

Dots and Scratches

Re-entries and Constant Plate Varieties

Study Group of the BNAPS

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Special Edition



Proofs that were offered on eBay. I could easily make out four nice re-entries and the bottom imprint copy could also be re-entered. I purchased this lot but what arrived is another story.

A few weeks ago an eBay listing showed the proofs on the previous page. I was high bidder on the lot and happy to have won them as I could identify four of the stamps as re-entries and the fifth a possible re-entry. The following images (1 through 4) are from the eBay listing with each proof image enlarged and identified from Ralph Trimble's www.re-entries.com web site. Please excuse the slight blurriness of these images downloaded from eBay. I believe these are Images of actual proofs despite the image quality.



Fig. 1
The letters of "CANADA THREE DOLLARS" show re-entering.
This is Ralph's re-entry #13.



Fig. 2
The main evidence on this proof is in "BILL STAMP" and "CANADA".
This is Ralph's re-entry #1.



Fig. 3
The marks in "MP" of STAMP define this re-entry.
This is Ralph's re-entry #13.



Fig. 4
Re-entry can be seen in letters of "CANADA" and "ARS" of DOLLARS.
This is Ralph's re-entry #7.
Interestingly this proof was not included in what I recieved.

The red with blue center proof image was not clear enough to make out a re-entry.

The day before I received the proofs I had ordered I noticed another listing with three of these proofs presented from a different dealer or possibly same dealer with different dealer ID see figure 5.



Fig. 5

These three proofs are identical to three of the proofs already shown in the image of the five proofs I had bought. For example the black and brown proof has an identical top margin see detail in figure 6.



Top margin from the original group of five.



Top margin from new listing of three.
Area of top margin appears cut the same circled in orange.

Fig. 6

This really had me wondering what might be going on here. I became a bit anxious at this point.

The next day my purchase arrived and my worst fears were realized. Just a quick look at the “proofs” was all I needed to realize they were fakes. I got out my few genuine proofs to compare them and there was absolutely no question that these were not actual proofs at all. In the next few pages I will do my best to present the differences I found between the fakes and my genuine copies.



Fig. 7

Figure 7 shows the crude fakes that arrived instead of the actual proofs that appeared to be illustrated on eBay. I didn't even need a magnifying glass as these were blurry to the naked eye. In the pages that follow I will present data about these fakes and compare them to the few genuine copies I have in my collection. Figure 8 gives a glimpse of brown and black fake with a look at the re-entry detail of the fake and the Bay image which I believe is a genuine proof image that may have been used to create the fake. I believe this may be the case for all the fakes.



Fig. 8

Note how much clearer the re-entry detail is in the lower image. The margins are cut differently and possible delaminating of the paper. The fake proof is also a different shade of brown.



Fig. 9

Evidence of a poor printing and possible delaminating of paper on left side of fake. Note how clear the re-entry is on the eBay image at bottom. The margins are also different again. Fig. 10 next page shows the differences in the re-entry in the letters of CANADA.



Fig. 10

Fake above eBay image below. Note how much clearer printing is on the eBay image.

I could go on showing the differences between the eBay images and the fake proofs but I feel the point has been made that I did not get what I expected. I will show a couple of genuine proofs from my collection to illustrate how clearly printed the proofs are (Figs. 11 & 12).



Fig. 11: FB 36P, Red + Blue center. Trimble's description:

“Strong doubling is found in 'BI' of BILL, 'P' of STAMP, both side buckles, 'C' and 'DA' of CANADA, 'RE' of THREE and 'ARS' of DOLLARS. Areas surrounding these letters also exhibit doubling.”

Fig. 12

Proof imprint block of 6. UL proof is Ralph Trimble's re-entry 5 and the right center proof is Ralph Trimble's re-entry 7.

See next two pages for enlargements of the re-entries #5 and #7 Figures 13 and 14.





Fig. 13

This is Ralph Trimble's re-entry #5 described as “**Doubling is found in the 'BI' and last 'L' of BILL, the 'ST' and 'MP' of STAMP and in and below parts of CANADA. The lower right corner of the design also exhibits a downwards shift, with doubling in the 'RS' of DOLLARS and in the bottom margin below the curled ornament.**” Note how clear and sharp the printing is of a genuine proof.



Fig. 14

This is Ralph Trimble's misplaced entry #7 described as: **"This stamp shows a marked shift of 0.5 mm which, according to my Classification System of Re-entries and Misplaced Entries (found elsewhere), qualifies it being termed a misplaced entry, rather than just a major re-entry.**

The most obvious details are seen in the letters of CANADA, but is also seen throughout the design...both upper value ornaments and the right '3'; the lower right ornament; both of the triangular spandrels to the left and right of CANADA (note especially the lovely downward shift of the left one); in the bottom margin below the 'E' and 'O' and curled ornaments; and note all of the 'extra' red inner portrait oval lines on the left (under the blue).

The addition of the imprint also adds to the beauty of this stamp."

This being a black center on this proof, the reference to blue applies to black on this copy. There is also a paper wrinkle present in the upper right corner which looks strong as the scanner made a shadow on it. It does not look that bad on the actual proof. There is a link to "Re-entry Terms" on Ralph's website for terminology information.

Analysis of the Properties Fakes Versus Genuine Proofs

The previous discussion illustrated that the fakes are poorly printed copies of genuine proofs. Now we will look at the properties that can be used to determine a fake from a genuine proof. This might aid in identifying a fake from a genuine copy if one does not have a copy to compare.

Paper Thickness and Properties:

The genuine proofs are printed on a very fine smooth paper. The thickness ranges from .00245” to .00310” and may be mounted on card stock with a thickness of .01245” to .01290”. Total average thickness (Proof on card) is .01519 on the copies I have.

The fake proofs paper thickness measures from .00545” to .00575” so the paper is much heavier. The paper of the fakes also appears to be laid paper (Fig. 15).



Fig. 15
Back view of brown frame black center fake.

The next fun detail of the laid paper is the presence of parts of a watermark on the other four fake proofs (Figs. 16 to 19).

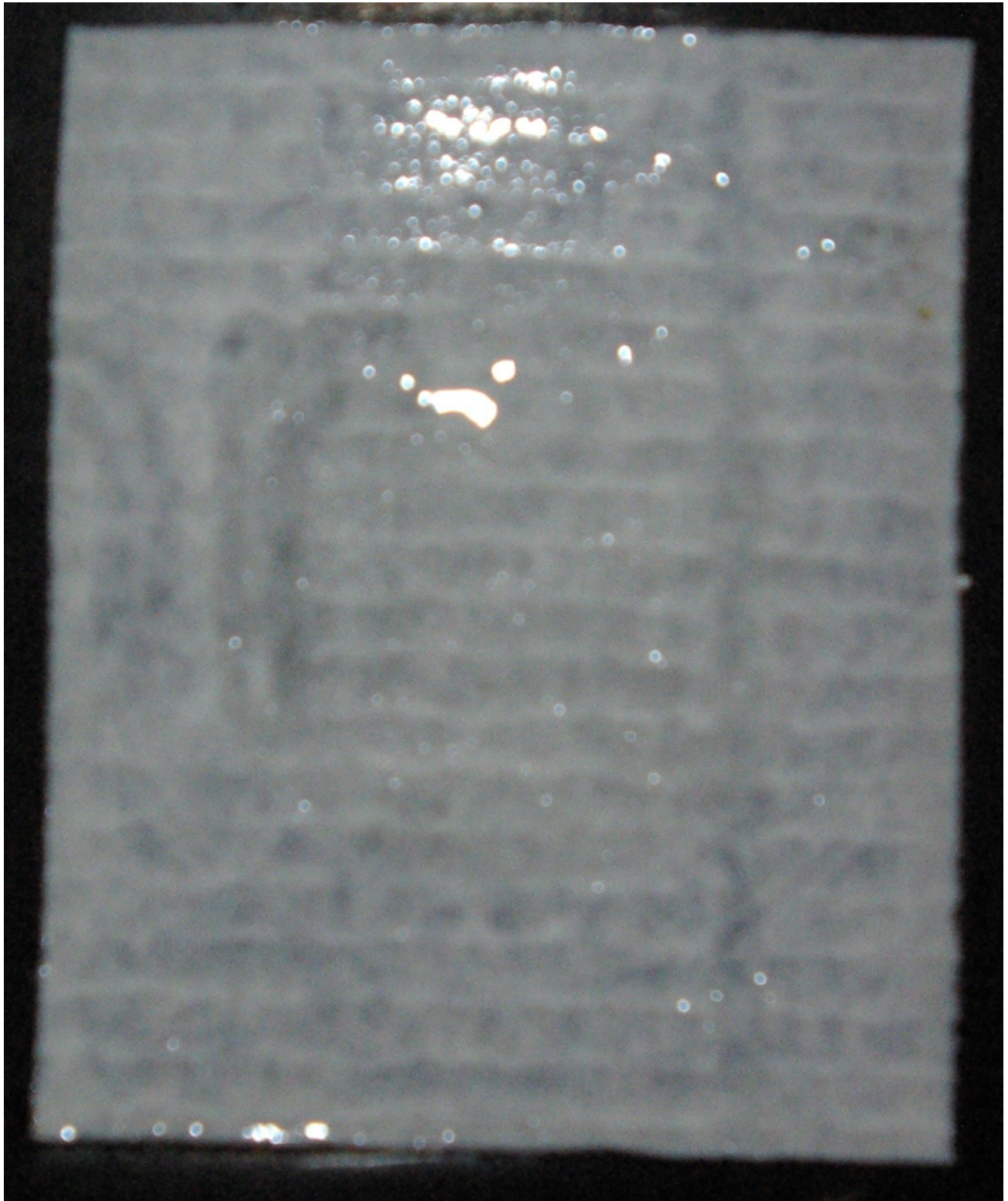


Fig. 16

Back view of blue frame black center fake.

Laid paper showing what appears to be “or” of a watermark.



Fig. 17

This is the fake with the black frame and brown center. I am not sure what the first letter in watermark is but I believe the other three are "ero" or "erc".



Fig. 18

This is the fake with red frame and blue center with imprint at bottom. The watermark appears to be reversed and inverted with the letters "buo" or "buc".



Fig. 19

This is the red frame and brown center fake. The water mark appears to be “co”. I believe these are all lower case letters but you can be the judge. I do not know what the entire watermark is. The real proofs are not on this paper.

Ink Reaction Under Black Light:

The use of a black light might reveal ink fluorescence. One needs a control to compare the differences. I used my red frame and blue center proof as the control. See figure 20 which is taken under normal light. The control is the proof at lower right.



Fig. 20

Now take a look at the image taken under a black light (figure 21). You will see the two red framed fake proofs still appear reddish while the red on the control doesn't appear red at all. Some of the other colors maybe reacting also but without a control it is difficult to tell.



Fig. 21

Design Size Measurements:

The measurements presented here are done using a ruler graduated to 0.25mm. More accurate measurements may be obtained but are unnecessary to show the differences in the size of the stamp design as well as the imprint. The measurements are taken through the center of the proof design bottom to top and left to right. Measurements of the imprints are left to right for length. The letter height is for the capital letters.

Genuine Proofs:

Design Height: 30 mm, Width: 24 mm
Imprint: Length: 23.75 mm, Letter Height: 1.25 mm

Fake Proofs:

Design Height: 31.5 mm, Width: 25 mm
Imprint (vertical): Length: 25 mm, Letter Height: 1 mm
(horizontal): Length: 24mm. Letter Height: 1.25 mm

Figure 22 illustrates a comparison of a fake with vertical imprint next to a genuine proof with vertical imprint so one can see the differences.



Fig. 22

The fake at left with my genuine proof block of six cropped to show the size differences.
The fake proof is from a different position than my genuine copy.

Conclusions:

I was fooled by the images on eBay which are probably images of genuine proofs although not very high resolution. I immediately noted the very poor printing of the fake proofs when they arrived. Close examination of the fakes verify they are not genuine. I have seen three listings on eBay for what I believe to be fakes. One of the listings actually showed the reverse of the fake as being on laid watermarked paper (Fig. 23). It is possible the sellers are unaware of what they are selling. The seller of the five I received thought they were genuine. I did get a full refund for the purchase.

These proofs and fakes are E.S.J. van Dam's FB36 from the 1865 Second Bill Issue. The proofs come in several color combinations.

I hope this information will help other collectors determine if they have genuine copies, and, if buying, avoiding fakes.

References:

Ralph Trimble's web site: [www.re-entries.com/rev_billst_2nd_FB36_\\$3_proofs.html](http://www.re-entries.com/rev_billst_2nd_FB36_$3_proofs.html)

THE CANADIAN REVENUE STAMP CATALOGUE, E.S.J. van Dam, 2009 edition, The Unitrade Press, Toronto.



Fig. 23

Item seen on eBay with the back of fake proof showing laid paper with watermark.