

# THE BNA PERFORATOR

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## Editor's Post:

¶ Happy New Year to all. It seems with the timing of recent issues your Editor has fallen into a pattern of sorts. The last 6 issues, including this one, were October 2017, January 2018, October 2018, January 2019, October 2019, and now January 2020. This was certainly not intentional and it would be nice to have more contributions and be able to break this cycle.

¶ Most of this issue is taken up with a study of the International Harvester Company of Canada pattern from Lethbridge Alberta (I9). Several of the 18 different IHC perforators in use in Canada had some of their 5 dies damaged, but none I think were quite like the Lethbridge machine with all five damaged and without the code hole on any of them. While sorting the stamps and studying the dies I found myself asking questions that really don't belong in the article and are unanswerable. How did the machine become damaged? Overuse? (unlikely); did a clerk drop it on the floor or worse throw it at the wall? (maybe); or was it just badly made? (probably). Why were there no stamps in the lot I acquired prior to the Medallion issue (with but exception)? And, why after some 17 years and perhaps even a longer period of use with 5 broken dies, did someone decide that 1937 was the time to install a new machine? And especially, who do we thank for not throwing these stamps away?

¶ Russell Sampson reports that our treasury has grown a little through Bob Szymanski's auction contributions. The current balance stands at \$2830.27 USD. I have 72 on the email distribution list and 15 on the postal list. All but 2 of these have BNAPS membership numbers. There are 12 on the "complementary" list made up of BNAPS officials, the American Philatelic Society and the editors of other perfin newsletters.

¶ I am planning to be at ORAPEX in Ottawa in May, at the Royal in Fredericton near the end of June and certainly will be attending BNAPEX in my hometown of Dartmouth at the beginning of September. My email is below and if you are planning to attend any of these events please get in touch and perhaps we can get together for a coffee and some conversation.

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I recently purchased a lot on eBay described as “an accumulation of common Canadian perfin, CPR, PS ...”. The lot was from Calgary and from the scan there seemed to be a lot of Scott 340’s. I was hoping I might find some tagged varieties of the CPR C34 pattern as Winnipeg led the way with Canada Post’s tagged stamp initiative. When the lot arrived and I started to sort it I found over 150 IHC perfin, 66 with complete patterns and all of the rest with broken dies. All of the complete patterns clearly identified them as I9, Lethbridge Alberta; only 2 of the 91 broken die stamps could be identified as Lethbridge; one because of the CDS cancel (figures 1 and 2) and the other because it is a pre-cancel (Figures 3 and 4).



1¢ Medallion



Reverse

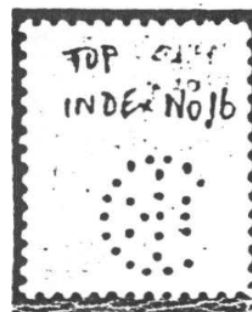
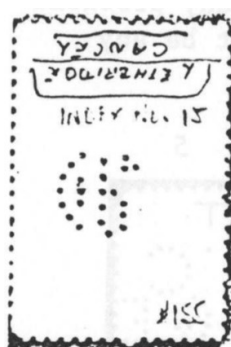
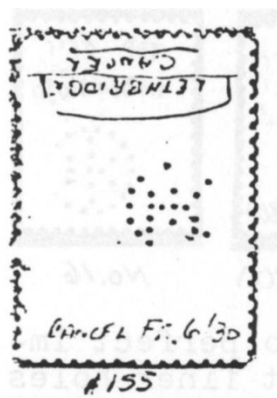


1¢ Arch Precancel



Reverse

My first task was to go back to old issues of the newsletter. I remembered work that some Study Group members had done in its early years on the mysterious “Belleville” IHC perfin, a stamp with the IHC pattern with no code hole and a Belleville CDS cancel. At the beginning all stamps with missing code holes were identified as ‘Belleville’. In the end the work of Study Group members proved that there was no Belleville pattern and that Ottawa, Edmonton, London and Saint John and others had IHC perforators with broken dies which disguised their origin until CDS cancels revealed their true identities. Volume 6 Number 1 from January 1985<sup>1</sup> has the article by Jack Bennington (with contributions from David Hanes) on the broken dies of the Lethbridge perforating machine. All five dies were identified by CDS cancels. The images below are copies of what appeared in the newsletter at that time. Our ability to reproduce images has advanced considerably over the 40 years.



Of note is that all the broken dies in my lot, with 6 exceptions, were either from the Medallion or the Pictorial series. The 6 exceptions were 1 Arch, 1 Scott 209, 2 Scott 213's and 2 Mufti's. There were no Admiral or Scroll issues. I sorted the lot by dies and found remarkable consistency among the 5 broken die patterns. The 5 dies with the number of each die type found in lot are as follows (Figures 5 through 9).



Fig. 5 (23)

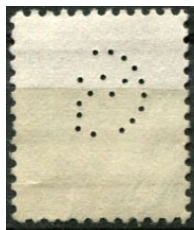


Fig. 6 (25)

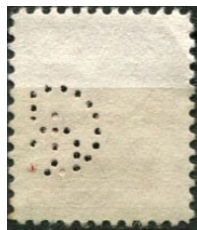


Fig. 7 (19)



Fig. 8 (14)



Fig. 9 (12)

Two large stamps, a 3¢ Jubilee and the 10¢ RCMP gave me the sequence for 3 of the dies. A email to the study group elicited responses from Russell Sampson and Bob Szymanski and it is Russell's 10¢ Loyalist that showed the sequence of the dies (Figure 10 to Figure 12).

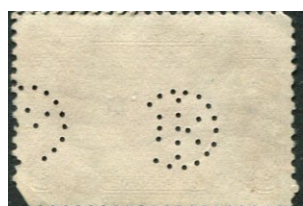


Fig. 10 3¢ Jubilee



Fig. 11 10¢ RCMP

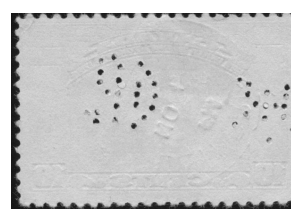


Fig. 12 10¢ Loyalist

As the stamps are presented in Figures 10 to 13 the stamps could have been perforated in Position 1 or Position 7. Figures 13 to 15 could have been perforated in Positions 3 or 5.

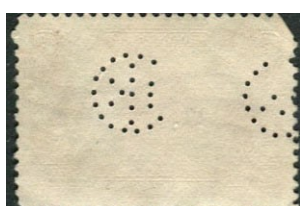


Fig. 13 3¢ Jubilee



Fig. 14 10¢ RCMP

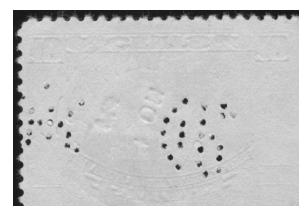


Fig. 15 10¢ Loyalist

The question for me now was "Are the dies in Figures 12 and 15 dies 1 and 2 or dies 4 and 5?". This would be determined by the top of the pattern— is it as shown in Figures 10 to 12 or is it as shown when flipped vertically in Figures 13 to 12?

In the lot there are 2 stamps, one with left edge selvage and one with right edge selvage (Figures 14 through 17) and having the same broken die pattern. The dies on any perforating machine will “punch” the pattern in Position 1; it is the orientation of the stamp; upside down, gum side up, or sideways that create the other 7 possible positions. It is more than reasonable to assume that stamps with selvage attached are either Die 1 or Die 5 as the selvage is either the first or last stamp in the row of stamps to be perfinned. For Figures 14 and 15 to be Die 1 both would have to have the selvage facing Die 2. This is not logical and therefore this is Die 5.

Figures 15 and 16 show the shape of the “C” in the IHC perfin as it was in the perforating machine. This means that Figure 14 is either in Position 3 or Position 5 and Figure 16 is either Position 1 or Position 7.



Fig. 14

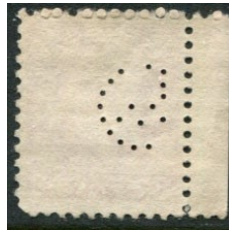


Fig 15



Fig. 16



Fig. 17

The lot had another stamp with selvage (Figures 18 and 19). Again with the selvage on the right edge and the shape of the “C” (more easily seen on the left of the pattern in Figure 19), this is Die 1.



Fig. 18

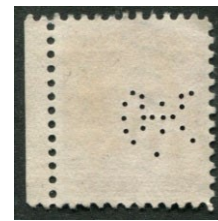


Fig. 19

Knowing that Figure 16 is Die 5 and Figure 18 is Die 1, the die sequence is becoming clearer. Figure 20 is the 10c Loyalist (Figure 12) flipped horizontally to properly position the Figure 19 pattern as Die 1. The stamp therefore has Die 2 as well. Figure 21 shows a partial of Die 5 and a complete Die 4. Figure 20 has a complete Die 3 and Die 4.

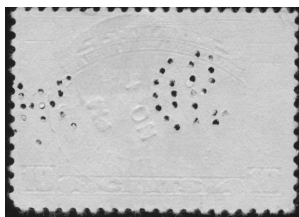


Fig. 20 10c Loyalist



Fig. 21 10c RCMP



Fig. 22 3c Jubilee

Figures 20, 21 and 22 although in the proper die sequence still leave unanswered the question of position. All the dies are either in Position 1 or Position 7 but to determine which, the top of the pattern has to be identifiable. Without the Lethbridge code hole at 3½ or hole 15 we need another method.



Fig.23 19 Pattern



When the work began in the 1980's on determining the true identify of the IHC patterns with broken dies the Study Group assigned the IHC pattern with an Alpha-numeric identifier (Figure 24)<sup>2</sup>.

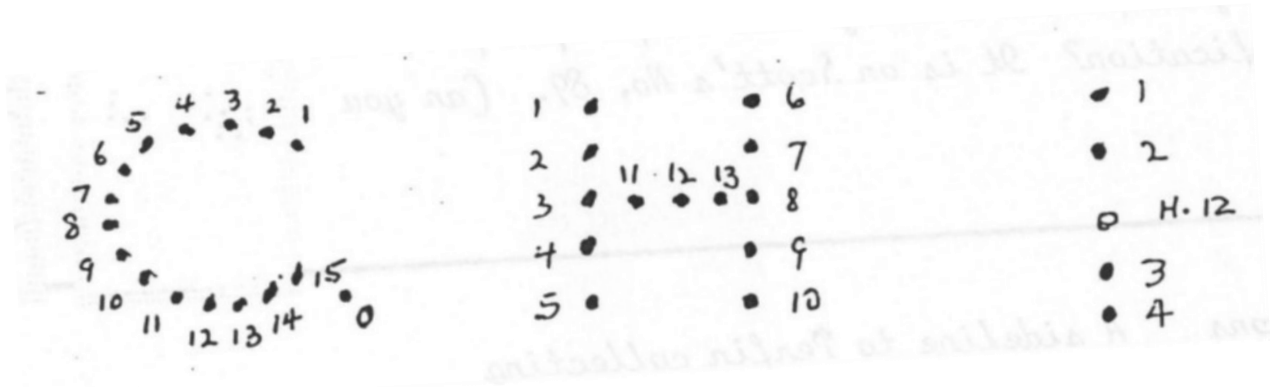


Figure 24

What follows is Jack Bennington's description of how to identify position:

***Always reading the letter "C" from the open side.....***

***TOP of the design – Hole C-3 is near even or slightly higher outwards from C-4.***

***BOTTOM of the design – Hole c-13 is slightly INWARDS from C-12.***

***For the "K" design the triangle formed by C-3-4 and I-1 has holes closer together at TOP than triangle formed at the bottom by C-12-13 and I-4.<sup>3</sup>***

The "K" design is Die 4 (Figure 9).

Bob Szymanski provided scans of Admiral with complete I9 patterns (Figures 25 to 28).

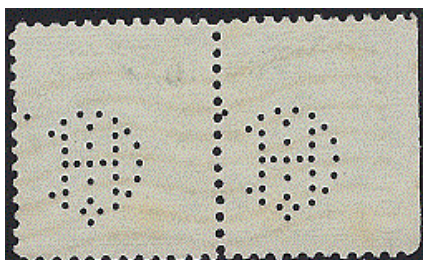


Fig. 25 Scott 104



Fig. 26 Scott 106



Fig. 27 Scott 106

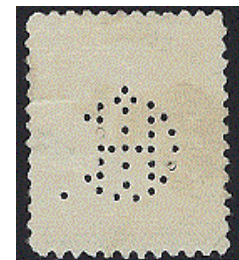


Fig. 28 Scott 119

Figures 26 and 28 would suggest that Bennington's method of identifying the top of the stamp by the shape of holes C3-4 and I1 is correct. Figure 27 would be open to some interpretation. Figure 25 is in Position 3 and perhaps the 2nd stamp in the pair follows the "triangle" method, the 1st stamp perhaps not so much. Of the broken dies, only Die 4 has the necessary holes remaining and does seem to meet the definition that these holes form a tighter triangle at the top of the stamp. (Figure 22 and Figure 24 repeated for convenience.) This strongly suggests Figures 21 and 22 are in Position 5.



Fig. 21 10c RCMP



Fig. 22 3c Jubilee

Based on the foregoing the positions for Die 4 are shown in Figures 29 to 32.

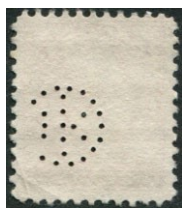


Fig. 29 Die 4 P1

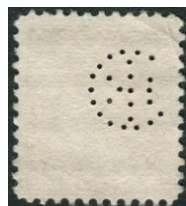


Fig. 32 Die 4 P3



Fig. 31 Die 4 P5

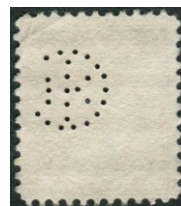


Fig. 30 Die 4 P7



Fig. 22 3c Jubilee

Figure 22 is repeated for convenience. The 3c Jubilee has Dies 4 and a partial Die 5. Having established the Die 4 as Position 5, Die 5 is in Position 5 as well. Given the alignment of the 5 holes in the centre of the pattern, the 4 positions are shown in Figures 33 to 36.



Fig. 33 Die 5 P1



Fig. 34 Die 5 P3



Fig. 35 Die 5 P5



Fig. 36 Die 5 P7

Given the tight triangle of holes H2, I2 and H7 at the top, Figure 21 has Dies 3 and 4 in Position 5. Die 3 positions are shown in Figures 37 to 40:



Fig. 21 10c RCMP



Fig. 37 Die 3 P1

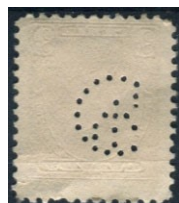


Fig. 38 Die 3 P3



Fig. 39 Die 3 P5



Fig. 40 Die 3 P7

This leaves Dies 1 and 2 to sort out. Unfortunately there is not a large stamp available with Dies 2 and 3. The 10c Loyalist could either Position 5 (Figure 20) or Position 3 (Figure 41).

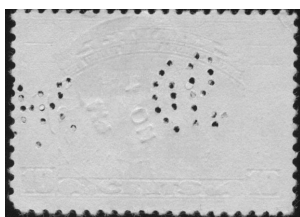


Fig. 20



Fig. 41

Please have a look in you collections for large stamps which have Dies 1 and 2; even a partial of Die 2 with Die 1 would be help. All of the stamps in this lot, as mentioned earlier, were Medallion or later. I did have one Scroll issue, the 2c, with my I9's. According to the I9 listings in the Handbook large post-Admiral issues are Scott #142 position 1 and 5, and Scott #155, position 1. Scott #135 is reported without position;, maybe it has a broken dies.



Thanks to Russell Sampson and Bob Szymanski for contributing the scans which were most helpful.

#### Footnotes

1. This issue of the Perforator can be access on the BNAPS web site: <http://www.bnaps.org/hhl/newsletters/perf/perf-1985-01-v006n01.pdf>
2. The Perforator Volume 5 Number 1—1984: <http://www.bnaps.org/hhl/newsletters/perf/perf-1984-02-v005n01.pdf>

1st January 2020 changes to the 6<sup>th</sup> Edition of the Canadian Stamp with Perforated Initials.

C18	5.C.7	Add stamp #195d-1.
C21	5.C.9	Add stamp # 319-2.
C24	5.C.10	Add stamp #460fp-4. & 676-4.
C25	5.C.11	Add stamp # 362-1.
C26	5.C.12	Add stamps #454iii-4., 465Aiii-1. & 683-1.
C28	5.C.14	Add stamps #391-4., 454ppi-1,2,4., 462ppi-1., 544iii-4., 613-3., 661-1. & 738-1.
C34	5.C.18	Add stamps #460bbiv-4., 460viv-4. & 464ii-3.
C35	5.C.19	Add stamp #302-1.
C36	5.C.19	Add stamp #430-1.
C46	5.C.22	Add stamps #476-3., 502-1., 507-2., 515-1., 517-2., 518-2., 533-1., 552-4., 554-3., 555-1., 559-1., 561-4., 578-4., 581-1., 591-1., 592-1., 593A-3., 595a-3. & 598a-3.
D6	5.D.2	Add stamps #169-1 & 195d-1.
G14	5.G.4	Add stamp #110-1.
G19	5.G.7	Add stamp #154-5.
I10	5.I.5	Add stamp #143-1.
I11	5.I.5	Add stamp # 163-1.
I12	5.I.6	Add stamp #195d-1.
I14	5.I.7	Add stamp #249-1.
I16	5.I.8	Add stamp #195d-1.
I21	5.I.11	Add stamp #FX-2.
I22	5.I.12	Delete stamps and positions 90-1,3,7. 91-.104-1,3,5,7. 105-1. 106-1,3,5. 107-1,4,5. 108-1,3,5,7. 109-1,3,5. 111-1. 112-1. 113-1. 116-1. 117-. 119-1. 120-1. 135-1,3,5. 141-1. 142-1,3,5. 144-5. 146-1.
L1	5.L.1	Add stamps 817-1 & 889-1.
M12	5.M.3	Add stamp #195d-1.
M17	5.M.5	Add stamp #454piv-4.

M30		-			-	-
		-			-	-
A		MS/W			-	CA
		-				
106-1.						

N6	5.N.2	Add stamp #453-2.
N15	5.N.5	Add stamp #195d-1,5.
N17	5.N.6	Add stamp #195d-1.
O6	5.N.2	Add stamp #195d-1.
P18	5.P.6	Delete stamps #162, 163, 164, 165, 165a, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 195, 197, 198 & 199.
P15	5.P.5	Add stamp #141-1.
Q1	5.Q.1	Add stamp #195d-3.

S6		SWIFT AND COMPANY		
		CHICAGO IL	1956/08/24	
A		S		CA US
327-1.				



R1	5.R.1	Add stamps #254-1,2,3. 255-7. 257-8. 275-. E1-. MR1-3,4,5.
S22	5.S.8	Add stamp #195d-1,5,6.
T12	5.T.3	Add stamp #195d-1.
I.2	S22.1	Add stamps #195d-4,6,8.
	S22.2	Add stamps #147-1., 153-1. & 157-1.
	S22.3	Add stamp #195d-3.
	S22.4	Add stamp #195d-1,3.
	S22.5	Add stamps #112c-1., 198-1. & 236-1.
	S22-6	Add Stamp #117a-5.
	S22-7	Add stamp #217-1.
	S22-9	Add stamp #195d-1.
	S22-10	Add stamp #195d-1.
	S22-16	Add stamp #195d-1. & 200-1.
	S22-17	Add stamp #195d-5.
	S22-18	Add stamp #195d-3,5.
	S22-19	Add stamp #195d-1.