

# Dots and Scratches

## Re-entries and Constant Plate Varieties

Study Group of the BNAPS

Edited by Michael D. Smith



### Unitrade 16Pi iv and 16Pi

Left proof in this pair is position 61 showing the “double epaulette” variety.

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### FROM YOUR EDITOR

Here we are at the start of a new year and one I hope will be as interesting and full of discoveries as last year was. This is the first issue after BNAPEX 2015 which proved to be a very interesting exhibition. On top of going to the convention I was also able to go to Toronto and visit the VG Greene Foundation. It was a fruitful visit and some discoveries were made as you will see in the first article in this issue. I must say the staff at the Greene Foundation were a pleasure to meet and they were very enthusiastic about showing us what they can do when expertizing stamps. They also have a very nice library on site for research.

Everyone should have gotten four issues of Dots and Scratches and a copy of my BNAPEX study group presentation on the One Cent Decimal Plate Flaws last year. Everyone should have six issues of Dots and Scratches total this is the seventh. If you need a back issue e-mail me and I will send you a link where you can get it.

Here we are at the start a new year and that means dues are to be paid for the study group. I know some have already paid but if you are in doubt about needing to pay drop me an email at the email address under my name on the Contents page. I will check my records and get back to you. This will be your last issue if you owe dues and do not pay prior to the next issue.

If any of you can contribute articles it would be greatly appreciated. It takes a fair amount of time and research to write these newsletters so any help is appreciated.

I am looking forward to serving as your editor this coming year and hope to keep Dots and Scratches a fun read with more new material to enjoy.

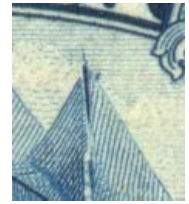
Happy New Year!!!

Mike Smith



# Dots and Scratches

## Re-entries and Constant Plate Varieties



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# A Re-entry on Unitrade #8 That Lay Mis-identified In My Stamp Album

By: Michael D, Smith



Fig. 1

In June, 2006 the above stamp (Fig. 1) was purchased and an attempt was made to plate it. The stamp shows a nice re-entry showing sharply in the left frame line and "PE" of PENNY. Other marks are also present, which will be discussed later. This stamp was shared with Ralph Trimble who also could not make a positive identification and said it most closely resembled position 72. This was a close match but not quite right but Ralph thought it might be a different state of that re-entry. See Fig. 2 on the next page for an image of position 72.





Fig. 2

The doubling in position 72 shown in Fig. 2 shows a similar doubling of the left frame line but the dramatic doubling in ONE HALF does not match at all with the doubling of the stamp shown in Fig. 1. I could see why Ralph might feel this could have been a different state so I mounted the stamp in my album and labeled it as such.

When I attended BNAPEX 2015 in Niagara Falls, Ontario, a visit to Vincent Graves Greene Philatelic Research Foundation in Toronto was made. At this visit we met several of the staff and saw the equipment used for expertizing stamps. We also shared and discussed stamps. One collector had a proof sheet of 120 positions of 1/2d Unitrade #8. This is a very special piece as the plate was trimmed down to a 100 positions so the printed sheets could be fed through the perforation equipment. The left two columns were trimmed from the plate to accomplish this. I always wanted to see the first two columns of the original plate to see what might be present as far as plate varieties are concerned.

To my surprise I found some interesting things including the position of the re-entry in Fig. 1. In the next pages I will discuss what was found present in the first two columns of the plate proof of 120 positions (Fig.3).





Fig. 3

The first two columns of the proof sheet, 8Pi, of 120 positions is pictured at left (Fig. 3). The positions showing verified constant plate makings are highlighted by colored squares. The blue square indicates the re-entry at position 26. The green rectangle indicates two positions (49 and 61) that are connected by lines in the shared margin between the positions. The orange square indicates position 73 which does not have a bottom frame line present.

Fred Jarrett states the following about positions 26 and 61:

“26. Doubling of “PE” and doubling of the left frame line at bottom; other letters show doubling and there is a stroke of color above the last “A” of CANADA.

61. Bottom frame line missing,” (Editors note: This is actually position 71 as found on the plate proof sheet.)

The lines in margin between positions 49 and 61 are not mentioned.



Fig. 4  
Proof Block of six of 8P Position 26 center stamp right column



Figure 4 shows a proof block of six of 8P with a beautiful example of the re-entry in position 26. This proof is not overprinted specimen so all the detail is visible. We will now take a close look at the varieties starting with position 26.

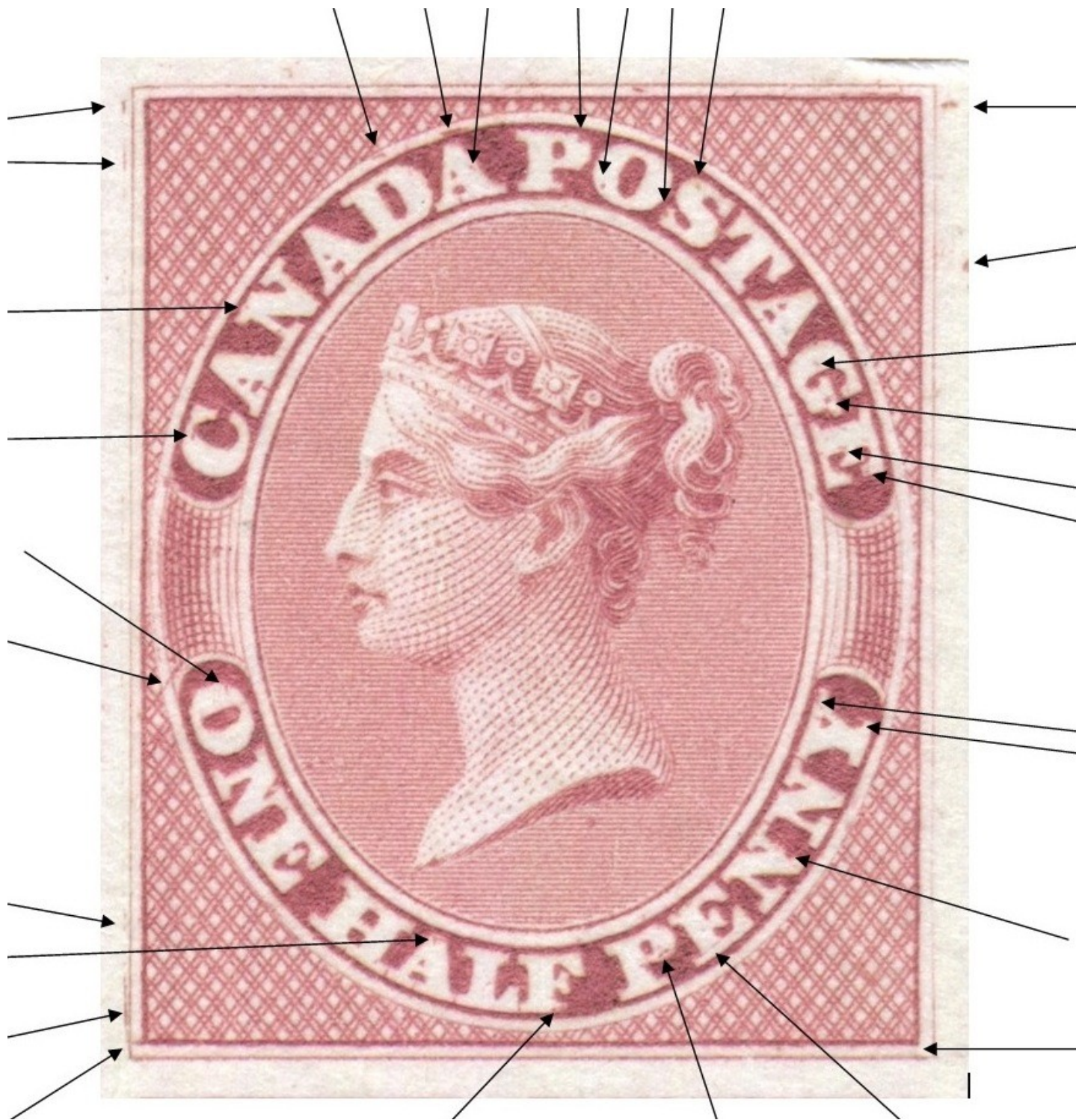


Fig. 5

Enlargement of 8P position 26 from block of six.

Arrows highlight some of the re-entry and other constant plate marks associated with this position.

On the next page a used pair is presented. You can also look at Fig. 1 and find many of the characteristics.



Fig. 6

In Fig. 6 the top stamp is position 26. The enlargement of the re-entry (Fig. 7) below shows many of the elements of the re-entry and other associated markings.

On the next page the lines in the shared margin of positions 49 and 61 will be presented.



Fig. 7





Fig. 8

Between position 49 and position 61 on the plate proof (Fig. 8) there are two lines that connect those positions through the margin. These lines are present on the used copy of position 61 shown in Fig. 9. The margin on this stamp shows a portion of position 49. Note position 61 does have a bottom frame line.

On the next page is an enlargement of the proof at position 73.



Fig. 9



Fig. 10

In position 73 (Fig. 10) on the proof sheet there is a complete absence of the bottom frame line. This is believed to be the position that Jarrett is referring to as position 61. I do not have a used copy to share of this position.

REFERENCES:

*STAMPS OF BRITISH NORTH AMERICA*, Fred Jarrett, Quarterman Publications, Inc., 1975, pg. 21.

2016 *THE UNITRADE SPECIALIZED CATALOGUE OF CANADIAN STAMPS*, Ed. D. Robin Harris, The Unitrade Press, pgs. 41 and 42.



# More on Plating the Six Cent Small Queen

By: Jim McCormick ([jim@jimmc.ca](mailto:jim@jimmc.ca))

Before showing some new discoveries, I present the table below as background information on the Small Queen Six Cent issue, based on observations mostly from my own collection.

Shade	Visible Guide Dots	Dates observed	Plate	Notes
Yellow brown	1	1872 to mid-1874	1871 plate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Clear impression.</li> <li>· Guide dot typically close to lower frame line, or hidden in it.</li> <li>· Some copies show a weak impression at top.</li> <li>· Major/strong re-entries in pp 10, 48 and 67</li> </ul>
Yellow brown	1	Early 1874	Rejected "ghostly head" plate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Weak impression in Queen's head</li> <li>· Guide dot under center of left 6.</li> <li>· Guide lines often seen through the dot.</li> <li>· A small percentage have a second guide dot in the bottom left corner.</li> </ul>
Yellow brown	2	Mid-1874 to mid-1884	1871 plate or A plate?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Guide dots typically close to lower frame line.</li> <li>· Some copies show a weak impression at top.</li> <li>· No sign of major re-entry in pp 67</li> <li>· Introduction of "neck flaw" in pp 5</li> <li>· Introduction of minor re-entries in low left and lower right frame lines.</li> </ul>
Yellow brown	3	Mid-1884 to 1890	A plate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· No sign of "neck flaw".</li> <li>· Significant re-entry in pp 10.</li> <li>· Impression strong, but not as clear as early printings.</li> <li>· Guide dots are lower relative to stamp design.</li> </ul>
Chocolate brown	0	December 1890-1892	B/C plate, 200 impressions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Different plate characteristics including major "5 on 6" flaw, some minor "5 on 6" flaws, pitting in the top row, and different major re-entries prominent in CENTS.</li> </ul>
Red brown	0	mid-1892 to end-1894, then returns in 1897	B/C plate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· As above</li> </ul>
Red brown	3	Mid-1894 to the end of period	A plate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Re-entry in pp 10 has been repaired.</li> <li>· New major re-entry in pp 24.</li> <li>· Minor "5 on 6" flaws on pp 20, 11 and 21.</li> <li>· Other minor re-entries visible in the yellow-brown 3-dot state have been repaired.</li> </ul>

## More on Plating the Six Cent Small Queen contd.

The focus here is to compare large blocks from early printings (single guide dot, 1871 plate) and late printings three guide dots, "A" plate). I have discovered several new correlations. This would not be possible without a high resolution scan of the full sheet of the late printing repaired "A" plate, courtesy of Ralph Trimble. I also thank Guillaume Vadeboncoeur for a high resolution scan of an early printing margin block of ten, and Ted Nixon for a high resolution scan of the well known early printing block of eighteen which shows the major re-entry.

What revived my interest was Jim Watt's & Glenn Archer's article from the April 2015 edition of "Confederation", and the section "Understanding the Travelling guide dots". Plate repair in 1884 resulted in the addition of a 3rd guide dot. The first two guide dots remain, however they are shifted down, and a little to the left when compared against the 1-dot and 2-dot states. But the guide dots did not travel. Rather, the stamp designs were burnished, and re-entered higher, and a little to the right. The guide dots were fixed. I discussed this recently with Jim and Glenn, and they had already drawn the same conclusion. But how did the guide dots survive the burnishing? The guide dots made a deeper impression into the plate, and therefore remain largely unaffected by plate repair.

### Proving the fixed guide dot theory

Simply, we need to overlay a set of single guide dots from an early printing multiple onto the guide dots from the same plate positions on the full sheet. If the guide dots align, we have proof that the 1871 plate went through several repairs as it transitioned over more than 20 years to the repaired "A" plate.

But, overlaying position dots is not simple. The sheets were damp when printed, and the paper shrunk when drying. One printing may show a slightly squat queen, while another may be stretched tall. Shrinkage may not even be uniform across the sheet if a bit dry near the edges. To further complicate things, perforations add to the distortion, especially in old blocks with mild separation and folding along the perforations.

Some of these challenges can be overcome with scans, computers and a photo editor. The photo editor is necessary to align the two images, and then to stretch them horizontally and vertically until the aspect ratio of the stamp designs match.

I originally tried this comparison for all 18 positions on Ted Nixon's 1-dot state block with the same plate positions from the late printing full sheet. However, perforation issues on both the sheet, and the block/18 made this near impossible to do. But a block/6 with strong perforations was simple enough to use. I transposed all 6 position dots from the early printing onto the late printing, just below the middle position dot. See Figure 1 for the result (zoom in by pressing the Ctrl key and turn the mouse wheel). Amazingly, they align with near perfection!



Figure 1 – Comparison of guide dots for pp 56-58/66-68 between early and late printings



## The imprints

Figure 2 shows a beautiful mint block/10 from the 1871 plate (1-dot state) for comparison to the same plate positions from the repaired A plate (3-dot state). First, take note on how similar the imprints are, and their positioning relative to the stamp design



Figure 2 – Comparison of 1871 plate and A plate, pp 83-87 / 93-97



Figure 3 – Comparison between imprint + guide dots on 1871 plate and A plate

Figure 3 compares the imprints up close, and it is clear that the late printing imprint shows a weak impression, however there are subtle characteristics that match the early printing. These can be seen in the ovals on the image. This is evidence that the imprint was not re-entered during plate repair. Remember, the stamp designs shifted upon repair, but the guide dot from 1871 remained as the middle dot in the 3-dot state of the A plate. Considering that, the middle guide dot is the reference point to measuring the position of the imprint. Remarkably, the imprint is in perfect alignment with the guide dot on early and late printings!



### A strong correlation - plate position 10

See figure 4, showing plate position 10 from the 1-dot state, 3-dot state (A plate), and 3-dot state (repaired A plate, final state). The re-entry in the 1-dot state shows a strong horizontal shifted re-entry through CANADA POSTAGE and the top frame. The yellow-brown 3-dot state shows a similar re-entry, although not as strong (and note how the stamp design is shifted up relative to the 1-dot state). The red-brown 3-dot state was again repaired. The stamp design shifted up again and a little to the left (observed by comparing with the fixed guide dots). All that remains from the yellow-brown 3-dot impression is are small markings in the lower right corner, and a small dash in "O" of POSTAGE. The re-entry on the 1871 plate is identified from position based on a margin block/10 (with selvage) in the Brigham collection.

Not critical but of interest, plate position 20 in the final state of the A plate shows the strongest of the minor "5 on 6" entries. This was likely done as a result of over-rocking the transfer roll while repairing plate position 10. Fun!



Figure 4 – Re-entry progression on pp10

Editor has added the following images to show the details described in the three stamps shown in Figure 4:



Figure 4a-Re-entry Detail 1871 Plate pp10





Figure 4b-Single Position Dot Lower Left 1871 Plate pp10



Figure 4c-Re-entry Detail "A" Plate Unrepaired State pp10



Figure 4d-Three Position Dots Lower Left "A" Plate Unrepaired State pp10



Figure 4e- Re-entry Detail "A" Plate Repaired State pp10





**Figure 4f-Three Guide Dots Lower Left Plate “A” Repaired State pp10**

**Upwards shifts for plate positions 48 and 67**

Plate position 67 had the major re-entry, and position 48 the “demi-major” re-entry. Both stamp impressions on the 1871 plate show a strong upwards shift relative to the stamps to their left and right. No trace of those re-entries can be found on the “A” plate, however the strong upward shifts exist for both positions. No other positions on the A plate full sheet display similarly strong upward shifts. Figure 5 demonstrates this for pp 67. This does not prove anything, but it is a strong correlation that can not be ignored.

**Narrow spacing between vertical rows 3 and 4**

Upon producing the plates, the siderographer made an attempt to space the stamp designs evenly across the sheet up/down and left/right. However from the full sheet of the repaired A plate, there is narrow spacing between the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> vertical rows. It is no coincidence that vertical rows 3 and 4 are also close together on Ted Nixon's early block/18 from the 1-dot state. Figure 5 shows the comparison of the spacing for pp 63-68.



**Figure 5 – narrow spacing between vertical rows 3 and 4 on 1-dot and 3-dot states**

**My wish list for high resolution scans:**

- 1 – 1980 Simpson sale, lot 495, an early state strip/4 showing the counter and imprint in selvage
- 2 – 1980 Simpson sale, lot 496, and early state top right margin block/10 showing portion of imprint

**How many plates were produced?**

- 1 – 1871 plate / A plate (one and the same)
- 2 – Rejected “ghostly head” plate, probably put into service briefly during the first major repair of the 1871 plate
- 3 – B/C plate of 200 subjects put in service in 1890.

When was the “A” added to the plate? A question was raised about the point of adding the “A” if there was nothing to distinguish it against. I have only seen it in margin blocks in the 3-dot state. It is possible that the “A” was added in the late 1880's when the B/C plate of 200 was created.

**Conclusion:**

The links between the 1871 and “A” plate are too strong and numerous to be coincidence. The matching of imprints is the strongest link. So the one 1871 / A plate was responsible for most of the 25,000,000 yellow-brown 6 cent stamps, and perhaps half of the red-brown 6 cent stamps from the 2<sup>nd</sup> Ottawa printings. It seems reasonable that the BABNCo would invest in plate repair rather than new plate production as a cost savings measure.

**References:**

- Ralph Trimble's <http://www.re-entries.com> site
- John Hillson's article for Confederation September 2014
- Glenn Archer's / Jim Watt's article for Confederation April 2015
- Stanley Gibbons Auction November 18, 1980, Canada The Simpson Small Queens

This article originally appeared in **Confederation The Newsletter of the BNAPS Large and Small Queens Study Group, Volume 61, December, 2015.**



# Re-entries on the One Cent Diamond Jubilee

By Michael D. Smith

Some years ago I sent Ralph Trimble a scan of what I thought was a re-entry on this Jubilee denomination. He very quickly added it to his web site as “#1 Scott #51 One Cent Orange Re-entry 1” (Fig. 1 and 2). He also wrote the following description:

“FINALLY, we have the very first report of a re-entry on the 1¢ Jubilee! There are numerous marks to be found in CANADA POSTAGE, although those in POSTA are certainly the most interesting. Several marks in the central Crown also show indications of a nice shift in the design.

The colour of this stamp is likely the reason it has taken so long for this re-entry to come to light, and finding others may not be easy.

I am pleased to report that my old friend, Michael D. Smith, is the discoverer of this, our very first 1¢ Jubilee re-entry! He couldn't wait to zip some scans off to me as soon as he found it.

Congrats, Michael! Lovely!”



Fig. 1 Discovery Copy Now Listed in Unitrade as #51ii.



Fig. 2 The Discovery of LL Corner Block Showing Re-entry in Upper Right Stamp Position 82, Discovered by Pierre Hudon. This could be from Plate 5 or Plate 15.

Figure 3 (Below) Points to Elements of the Re-entry.



After finding #51ii, I found a different re-entry and sent it to Ralph for verification. Apparently Earl Noss was also looking through his #51's at about the same time I was as Ralph also posts a verifying copy of the same re-entry furnished by Earl on his web site.

Ralph has this listed as #2, plate and position unknown. I have been able to see a full sheet of 100 of this stamp printed from Plate 6 and have found this re-entry at position 99. Unitrade lists this re-entry as #51 iii (Figs, 4 and 5).



Fig. 4 Plate 6, Position 99, Cropped from Scan of Plate 6 Sheet.

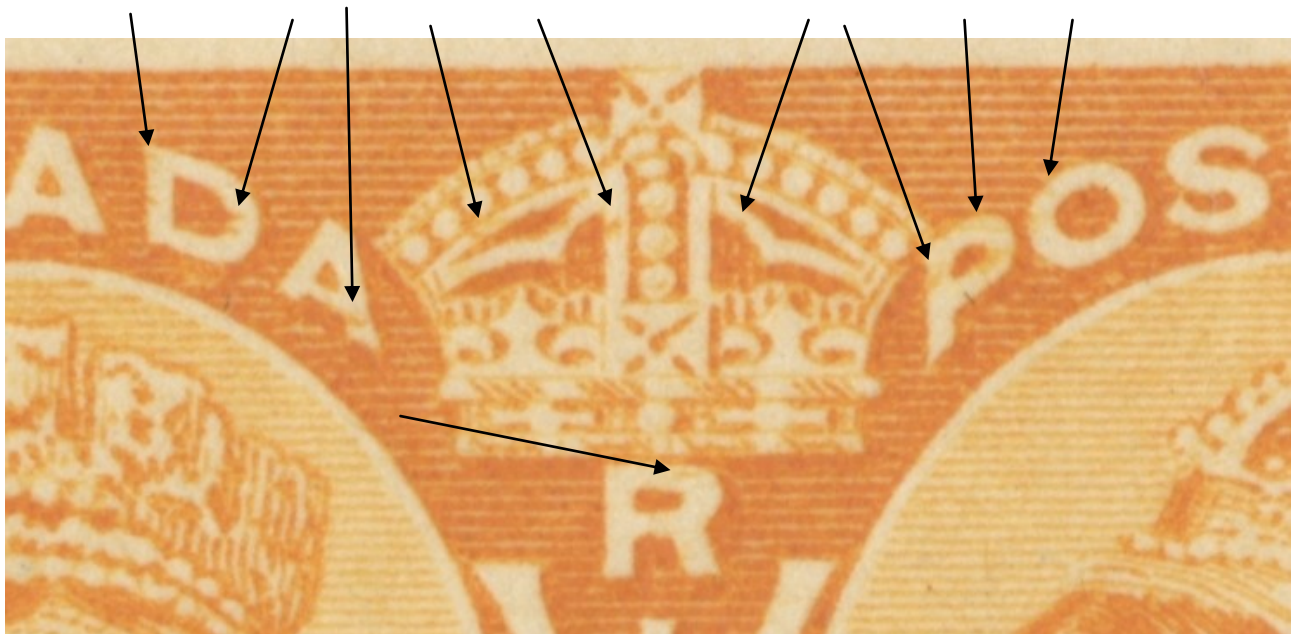


Fig. 5 Arrows Point to Some of the Detail for this Re-entry.



Unitrade lists this next re-entry as 51iv. Earl Noss has a beautiful Proof copy (Figs. 6 and 7) which is presented here along with my used copy (Fig. 8) to show how the detail shows on the issued stamp. Plate number and position are unknown. This is Ralph Trimble's #3 of this stamp at [www.re-entries.com](http://www.re-entries.com).



Fig. 6 Unitrade 51P iv.  
Image: Courtesy of Earl Noss



Fig. 7 Arrows pointing to areas of re-entry.



Fig. 8 The light color and paper texture affect the clarity compared to the proof image above but your editor feels this stamp shows the same re-entry.

The next re-entry is listed on Ralph's web site as re-entry #4 (Figs. 9 and 10). Earl Noss found this re-entry which has yet to be plated. There are a lot of small marks in ADA POS and the Crown.



Fig. 9 Ralph's Re-entry #4.  
Image: Courtesy of Earl Noss



Fig. 10 Arrows point to the boldest marks on this re-entry. There are also faint marks in the Crown



The next re-entry is not listed in Unitrade or on Ralph's web site. This was found on Plate 6 at Position 62 (Figs. 11,12 and 13), and has been verified as a constant variety. Thanks to David Noss' image we were able to find this one on the sheet as I had not noticed it when I examined the sheet.



Fig. 11 Plate 6, Position 62 Image Cropped from Image of Plate 6.



Fig. 12 Arrows highlight the marks of the re-entry.



Fig 13 The darker color of this stamp shows the re-entry marks better.  
Image cropped from stamp image courtesy of David Noss

This next one is on Plate 6, Position 90 (Figs. 14, 15, and 16). The only copy seen is from the mint sheet so it is not proven as a constant variety. There are a lot of odd marks in this stamp but there are two that really stand out. There is a small mark in the top back of "E" of POSTAGE and another in the bottom of central "V". If anyone has a confirming copy of this variety please let us know.



Fig. 14. Plate 6, Position 90



Fig. 15. Arrow points to mark in E

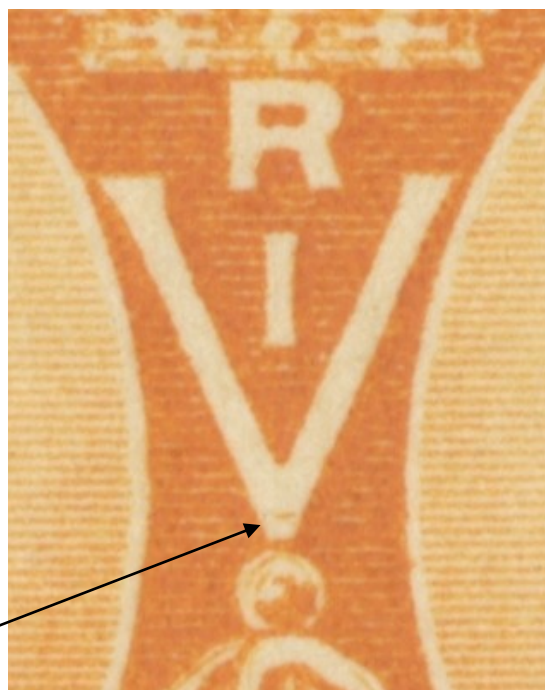


Fig. 16. Arrow points to mark in V



## CONCLUSION:

Ralph Trimble has four of the re-entries on [www.re-entries.com](http://www.re-entries.com) and you can find more information on those there. 2016 Unitrade Specialized Catalogue also mentions three of the re-entries on page 58. Ralph Trimble states on his web site that he examined a 1200 dpi scan of a sheet of 100 from Plate 16 and found no re-entries. I have examined a sheet of 100 from Plate 6 and found three interesting stamps included in this article. If you wish a link to a 1200 dpi scan of Plate 6 please contact me via e-mail and I will send it to you. Another pair of eyes might spot something I may have missed. I now wish we had Plates 5 and 15 to look at, as we still have unidentified re-entries and who knows what else might be found.

My thanks to Earl Noss, David Noss, and Jim Jung for contributing images and verifications of what we know of the re-entries presented here.

I also wish to thank the librarian at the Harry Sutherland Philatelic Library at the Vincent Graves Greene Foundation for her efforts in trying to find other reference material there. They had no reference material on the 1-cent value unfortunately.

## REFERENCES:

Ralph Trimble's [www.re-entries.com](http://www.re-entries.com)

2016 *THE UNITRADE SPECIALIZED CATALOGUE OF CANADIAN STAMPS*, Ed., D. Robin Harris, The Unitrade Press, pg. 58.