffe Collection. 4R48 on #8 Queen Victoria. Purchased out of the UK in about 1999. The 4R48 was not mentioned.



Figure 6: Janson Collection. 4R48 on #8 Queen Victoria. Purchased in 2009 out of Vancouver with the cancel listed as an RF10 4R48



Figure 7: Halhed Collection. 4R48 on #8ii 1/2d Queen Victoria with Major Re-Entry. Purchased out of the UK in 2020. The 4R48 was not described.



Figure 8: Watt Collection. 4R48 on #8 Queen Victoria, showing "Zorro" flaw, PP 84 or 102. Purchased in 2025 out of Montreal with the 4R48 described.

The Mystery of the Elusive 4-Ring 48 Cancel **by Mike Halhed & Alec Globe**

All four of the above 4R48 strikes were scanned and overlaid on top of each other. The shapes of the numbers are the same, they lie inside the rings at the same place, and the size and shapes of the rings match. The four strikes thus appear to have been from the same handstamp. They all appear to be genuine, since the size and shape of the rings and numbers resemble other 4-ring obliterations. Give the clear strikes, there is little possibility that these 4R48s are altered 4R18 or 4R46 cancels.

According to Wayne Smith, "Up until Aug 1, 1857 transient newspapers were free but that changed to 1/2p for up to 3oz for transient newspapers and periodicals." The policy for these individual items (rather than free bulk mailings directly from the publishers) stipulated that the postage must be paid by stamp in advance.

Consequently, a new 1/2d stamp was issued on August 1, 1857 (Unitrade 8).

According to The Canada Directory for 1857-1858, page 842, Toronto published 26 newspapers and periodicals. At the same time, backwater Thorold published only one newspaper intermittently—the Thorold Post. In other words, Toronto had a real use for the 1/2d stamp, while Thorold did not. The volume of this material coming out of Toronto would have been huge for the time. Newspaper and periodical circulations tended to be especially high in those days, since there was no other way to distribute news.

The appearance of four 4R48 strikes on 1/2d stamps points irresistibly to Toronto, since it published many newspapers and periodicals. It is not surprising that Toronto would have dedicated an obliterator for those materials and probably had at least one of its twenty clerks working around the clock cancelling them. Most newspapers tended to be quickly discarded (used in stoves and fireplaces) and therefore very few examples would have survived. Printed business circulars continued at the same 1/2d rate and could be paid or unpaid. Canada's second-largest post office, with half Toronto's volume, was Montreal. It seems to have used its 4R516 mainly for circulars and newspapers.

Even though the evidence is slim, the 4R48 appears to have been used for a very short time. The metal for the 4-ring handstamps was quite soft. When those cancellers were used aggressively for long periods, clogged strikes looked like 3 rings, 2 rings, and even a 1 ring. By contrast, all surviving 4R48 strikes have rings with pristine clarity, suggesting a short period of use. A supporting observation is that the 1/2 pence stamp (which has all surviving 4R48 strikes) was replaced less than two years later by the 1 cent #14 on July 1, 1859. No 4R48 is known on that later stamp. Further, the 4R48 strike is not found on any of the 1/2d stamps on the 174 circulars or 16 newspapers listed in Smith's 4-ring census.

The Mystery of the Elusive 4-Ring 48 Cancel

by Mike Halhed & Alec Globe

Four-ring cancels are found on cover from March 3, 1857 (Sam Nickle collection, Firby auction, October 29, 1988, lot 298). Some post offices, including Montreal (21), Quebec City (37) and Ottawa (27), received more than one device with their number, since they had large volumes of mail to cancel. Mysteriously, around that time Toronto replaced its 6-ring target cancel on domestic mail with a 9-bar diamond grid obliterator, which appears regularly until 1867. The earliest known diamond cancel is April 7, 1857. Why did Canada's highest-volume post office fly in the face of the Post Office Department's attempt to introduce a numbered post office system? Montreal offers a striking contrast. Its 4R21 is the most common of all 4-rings, numbering into the 100s across most frankings of the pence, cents and even into the Large Queen period. Post offices in Great Britain, Australia, South Africa, and other places eagerly used their numbered cancellers.

In conclusion, several pieces of evidence indicate that 4R48 was assigned to Toronto rather than Thorold. These include its alphabetical position, the relative size of the towns, Thorold's lack of strategic or commercial importance, the volume of newspapers and periodicals being published in Toronto, and the fact that all known 4R48s appear on ½d Victoria stamps, which formed the new rate for transient newspapers and periodicals. Together, these factors strongly support our conclusion that 4R48 can only be from Toronto!

REFERENCES

The Canada Directory for 1857-1858 (Montreal: John Lovell, 1857) supplies the population and business information. Easily accessible online.

Wayne Smith, Canada Four Ring Numeral Cancel Census. See online at:
<https://bnaps.org/ore/SmithW-Census/SmithW-Census.htm>

Allan L. Steinhart, *The Rates of Postage of Canada 1711 to 1900*, ed. Gray Scrimgeour (Postal History Society of Canada, 2011). For circulars, see the bottom of page 208. For newspapers and periodicals, see the bottom of page 214 and top of 215.

Further information about 4-ring cancellers can be found in Alec Globe, "Canada's Post Office in the 1850s, and Its Multiple 4-Ring Stamp Obliterators Featuring the Same Number," *BNA Topics*, 76.1, number 558 (January-March 2019), pages 7-14.

Special thanks to Bill Radcliffe, Wayne Smith, Arnie Janson and Jim Watt who all contributed information for this article.

Canada's Five Cents Beaver Proofs with Various Plate Flaws Part 5 by Michael D. Smith

Positions 43 and 44 State 4



Positions 43
State 4

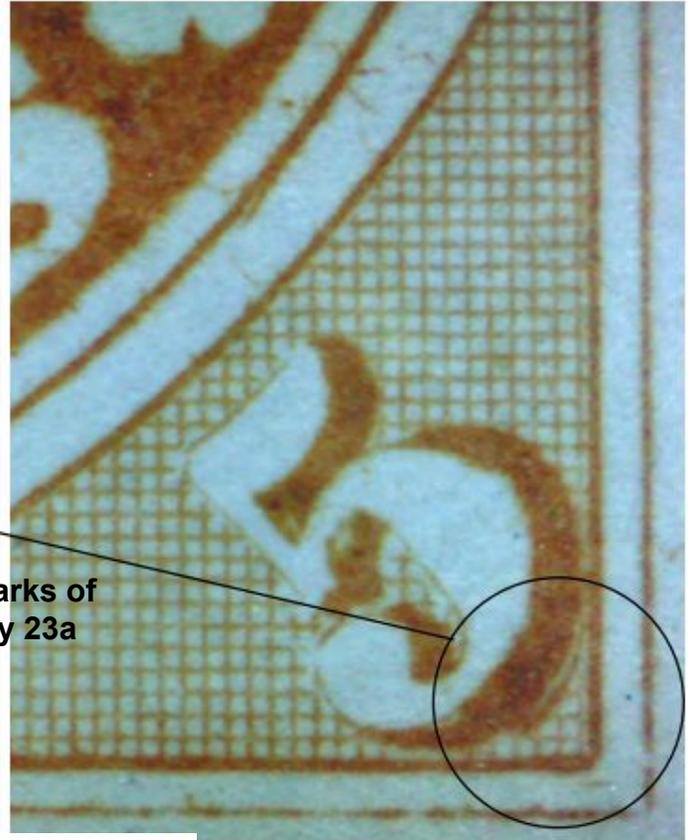
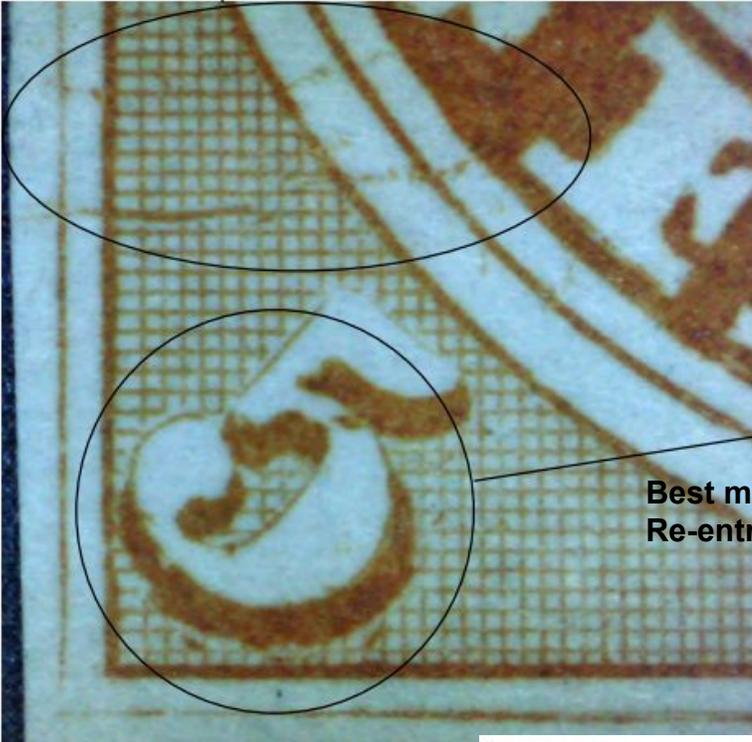


Re-entry 23a doubling of lower 5's, printing flaw 94a = scratches going from letter tablet to W margin above SW 5, one dot top margin right of cross.

Canada's Five Cents Beaver Proofs with Various Plate Flaws Part 5 by Michael D. Smith

Positions 43 State 4

Pf. 94a



Best marks of
Re-entry 23a

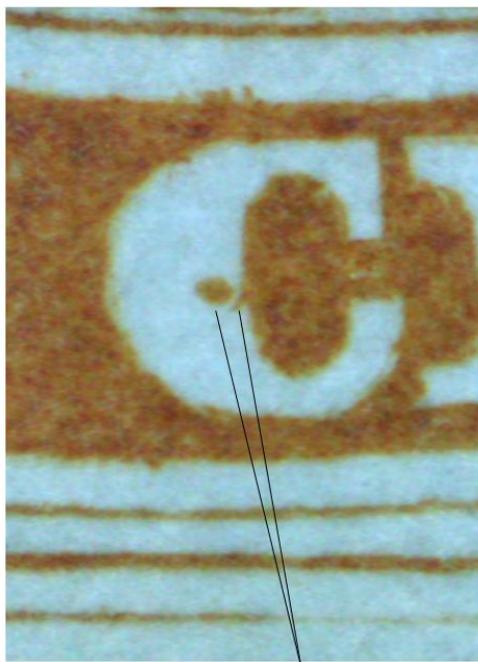
Re-entry 23a doubling of lower 5's, printing flaw 94a = scratches going from letter tablet to W margin above SW 5, one dot top margin right of cross.



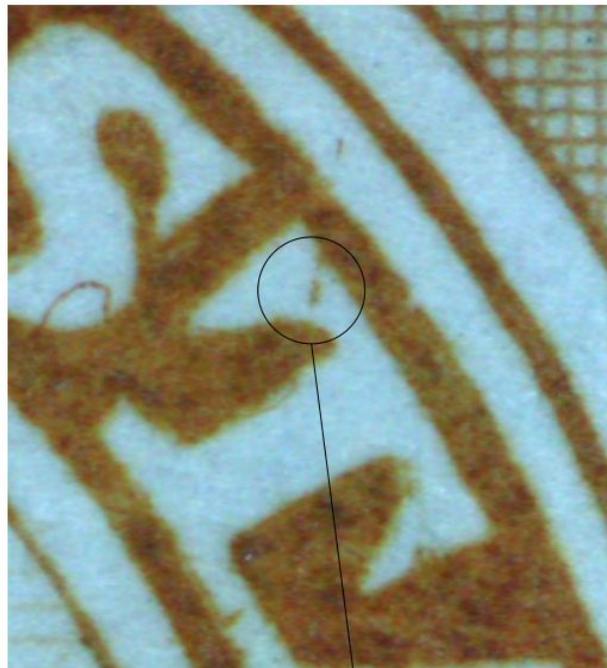
Dot right of cross

Canada's Five Cents Beaver Proofs with Various Plate Flaws Part 5 by Michael D. Smith

Positions 44 State 4



Doubled 'C' dots



Pf. 80

Canada's Five Cents Beaver Proofs with Various Plate Flaws Part 5 by Michael D. Smith

15TC viii Position 63 State 4



Pf. 86b (not present) pf. 114c and new 'C' dot shown.

New 'C' dot



Pf. 114c

Canada's Five Cents Beaver Proofs with Various Plate Flaws Part 5
by Michael D. Smith

15TC viii Position 69 State 4



Pf. 3.



Short entry NE
spandrel.

Canada's Five Cents Beaver Proofs with Various Plate Flaws Part 5 by Michael D. Smith

15TC viii Position 74 State 4



R.44 Left
vertical
frame lines
doubled.



R.44
Right
bottom
frame lines
doubled.



**Canada's Five Cents Beaver Proofs with Various Plate Flaws Part 5
by Michael D. Smith**

15TC viii Positions 75 and 76 State 4



Position 75 State 4



S frame lines doubled W. pf. 7.

Canada's Five Cents Beaver Proofs with Various Plate Flaws Part 5

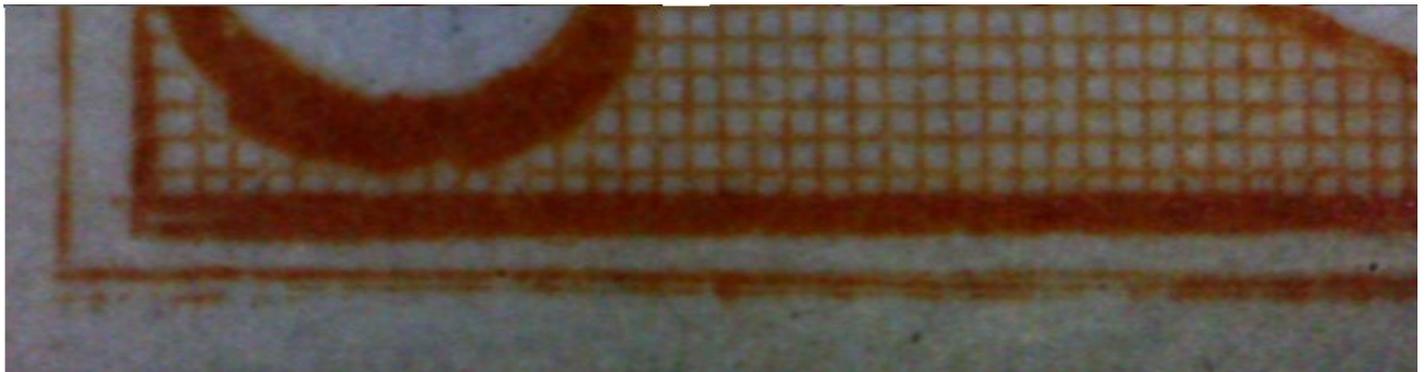
by Michael D. Smith

Positions 43 State 4



pf. 7 Scratches running from 'R' to 'A' (Left).

pf. 7 And scratches running from letter tablet at 'G' into R margin (right).



S frame lines doubled W.

**Canada's Five Cents Beaver Proofs with Various Plate Flaws Part 5
by Michael D. Smith**

15TC viii Positions 76 State 4



Normal

Canada's Five Cents Beaver Proofs with Various Plate Flaws Part 5
by Michael D. Smith

15P Position 18

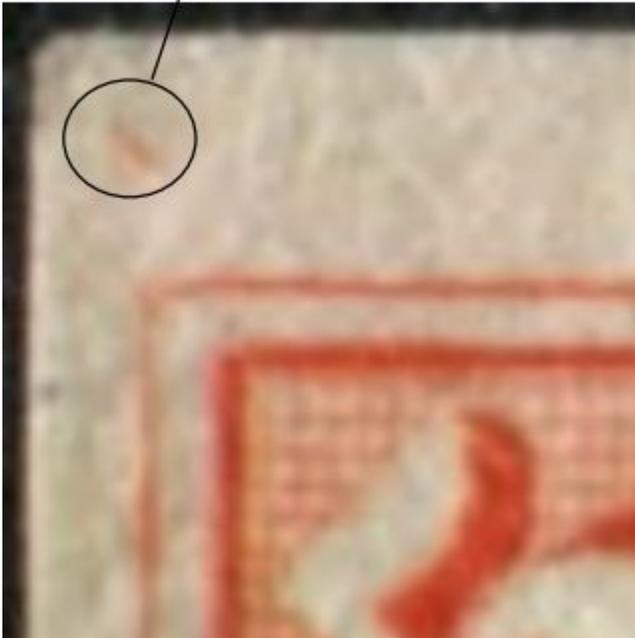


Small diagonal line above UL corner, small dot in E margin above G of POSTAGE, Printing flaw 24a = light ">" inside T of CENTS.

Canada's Five Cents Beaver Proofs with Various Plate Flaws Part 5 by Michael D. Smith

15P Position 18

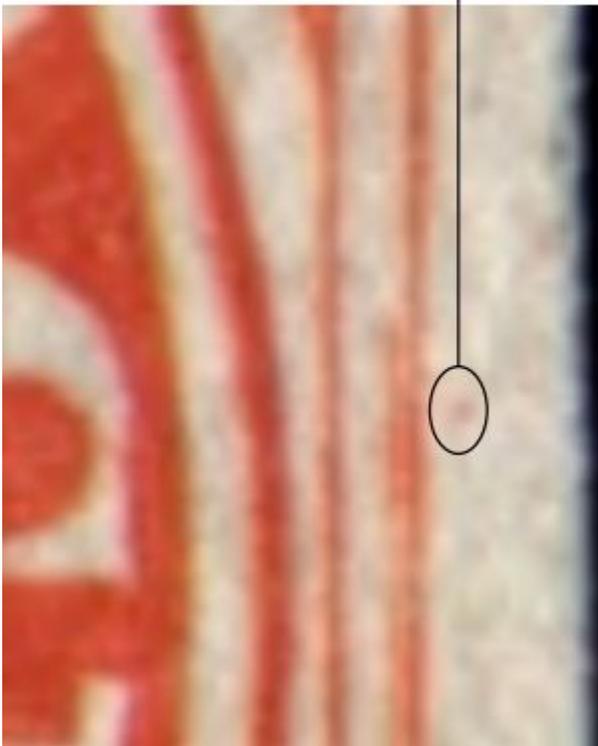
Diagonal line



PF 24a



Small dot right margin



Small diagonal line above UL corner,
small dot in E margin above G of
POSTAGE, Printing flaw 24a = light ">"
inside T of CENTS.

Newfoundland One Pence Re-entry Plate Positions - Jim André

Early Newfoundland line engraved stamps have long been known to exhibit one or more re-entries, beginning with the very first pence issue, the 1d of 1857 (Scott #1) with later printings from the same plate in 1861 and 1862 (Scott #15A). Jarrett's "Standard British North America Catalogue", 1929, lists a re-entry for the 1d and Holmes' "Specialized Philatelic Catalogue of Canada & British North America" eighth edition, 1954, identifies one at plate position 25, but more on that later. In addition to the two re-entries currently listed in the Unitrade Catalogue, there are two other re-entries recognized but whose plate positions have not been known until now.

The 1d plate was laid out with uneven spacing between the individual stamps providing a "fingerprint", or a unique pattern, against which larger multiples can be compared to ascertain their position on the plate. While apparently there are no remaining intact sheets of the 1d stamp, (including in the Library and Archives Canada holdings), there was a reconstructed sheet sold as lot #602 in H.R. Harmer's sale #2 of the Dale-Lichtenstein collection in 1968. There are also numerous existing large multiples, some containing re-entries, that may be plated.



--- Figure 1, image courtesy of the Vincent Graves Greene Philatelic Research Foundation
Harry Sutherland Library Website Archive ---

Newfoundland One Pence Re-entry Plate Positions - Jim André

One recent discovery is a major misplaced entry, shown in great detail on Ralph Trimble's old re-entries.com website as Newfoundland Pence Issue re-entry #3, the website now archived by the Greene Foundation at <https://re-entries.greenefoundationarchive.ca/>. There, the discovery block of 15 is shown with the upper right stamp being the plate position of interest (Figure 1). Since the 1d was printed in sheets of 120, 10 rows by 12 columns, the misplaced entry had to be located at the right end of one of the first eight rows; my first copy of the misplaced entry shows part of the stamp above it, narrowing the possible locations to rows two through eight. The misplaced entry is seen as a multitude of extraneous markings on the right side of the stamp (Figure 2); many are highlighted in Figure 3. That the markings are all to the right side suggests a misplacement of ~11.5 mm.



--- Figure 2 & 3, images courtesy of the Vincent Graves Greene Philatelic Research Foundation
Harry Sutherland Library Website Archive ---

The website states that the plate position is unknown and this author has not seen anything written to the contrary until now. Comparing the block of 15 to the right side of the sheet in lot #602, it can be seen that the block comprises plate positions 32/60 and the major misplaced entry is plate position 36, the rightmost stamp in the third row.

Another feature on the 1d listed in the re-entries website whose plate position has been unknown is the major re-entry in item #4. The Eastern Auctions sale of the Denninger Collection, part 1, contained another block of 15 (lot #615, Figure 4) with this re-entry in the lower right stamp noted (Figure 5) and described as "position unknown".

Newfoundland One Pence Re-entry Plate Positions - Jim André



Figure 4, courtesy of Eastern Auctions

Figure 5, courtesy of Eastern Auctions



Again, comparing the relative positions of the stamps in the block of 15 with those in the reconstructed sheet, it can be seen that the block comprises plate positions 39/67 and the major re-entry is plate position 67, the seventh stamp from the left in the sixth row.

Returning to the early identified re-entry, presumably the one listed in the Unitrade catalogue under Scott #1 and #15A as plate position 25, it is noted that there are two re-entries pictured in the catalogue. These are shown in the re-entries website as items #1 and #2 with #1 identified as plate position 25 and crediting the Unitrade Catalogue.

The Eastern Auctions Public Sale #874B contained yet another block of 15 from the left side of the sheet (lot #284, Figure 6) noting a documented major re-entry that is seen in the upper left stamp.

Newfoundland One Pence Re-entry Plate Positions - Jim André

Comparing this block with the reconstructed sheet, it can be seen that the block comprises plate positions 25/53 and the major re-entry is plate position 25. Close examination (Figure 7) will show that this is the re-entry identified in the Unitrade catalogue as Unitrade #1ii and 15Aiv and is item #2 on the re-entries website.



--- Figure 6, courtesy of Eastern Auctions ---

So, what about the last re-entry, the one listed as item #1 on the re-entries website, identified as plate position 25, and identified in Unitrade as #1i and #15Aiii (Figures 8 & 9)?



---Figure 7, courtesy of Eastern Auctions ---

Newfoundland One Pence Re-entry Plate Positions - Jim André



--- Figures 8 & 9, images courtesy of the Vincent Graves Greene Philatelic Research Foundation Harry Sutherland Library Website Archive ---

We now know it is not plate position 25 and is found somewhere else on the plate. The author has attempted to reconstruct the plate with high-resolution images of blocks appearing in past auctions and has succeeded in filling over 85% of the plate positions. However, none of these plate positions appear to contain this last re-entry, so the search continues.

The plate positions of two re-entries on this stamp, recognized but currently unlisted in the catalogue, have now been identified, shown to be at plate positions 36 and 67. It is suggested that they are worthy of catalogue status, especially the major misplaced entry at plate position 36.

It has also been shown that the Unitrade catalogue image of the re-entry at plate position 25 is pictured beneath catalogue #15A and should have its caption corrected to #1i and #15Aiii, and the image of the re-entry beneath catalog #1 should have its caption corrected to #1ii and #15Aiv.

**Update on the 1864 Two Cent Decimal "scratch on neck"
by Jim McCormick**

In the January 2023 edition of the Pence-Cents newsletter I wrote about the Two Cent Decimal Issue with focus on Unitrade #20vi "scratches on neck (pos. 77, 97)". I noted that after 20 years of searching for the variety, it could only be found on late printing plate proofs.

Fast forward almost three years, and a bottom imprint pair (position 97-98) turned up in the Eastern Auctions Camellia sale with the "scratch on neck" variety. The collection page indicated "ex Laycock". I later discovered that this pair was lot 421 in the November 1968 Louise Boyd Dale & Alfred F. Lichtenstein sale where it sold for \$40. The lot description had no mention of the variety.



Figure 1 - Positions 97-98 with imprint showing the scratch in neck variety, left stamp

Now that we have one, the question is when was the flaw introduced? Let's start with figure 2, which shows position 97 without the neck scratch (identified by the location of the imprint, different from position 92). The stamp has a Montreal "JA 5 66" CDS. The imprints appeared on sheets delivered from the second printing order. Assuming it is unlikely that the scratch was introduced during printing for the second order, this places the variety at earliest with the third printing order.

**Update on the 1864 Two Cent Decimal "scratch on neck"
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Figure 2 - Position 97 with imprint, and no scratch in the neck

I collect dated stamps, knowing that someday they may be useful for identifying stamp characteristics (colour, paper, perfs) and how they varied over time. I am lucky to have roughly 75 dated copies of this stamp, so I got to work sorting them by date and shade. I found too little variation in the perforations to be of help, and the same for the paper. In the end I was able to produce an electronic colour chart which shows a clear trend which likely maps to printing orders (and sub-printings within each order). I will not claim perfection, but the colour chart is useful for comparing the

shades from figures 1 and 2. I blow up the colour chart on my large monitor, and then compare a scan of the stamp of interest. I am happy to share the full colour chart, if of interest, but for now Figure 3 shows a small sample.

Update on the 1864 Two Cent Decimal "scratch on neck"
by Jim McCormick



Figure 3 - A sample part of the colour chart

The result? I believe that the imprint stamp with no scratch is a match for the 4th printing order, and the imprint pair with the scratch to be a match for the 5th printing order. But my confidence level is mediocre. Should someone have another position 97 stamp, then my wish would be to make a fresh scan (with my scanner for accurate comparison) so we can make a new colour comparison. A dated example would also be useful for ruling out printings after the date.

Why is the neck scratch so rare that only this single example is known in our collecting circles? I suppose that the stamp is under-appreciated, and lacks the appeal of cool varieties like "low moon", "leaping fish", "log in waterfall" and "burr on shoulder". Perhaps we can give this one some attention. Please check your collections for a position 97 imprint stamp. With, or without the neck scratch variety, it will help solve the puzzle..

Upcoming Shows (Ctrl + Click on image for website)



MACAO 2026

**SPECIALIZED
WORLD STAMP
EXHIBITION**

Cotai Expo Hall A, The Venetian Macao, Taipa Macau SAR [↗](#)

2026
26.06

01.07



Upcoming Shows (Ctrl + Click on image for website)



All Canada Booth Provides More Space Highlighting Canadian/BNA Philately

A small Canadian table at New York 2016 became an informal meeting spot for visiting collectors. Canadian organizers say Boston 2026 will feature a larger, more welcoming booth. (Photo submitted)

Canadian philatelic organizations are preparing a significantly expanded presence at Boston 2026, with organizer Ronald Majors aiming to make the international show a clear gathering point for Canadian collectors, researchers and exhibitors.

Majors said the idea grew out of New York 2016, where BNAPS, the Postal History Society of Canada and the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada shared a small 10-foot tabletop.

“Even so, that little booth quickly became a home base for Canadians who were walking the huge halls and trying to see all the dealers and exhibits,” Majors said. He added that the tight setup highlighted how valuable it is to have a clearly identified place to meet, rest and reconnect between visits around the show floor.

Upcoming Shows (Ctrl + Click on image for website)



For Boston 2026, Majors said seven Canadian organizations will share a 20-foot booth, with chairs and open space intended to welcome a steady flow of visitors. Participating groups are BNAPS, the Canadian Aerophilatelic Society, the Fédération québécoise de la philatélie, the Postal History Society of Canada, the Société de l'histoire postale du Québec, the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada and the Vincent Graves Greene Philatelic Research Foundation.

“This time, we’ll have a proper Canadian presence,” Majors said. “We want Canadians to know there’s a spot on the floor that’s theirs for the week.” Boston 2026 is scheduled for May 23-30 at the Boston Convention and Exhibition Center. Organizers are promoting the show as a major international event, with thousands of exhibition frames, more than 100 dealers and wide participation from societies and postal administrations. Majors said that scale makes it even more important for Canadian participants to be easy to find. Collectors and society members interested in the Canadian booth can contact Majors at ronald.e.majors@gmail.com. General information and free registration are available at Boston2026.org.

Article clipped from the Dec. 23 2025 issue of Canadian Stamp News. Many thanks for Mike Walsh, Publisher to help promote our All-Canadian Booth at Boston World Expo 2026, May 23-30.

BNAPEX 2026 Convention in Valleyfield



Hosted by:

THE BNAPS LOWER CANADA REGIONAL GROUP AND LA SOCIÉTÉ D'HISTOIRE POSTALE DU QUÉBEC



17-18-19-20 SEPTEMBER 2026
Valleyfield, Québec

Celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Montreal Olympic Games, and the 60th anniversary of Valleyfield's regatta, with a 160-frame BNA exhibition and participation of 22 dealers. BNAPS Study Group meetings and seminars. Tours of the historic MOCO cotton mill.

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 - Friday night out (dinner)
 - Saturday reception & awards banquet
 - Admission: \$5 / Day
- *Free admission for members attending one of the events

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Friday 10:00 AM – 5:30 PM
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Sunday 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM

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