

# Dots and Scratches

Re-entries and Constant Plate Varieties

Study Group of the BNAPS

Edited by Michael D. Smith



Unitrade #7iv Position 53 Major Re-entry

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### FROM YOUR EDITOR

This issue brings you four interesting articles. The first one is a Cover that was presented in an article in the Pence-Cents Era Study Group Newsletter. Ron Majors shared a cover bearing three 5-cent Beavers and Guillaume Vadeboncoeur spotted what he felt was a re-entry in the image of the cover. Ron contacted me and I will let you read the story to find out what was found. This is an excellent example of how sharing stamps in ones collection could lead to some interesting surprises.

The second article was submitted by Jim Jung. He shares with us a very nice cover franked by a single and a strip of five of the 2-cent Large Queen. The strip of five has some interesting stamps in it and gives verification of the position for a variety.

The third article is submitted by Jason McLellan a reader of Dots and Scratches that is not yet a formal member of BNAPS. I still welcomed his article on a 3-cent Small Queen that shows the re-entry discussed in Dots and Scratches #4 and #5 on a nice cover.

The fourth article has been submitted by John Hillson. He shares what maybe evidence of a hitherto unknown plate being used to print the 6-cent denomination of the Small Queen issue.

I regret missing the BNAPEX at Fredericton. I hope all enjoyed the presentation I furnished. I sent out a link to a more enhanced version to the membership. Bill Radcliffe also informed me that I was presented the John S. Siverts Award for the best study group newsletter for 2015. I owe many of the readers a big thank you for contributing articles and material to use in the newsletter. Without your help I could not have won this award. I am honored to accept it on behalf of everyone who has contributed material. As always feel free to share your interesting items and finds and if you research something interesting pass along an article or two. They don't have to be perfect as I can edit them and you will see what I am presenting before publishing if you wish to change anything I do.

I have two members I can not e-mail as the e-mail addresses do not work. If you change your e-mail please let me know via the email on the index page so I can keep the contact list current.

By the way if you go to the BNAPS web site and go to newsletters Dots and Scratches numbers 1 through 5 are available online.

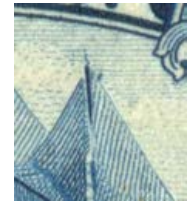
I hope all of you have a nice Holiday Season and good hunting for stamp varieties.

Mike



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# A Story of a Rare 15-Cent Rate Cover to England That Proved to be More than Meets the Eye

By Michael D. Smith

In the Pence-Cents Era Study Group newsletter, Vol. 5, No. 2, August, 2016, an article by Ron Majors entitled “*A Decimal Rated Letter to Scotland but No 15c Stamp*” caught the eye of Guillaume Vadeboncoeur. He e-mailed Ron saying “Ron, Looks from the scan of your cover like the left side of the left stamp from the pair shows a re-entry. Scan is fuzzy so may not be the case, but it is worth checking.” Guillaume in further correspondence with Ron recommended he get in touch with me and he did. The first scan sent was fuzzy as stated but I informed Ron I felt it was the major re-entry and asked he send a better scan which he did (Fig. 1).



Fig. 1

I then enlarged the stamps to see the detail better and see if I could establish the plate positions and the state of the plate the stamps were printed from. I could not plate the single stamp definitively but the pair (Fig. 2) was a pleasant surprise. I will show images of the stamps on the next page, The left stamp of the pair on the cover is easily identified as the major re-entry. I got out my Kershaw book for States 10-11 of the plate and looked up the major re-entry at position 28 of course it matched the left stamp in the pair. Now how could one determine which state of the plate this stamp came from? There appears to be no way to distinguish them by looking at the major re-entry so I decided to see what the right stamp position 29 might have to offer in identification.



Fig. 2



The major re-entry at position 28 is easily recognized (Fig. 3)



Fig. 3

Position 29 (Fig.4) is easily identified by being attached to position 28. But there is a significant difference in states 10 and 11 of this position. On state 10 there would be three dots under the “P” of POSTAGE. On state 11 there is only one dot. This stamp has one dot (Fig. 5) so the pair is from state 11.



Fig. 4



Fig. 5  
Circle indicates the single dot.

## Conclusions:

Here we have a case where a collector shared a rare rate usage cover but was not collecting plate varieties and never took a close look at the stamps franking his cover. When it was shared a collector that collects printing varieties spotted something unusual on one stamp. It was then further examined and a rare usage cover was determined to have a beautiful major re-entry that could be identified to the position on the printing plate and the exact state of that plate.

This demonstrates how sharing can make collecting even more enjoyable. One never knows what another's pair of eyes might see because they maybe more familiar with another aspect to collecting.

Ron now knows that his cover is not only a rare usage but it is also franked with a very nice copy of a major re-entry.

## References:

**THE FIVE CENT BEAVER 1 THE PLATE PROOFS OF STATES 10-11**, Kenneth A. Kershaw, Published by The British North America Philatelic Society, Pgs. 56-59.

**Pence-Cents Era Study Group Volume 5, Number 2, August, 2016**, pg. 4, *A Decimal Rated Letter to Scotland but No 15c Stamp*, Ronald E. Majors.



# 2c Large Queen – Spur in Left Outer Frame Line Plate Position 4

By: Jim Jung



Fig. 1

This large Registered cover (Fig. 1) has an impressive franking with a strip of 5 plus a single of the 2c Large Queen issue all tied to each other and the blue envelope by 7 ring targets. There are two straight line Registered cancels and a BERWICK MR 8 72 dispatch on the front, addressed to Lindsay with a PORT HOPE MR 12 72 transit and LINDSAY MR 12 72 receiver on the back. There are two Registration numbers written at left for the delivery of the letter.

The rate could be the quadruple weight domestic rate of 12c (4 x 3c). In this case the 2c Registration fee would have been paid in cash. Since the REGISTERED cancels were placed on the envelope before the single left stamp was added, the single stamp could be for the Registration fee which would leave the 5 x 2c stamps to overpay a triple weight rate. The manuscript "4" to the left of the stamps is interesting and I'm not sure what this is for. Registration is a fixed fee of 2c which did not increase with weight. It appears to be related to the rate.

Although the cover is folded and worn, the stamps bear an important story and that is why I am writing this article.



Fig. 2

We will be taking a close look at two very nice varieties in the strip of 5 stamps pictured in Fig. 2. The sixth stamp at left is not attached to the strip.



When we zoom in on the 2<sup>nd</sup> stamp from the right (Fig. 3) we notice this stamp has the known Major Re-entry from Position 7 of the plate with marks most noticeable in the ANAD of CANADA and PO of POSTAGE. This is catalogued in Unitrade as 24v. It is fortunate that the stamps are in a bright green shade which shows the details very clearly. It's nice to have the Major Re-entry in a multiple as well as having it on cover. The Major also clearly identifies the strip of five as being from position 4-8.



Fig. 3



There is also a dot between the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> stamps. This is believed to be a positioning Guide dot for the Printer's Imprint (Fig. 4) .



Fig. 4

After the recent new entry of the “Spur in left outer frame line” variety in Unitrade (24viii), it was pointed out to me that the 2<sup>nd</sup> stamp from the left had this variety (Fig. 5). This is exciting news because when we count back from the Position 7 Major Re-entry, we get the Plate Position of the “Spur” variety at Position 4.

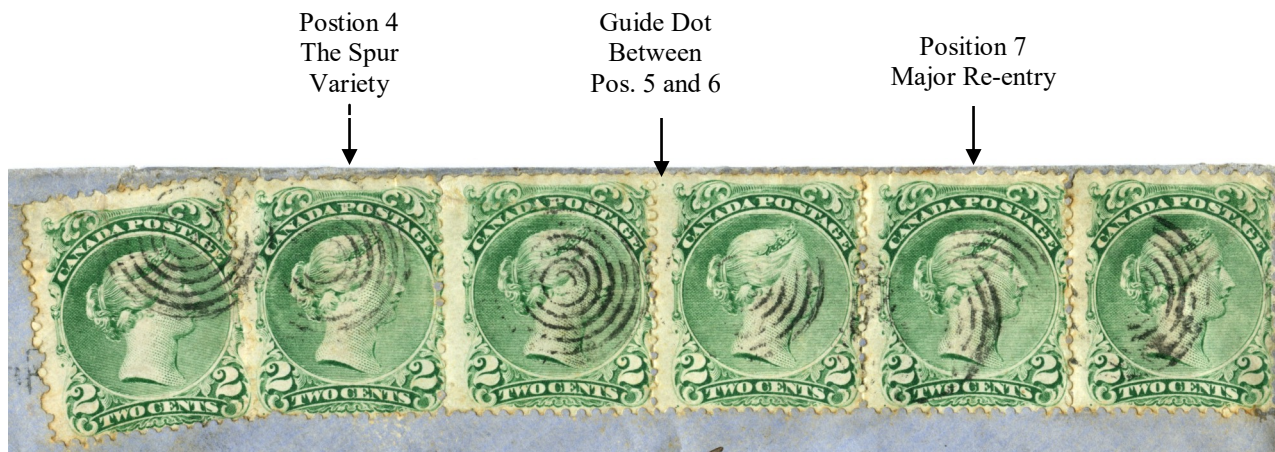


Fig. 5

This variety has been discovered previously by Lees-Jones and described as: "... a spur on the bone at left joining scroll of CANADA panel to foliage leaf above "2" in S. W. corner." Lees-Jones describes this stamp as coming from late printings and being the "fourth stamp in the top row of Plate 2." The strip of five on this cover certainly proves this statement and now Unitrade can add this small piece of information to their listing.

## Conclusion:

The diagram below points to the various variety locations on the strip of five.



## References:

*The Large Queen Stamps of Canada and Their Use*, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition – H. E. & H. W. Duckworth, 2008, The Vincent G. Greene Philatelic Research Foundation, pgs. 85, 86.

*2017 The Unitrade Specialized Catalogue of Canadian Stamps*, Ed. D. Robin Harris, The Unitrade Press, pg. 48.



# Another Copy of the 3-cent Small Queen Re-entry Discussed in Dots and Scratches #4 and #5 Reported

By Jason McLellan

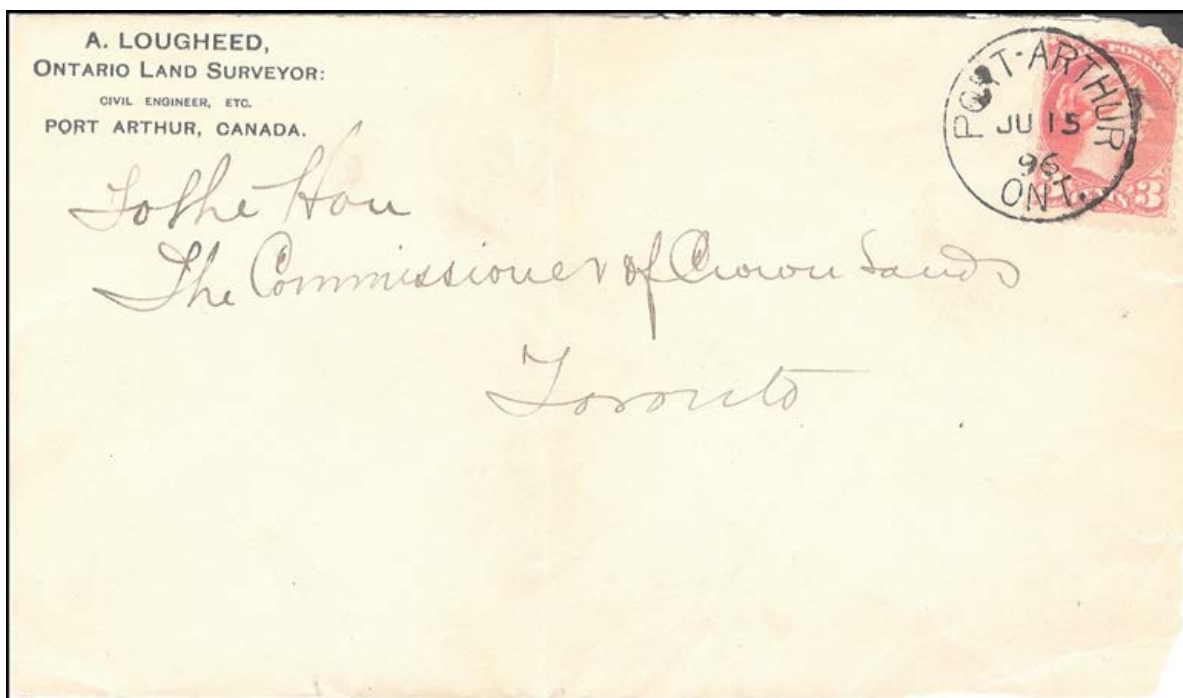


Fig. 1

This cover features another example of the 3-cent Small Queen re-entry that was featured in Dots and Scratches, Whole No. 4, Pg. 24.

The cover was postmarked in Port Arthur, Ontario, on June 15, 1896. Port Arthur amalgamated with Fort William in 1970 to form Thunder Bay. The cover is addressed to the Honourable Commissioner of Crown Lands, a precursor to Ontario's Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry and Minister of Northern Development and Mines. It is quite possible that the contents of this envelope once contained something to do with a mining lands survey, given the government department being addressed and the history of mining in Northern Ontario.

#### Dated Copies Reported For This Re-entry:

AP 16, 95	JU 10, 95
JU 15, 96 (cover shown here)	DE 10, 96
JA 15, 97	JA, 97
AP 9, 97	NO 26, 97

An enlargement of the Stamp is shown on the next page in figure 2.



Fig. 2

The key features of the re-entry are circled. Dated copies show this re-entry in use from 1895 to 1897.

### References:

Dots and Scratches #4 pg. 24 and #5 pg. 14 , May and June, 2015.



# The Six Cent Small Queen – Another puzzle

By John Hillson FRPSL

Between 1872 and 1888 some 25 million of this denomination were printed. Normally this would have required making four or five plates to cope with such a number as happened with other values in the series.

Now of course it would have been perfectly possible to produce all those stamps from one plate – providing of course it was withdrawn from production eight or nine times for repair, and the customer, the P.O.D., was prepared to hang about for their urgent demands – particularly in the hey-day of the 6c before the end of 1875 – to be met. There is, unfortunately, no evidence that the 1871 plate was ever repaired more than once – unless one believes that two repairs would have done the whole job without being worn as smooth as the proverbial baby's bum.

I was privileged in 1889 to be able to examine the late Bill Simpson's superlative Six Cents when he brought them over to Ayr (Scotland) and at that time he drew my attention to two imprint pieces in yellow-brown, one being the well known top right hand imprint block of ten from the 1871 plate – the other was not from either the 'Ghostly Head', nor from the 'A' plate, because the imprint positions did not match one another, nor did the one that was not from the 1871 plate match that of the 'A' plate.

When Maresch subsequently sold the Simpson collection I waited agog for this odd imprint piece to show up, as I had every intention at having a serious go at buying it, even if the result were that my late wife and I would have to sell up and go live in a tent. It never showed. Goodness knows what happened to it. But I was successful in acquiring a cover from the Simpson sales which is what has given rise to this piece. (Fig 1). The stamp not only has but one position dot, it is also re-entered as can be seen from the blow-up of the stamp (Fig 2). The cover is dated 1878, while the stamp on the piece of a parcel was used in 1882 (Figures 3 & 4).

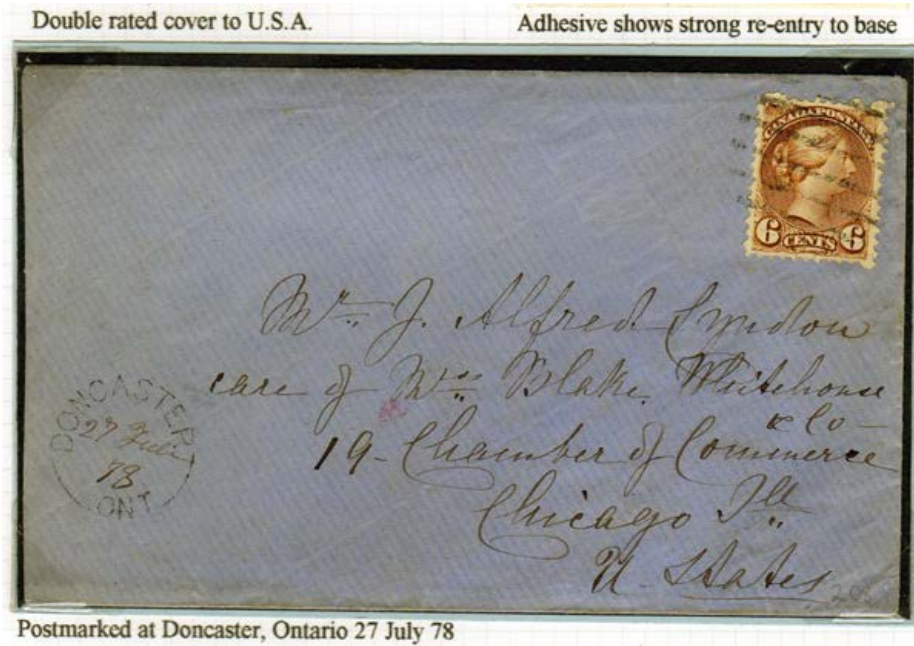


Fig. 1





Fig. 2



Single position dot example on trimmed slip endorsed ms 'Parcel Post' to Quebec  
paying parcel post rate of 6c to 4 oz. and cancelled with Blue c.d.s.  
of St. Joseph de Beauce, Que of OC 9 82. Date  
confirmed by faint c.d.s. on reverse

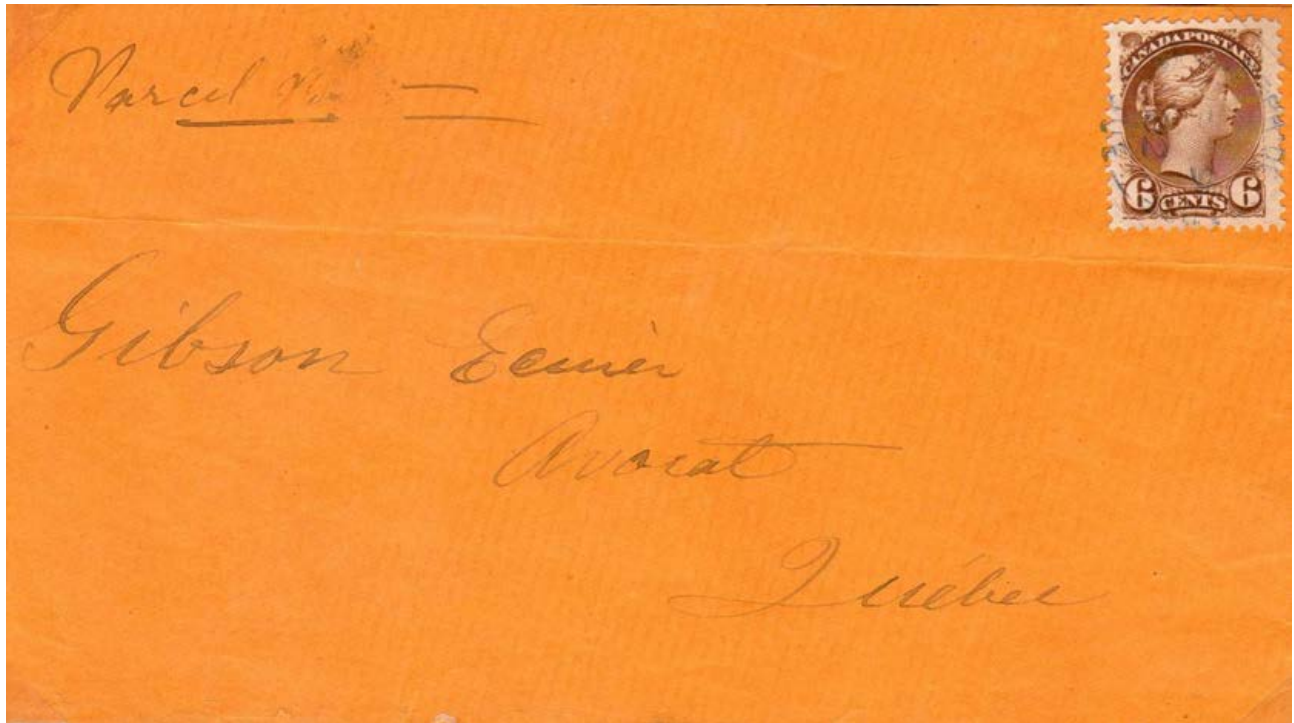


Fig. 3



Fig. 4



Also shown are a couple of examples from the same mid Montreal period (1878 – 1882) – all stamps illustrated incidentally are perf. 12 all round, which confirms they are not late use of an earlier printing. The stamp subject of Figure 5 is a typical mid Montreal print, while that of Figure 6, dated 1878 is on very thin paper which I hoped when I bought it in a CPS of GB auction would be pelure paper, but it isn't. There is also just a suspicion of what might be a second dot hidden in the design bottom left, which I point out just to stop anyone jumping up and down because they think they have spotted something. I've had it under a very high powered illuminated magnifying glass and I am not sure one way or the other.



Fig. 5





Fig. 6

Now to something really intriguing. It is of a strip of four (Fig 7) where you will see three of the stamps clearly have 2 dots, but the second stamp from the left has only one. No, there is not a hidden one, the strip was examined by an expert who currently is much involved with the Vincent Graves Green Foundation. It has to be from the 1871 plate. It is perf. 12 all round so again it is a mid-Montreal printing.





Fig. 7



Bottoms of Left Two Stamps in Fig. 7



Bottoms of Right Two Stamps in Fig. 7

The question I have to put to you is this. Are the other examples simply stamps from the 1871 plate indicating that several positions here and there did not pick up a second dot when repaired, or are they examples from a plate that hitherto has been unknown?

One last word for the one plate theorists; I have several times pointed out material differences between the 1871 plate and the 'A' plate, so here is one more for the pot. And if you have a nice straight edge such as a ruler and place it along any decent illustration of the 1871 top imprints, and then do the same with an 'A' plate top imprint, you will find, possibly as a complete surprise, that whereas the 'A' plate imprint is dead parallel to the stamps below, the 1871 plate has a slight but definite slant.

QED?