



Dots and Scratches

Re-entries and Constant Plate Varieties



Study Group of the BNAPS
Edited by: Michael D. Smith

Vol. 1, Number 2 Whole Number 2

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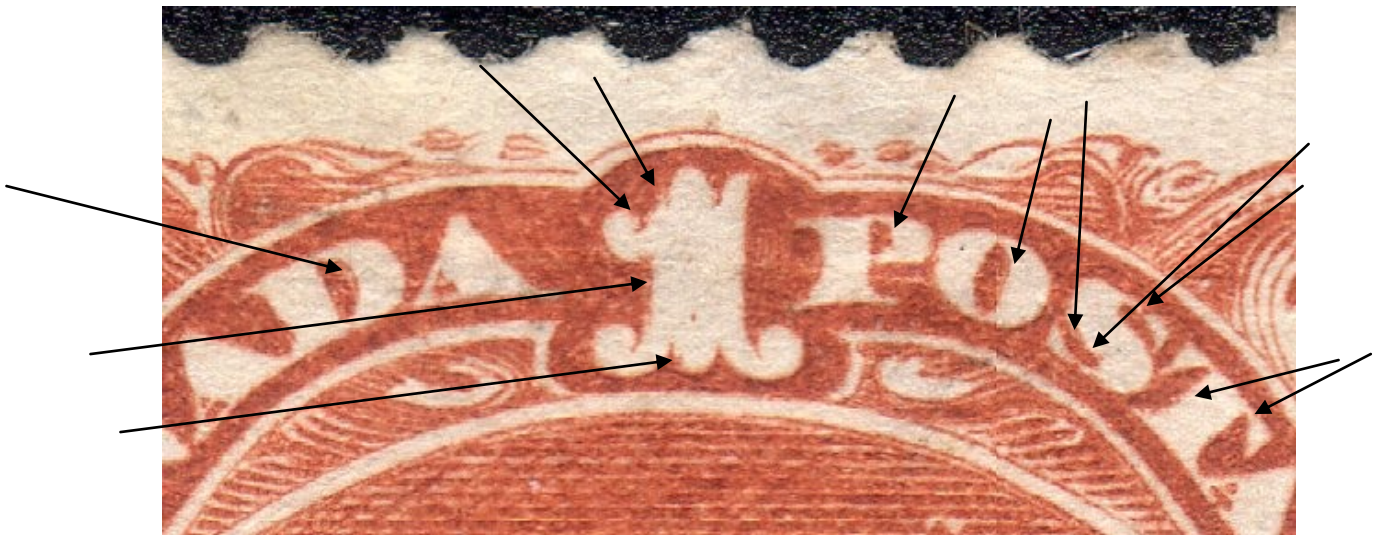
Possible Re-entry on One Cent Large Queen

By: Michael Smith



This stamp shows doubling in D of CANADA, in the numeral 1, and POST of postage. It is very subtle, but this being a nice clear print it shows up well on a coarser printing it might go by unnoticed. There is mention of a Major re-entry in THE LARGE QUEEN STAMPS OF CANADA AND THERE USE, Second Edition, H. E. & H. W. Duckworth, pg. 80 where it says: "A possible major re-entry on the orange-yellow shade has been reported by S. F. Cohen, but has yet to be confirmed." (Citation: Maple Leaves, Vol. 16, No. 4, Whole No. 160, (October, 1976), page 99). There is no description in Duckworth's book and I don't have a copy of Maple Leaves. This is Unitrade #23. The re-entry is unlisted.

Could this be the above mentioned re-entry???



Small Queen Six-Cent Major Re-entry

By: Jim McCormick, Edited By: Michael Smith



Fig. 1, Strip of 4 with the second stamp showing the major re-entry sharply shifted upward.
Courtesy of J. McCormick

The major re-entry (Unitrade #38ii) is from early state of the initial Six Cent plate from 1872 in position 67 (Fig. 2). The position of this stamp is shifted sharply up in comparison to the adjacent positions 66 and 68, with the doubling showing that the original impression was nicely aligned (Fig. 1).

A wonderful find is documented on Ralph Trimble's www.re-entries.com site showing a pair on a MR 74 cover from the repaired "A" plate showing a very small trace of the re-entry in DA of CANADA (Figs. 3 & 4). This proves the plate was repaired and continued to be used through much of the life of the stamp. Even a full sheet of the 6c from the 1894 second Ottawa printing shows position 67 to be shifted up (see Hillson / Nixon's excellent Small Queens book).

A copy perforated 11.5 X 12 is also known indicating it was likely from an early Montreal printing from late 1873.



Fig. 2 Showing the nice characteristics early major re-entry especially NADAPOS and bottom of stamp.
Image Courtesy of J. McCormick



Fig. 3 A nice pair on cover from the repaired plate showing late state of major re-entry in right stamp.
 Original image: Ted Nixon, from re-entries.com with permission from Ralph Trimble



Fig. 4 Enlarged image of pair showing the dramatic upward shift of pos. 67 as opposed to the left stamp pos. 66.
 Original image: Ted Nixon, from re-entries.com with permission from Ralph Trimble

In order to show more detail your editor used the following two images from Ralph Trimble's www.re-entries.com. One can clearly see the major re-entry line (fig. 5). The repaired state of position 67 shows traces of just parts of the major re-entry (Fig. 6).



Fig. 5



Fig. 6

It is safe to conclude that the major re-entry is present through the first couple of years of printing including perhaps an early printing in Montreal (explained by the compound perforated stamp). Shortly thereafter it was repaired and tagged with an "A" in the top margin. The "A" plate has most of the re-entries repaired.

The 6 cent is a joy to collect with so many varieties. You may browse 1200 dpi scans of several copies and other varieties at http://jimmc.ca/stamps/SQ/6c_plating. Enjoy!

References: Confederation, Vol. 57, August 2014, Small Queen Six-cent Major Re-entry by Jim McCormick
Ralph Trimble's web site: www.re-entries.com

Major Re-entry on the 1 cent Admiral

By: Michael Smith



This re-entry is my favorite. It is truly one of the nicest examples of a re-entry I have seen. The catalog images showing the lower right corner don't do this one justice. So I will attempt to share what can be seen on this beautiful re-entered stamp. This is Unitrade #104vii, Plate 12 LR, pos. 35.

This one is one of four known on a postcard. How many more may be hiding on postcards that have not been checked for stamp varieties? Ralph Trimble speculated in Canadian Re-entry Study Group News Letter, Vol. 1, No. 5, Nov.-Dec. 1982, Pg. 45 that postcard collections with a 1 cent Admiral used as postage may be a source of possible re-entries. How many stamp collectors take time to go through post cards mailed at the one cent rate? Who wouldn't love to find the fifth one?

Now let us take a closer look at the postcard and stamp....



Front and back of postcard.





Here is a good enlargement of the stamp. The catalogs all mention the lower right corner where there is dramatic doubling. But now look at the rest of the stamp. ONE CENT completely doubled, The left 1 and numeral box, the leaves above both numeral boxes, the bottom of the portrait oval, doubling of the portrait up to the collar and possibly more. Then look at POSTAGE, the TAGE shows doubling and the A has a double peak in the center. All I can say is blow this up and have a close look.

Now how many collectors are going to look at the stamps on the backs of postcards???

Five Cent Beaver Re-entered Imprint Position 30

By: Michael Smith

An area collectors often do not pay attention to are the imprints. These can present another avenue in collecting re-entries as some were improperly placed on the plate and when they were removed and re-entered occasionally some of the elements of the misplacement show up.

The Five Cent Beaver (Unitrade #15x, variety unlisted) has just such a re-entered imprint it is next to position 30 in the right selvage. Here I present a used stamp (Fig. 1) and a plate proof vertical strip of three (Fig. 3, page 9) showing the re-entered imprint on the following page. A comparison of the imprint of the proof and stamp are below (Fig. 2)



Fig. 1

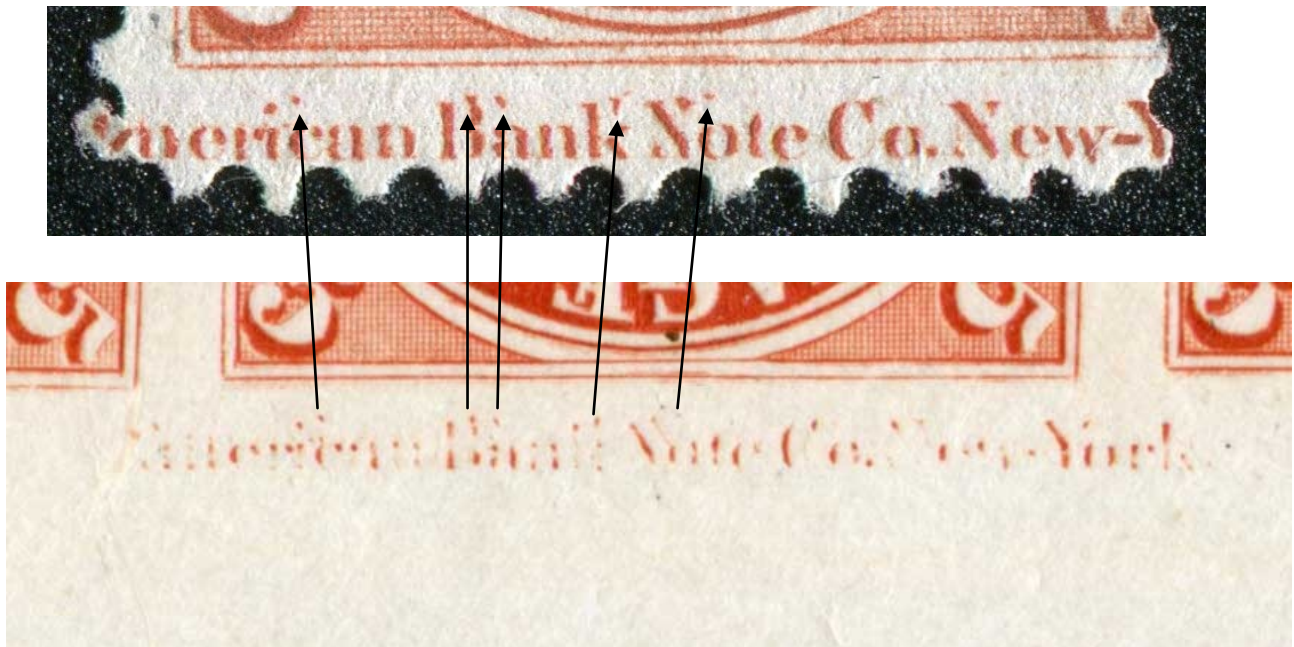


Fig. 2

Even though the imprint on the proof did not get inked well the characteristics are there. The dot of the “i” in American can be seen above the “c”. The top of the “B” in Bank is doubled to over the “a” and the top of the “k” is doubled above and to the right. The top of the N of Note is doubled and over the “o” and there maybe other slight marks to be found. This is position 30, State 6a.



Fig.3

Hunting for the 5c Beaver Major Varieties

By Jim Jung

There are 5 major varieties of the 5c Beaver listed in the Scott and Unitrade catalogue. Each one of these is a stamp that is popular, has been listed in catalogs for a long time and is rarely seen at auctions. Aside from the Major Re-entry, they all have names: Log in Waterfall, Rock in Waterfall, Split Beaver and Leaping Fish. They also have Minor Catalogue Numbers and their plate positions have been identified. Here is a table that organizes this information for these varieties.

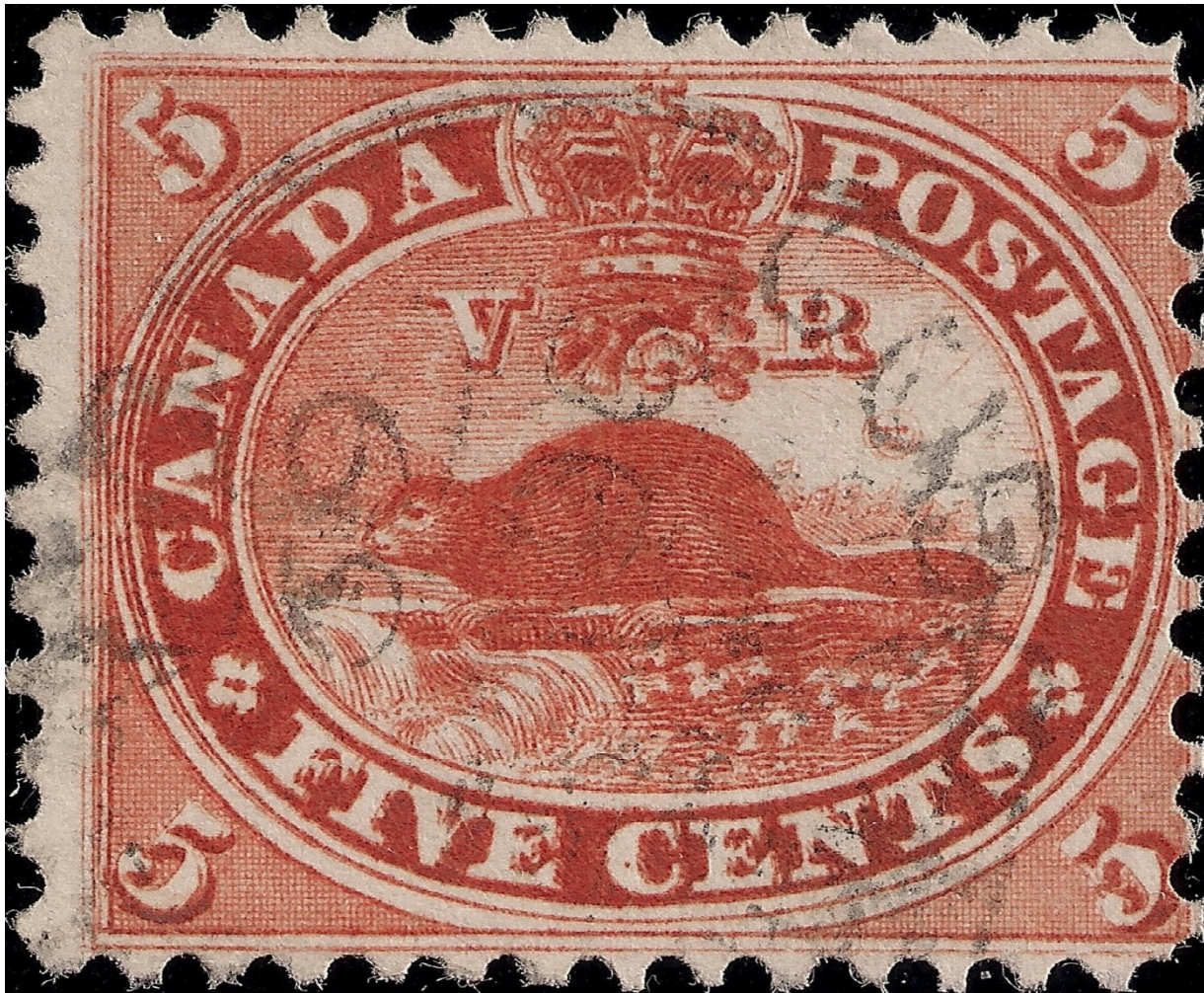
Scott No.	Variety Name	Plate Position
15v	Major Re-entry	28
15vi	Log in Waterfall	50
15vii	Rock in Waterfall	53
15ix	Leaping Fish	54
15viii	Split Beaver	90

There were just over 39 Million 5c Beavers printed in plates of 100 stamps each. To be exact, the total quantity was 39,100,000 stamps printed. If you divide this number by 100, you get 391,000, which would be the number of stamps produced for each plate position. The odds are quite low that you find one of these stamps because the errors appeared during one state of the plate and were corrected quickly. The Major Re-entry at position 28 is the only one of these stamps that was present on the plate for the entire life of the plate from 1859 to 1868.

It's difficult to figure out the exact number of how many of these Major Varieties were printed since the plate was repaired a number of times. In Ken Kershaw's book showing his plate study of States 10-11, all but the Major Re-entry at plate position 28 and the Rock in Waterfall varieties had disappeared, so we can say that most of these varieties disappeared from the plate through repair, but at what time for each, it is unclear. We can certainly say that this occurred prior to States 10-11. Using Whitworth's book, "The First Decimal Issue of Canada", we can find some dates for each variety.

Here is a copy of each and a description of how to spot these precious gems.

The Major Varieties



This is the **Major Re-entry** for the 5c Beaver at pp28. This re-entries looked very much the same for the entire life of the plate and all 31 Printing Orders. Of all the stamps described in this article, this is the easiest one to acquire. There are a number of valuable resources for these re-entries such as Ralph Trimble's website <http://re-entries.com/> which I have listed at the end of this article.

This Major Re-entry is easily spotted as it is a triple print. This is the strongest re-entry in the 1859 Decimal Issue with a close 2nd being the 12 ½ cent Major Re-entry at position 94. The frame lines and oval lines at the left and upper left of the stamp are printed in triplicate. The lettering in CANADA shows a strong line at the bottom of the letters CANAD. There are marks at the right side of the letters FIVE CENTS. There are marks in both the left and right flower. The denomination number 5 on the top and bottom left side are doubled significantly. The arcs on both sides of the crown are doubled.

This copy is centered to the right and shows off the main part of the re-entry at the left side of the stamp. It also has a nice light COBourg OC ?? 69 dated cancel which is into the Large Queen period but prior to the 5c Large Queen release in late 1875.

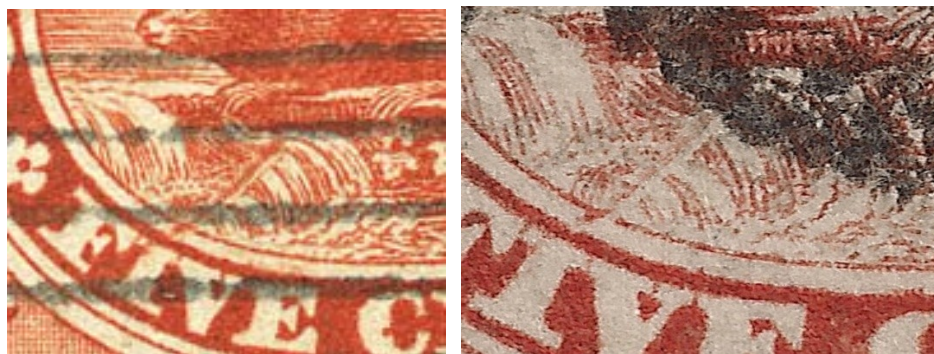
This re-entry appeared at position 28 for the final two states, 10 and 11, of the plate. As such, it also appears in many different shades. It has the 2nd highest catalog value of these 5 varieties. This may be due to popularity or the strength of the error or other qualities which drive demand to own this stamp.

My guess is that most of these that have survived have been found because the re-entry is so strong and visible. Anyone who is collecting stamps would notice this as something special, even if they didn't collect Canadian stamps. Oddly enough, I have found poor quality copies selling for as little as \$100. Very Fine copies can sell for a high price. The record auction price is \$1500 (hammer price) for an XF Used Gem – Lot 319 sold on June 26, 2004. Eastern Auctions sold another XF copy for \$1250 – Lot 210 on January 23, 2010.

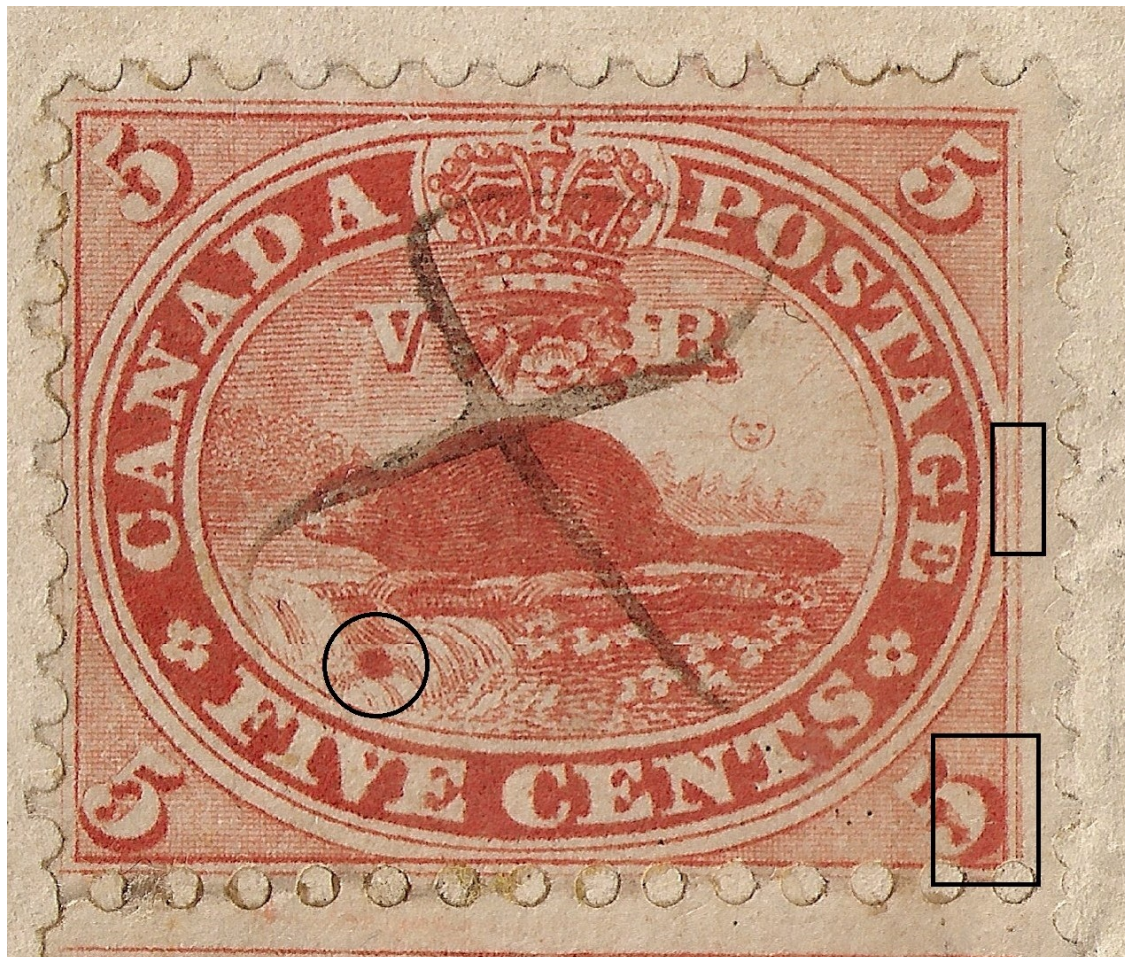


The **Log in Waterfall** variety from position 50 is pictured above. The “log” is a heavy diagonal line that runs from the bottom of the beaver to just crossing the oval above the letter I in FIVE. There are secondary plate flaws on this same plate position during State 3. There is a dash of color above the P and to the right of the G of POSTAGE and a tiny dot in the N of CENTS. This is the rarest of the five varieties detailed in this article and commands the highest catalog value, currently at \$1250 for a VF Used single.

The above copy is a Very Fine copy on a Registered cover with two other singles dated NO 26 62. The date is important in identifying this stamp as the flaw occurred on State 3a of the plate in Group II, which is Perf 11 ½ x 12 and a Brownish Orange Red shade. State 3 of the plate has dates of use from June 1862 to March 1863. This cover pre-dates Whitworth’s earliest Observed Date of Jan 28, 1863 but falls right in the middle of the time of use of State 3. It also appears to be the correct shade for State 3.



Here is a close-up from a 2nd copy that was sold in the Daniel Cantor collection. You can see how the diagonal line is more orange in color where the copy on the cover has a more white line. A third copy from my collection shows an even weaker state of the flaw which suggests that the diagonal line was very strong early on in State 3 and became weaker as the plate became worn or was corrected.



The **Rock in Waterfall** variety is pictured above. The “rock” is a large dot in the lower level of the waterfall. The above copy is part of a pair of 5c stamps on a cover that is manuscript dated Sept 17 67. This flaw appeared on State 9 of the plate which was in postal use from September 1866 to August 1867. On this copy, the “rock” is still strong even though the cover is dated after the Postal Use period given by Whitworth for State 9. State 9 was within Group III and was Perf 12. Along with the “rock” flaw, there is also a re-entry of the 5 and the frame lines in the lower right corner and a slight re-entry of the outer frame line at the right center margin. State 9 appeared in three different shades: Reddish Orange Red (Sept 1866), Bright Orange Red (Jan 1867) and Deep Dull Orange Red (Aug 1867). This stamp looks like the third shade of Deep Dull Orange Red, but definitely has an Orange component, which satisfies the correct shade for the State of the plate.

In Ken Kershaw’s book that provides scans of the Plate Proof Sheets from States 10 and 11, this flaw is still quite visible but much weaker and almost looks like it is part of the normal engraving lines of the falling water in the stream. Here is a 2nd copy with a similar strength “rock” dated ?U 28 67 and a scan from the Ken Kershaw book of the State 10 proof from position 53. Remember that Kershaw’s scan is of a Proof and the stamp from State 10-11 could be a weaker presentation of this flaw. The proof copy does appear weaker.





The **Split Beaver** variety is pictured above. The “split” is a diagonal line that crosses the beaver’s face just below the eye and above his nose. The line extends left outwards to the AN in CANADA and down towards the beaver’s left paw. This flaw is from State 4 of the plate which was part of Group II and is Perf 11 ½ x 12. State 4 was in Postal Use from July 1863 to May 1864. Whitworth’s earliest Observed Date for this flaw is Oct 24, 1863. The shades for State 4 are Deep Dullish Reddish Orange Red (July 1863), Reddish Orange Red (Oct 1863) and Bright Reddish Orange Red (July 1864). This stamp is slightly more red than orange.

Being from position 90, it would be possible that a copy of this variety could be found with selvedge to the left and bottom of the stamp. On the Decimal Issue, it is rare to see selvedge on a stamp.

This example is fairly strong and I have seen copies where the diagonal line is not as significant and more difficult to see. Here is a close-up of the diagonal line and its’ position across the beaver’s face and neck.





The **Leaping Fish** variety is pictured above and the “fish” is a small irregular shaped mark just under the tip of the beaver’s nose at the surface of the water or horizon line. This is the most difficult of these varieties to notice and is quite small but fairly significant. This flaw appears at plate position 54 of the plate in State 8 which had a very short life from January to May 1866. The shades for State 8 are Orange Red (Jan 1866) and Lighter Orange Red (May 1866) This was just before the Rock in Waterfall on State 9 and you might wonder if it is possible to get a pair from position 53 and 54, State 9 with both the Leaping Fish and the Rock in Waterfall.



Here is a copy of a stamp that has a weaker mark which is similar to the Leaping Fish but the mark is much smaller. This has been dubbed the “Leaping Minnow” by the founder Dr Jim Watt. I’m unsure of the plate position of this nice little flaw but it has been confirmed as a Constant Plate Variety.

Postal History

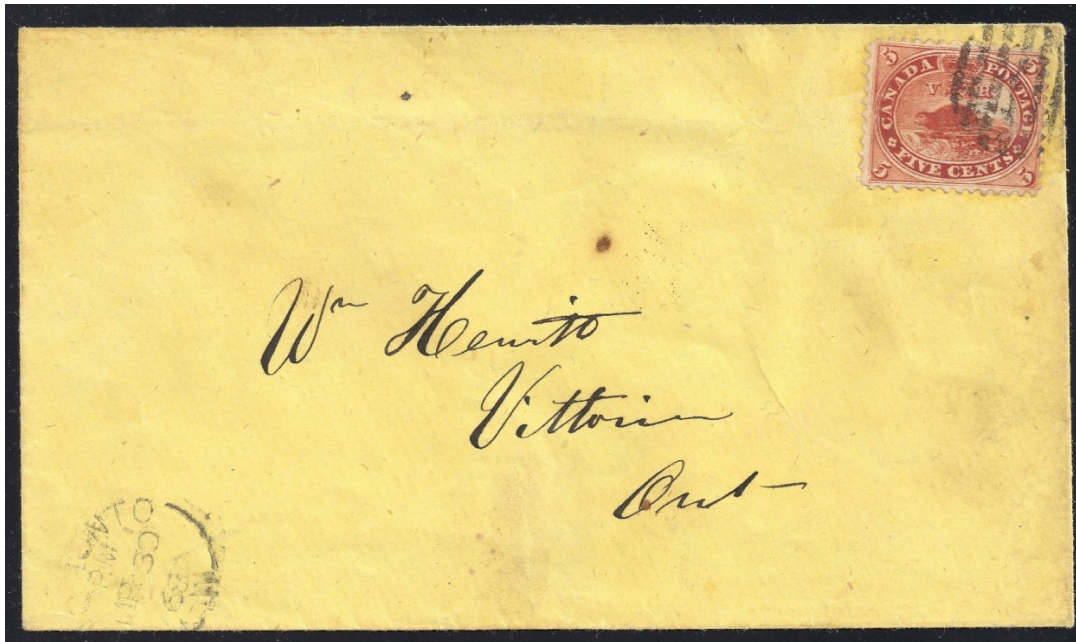
Many covers can be found from the Decimal period bearing the 5c Beaver. Many of these are inexpensive and can be purchased, sometimes in groups, for less than \$50. Of the many covers available, there are very few that have been found with any of the above varieties. Unitrade lists a price of between \$600 and \$1250 for these varieties on cover and they will cost you most of this price at auction. If you find one that has not been described as a variety, it would be much cheaper.

Many collectors of covers focus on the destination, the rate, the markings and cancellations, the history or the mode of travel and delivery of the cover as opposed to looking for a possible variety on the stamps that may be on that cover. It may be a good idea to check your collections or look at 5c Beaver covers for these Major varieties and other Minor varieties.

Here is a 5c Beaver Pair on a crossborder cover from New Liverpool L.C. to the USA. The cover comes from the collection of Charles Huff and is proof that great collectors of Canada and Postal History did recognize the value of these varieties on cover. The top stamp in the pair is a Rock in Waterfall variety and is the same one pictured in my description of this variety in this article. When you look at the cover, the variety doesn't appear readily noticeable until you zoom in on the top stamp with your variety knowledge that is now tucked under your belt.



Here is a 2nd cover that is a very simple looking light yellow envelope, but on closer inspection, you'll see the noticeable doubling of the stamp image. Are these stamps going unnoticed? I don't think this is the case because collectors are keenly observant. I actually think it may be more likely that these stamps **have** been noticed and they have been soaked off the covers and sold as singles. This would decrease the number of covers in existence. More recently, covers have been more sought after, and these varieties on cover have been increasing in price. The Leaping Fish has gone up from \$525 to \$600 and the Log in Waterfall has gone up from \$1100 to \$1250 in the 2014 Unitrade catalog.





Conclusion

I believe there are copies of these stamps to be found simply because of the quantity of 5c Beaver stamps printed. Because the plate was corrected a number of times throughout its' life, copies of these stamps are very limited. I would think that only copies where the design is obscured, possibly by postmarks, are the ones that could still emerge from collections. The Rock in Waterfall and Log in Waterfall varieties have been catalogued for as long as I can remember so collectors have long understood that these varieties exist and that they are valuable to collectors.

This is one of the most studied stamps in Canadian Philately and the many books, articles and web pages devoted to the 5c Beaver prove it to be an interesting and popular stamp that is easily acquired and inexpensive to collect. This is a stamp where major and minor varieties do exist to be found, more easily than on most other Canadian stamps.



Log in Waterfall cover – the left stamp is the variety on this Registered domestic cover from Newcastle NO 26 62 to Meaford. It is interesting that the arrival postmark is from the ST. VINCENT side of the township prior to the renaming of the town to MEAFORD.



References

Matthew Bennett International – Auction 339 (September 24 – October 1, 2011 in New York City)
The Unitrade Specialized Catalogue of Canadian Stamps
http://re-entries.com/decimal_fivecents.html by Ralph E. Trimble
<http://www.canadianstampauctions.com/> by Tom Burpee
The First Decimal Issue of Canada 1859-1868 by Geoffrey Whitworth (RPSC)
The Five Cent Beaver I. The Plate Proofs of States 10-11, 2007 by Kenneth A. Kershaw (BNAPS)

Good Reference Books (not referenced in this article but very useful)

The Five Cents Beaver Stamp of Canada by Geoffrey Whitworth (RPSC)
The Five Cent Beaver II. Plating the More Notable Varieties and Re-entries, 2007 by Kenneth A. Kershaw (BNAPS)
Canada's Decimal Era 1859-1868 by Arfken, George B. & Leggett, Arthur W. (The Vincent G. Greene Philatelic Research Foundation)

Editors Note: This article was originally printed in Pence-Cents Era Study Group of the British North American Philatelic Society Volume 1, No.2, August, 2012. Reprinted here by permission of Jim Jung.

The Business Side

DUES NOTICE:

Starting in January 2015 an annual dues of \$10 will need to be paid to maintain active membership in the study group. Dues may be paid to your editor, Michael D. Smith. Payment in US funds please. Feel free to contact me if you have a problem paying and we will see what we can work out. See contact information at bottom of Table of Contents.

MEMBERSHIP:

As of this issue we have 15 members. Bill Radcliffe will be at BALPEX with sample newsletters trying to promote the study group. Thank you Bill.

At this time Bill Radcliffe is the Chairman of the group.

ARTICLE CONTRIBUTIONS:

Anyone wishing to submit articles or news for submission in the newsletter will be welcome. I would like to Thank Jim McCormick and Jim Jung for their contributions in this issue.

A MISHAP:

Your editor had a computer crash and lost a number of files including correspondence pertaining to Dots and Scratches. If you submitted anything that should have appeared in this issue please resubmit it for possible inclusion in a future issue. I look forward to hearing from the membership and welcome any suggestions on improving the newsletter.