

Dots and Scratches

Re-entries and Constant Plate Varieties

Study Group of the BNAPS



Positions 9 and 10, State 1



Positions 9 and 10, State 2a



Positions 9 and 10, State 4a

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Edited by: Michael D. Smith

FROM YOUR EDITOR

I had a bit of fun with the three pairs of #15 positions 9 and 10 presented on the cover page. They give us a glimpse of some of the changes that took place at these positions during the early printings. I have included detail about the stamps in the first article of this issue.

I have included a minor but significant correction to a page in the presentation about the 1/2d value, #8. A flaw I thought was on the stamp throughout its printing may well only be on stamps printed from the trimmed plate. This might make it possible to differentiate the early printings from the plate of 120 positions from late printings from the trimmed plate of 100 positions for this position.

The next article presents an interesting plate flaw that developed during printing. So far I have only located one copy of this one.

The 1c Large Queen has an interesting flaw on the Queen's forehead called "the temple flaw". I present four copies I have which demonstrate the lessening of the flaw due to plate wear.

In the last article Brian Hargreaves presents some evidence demonstrating the possibility of more than one plate being used to print 2c Large Queen.

I plan on attending ORAPEX and hope to see many of you there.

If anyone has something they would like to share, I would welcome some new articles to present in Dots and Scratches.

Hope you enjoy this issue, Mike

Up Coming Events



ORAPEX
May 4-5, 2019
RA Centre
2451 Riverside Dr.
Ottawa, Ontario
Saturday 10-6, Sunday 10-4
Free admission and parking.



BNAPEX 2019 Ottawa
BNAPS convention, exhibition, and bourse
30 August - 1 September 2019
Friday (10:00-18:00) Saturday (10:00-17:00) Sunday (10:00-15:00)
Delta Hotels Ottawa City Centre, 101 Lyon Street North, Ottawa K1R 5T9

Hotel information and reservations
In cooperation with
St. Lawrence Seaway Regional Group of BNAPS
Ottawa Philatelic Society



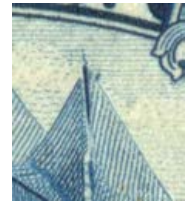
National Philatelic Exhibition ***Exposition Philatélique Nationale***

October 19 – 20, 2019 London, Ontario
CANPEX 2019 National Philatelic Exhibition
The Hellenic Centre,
133 Southdale Road West,
London, Ontario
Show hours; Saturday 10 AM – 5 PM
Sunday 10 AM – 4 PM
Free admission, Free parking, Lunch counter
Information; info@canpex.ca
Web site; www.canpex.ca



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A Closer Look at the Cover Page Pairs

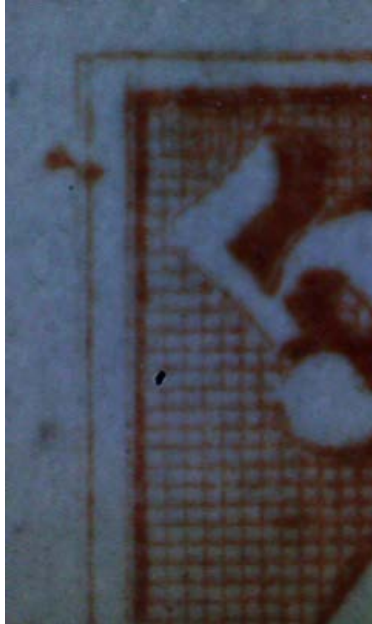
By: Michael D. Smith

The Top Pair Positions 9 and 10, State 1

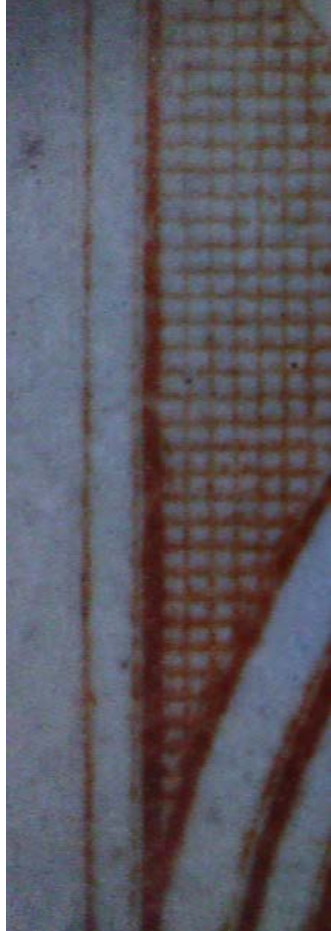
Two guide dots NW corner, fresh entry
W frame lines and oval frame line
doubled above 'CAN' of CANADA.



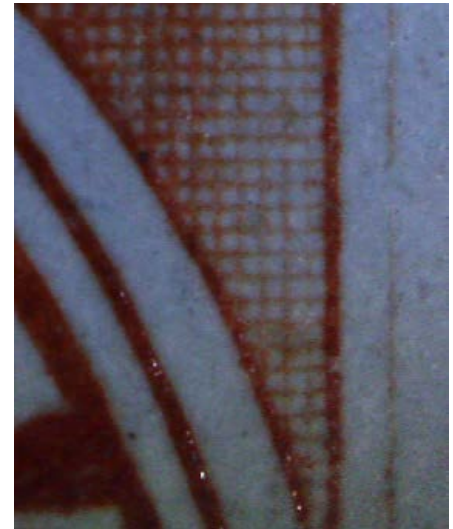
Single guide dot NE corner.



Position 9, State 1



Short entry NE spandrel



The Top Pair
Positions 9 and 10, State 1

Single guide dot NW corner.



Single guide dot NE corner.



Position 10, State 1

Fresh entry curved line W of crown and ornaments E. Also in 'POS' of POSTAGE.



The most significant mark is the flaw known as the "Burning Bush" (tree under the Sun).

The Middle Pair
Positions 9 and 10, State 2a



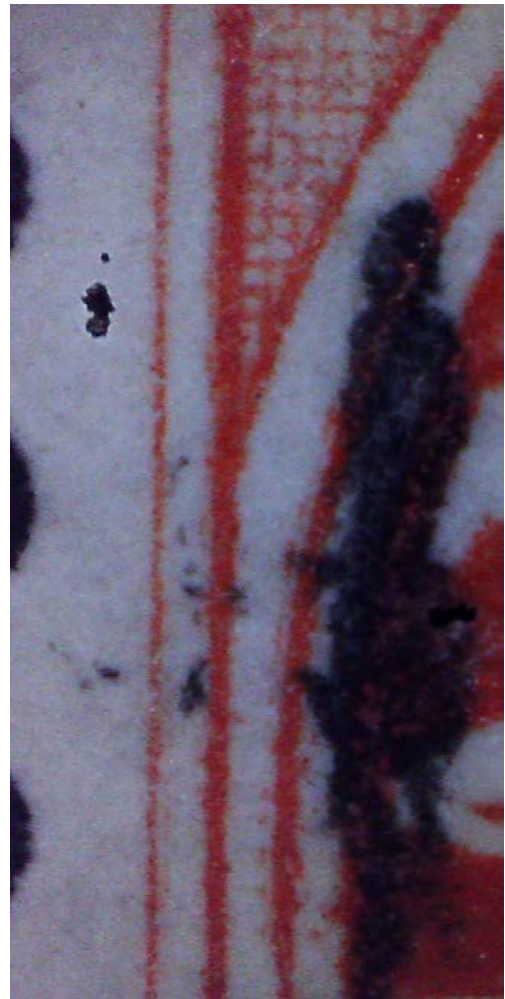
Position 9, State 2a
(Same as State 2)

Two guide dots NW.



Note: NE guide dot is the same as state 1.
The short entry on state 1 is not present.

A hint of the fresh entry in frame lines
and oval from previous state.



The Middle Pair
Positions 9 and 10, State 2a

Single guide dot UL.



Position 10, State 2a

Three guide dots NE.



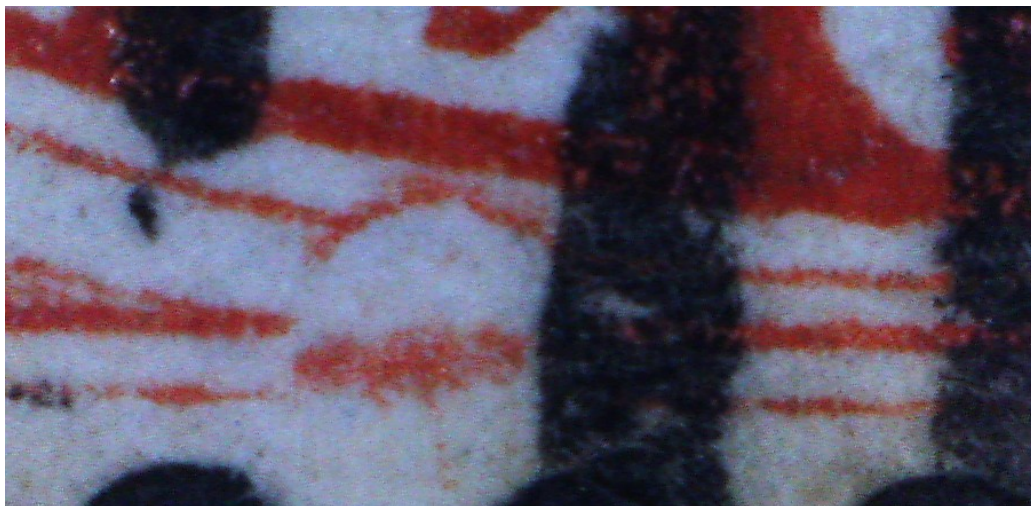
"Burning Bush" slightly reduced.



Fresh entry reduced.



The flaw below the 'E' of FIVE developed during printing of state 2.
This is called state 2a when this flaw is present. This flaw also changes appearance during printing.



The Bottom Pair
Positions 9 and 10, State 4a



Position 9, State 4a

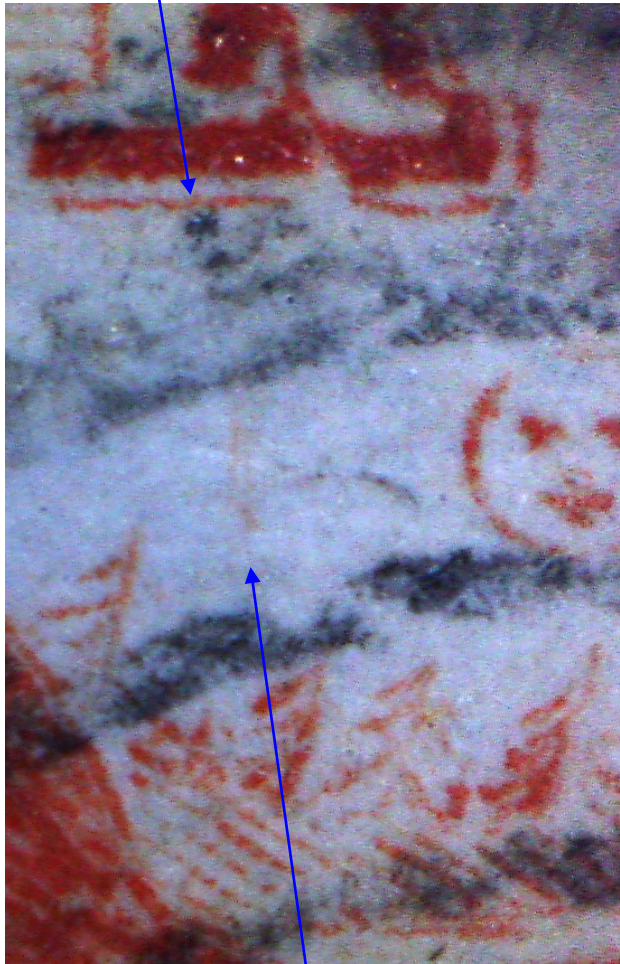


The arrow points to a small mark in the top of UR '5'.
This is a mark that developed during the printing of state 4 and is attributed to state 4a.

The Bottom Pair
Positions 9 and 10, State 4a



Position 10, State 4a



Circled is an easy to spot printing flaw in the LR '5'. The LR frame lines show a very mild re-entry. (These are common to state 4)

Image at left:

There is a flaw that developed during the printing of state 4. It is a very faint series of small marks that extends from the base of the 'R' to the top of the tree line. It is located between the two arrows in the image, unfortunately the cancellation hides part of it. This flaw verifies this is state 4a.

References:

THE FIVE CENTS BEAVER STAMP OF CANADA 1859 to 1868, Geoffrey Whitworth, 1966, Royal Philatelic Society, London.

Another Look at #8, Position 93/77 Plate Flaws

By: Michael D. Smith

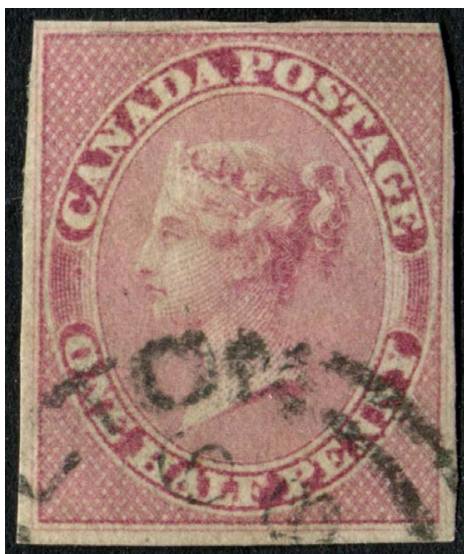
In the 2018 BNAPEX presentation on the plate flaws on the 1/2d, Unitrade #8, the following slide was presented:

POSITION 93 (77) HIGH STROKE IN "P"



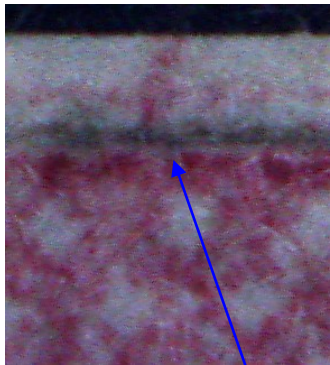
Fred Jarrett has the following: "A line through the "P" of POSTAGE sloping up to the right."

This is a different placement than the one at position 83 (69). There is also a mark through the left top frame line and another in the right bottom frame line. These are good guides to distinguish the difference in the two positions.

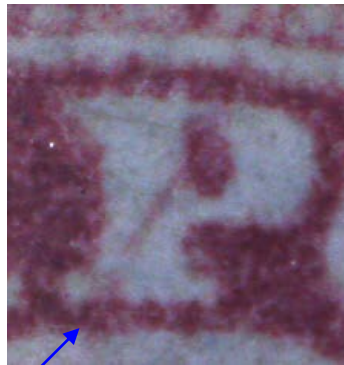


Upon examining a proof sheet of 120 positions and the used stamp at left, I have found that the mark attributed to the right bottom frame line presented in the above presentation slide is not constant throughout all printings. It might be useful as a way to tell if it is a stamp from position 93 on the pane of 120 when the bottom mark is absent, or position 77 on the pane of 100 if present. However, I don't know when the mark appeared on the plate. It is absent on a proof sheet of 120, and is present on a proof sheet of 100.

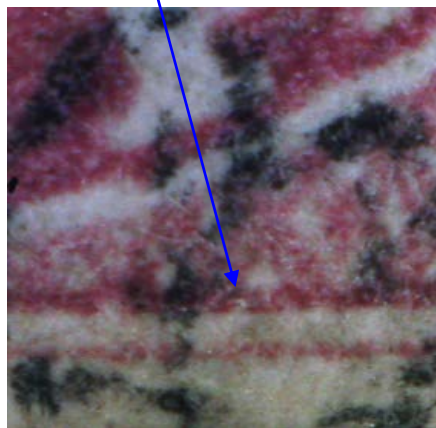
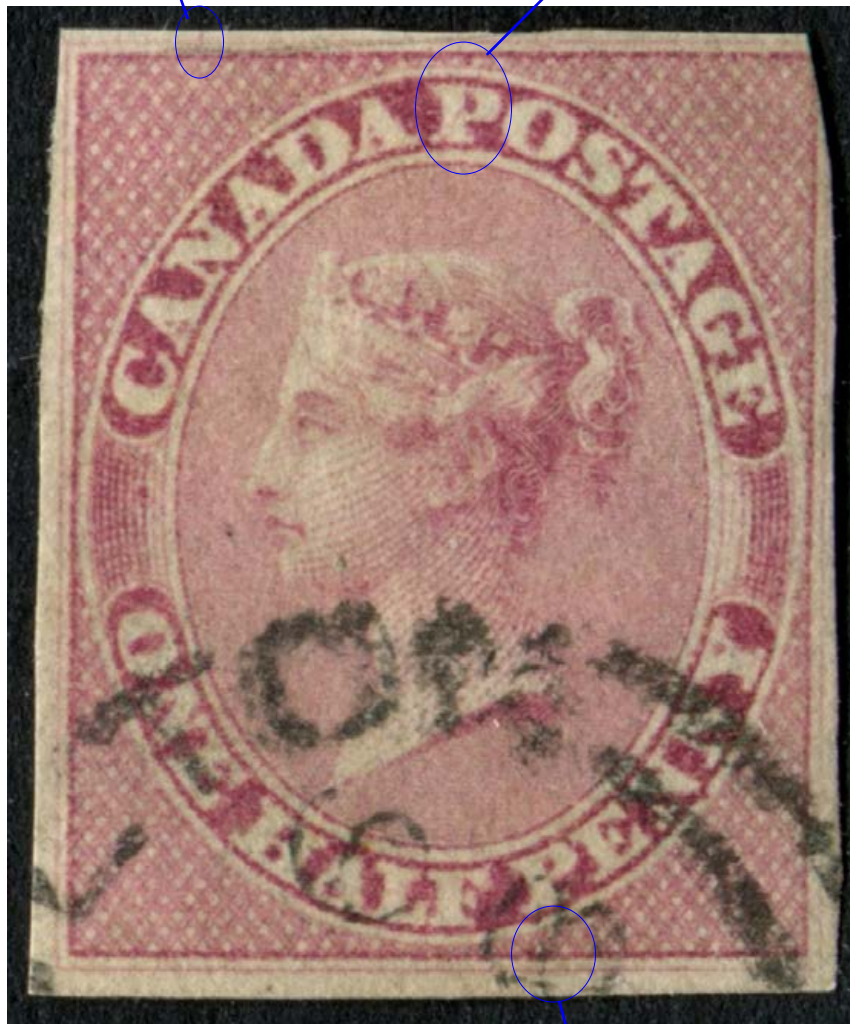
See next page for a closer look of the used stamp from position 93.



Mark through upper left frame line



High stroke in "P"

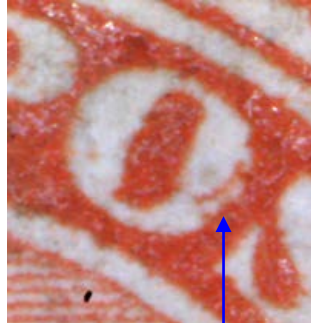


No mark in the bottom frame line under "P"

5-cents Beaver With Printing Flaw 23b

By: Michael D. Smith

This is a printing flaw that developed during printing of state 2 at plate position 14. This is Whitworth's state 2a, flaw 23b. There is an interesting bold mark in the 'O' of POSTAGE. I have never seen this pictured before so will share it here.



References:

THE FIVE CENTS BEAVER STAMP OF CANADA 1859 to 1868, Geoffrey Whitworth, 1966, Royal Philatelic Society, London.

1-cent Large Queen “Temple Flaw”

By: Michael D. Smith

Scott Robinson listed two copies of the “Temple Flaw” on <http://www.flyspecker.com> that were provided by Brian Hargreaves. He shows two slightly different version of this elusive flaw. I have since been able to find four copies of this flaw which demonstrate how the flaw was affected by plate wear over time.



Brian Hargreaves had this to say about the four examples above: “When I sent my examples to Scott for listing on Flyspecker I only identified two states. Clearly your group demonstrates that the variety is more nuanced than that - showing degradation over time.”

One can see the flaw clearly in images 1a and 1b. Images 2a through 4b demonstrate how the flaw changes as the plate wore during printing. It is hardly discernible in 4a, 4b.

Glenn Archer also had this to say: “...still hard to find years after discovery.”

Have fun hunting for this flaw. I only have the four, and the stamps have a few flaws but glad to have them.

References:

Scott Robinson’s website: <http://www.flyspecker.com/22-23.html>

The 2 Cent Large Queen. Just one plate ... or more?

By: Brian Hargreaves (bhargrea87@email.com)

For many years there has been speculation that a second plate might have been used during the life of this value. And why not indeed? It is worth remembering that the 2 Cent Large Queen was in use for over four years between 1868 and 1872 - with an estimated quantity of more than 10 million in circulation. So it is perfectly possible that over this time the printers might have needed more than one plate.

In their seminal work on this issue the Duckworths* make various references to a possible second plate. They report that Post Office Department records indicate that it probably ordered three plates and two plate repairs from the British American Bank Note Co. in the course of producing the 2 Cent Large Queen. While invoicing by the printers was usually a reflection of the number of plates that were deemed to be required, rather than actually used, these records, and the total quantity printed, do suggest that more than one plate was involved.

The Duckworths also note that a plate proof is known that does not show the well-known major re-entry at plate position 7, even though this re-entry is known on copies with paper characteristic of the earliest printings.

In an effort to settle the debate the Duckworths suggested (on page 86) that a series of ‘incorrectly-drawn guidelines’ which are known to appear at 8 or 9 positions along the bottom row should be found in 8-9% of copies if there was only one plate in use. However examination of 230 random dated copies revealed only 7 examples - i.e. only 3% - with these guidelines. While these results were not conclusive, the Duckworths suggested that readers seek definitive proof by finding a stamp showing the bottom imprint without any of these guidelines.

This article however provides new evidence from the other end of the sheet – by looking at the top! And here I must acknowledge the contribution of Scott Robinson, curator of the Flyspecker.com website, without whom this discovery would not have been made.



Fig. 1

I sent this strip of three (Figure 1) to him for his comments on another subject altogether, and it was Scott who pointed out the existence of what is almost certainly a centre dot (close-up in Figure 2). That being so, it would mean that the right-hand stamp is PP 5, and the one in the middle would be PP 4.



Fig. 2

But haven't we recently read about the evidence from Jim Jung's strip of five (Figure 3) that this is the location of the 'Spur' variety (See figure 3a)? Jim's strip by the way confirms the Duckworths' comments on the 'Spur' variety (again on page 86), they quote the noted collector R.W.T. Lees-Jones describing it as coming from 'the fourth stamp in the top row of Plate 2', but not explaining why he thought it was a second plate!



Fig. 3



Fig. 3a

Scott highlighted that not only does my strip not show the ‘Spur’ variety at PP 4. He pointed out two other significant differences:

1. Un-erased guidelines at the bottom left of each stamp (Figure 4). There are none on Jim’s strip.
2. The centre dot is in a lower position than on Jim’s strip (Figure 5).

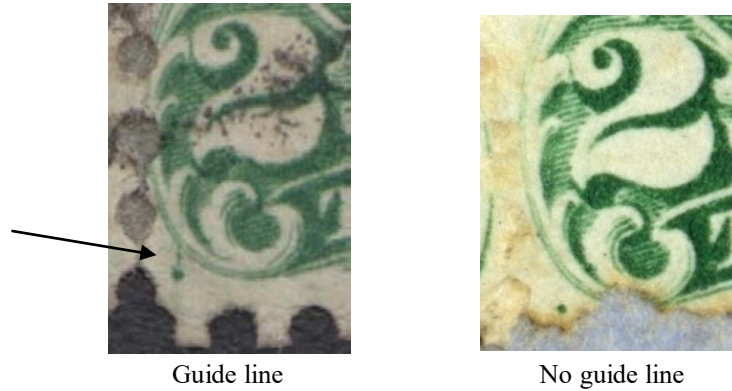


Fig. 4



Fig. 5

Whilst it is conceivable that the ‘Spur’ variety could simply be damage caused during the life of the plate, it seems far more likely that the dot position and guidelines are significant and permanent features that would be indicative of a second plate. Readers are invited to re-examine their 2 Cent LQ holdings for multiples coming from the top row. It is hoped that, once pointed out, these three differentiators can be identified as constant, and therefore conclusive proof for the existence of a second plate.

References:

**THE LARGE QUEEN STAMPS OF CANADA AND THEIR USE*, Second Edition, H.E. & H.W Duckworth, Vincent Graves Greene Foundation, 2008

2c Large Queen – Spur in Left Outer Frame Line Plate Position 4, Jim Jung, DOTS AND SCRATCHES, Re-entries and Constant Plate Varieties, Study Group Newsletter, BNAPS, Vol. 3, No. 5, Whole no. 11, Oct. 22, 2016, pgs. 7 - 10.