

Canadian Re-entry Study Group

Ralph E. Trimble
P.O.Box 532, Sta. 'A'
Scarborough, Ontario
CANADA M1K 5C3

Whole No. 11

JANUARY - FEBRUARY 1984

Vol. 3 , No. 1



THE HALF CENT SMALL QUEEN MAJOR RE-ENTRY

by R. TRIMBLE

Back in the very first Newsletter I asked if anyone could provide a means of positively identifying this stamp. At that time I received no response. Since then, however, with the help of friend and member Bill Burden I have discovered that I owned three copies of this major without even knowing it! Bill acquired an imprint piece containing this re-entry which is found on Plate 1 (the right pane) in position #49. Knowing I was interested in this stamp, Bill sent me a mat with the details drawn on it in red. It was then I discovered I had three copies -- one in a pair and two singles (one mint and one used) -- one of which I sent to Bill to positively verify for me.

(cont'd)

HALF CENT MAJOR - CONT'D.

Why did I not know I had this re-entry??? Those of you who collect this stamp and/or have seen a full sheet of it know that there are many re-entries and they are often so similar that it is quite difficult to differentiate between plate positions. (I have a quite strong re-entry that I 'thought' was THE major, but as it turned out, wasn't.) So, once I knew I had THE major I sat down to examine it carefully to see if I could come up with a feature that would definitely distinguish it from all the others. And I finally did...!!

But first, the 'usual' features (some of which can be seen in the photograph) include: clear doubling of almost all portions of the design, appearing stronger towards the upper portions --- all four corners; most of 'CANADA POSTAGE'; $\frac{1}{2}$; 'CENT'; left and right sides of the portrait oval; and radial lines in the portrait oval at the top (below 'CANADA POSTAGE') and bottom (above 'HALF'). Note: The latter point regarding doubling of the radial lines in the portrait oval is, I feel, an absolute must for any $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢ re-entry referred to as 'major'.

So far all of the above sounds pretty 'standard' for many other strong or major re-entries on the $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢. So how do you tell if you have THE major from position #49 ?? I thought you'd never ask !! The distinguishing feature lies within the neck -- specifically, the lines of the neck ! It took me quite some time to realize this, as it looks so natural. First, examine a 'normal' copy of the $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢. You will see that the shading and shaping of the neck is made up of engraved strokes similar to dots and dashes, with a finer series of lines placed between heavier ones. By the sheerest coincidence, the clockwise twisting of the re-entry (it is a misaligned 'twisted' type, rather than misplaced horizontally or vertically) was exactly enough to bring the lower rows of dots and dashes up into the position where they filled in the spaces between the original dots and dashes ! This creates the startling effect that at least four of the previously heavy dotted lines in the centre section of the lower neck NOW appear to be almost solid !! This effect can be clearly seen in the photo. If you have difficulty seeing it, take out a normal copy and compare it with the photo. Of course the finely dotted lines between the heavier ones also appear more numerous.

I have not found any other $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢ re-entry that resembles this phenomenon and therefore I believe that this characteristic can be used as THE determining factor in identifying THE Major Re-entry from Position #49, Right Pane, Plate 1.

I personally find it amazing that the degree of rotation of the re-entry turned out to be SO exact so as to cause a very natural appearing neck ! But then again, this is simply another one of the things that makes the entire field of re-entries SO appealing to me. It truly is a fascinating hobby !!

WANTED: Map Stamps - Plate 5, Positions 14, 15 & 55 (All from Tomlinson's Group 2 - page 29.)

These are the only three positions I now need to complete my set of Black Plate Varieties based on Tomlinson's book. Please send with asking price. R.Trimble

A LONG-AWAITED NOTE FROM YOUR EDITOR:

Hello again!

Well, here it is 1984 and I'll bet some of you had begun to think that I had deserted you and the Study Group. I hope this Newsletter will put those thoughts to rest. I do feel that I have let you all down, but I hope that I will be able to regain your faith now that I am getting back into the swing of things.

The fact is, 1983 was an extremely stressful year. As I mentioned in my letter to all of you last July, my mother's illness, ALS, was progressively worsening. Mom fought a long, brave battle with this dreadful, crippling disease, but finally succumbed, passing away on January 4th. My family and I are comforted by the fact that she is no longer suffering.

On a much more cheerful note, Lois and I are beginning to feel quite at home in the town of Markham. Our new neighbours are a friendly lot, rather different from what we found in the 'big city'. We can hardly wait to try a little serious gardening in the Spring. (I hope I have better luck with trees, shrubs and grass than I do with houseplants!) By the way, the dust has finally settled in my den and it has become quite a comfortable place to really relax.

Now, back to our Study Group and Newsletters! Since most of you are probably feeling like you've been short-changed after paying your dues for 1983 and only receiving two Newsletters, I would like to assure you that I am extending all of your memberships for the full year of 1984 and plan to issue six Newsletters during that time. Should I run short of funds at the end of the year due to the costs of the two Newsletters issued in 1983, I pledge to cover the deficit. Those of you who have paid for several years in advance (there are a couple of you out there) will have your number of years extended accordingly.

To dredge up a couple of bits of 'old business'

- 1.) The membership card suggestion has been shelved at this time due to lack of response and/or support.
- 2.) Since suggesting a Study Group project of formulating a master list of all known re-entries (March-April '83), I have received only one single reply!!! (Positive, by the way.)
- 3.) The latter point seems to typify the state of many study groups and other organizations ...i.e. lack of participation! Those of you who belong to a number of organizations that issue journals or newsletters are probably sick to death of listening to editors complain that they have nothing to print. BUT IT'S TRUE! We can't print what we don't have. Now I don't intend to launch into another lengthy speech here, but I would like to refer you back to my words in Vol.1, No.7, Sept/Oct. '82, page 39. Please dig out your back issues, read this page again, and then decide that 1984 is going to be the year that YOU actively participate in YOUR Study Group.

If you're asking yourself how I have the nerve to suggest such a thing after issuing only two newsletters in 1983, I'd just like to point out that since that last issue of March-April 1983 went out, I have not received ONE SINGLE CONTRIBUTION for the Newsletter!!! (The items attributed to others in this issue were mentioned to me in personal letters from friends in the group that I correspond with and were not specifically submitted as "contributions" to the Newsletter.)

I do enjoy writing for the Newsletter, such as this issue's piece

(cont'd)

on the Half Cent Small Queen, and I have quite a number of others in the planning stages, BUT, please give me some help! If I have to write all or most of every issue, the well IS going to eventually dry up. PLEASE send me your reports, articles, suggestions, questions, complaints, ideas for articles, specific re-entries you would like to see written up, mats, photos, drawings, etc.

*** One final item in this regard: My friend and yours, TOPICS Editor Mike Street, has been after me for some time now to write a regular column for TOPICS under the banner of the Re-entry Study Group. I would LOVE our group to have the publicity and prestige of a regular TOPICS column like those of some of the other well-known study groups! But, if I can't get enough input from you for our own Newsletter, I certainly could not put together enough material for a regular column as well. (Mike doesn't wish to simply 'reprint' items from our Newsletter as he feels that would be unfair to you, the members of the Study Group, as space would be taken up in the journal with material you had already read in your Newsletter.)

So! Think about it! And let's hear from you, soon and often. It's your group and your Newsletter, folks!

(Well, I guess it turned out to be a speech of sorts after all! However, this is the last time I will take this much space from our Newsletter pages for a 'pep' talk. Promise!)

ON THE ADMIRAL FRONT...

by R.Trimble

*** There seem to be a couple of rumours going around, as yet unsubstantiated, of the discovery of another copy (or two!) of the 1¢ Major on a coil. It has also been suggested that a copy of this re-entry has been found on an ex-booklet stamp! The latter suggestion can be dismissed as all the Admiral booklets were printed from specially prepared plates with totally different layouts from those of the normal sheet stamps, some of which were indeed used for coil purposes. However, it IS entirely possible that other coils have been found. If any member can provide further information on this matter, please notify me at once.

*** Those of you who have an interest in the Admirals may not yet be aware of the fate of the as-yet-unique coil Major discovered by our own Dr. Warren L. Bosch as reported here in Vol.1, No.1 and further in Vol.1, No.5. Well, the slightly faulty coil was offered in R. Maresch & Sons' PRIVATE TREATY SALE last summer (July '83) and sold, quickly I understand, for the full asking price of \$2000.00 !!!

*** Hans Reiche has also just reported to me the discovery of a very good re-entry on the 3¢ brown Admiral, "similar in appearance to the 1¢ green." "...a diagonal re-entry with the bottom right frame, box and numeral and the upper left frame and shading lines, the left numeral, letters ADA, T of THREE and C of CENTS and the upper right frame corner doubled." Sounds like a delightful one! Thanks for the report, Hans!

*** There are many Admiral enthusiasts in our group. If you would like this to become a regular feature in the Newsletter please support it with your reports.

THE MAJOR RE-ENTRY ON THE 5¢ REGISTERED

by R.Trimble

Bill Burden of Truro N.S. has discovered a copy of THE Major Re-entry on the 5¢ Registered Letter Stamp. In Bill's photograph, reproduced here, you can see doubling in the 'S' of 'REGISTERED' and in the top of 'ER' of 'LETTER'.

A photo of this re-entry also appears on page 15 of 'CANADIAN REGISTERED LETTER STAMPS & CANCELLATIONS 1875 - 1902' by E.A.Smythies and A.F.Smith (a Handbook of The Canadian Philatelic Society of Great Britain). In their text they state that, "This is the only re-entry in the 5¢ value we have found that was worth illustrating." and they also refer to dots and lines in 'CANADA'.

Bill made a lucky find with this one ! I'm still searching for it and would appreciate hearing from any member who may have a used copy they might wish to sell or trade.

SPECIAL ENCLOSURE #6

Courtesy of Bill Burden.

Fellow Half Cent Small Queen buffs may find the attached sheet of 16 Half Cent photos useful for illustrating re-entries in their collections. Feel free to make more copies for your own use. Thanks to Bill Burden of Truro N.S. for providing me with some copies of half tone photos he made and had printed for himself. I was able to cut and paste 16 of them on to one sheet to copy for you. I'm sorry the right side isn't as clear as the rest of the page. This seems to be a characteristic fault of the copier that I use, as you may have noticed from some of the pages in earlier Newsletters.

NOTE: The dot patterns on the neck of the Queen referred to in my article in this issue can be clearly seen in these photos.

Notice the dots are clearly defined, whereas in the major re-entry they form several continuous lines.

"FLYSPECKS"HUMBUG !!!

by R.Trimble (Grouch)

I was hunched over a dealer's stockbook at a show awhile ago, giving his Maps the 'once-over' with my trusty glass, when he curiously enquired, "What in the world are you looking for?" Realizing I had been 'caught', I honestly replied, "Re-entries." Just then an older gentleman behind the table came over and his younger co-worker told him what I had said. "Ah!", he said, as his eyes lit up and a smile crossed his face. "A flyspecker!" And he walked away. ...Ouch!! That hurt!! Oh, I know the gentleman meant no harm, but it made me feel like the school boy who found he was in the 'slow' reading group nicknamed the "TOADS", while the 'top' group was called the "EAGLES" or some such title. Labels CAN hurt!

As a devoted collector of re-entries I feel my chosen area of philately is just as honourable and yes, important, as that of Squared Circles, or Flag Cancels, or Revenues, or Postal Stationery, or Proofs and Essays, or Admirals, or Perfins, or Coils, or Booklets, or Small Queens, or Decimals, or Stampless Covers, or Semi-Official Airmails, or Precancels, or the Centennials, or (Dare I say it?) Postal History, or any other area of specialty you care to name, for that matter!

I know of no 'nicknames' for these other areas I have just mentioned, yet because I collect re-entries, I am a "flyspecker"! To me, this label has the connotation of tiny, insignificant varieties that hold no importance to a collector of "worth"! ...Bah!! Surely all one has to do is to look at the number of pages devoted to re-entries in the classic works of Boggs, Jarrett, Whitworth, Reiche and Marler, to name a few, to realize that this CANNOT be true! Would these gentlemen, who are held in esteem by all of Canadian Philately as THE experts, have devoted such vast amounts of research and dedicated so much space in their works to something so 'unworthy' as re-entries were they not considered important? I think not.

It was so nice to read, for example, in John Hillson's book, "The Small Queens of Canada", under Plate Varieties: Re-entries/Fresh Entries: "Philatelically these are the most important varieties." I certainly think so! To me, the engraved design of a stamp is far more beautiful and important than the kind or thickness of paper it is printed on, or how many perforations it has on each side. Certainly most re-entries are not easy for an untrained eye to see and a glass must be used, but is this any different from the Centennial specialist who needs his ultraviolet lamp or those who utilize perforation gauges or watermark detectors or colour guides? Again, I think not.

Re-entries are constant plate varieties and therefore, if anything, I am a "variety collector", a term that in no way irritates me. Perhaps collectors of such non-constant varieties as dots, dashes, 'donuts', 'tears', 'rips', smears, streaks, lines, splashes, etc. may not mind such a 'catch-all' title, I don't know. But I CANNOT and WILL NOT consider re-entries as 'flyspecks' nor myself as a 'flyspecker'!!

(Please understand that I in no way mean this as a 'put-down' of any of the other areas of philately that I mentioned. I would simply like re-entries to be regarded as an equal.)

It has been suggested to me that this article smacks of snobbery. All I can say is, I'd rather be called a snob than a TOAD!

**** Any members with photos/mats/drawings, etc., that they would like to share with the group are asked to please send them in.

