

Dots and Scratches

Re-entries and Constant Plate Varieties

Study Group of the BNAPS

Edited by Michael D. Smith



Unused #9 with re-entranced imprint from position 25.
Stamp also shows evidence of a dry printing.

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FROM YOUR EDITOR

I enjoyed putting this issue together, but if you are a bit superstitious it is Issue #13. You might want to keep your fingers crossed as you read it.

I had a very enjoyable visit to ORAPEX and, as usual, a number of us got together at Jim McCormick's house Friday night and were up to the wee hours trading, sharing and discussing stamps. A big thank you to Deborah who puts up with us nutty stamp collectors one weekend a year. She is always a pleasure to talk to.

I have shared two of my ORAPEX finds in this issue. The best one is on the cover page showing the upper left re-entered imprint on an unused #9. The other is the 10-cent Decimal Issue with a nice example of the "Chin Flaw" from position 20 on the late state of the plate. I made a few other finds as well including a 2-cent LQ showing the "Needle Nose" variety for under \$10.00.

Saturday night Guillaume Vadeboncoeur hosted the combined study group get together for the Large Queen and Small Queen Study Group and the Re-entry and Constant Plate Variety Study Group. We had the largest turn out so far for this get together. A lot of sharing was done and if you attend ORAPEX you might want to get with these groups on Saturday Night as it is a nice informal get together with a lot of very knowledgeable collectors in attendance. Thanks goes to Guillaume for getting this event going. ORAPEX would not be the same without it.

Scott Robinson contributed an interesting article on the 1898 Map Stamp which is greatly appreciated.

Don't tell anyone but I have included a non-postage stamp in this issue. I collect revenue stamps as well as postage stamps. I have found a nice re-entry on one so I share a 9-cent Bill Stamp. This is my only revenue stamp showing a re-entry.

I need to make an appeal for a few articles from the readership. I can work with anyone wishing to share a stamp in Dots and Scratches. I also would appreciate that e-mails pertaining to new articles be under a new subject with "DS Article" as part of the subject line. I fear I have lost some articles in some of the email conversations and can't find them by searching. If you have submitted an article I have not used please re-submit it.

I will not be going to BNAPEX in Calgary. I can prepare a presentation if a member of the study group would volunteer to present it. Please let me know if any of you would be willing to give a presentation at the exhibition as soon as possible. As I will need to start working on one very soon.

Best regards,

Mike



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Queen Victoria

7 1/2d

Re-entered Imprints and a Repeating Plate Flaw

By: Michael D. Smith

On the front cover I have shown the re-entered imprint associated with position 25. The upper left imprint affects the left margin at positions 13, 25, 37 on the sheet. I have a proof block of six showing this imprint in its entirety. The outer margin is cut close which affects the top of the letters but the re-entered imprint can still be seen in Figures 1 and 2. The astute viewer may also note a repeating flaw in the second column of the proof block of six illustrated in Figure 2. I will discuss this flaw later on.



Fig. 1



Fig. 2

There is another re-entered imprint at positions 117 and 118 in the bottom margin. My used single of position 117 is presented here (Fig. 3) along with a proof pair cropped from an image of a proof strip of 12 courtesy of John Jamieson of Saskatoon Stamp Centre (Fig. 4).



Fig. 3



Fig. 4

The second column has a repeating flaw at positions 2, 14, 26, 38, 50, and 110. I have 4 proofs showing the unusual flaw. The strip of three is cropped from my plate proof block of six. They are positions 14, 26, and 38 (Fig. 5). The proof single is from position 110 (Fig. 6a, b). A very intriguing variety and the cause is not known. The flaw consists of two marks that occur at the left margin on the frame lines. One is above CA of CANADA and the other next to the lower left 6.



Fig. 5

Fig. 6a →



Fig. 6b
↓



References:

Ralph Trimble's web site:
www.re-entries.com

Scott Robinson's web site:
www.flyspecker.com

John Jamieson, Saskatoon Stamp Centre

Quick Reference For Ten Cent Decimal Issue

“Chin Flaw”

By: Michael D. Smith

The “Chin Flaw”, Whitworth’s plate feature 20, shows up after the second general repair that occurred after some sheets had been printed from the 26th order of Aug. 27, 1867. The imprints were added to the plate in 1864 and the “C” flaws appeared. The “C” flaws, produced in the first general repair, are weaker in the second general repair of the plate. For reference sake I am including two proof images of position 20. The first is an early plate proof circa 1859 that does not show the flaw (Fig. 1). The second is circa 1867 and shows a nice strong chin flaw (Fig. 2). Both images are cropped from my plate proof sheets. Also, for reference, Figure 3 on the following page shows position 80 with imprint. Note the guide dot at 3 O’clock is between the frame lines at position 20 and outside the frame lines at position 80.



Fig. 1



Fig. 2

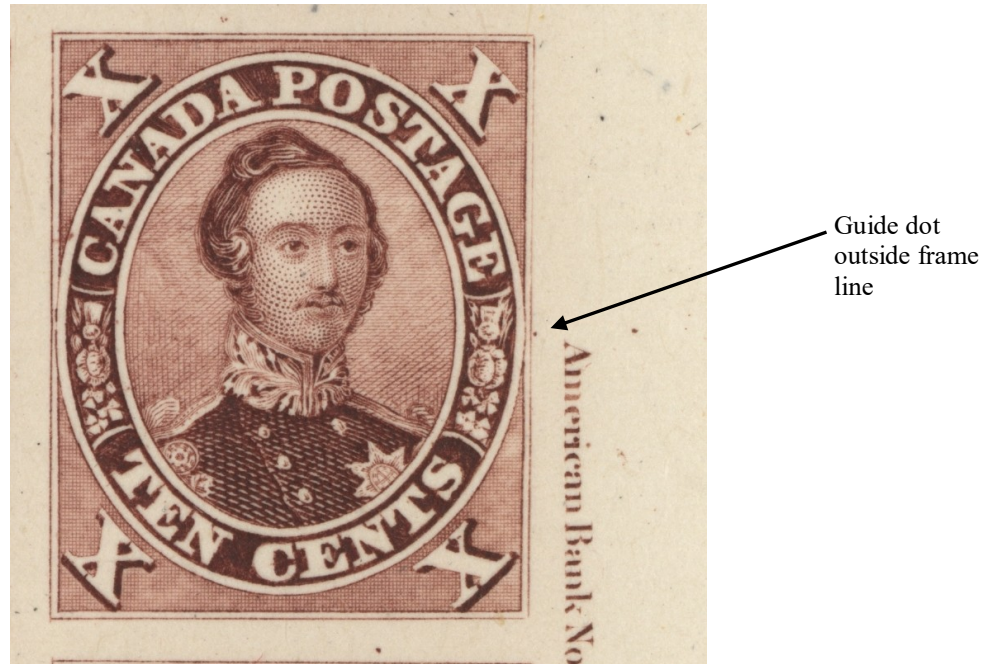


Fig. 3

Now we will examine an actual stamp showing the “Chin Flaw” from position 20 (Fig. 4). The dot in upper margin is present. The guide dot at 3 O’clock is inside the frame line. The stamp is off center so just a small trace of the “C” flaw is present but the imprint shows nicely. The “Chin Flaw” is slightly weaker than the one in the proof but is present.



Fig.4

References:

THE FIRST DECIMAL ISSUE OF CANADA 1859-68, Geoffrey Whitworth, The Royal Philatelic Society, London, White Crescent Press Ltd, Luton, Bedfordshire, 1966, pgs. 74 and 77.

Scott Robinson’s www.flyspecker.com (Scott Robinson calls this flaw the “Close Shave” variety).

A Spectacular Misplaced Entry on Map Stamp

By Scott Robinson, FlySpecker.com

Recently, your editor, Michael D. Smith, shared a scan of his favourite Map stamp with me. The stamp is a well-known variety from black plate 2, red plate A, position 84 (or 2A84 as it is known to map stamp enthusiasts). The stamp is shown below (Fig. 1). It is a nice mint copy with greenish blue oceans and just a hint of the oxidation that causes the "muddy waters" colour changeling shades.



Fig. 1

Like most map stamps, the red plate shows some unique features at this position including an extra island above New Zealand, some additional red marks in Africa, and a rather oddly shaped representation of Great Britain and Ireland. Since red plate A is used for all printings from black plates 1, 2, and 3, these features are common to each of these plates at position 84. What makes this stamp such an interesting variety is the features of black plate 2 at this position. There are a number of unusual marks at the top of the stamp including the upper margin, cable border and the letters of POSTAGE. Most noticeable is probably the extensions of the vertical cables on each side into the top margin and other strange marks between these but mostly on the right side of the top border. There are also marks in POSTAGE, most notably the "O", and several tiny marks that hard to make out in the cabled border.

This variety has commonly been referred to as a major re-entry in most of the philatelic literature. While the extensions of the side cables do have the appearance of upward doubling caused by a typical re-entry, they are not typical of other re-entries on this issue and the marks in the upper margin above POSTAGE do not seem to correspond with any doubling of the cabling

below or the letters even further below. Clearly this is not a typical re-entry. Ralph Trimble correctly classifies this variety as a misplaced entry on his website at re-entries.com. Consequently, I decided to do a little exploration in Photoshop to see just how misplaced this extra entry actually is.

I started my investigation by creating a new layer over the stamp scan and tracing over all the major misplaced marks so that I would have an isolated version of them to experiment with. I then used this layer showing only the misplaced marks as an overlay that I could move around the screen to see where else they corresponded to on the normal stamp design. This process was simplified by the doubled side cable marks which made it clear that the misplacement was only vertical and not horizontal in nature. As I slid my overlay of marks down the screen, I got about half way down when suddenly everything lined up near the 40th parallel line that runs through Japan, middle North America and lower Europe. The image below (Fig. 2) shows the highlighted misplaced entry marks in blue and their corresponding locations on the normal stamp design in red.



Fig. 2

The image clearly shows that the hairline marks in the top margin are from parts of the coast of lower Europe, the Black Sea, and the Caspian Sea. The marks in "POSTAGE" are from the upper coast of Africa. Other more minor marks in the top margin come from the coasts of North America and Asia. So, this black plate variety consists of a partial misplaced entry that is almost half a stamp too high. I would suggest that a dropped transfer roll is the most likely cause for the misplacement. Whatever the cause, this is certainly one of the more spectacular varieties of this issue.

Two 5-cent King George V “Medallion” Issue

By Michael D. Smith

In this article we will look at two of the most notable re-entries on the 5-cent value. The first will be the Major Re-entry from Plate 1, Position 10, Upper Left Pane. The second will be the “Blue Nose” Re-entry, Plate 2, Position 79, Upper Left Pane.

The Major Re-entry (Unitrade 199i) Pl. 1, Pos. 10, UL is most notably doubled in and around CAN of CANADA, but on close examination the re-entry can be seen all the way across to the cross hatching at the upper right corner behind the crown extending to the right. All the letters of CANADA also have some doubling. The stamp (Fig. 1) has the re-entry shown in Figure 2. The image in Figure 2 captures most of the obvious doubling. If you take a strong magnifier and get a good look at the re-entry on a stamp, a lot of the smaller details are doubled as well.



Fig.1



Fig. 2

The stamp in Figure 3 (Unitrade 199ii) is very interesting and is noted for the shift of the horizontal lines into the white area of the nose (Fig. 4), thus the nickname “blue nose” re-entry. Although this stands out well there are small extensions of the horizontal lines in the lower right portrait oval and above the leaves in lower right as well (Fig. 5). There are other areas on the stamp that show doubling as well.



Fig. 3

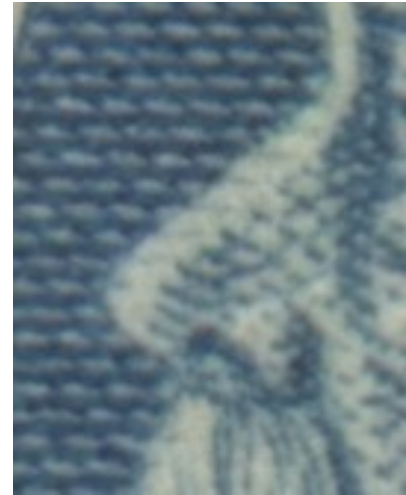


Fig. 4



Fig.5

References:

Scott Robinson's website: www.flyspecker.com

Ralph Trimble's website: www.re-entries.com

2017 UNITRADE SPECIALIZED CATALOGUE OF CANADIAN STAMPS, Ed. D. Robin Harris, The Unitrade Press, pg. 105.

King George V 2-cent Brown “Mole on Forehead” Variety

By: Michael D. Smith



Fig. 1

The “mole on forehead” variety occurs on Plate 2, Upper Left Pane, Position 21. In figure 1 the variety is on the left hand stamp. This is Unitrade Catalogue number 218i. The adjacent stamp is normal but shows how well the flaw stands out on the left stamp. Figure 2 gives a close-up view of the mole.

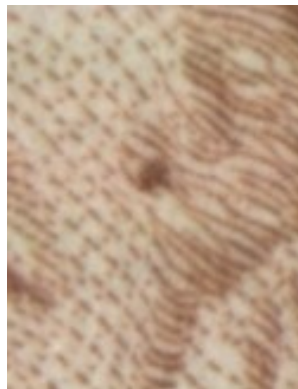


Fig. 2

References:

Scott Robinson’s website: www.flyspecker.com

2017 UNITRADE SPECIALIZED CATALOGUE OF CANADIAN STAMPS, Ed. D. Robin Harris, The Unitrade Press, pg. 111.

50-cent Parliament, Victoria, BC Major Re-entry

By: Michael D. Smith



Fig.1

This is a very well known re-entry but one needs a magnifying glass to see it well. This is Unitrade Catalogue 226i, and is found on Plate 1, Lower Right Pane, Position 25 (Fig. 1). The details, top center and bottom center, are shown in Figures 2 and 3. Figure 2 shows the doubling in and above CANADA, and figure 3 shows an extra horizontal line above CENTS.



Fig. 2



Fig. 3

References:

Scott Robinson's website: www.flyspecker.com

2017 UNITRADE SPECIALIZED CATALOGUE OF CANADIAN STAMPS, Ed. D. Robin Harris, The Unitrade Press, pg. 112.

1868 Third Bill Issue

9-cent Green with Re-entry

By: Michael D. Smith

This issue was printed by British American Banknote Co. and shares many of the paper types as the Large Queen Issue. This 9-cent stamp is E. S. J. van Dam's FB 46 (Fig. 1). It has a very nice re-entry which is not listed in the references I have for revenue stamps. The stamp exhibits a counter clockwise twist. There is doubling of the upper left corner ornament (Fig. 2). The last "A" of CANADA has a strong stroke of color at right (Fig. 3). There is an extra bottom frame line below NINE (Fig. 4). The lettering in NINE CENTS shows doubling, with CENTS showing it best (Fig. 5).

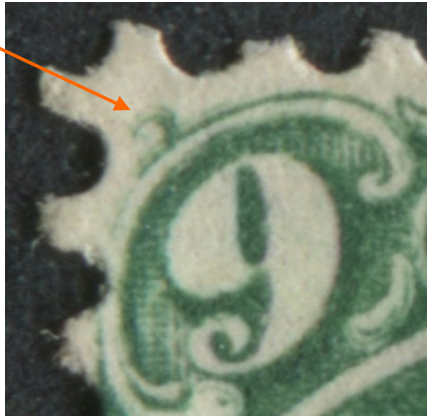


Fig. 2



Fig.1



Fig. 3

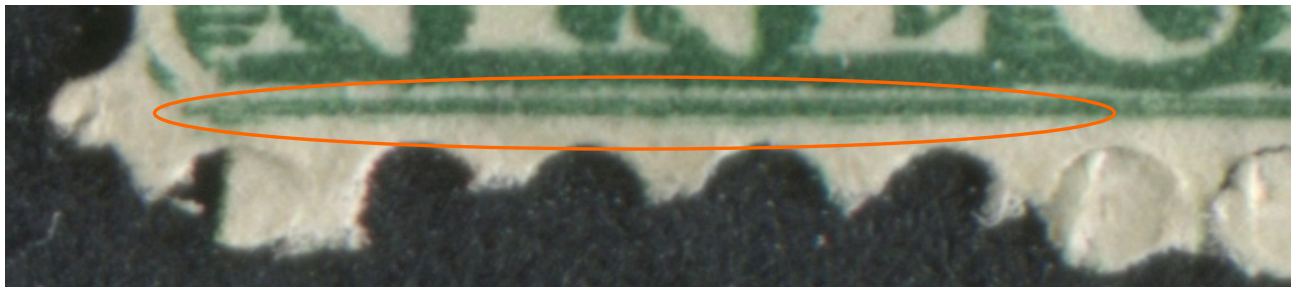


Fig.4

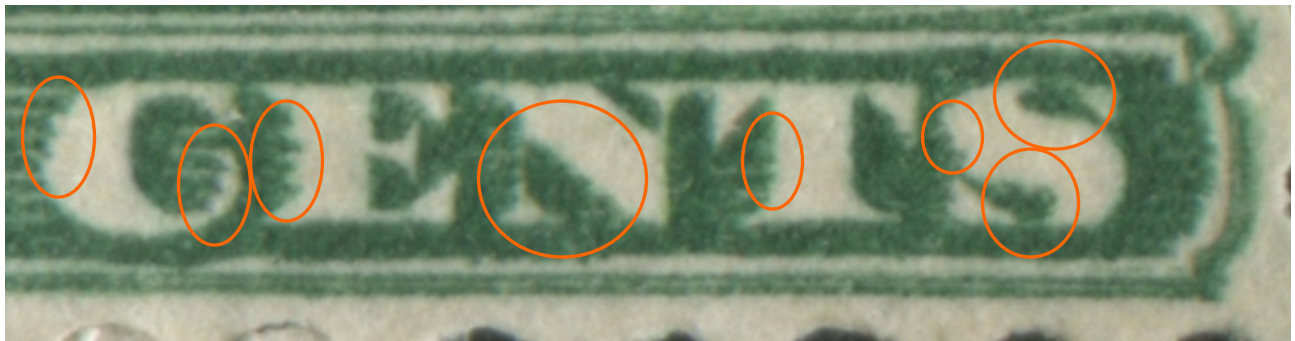


Fig. 5

References:

THE CANADIAN REVENUE STAMP CATALOGUE, E. S. J. van Dam, E. S. J. van Dam Ltd, Bridgenorth, 2017.