

Canadian Re-entry Study Group

Ralph E. Trimble
Box 26556, Markville P.O.
Markham, Ontario
CANADA L3R 0M4

Whole No. 54

MARCH - APRIL 1992

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THE MAJOR RE-ENTRY ON THE 2¢ SMALL QUEEN - REVISITED

by R. Trimble

Back in 1984, in Newsletter #14, I showed you some rather smudgy-looking photos of the 2¢ S.Q. Major Re-entry. Well, it's time for some clearer photos and an up-date with new and important information on this elusive stamp.

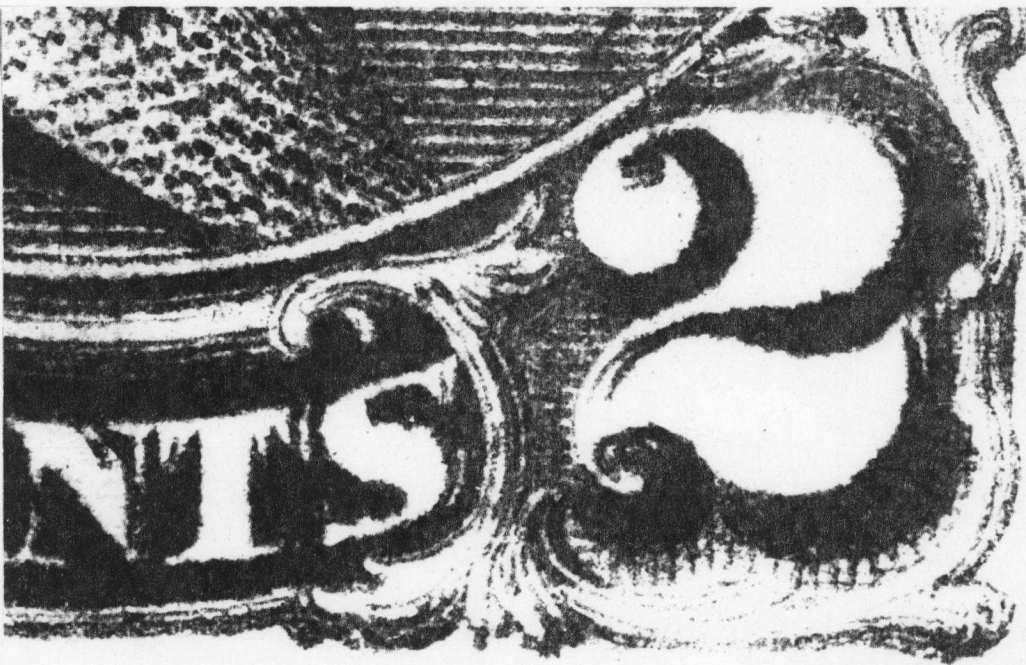
You may be getting tired of me mentioning 'STAMP CAMP' so often in my articles, but you would be amazed at the amount of information that has come out of these sessions in Chatham hosted by Bill Simpson, the 'King' of the Small Queens! [Please excuse the little pun, Bill!] Anyway, during our first STAMP CAMP in July of 1990, one of the things I worked on was photographing as many copies of the 2¢ Major Re-entry that we could find among the many collections owned by Bill, including Peter Hurst's. When including my copy and Bill Burden's copy, we must have ended up with well over a dozen copies! [It's no wonder this stamp is so elusive --- Bill must have almost all of them!] So, I snapped happily away, photographing both lower corners and the word 'CENTS' of all copies, and ignoring the upper portion that showed no sign of doubling. Then I moved on to all the other goodies that awaited me.

I should mention at this point that there are some re-entry specialists who believe there is more than one of these Major re-entries, that is, more than one plate position showing several very strong, almost identical re-entries, that are easily mistaken for each other. This was the problem that Bill and I wanted to try to solve once and for all.

[Cont'd]

THE 2¢ SMALL QUEEN - REVISITED [Cont'd]

Several weeks following STAMP CAMP '90, Bill and I took a pilgrimage to the Archives in Ottawa to check out the 5¢ S.Q. material contained in their collection. While there, we finally got a chance to sit down and start comparing the many photos I had taken of all the 2¢ Majors. [It's much easier to compare fine details of doubling by using my close-up photos than it is to use the actual stamps.] In comparing the many versions of the 'mangled' word 'CENTS' [as seen above the title on the last page], and the various thicknesses of the lines of the "open clefts" [as Hurst referred to them] in the 2's, we managed to come up with four groups of photos that we thought MIGHT represent different plate positions of VERY similar stamps. [The 2's are seen below.] With time running short, we left things at this stage until the following summer when we reconvened in Chatham for STAMP CAMP '91.



*Interesting Note: This Major Re-entry seems strangely missing from Hans' and Mike's new book on the S.Q.'s!?

THE 2¢ SMALL QUEEN - REVISITED [Cont'd]

One of Bill Burden's jobs following STAMP CAMP '90 was to go through the vast number of Bill Simpson's re-entries from his many varied collections and sort them all together to see exactly WHAT and HOW MANY of each that Bill owned. [Bill B. actually had to go out and buy a huge new suitcase in order to transport Bill S.'s material back to Nova Scotia with him!] This way Bill would know just what he did own, and what he might be able to sell off to collectors who needed certain pieces. [I was able to add some MAJOR desirables to my own collection this way!] Anyway, when Bill S. and I got back to the subject of the 2¢ Majors at STAMP CAMP '91, Bill B. was able to produce an envelope containing at least a dozen or more copies of this item, including the pair and strip of three from the Hurst collection. Before Bill S. and I could get very far into the continuation of our comparisons from the summer before, Bill B. said, "Did you guys notice the hairline in the upper left corner?" Upper left corner??? Heck, no! All we were looking at was the re-entry at the bottom! GADZOOKS!! After finding the stamps that matched the photos of our 'four groups' that we spent hours putting together the summer before in Ottawa, Bill S. and I started checking U.L. corners. And wouldn't you know it??? ALL FOUR GROUPS had the SAME hairline!! On some copies this line is extremely faint and VERY hard to see, but it was on every single copy we looked at! So, --- four different plate positions with extremely similar Majors??? NOPE! Only one Major exists, and that is the one shown here! If the hairline won't show in the photocopy, I may have to darken it for you to be able to see it. I don't like to have to 'retouch' one of my photos, but in this case it might be the only way you will see it. It is VERY faint, but straight and slightly angled out from the vertical. It stretches the entire length of the U.L. corner design. [While you're looking at the photos, note the strong duplication of lines on the neck, as well as the outer left and right edges of the design.]



Collectors of other constant plate varieties will no doubt be very pleased that a hairline of colour aids greatly in the identification of this important Major Re-entry! Oh, and by the way, a L.R. block of 12 in Bill's collection has also enabled us to finally plate this re-entry! It is from the Montreal printing and appears in position #97 above 'REAL' of the imprint!

THE MAJOR RE-ENTRY ON THE ½¢ SMALL QUEEN, 1R49 - REVISITED by R. Trimble

Finally!! Something that has been puzzling me for many, many years has been solved! As many of you know, the beautiful little ½¢ S.Q. has always held a special place in my heart [along with the 5¢ Edward and the Map Stamp]. In the early years of this Newsletter, this little gem was often written about on numerous occasions, usually by myself or George Arfken. One of the things that puzzled me to no end was the fact that we established early on that the Major Re-entry from the Right Pane, Position #49 was NOT on the proof sheet in Ottawa. However, when I visited the Archives with Bill Simpson in August 1990 and asked to see the ½¢ holdings, I was not shown a true proof sheet, but an issued sheet of 200, in two panes and perforated. And this sheet definitely contained the Major in R49, along with the two other strongest re-entries, R96 & R98. I was confused! On one hand, Hans had reported that the Major was not on the proof. On the other hand, I was not shown a proof sheet in the Archives, and the sheet I did see had the Major!



Well, I'm pleased to report that this mystery can now be laid to rest! Over the past few months I was able to realize a long-held philatelic fantasy --- I acquired at auction BOTH a Left Pane and a Right Pane of the ½¢!! The Left Pane held no surprises, but I can't say the same about the Right! You see, despite the earlier reports, over the years every single Right Pane I have ever seen, and every single Right Imprint block I have ever seen, have ALL had the Major Re-entry in Position #49! Every one! And so naturally I was beginning to think that perhaps an issued state of the ½¢ did not exist without the Major. Perhaps it wasn't on the proof seen by Hans, but it must have occurred before the regular stamps were printed! Well, I was WRONG!

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THE ½¢ S.Q. - REVISITED [Cont'd]

My pane does NOT have the Major Re-entry in R49!! If you examine the photos on the last page with one of those large hand lenses of even just 2X-3X, the details will jump right out at you! The R49 from the pane is on the left, while the Major Re-entry from my Right Imprint block of 18 is on the right [I have it in five different Imprint pieces]. You will note that the left R49 IS re-entered, but is quite different from the Major on the right. Note the radial lines below CANADA POSTAGE and above 'ALF ½', as well as the four lines on the neck that appear solid on the Major. These features, among others, were written up in previous articles.

Now, not only is the R49 Major missing from this pane, but the other re-entries of major proportions from R96 [as shown earlier in Issue #38, p.2] and R98 are also missing! Like the R49, they too show somewhat minor re-entries, but nothing approaching the magnitude of the later majors. R98 does have the doubling at the top in POSTAGE, but lacks the very strong doubling of the L.R. quadrant on the later state. Interestingly, the strong re-entry beside the R49 Major in R50 IS present in its entirety, as is the Major re-entry from R10, as shown earlier in Issue #37, p.36.

So, while there are indeed a great many initial re-entries on this early state, including a few of the stronger ones [R10 & R50], the plate was obviously extensively re-worked at a later date, at which time the Major re-entry occurred in R49, and the Majors in R96 & R98 also appeared. Indeed, Hans and Mike in their new S.Q. book believe the plate was re-entered at least twice, resulting in three separate states. Considering the scarcity of pieces WITHOUT the three majors [this pane is THE only evidence I've ever seen!], I would hazard a guess that my pane is from the very first state and that both later states contained the Majors in R49, R96 & R98. I would also think that the first state existed for only a very brief period.

I find myself having mixed feelings about this situation! While I am extremely pleased to have finally answered a question that has been pestering me for all these years, I thought that when I won this lot in the auction I would finally have a pane with all the great re-entries and that I would be able to plate all my re-entered singles, strips and blocks. Instead, I ended up with ... Hmmm! ... a rather scarce state! Well, I guess I'll just have to keep my eyes peeled for another Right Pane!! [I welcome correspondence on this matter.] §

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Once again, no new members to report. Indeed, it's been almost exactly a full year since we added our last member. In fact, this last month or so has seen the loss of two members of our group, both of whom have dropped out of BNAPS completely. And although his name still appears in the most recent copy of the BNAPS Membership list, Feb. '92, I still have not heard anything from Steve Raine of Wynyard, Sask., as mentioned in the last issue. The good news is, I did hear from Bill MacDonald, formerly of Vancouver, who now resides in Saskatoon.

THE SECOND SCHOOL STAMP CLUB THANKS YOU!!

Following my letter with the last Issue asking for donations for my club at school, I received packages of wonderful goodies from: David Roberts, Clarence Stillions, Harry Voss, Zenith Mintert, and even TOPICS' CENTERLINE Editor, Peter McCarthy. My sincere thanks to you all [plus one anon. donor]!



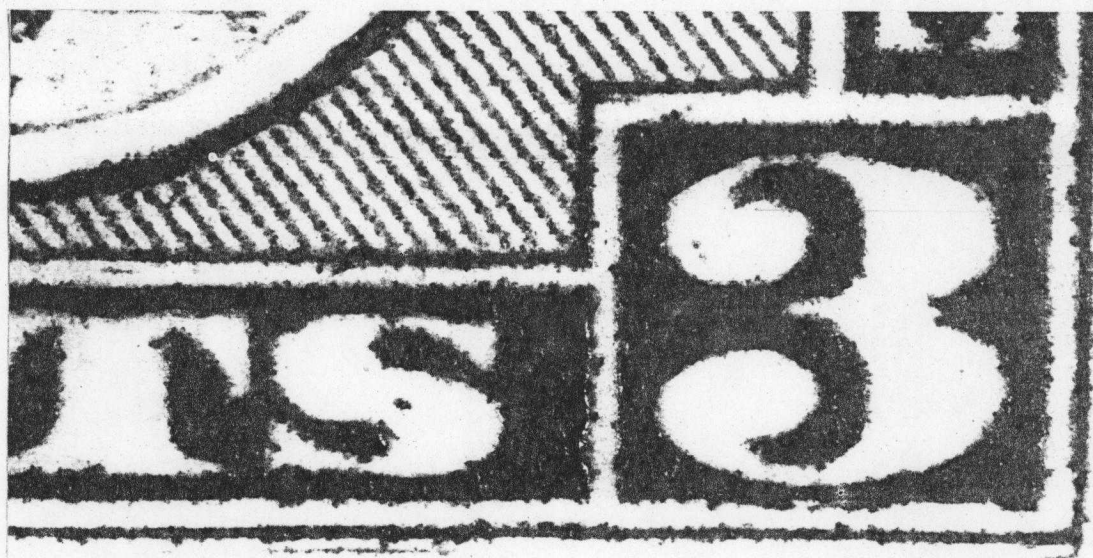
Back in the May-June 1986 issue, #24, front page, I showed you what is considered to be the Major Re-entry on this Issue. That stamp, showing doubling over much of the design, has since been identified as being from Plate 1, [Die I], Position #35. There were two plates of 100 used for this stamp, Plate 1 being all Die I [no lines down the bridge of the King's nose], and Plate 2 being all Die II [lines on the bridge of the nose].

Some time ago I acquired two blocks of 50 of this stamp [10 X 5], both of which unfortunately were stripped of all selvedge. Interestingly, one is Die I [Plate 1] and the other Die II [Plate 2]. The Die I piece shows many minor re-entries, plus a couple of stronger ones, one of which I am showing you here. As for which portion of the sheet it is, as the Major from #35 is not present, I am speculating that it is the bottom half of the sheet showing positions 51 through 100. Although it could well be from the centre of the

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THE 3¢ LONG CORONATION [Cont'd]

sheet, I believe it would make more sense to divide a sheet in half than take strips off the top and then the bottom [although this well may have been the case], so for purposes of plate positions here, I am assuming it to be the lower half of Plate 1.



The four photos shown here are all of the same stamp. On the last page, you can see there is doubling inside the left edge of the portrait oval, similar to doubled ovals found on both the 7¢ & 14¢ of this Issue. Below that, you can see the strong doubling found in the letters of 'THREE' under the map of Newfoundland. Above on this page, you can see the doubling found in both the L.L. and L.R. corners. Both 3's are doubled, as well as the numeral boxes and bottom frameline. This frameline is quite thick below the left '3', and is clearly doubled on the right, below the 'S' of 'CENTS' and in the very corner. Doubling is also seen here in the 'TS' of 'CENTS' and in the white space above the 'T'. The top frameline is also quite thick above 'NEWFO'. This stamp is found in the fourth position of the fourth row, placing it in position #84, if indeed this piece is the bottom half of the sheet. Position #98 shows a re-entry with very similar doubling in the right '3', as well as doubling or thickening of the left half of the bottom frameline. There is also an angled line that appears more like a slipped retouch under the left '3', from the numeral box to the frameline. §



Some time ago, an item appeared in a Maresch Auction that sounded rather intriguing ... a Major re-entry on the 10¢ Edward in a beautiful mint block of four [U.L. in the block] - a re-entry not listed in George C. Marler's masterwork, THE EDWARD VII ISSUE OF CANADA! Marler listed a dozen re-entries on this stamp, but nothing that quite approaches the magnitude of this one! There is doubling in ALL of the lettering - note particularly the 'CE' seen here, and both numeral boxes, including all four of the small maple leaves that surround the boxes. Note, too, the doubling of the ermine tails, and especially the right '10'! My thanks to Hugh Laurence for allowing me to photograph this beautiful re-entry, which he owns. §