

Dots and Scratches

Re-entries and Constant Plate Varieties

Study Group of the BNAPS



Plate Proof 2TC vii “burr on forehead” Position 43, Left Pane.

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Edited by: Michael D. Smith

FROM YOUR EDITOR

BNAPLEX was exciting as usual. At the Pence Cents Study Group meeting Jim Jung and Leo Beudet announced a joint effort with myself which will be put on the BNAPS website. Jim Jung, Leo Beudet, and myself are in the process of putting together a searchable database for flaws and re-entries of the 5-cents Beaver Stamps of 1859. We will be showing marked and unmarked images of the stamp positions we have plated. This is an on going project and it is in its infancy at present. Stay tuned for the start up of the data base as we start getting it set up.

I had a project I had been working on to present at the Re-entry Study Group meeting which ended up being 131 pages long. Leo has posted it on the BNAPS website. I went through and plated my 1859 5-cents beaver plate proofs and they are properly identified with enlargements of some of the flaws and re-entries. I ended up using a short presentation about the possibility some of the stamps in my collection that may indicate more than one pane for the 5-cents beaver. Attendance of the Re-entry Study Group meeting was small so have presented it in this issue for you to review.

Your editor won the John S. Siverts Award for best newsletter for the second time. Thank you for the honor of receiving the award.

I am stepping down as editor of the newsletter. If anyone would like to take on the editorship please contact the chairman, Bill Radcliffe, and let him know. I will still be writing articles from time to time and do enjoy hearing from everyone about discoveries, etc. I won't be disappearing from collecting. I am just shifting my focus into my collection and some other very time consuming projects.

It has been a lot of fun writing the Newsletters the past few years and very rewarding. I will not be collecting further dues from the members of the group and I will edit an index for the issues I have written.

Best regards, Mike

Up Coming Events



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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Newsletter available as .pdf file on line. Past issues available at BNAPS website.

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Identification of a 12d Black Plate Proof

By: Michael D. Smith



Fig. 1

Figure 1 above shows my one and only copy of #3Pi. This 12d Queen Victoria has been in my collection for many years. It has what would be considered a mild re-entry for this issue as apparently almost all the positions on both plates show some re-entering. This one is not listed in Boggs and I didn't know if it was from the left or right pane. Just recently I was able to examine an image of a pane of the proof.

The first thing I had to do was determine which pane I was looking at. Boggs has descriptions of a few of the stronger re-entries from both the left and right panes. It only took a few minutes to determine the stronger re-entries on this pane were from the left pane.

Now the challenge at hand was to see if the mild re-entry on my copy was on the left pane. I only had to check the 100 images of the left pane to see if I could find this mild re-entry. When I got to position 93 I found the stamp position I was looking for. I was beginning to doubt it was on this pane with only seven other positions to look at but there it was. I now present more detailed images of #3Pi left pane, position 93 in figures 2-6 on the next pages.



Fig. 2

As one can see this is a very mild re-entry. Even so it is unique to the left pane position 93. The most pronounced part of the re-entry is in the lower right quadrant. The next four pages show all four quadrants of this proof.



Fig. 3

The dot in leg of 'N' of CANADA is present on this copy and on the full pane image. There is subtle doubling of vertical frame lines.



Fig. 4

The two small marks in outer oval above 'E' of POSTAGE are present on the full pane.



Fig. 5

Vertical frame lines doubled left and outer bottom frame line doubled.



Fig. 6

The most significant doubling is in the lower right corner. The vertical and horizontal frame lines are doubled. There is extensive doubling in the decorative lines behind and above '12'. The missing right corner frame line is also present on the proof sheet.

Conclusions:

I got lucky that my proof happened to be on the left pane. Had it been on the right pane I would not have found it. I don't know if anyone has a full sheet or image of the right pane that would help in plating other copies of proofs or stamps. Information from Boggs and Arfken, Leggett, Firby, and Steinhart was a great help in plating this copy. However, without the proof sheet image I could never have plated it.

References:

THE POSTAGE STAMPS AND POSTAL HISTORY OF CANADA, Winthrop S. Boggs, 1974, Quarterman Publications, Inc. Lawrence, Massachusetts.

CANADA'S PENCE ERA THE PENCE STAMPS AND THE CANADIAN MAIL 1851 - 1859, George B. Arfken, Arthur W. Leggett, Charles G. Firby, Allan L. Steinhart, 1997, Vincent G. Greene Philatelic Research Foundation.

The Story About The 6d Plate Flaw.

By: Michael D. Smith



Fig 1
Burr on forehead on left stamp.

Jim McCormick shared the above pair of Unitrade #5 6d Prince Albert with a group of us sharing stamps through email (Fig. 1). Sharp eyed Scott Robinson spotted a variety on the pair which is listed in Unitrade Catalogue as 13ii, burr on forehead (pos. 43). This listing is for the perforated stamp with no mention of it being on imperforate stamps as well. Through a little research we even established it as being on the left pane of the plate as well.

I had seen an example of a proof single being offered on a dealer's web site and immediately tracked it down and bought it (on front cover).

Now one may ask how did we determine if it was on the right or left pane. The pane designations are traditional assignments as the panes were not marked as such. I have a block of six proofs with upper left imprint of right pane in the margin (Fig. 2, pg. 13). The proof sheet of the left pane also has some of this imprint showing in margin. This is a very important key in determining left and right panes.

Another key to plating my block of six is a retouched frame line. The top frame line is re-cut on position 2, first position top left in my block of six (Fig. 3, pg. 13).



Fig. 3 Position 2, Right Pane



Fig. 2
Left Imprint Block of 6, Right Pane



Fig. 4 Retouched frame line on position 2, note minor doubling.



Fig. 5 Normal un-retouched frame line position 12.

Figure 4 when enlarged shows a slight doubling of the top frame line. A more typical frame line from position 12 is shown in figure 5 and shows no doubling.

Another key feature is at position 3 as the 'g' in Wright is touching the frame line on the right pane and does not touch the frame line on the left pane (Figs. 6 and 7).



Fig. 6 Right Pane
'g' touching top frame line.



Fig. 7 Left Pane, 'g' not touching top frame line.

Having a full proof sheet of the left pane allows one to find the Burr on Forehead flaw at position 43. See figures 8 and 8a showing Position 43 cropped from the sheet image showing the flaw.



Fig. 8

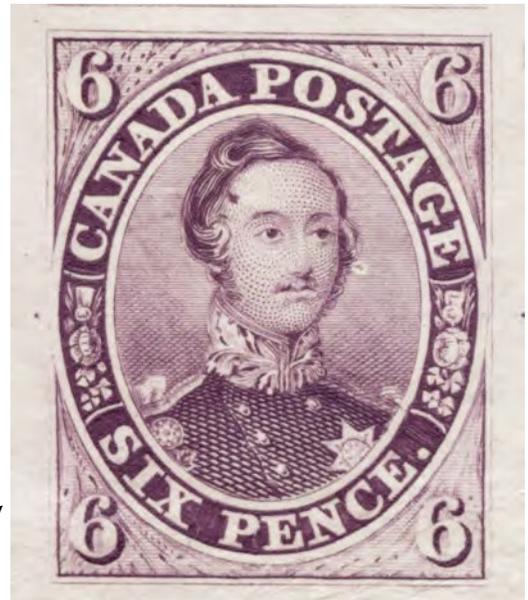


Fig. 8a

Conclusions:

Unitrade lists this as 13ii which is the 6d perforated 11 3/4. Jim's imperforate pair is a #5. We have several proof images. Can anyone report this flaw on the laid paper #2?

We have also established a couple ways to distinguish the left and right panes. Could there be more? There are very few recorded flaws on this issue. We have not found a full proof sheet image of the right pane. Does one exist?

This turned into a very enjoyable study and is an excellent example of why it is important to share what you might find with others.

References:

THE UNITRADE SPECIALIZED CATALOGUE OF CANADIAN STAMPS, 2019, D. Robin Harris, The Unitrade Press.

CANADA'S PENCE ERA THE PENCE STAMPS AND THE CANADIAN MAIL 1851 - 1859, George B. Arfken, Arthur W. Leggett, Charles G. Firby, Allan L. Steinhart, 1997, Vincent G. Greene Philatelic Research Foundation.

Is There More Than One Plate For The 5c Beaver?

By: Michael D. Smith

Dr. Jim Watt has proposed that there maybe at least four panes made for the 5c Beaver stamps of the First Cents Issue. I feel he may be correct and in this article I will show what I feel supports a minimum of two panes from material in my collection.

I use the word pane instead of plate because I have been unable to find information on the plate layout. The master plate could be a multiple pane plate like the one for the three pence beaver which were separated into individual plates. They could also be single pane plates.

Now we will examine some evidence that could be proof of two separate panes. The pairs of positions 9 and 10 from states 1, 2a, and 4a are fairly even in height and spaced at a normal distance to each other (see figures 1 to 3 below).



Fig. 1
Positions 9 and 10, State 1.



Fig. 2
Positions 9 and 10, State 2a.



Fig. 3
Positions 9 and 10, State 4a.

In the previous three pairs of positions 9 and 10 the stamps are close together and the same height on the pane. At state 5 something unusual happens. Note how much higher and to the right position 10 is from position 9 (see Fig. 4).



Fig. 4
Positions 9 and 10, State 5.

There could be two reasons the orientation of positions 9 and 10 changed. It could be a repair, but Dr. Jim Watt and I feel it maybe evidence of a different pane. This spacing of positions 9 and 10 is present on the proof sheets of states 10 and 11.

States 10 and 11 also show the re-entered imprint at position 30 which is a fresh entry on state 6a and is always doubled although it did wear considerably. Another interesting feature of this pane occurs at position 83. This position shows Re-entry #15 plus a misplaced entry which occurred about state 8.

I suspect the pane shows a re-entered state after a repair at state 8. Re-entry #13 shows in position 83, state 8 along with the same misplaced entry mentioned above. This demonstrates that plate repairs did not necessarily correct all the flaws in the stamp images as the same misplaced entry is present at position 83 with two different re-entries. Interestingly though many of the deep gouges and marks in earlier states seem to vanish without a trace from state to state.

Makes one wonder why, does it not? I will show examples of position 83 with both re-entries and the misplaced entry in the next pages (Figs. 6, 7, and 8).



Fig. 6, Position 83, State 8

Main features of Re-entry 13 in yellow box. Evidence of the misplaced entry in blue circles.



Fig. 7, Position 83, State 9.

Main features of Re-entry 13a (R. 13 reduced) in yellow box. Evidence of misplaced entry in blue circles.



Fig. 8, Position 83, State 10 or 11

Main features of Re-entry 15 in yellow box. Evidence of misplaced entry in blue circles.

The facts that the alignment of position 10 from state 5 to state 11, the re-entered imprint at position 30 is constant from state 6a to 11, and a misplaced entry has a presence at position 83 from state 8 to state 11 indicate this pane was in use and repaired several times during its life. (More information on position 83 can be found in Dots and Scratches #4.) I use the word pane instead of plate because it is unknown how the plates were configured to make the 5c Beaver. Were they double pane plates or single pane plates? How many were used and at what times has yet to be determined. It is possible there could be as many as four different panes. I believe what I have presented here shows at least two based on the alignment of position 10 on the panes. The sheer quantity of stamps issued 39,800,000 (Boggs) would be a very tall order for a single unhardened plate even with repairs. Boggs and Jarrett among others mention that more than one plate was used.

References:

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

THE POSTAGE STAMPS AND POSTAL HISTORY OF CANADA, Winthrop S. Boggs, 1974, Quarterman Publications, Inc., Lawrence, Mass.

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

Used Pair of #15 and #15vii on Cover

By: Michael D. Smith



Fig.1

This is a nice cover canceled “NEW-LIVERPOOL September 17, ‘67 LC” at receiving post office, and crossed the border to the USA via “QUEBEC, PM, SP 17, ‘67 CE” indicated by the postmark on the reverse. The vertical pair of stamps makes this a very desirable cover (Fig. 1). The date of use puts it in the period of use of state 9 of the plate and the top stamp clearly shows the “round rock in waterfall” variety from state 9, position 53. In states 10 and 11 the rock appears to be square rather than round as it is in state 9.

On the page 21 is an enlargement of the pair (Fig. 2) along with a good look at the round rock in the waterfall at position 53, figure 3. There is also a mild re-entry, Whitworth’s 93a. The small right marginal dot (Fig. 4) is also present as Whitworth lists it for state 8 but it is there on this stamp and on the proof sheets of states 10 and 11.

On page 22 we will look at some small marks that are constant on position 63 (Fig. 5), the lower stamp in the pair. These are very small marks so it might be very difficult to plate this position as a single stamp.



Rock in waterfall

Fig. 2

East marginal dot Whitworth listed for state 8 is present and is also on states 10 and 11.



Fig. 4



Fig. 3

Pf 86b not listed for this State.

Unlisted flaw also present on states 10 and 11 proof sheets.



Fig. 5

PF 104 also present on states 10 and 11.

Position 63 is interesting as there are some unusual marks here. The mark indicated as 86b is listed in Whitworth for states 1- 5 but not for states 9 to 11. The flaw to its right is not mentioned by Whitworth at all but is on states 9 to 11. The absence of the 'C' dot and presence of PF 104 are correct for states 9 to 11.

This is a very nice pair with the harder to find state 9 round rock in waterfall variety. Also some interesting information on flaws on these two positions of this state.

References:

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