

# Dots & Scratches

Re-entries and Constant Plate Varieties  
Study Group of BNAPS



*This interesting 2¢ Large Queen stamp appears to have the well-know major re-entry (as recognised by the doubling in the D of CANADA) plus a misplaced guide line at the bottom left corner. See page 4 for our featured article on the misplaced guide lines of the 2¢ Large Queen and page 25 to learn more about this specific example.*

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## Re-entries and Constant Plate Varieties

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## My Two Cents – From Your Editor

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As I complete this second issue of Dots & Scratches for 2021, I am optimistic about the recent progress that has been made combating Covid-19 and distributing the various vaccines. As always, I encourage all readers to get vaccinated if they have not already. Hopefully, we will all be able to meet in person later this year as the pandemic subsides and public events begin again.

Recently the BNAPS Map Stamp study group was reactivated by Rick Friesen. I am now a principal editor of their newsletter, the XMAS 1898 Map Stamp Report. If any readers are interested to join that study group, please let me know. As an editor of two newsletters, I apologise to readers who are members of both study groups for any overlap in the content. Of course, the Map Stamp group focuses on postal history as much as plate varieties, but some of my Uncharted Territories content from Dots & Scratches will also be shared with the Map Stamp Report.

### Formatting the Newsletter

Since Dots & Scratches is published and distributed to members only in digital format as a PDF document, we have tried to use high resolution images as much as possible so that readers can peruse these at different levels of magnification. While some articles may require separate close-ups to show specific characteristics described by the authors, most of our images will show the full stamps so that readers can get the big picture and then zoom in to see details. While this does make for large file sizes, we hope that the format will be convenient for all members. **Remember, if you are finding it hard to see a specific variety discussed here, you can usually zoom in to see the details up close.**

I would like to thank all the members who emailed me following the last newsletter to offer feedback, observations, stories, and information related to the articles. I have incorporated some of this feedback into the relevant sections of this issue. I encourage all members to reach out with their thoughts and perhaps an article or two so that I can keep the content flowing.

### In This Issue

In addition to the usual featured varieties and my ongoing Map stamp column, this issue features an extensive article by Brian Hargreaves and me concerning the misplaced guide lines of the 2¢ Large Queen issue. It took almost two years, working on and off, to complete the article. We encourage readers to provide feedback or scans of any blocks or plated singles that can provide further information on the plating of these interesting varieties.

I also chime in with a short article about a constant scratch line that I discovered on a 6¢ Small Queen Die Proof. And finally, I am introducing a new regular column featuring album or exhibit pages from members showing how they display their plate varieties. First up is Michael D. Smith showing some custom album pages of his Pence and Cents variety collection.

I wish you all a happy and healthy summer.

Cheers!



# The Misplaced Guide Lines of the 2¢ Large Queen

By Brian Hargreaves and Scott Robinson

## Unerased Guide Lines Versus Misplaced Guide Lines

Like many early Canadian stamps, the impressions of the Large Queen issue were positioned and laid down on the plate using a system of guide lines and guide dots. A grid system of lines was used to assign positions for each stamp and a guide dot was added at the intersections of these lines and later used to align the transfer role for the rolling-in of each stamp impression. The guide dots for all values of the Large Queens usually appear in the bottom left corner margin very close to the stamp impressions. These dots are generally visible on most stamp copies that have a reasonable margin. However, these dots were not used to position the stamp impression they appear to be linked to. Each dot was actually used to position the stamp to its left on the sheet. For this reason, the first column of stamps from the left side of the sheet does not show these dots and the final column on the right has the normal dot plus an additional dot far into the right margin which is rarely seen unless the stamp is badly perforated or the selvedge is still attached.

While the guide dots typically remain on the plate and are easily seen on the printed stamps, the much fainter guide lines are usually burnished off and not visible on stamps. The 2¢ Large Queen is an exception in that the vertical and horizontal guide lines were not well burnished off and are still visible at many positions. They can typically be seen intersecting with the guide dot at the bottom left corner of the stamp.



*Figure 1: Plate position 95 showing typical guide dot and guide lines (highlighted in yellow) plus a misplaced guide line (highlighted in pink).*

While these unerased guide lines of the 2¢ value are common and have been noted for almost a century by authors such as Jarrett and Boggs, it was not until 1961 that Horace W. Harrison drew attention to a series of additional short guide lines that appear only in certain 2¢ stamps from the bottom row of one plate. While some of these “flaws” may have been reported before, Harrison was the first to note that these short vertical marks appeared at various positions and that they seemed to appear further rightward for each position across the bottom of the plate. His article in *Maple Leaves* provided several hand-drawn illustrations of these strange marks which he surmised were “part of the sideographer's markings for the original plate lay-out.” He was able to plate positions 94, 96, 97 and 100 while also deducing the position of other copies to positions 98 and 99 based on the specific location of the marks. In 1977, Hans Reiche related in his *Large Queen's Report* that these misplaced guide lines also existed at plate positions 93 and 95.

The misplaced guide lines were also a topic in the H.E. & H.W. Duckworth's seminal 1986 book, *The Large Queen Stamps of Canada and Their Use*. In the first edition, the Duckworths devoted several paragraphs to these guide lines, provided an image of three examples (labelled as positions 94, 95 and 99), and included a table listing positions 94 to 100 with their respective distances from the guide dot. A significantly updated second addition of the book appeared in 2008. The same images were used, but the table of plate positions had changed to also include positions 92 and 93. This development was based on work by Richard Johnson who used a “travelling microscope” to measure the positions of the misplaced guide lines in a sample of 29 bottom row stamps. The Duckworths theorized that the abundance of unerased guide lines and the presence of these additional misplaced guide lines suggested that this 2¢ plate may have been the first produced for the Large Queens. The paper used for the first printings and the unique placement of the counter at the upper right of the sheet also support this theory. The existence of the misplaced guide lines is speculated to be due to the layout of the plate whereby the initial spacing assigned for each stamp impression was too large. On realising this error after the misplacement of these guide lines for much of the bottom row, the spacing was corrected and new guide lines were entered. With the new smaller spacing, the original misplaced guide lines appear progressively further rightward in relation to the final stamp impressions for each position across the bottom row of the sheet. Figure 1 from the previous page illustrates an example of a plate proof from position 95 showing a typical guide dot and intersecting unerased guide lines highlighted in yellow with an additional misplaced guide line highlighted in pink.

The last apparent published information on these misplaced guide lines came in 2010 with an article in *BNA Topics* by Richard Johnson. This article provided more details of the study mentioned in the Duckworths' book (although it mentions a sample of 28 stamps instead of 29) and included some regression analysis to illustrate the progressive rightward displacement of the misplaced guide lines from the guide dot across each position at the bottom of the plate. More importantly, the article included photos of the author's determination of samples for all positions from 92 to 99 (although the enlarged images for positions 95 and 96 were clearly reversed in the published article). The estimated position, based on the regression analysis, for a position 100 misplaced guide line was also calculated. Johnson indicated that he could find no example of this in his sample of 28 copies, or in 67 other copies that were apparently sourced from images of collections, auctions, and sales. He calculated the odds of not finding a position 100 misplaced guide line if it existed at its predicted location to be 2675 to 1 and concluded that it was a “reasonable hypothesis” to assume that it did not exist.

## Plating the Misplaced Guide Lines

Assigning a plate position to each of these misplaced guide lines is difficult at best due to the lack of available material that includes multiples with the varieties and some evidence of the plate position. However, since these guide lines appear across the bottom row of the sheet, the placement of the printer's imprint in the bottom selvedge makes it possible to see evidence of this on copies with perforations that allow for a very wide bottom margin. The imprint reads, **British American BANK NOTE Co. Montreal & Ottawa**, and appears essentially under positions 95 and 96 with only the left and right tips of the imprint appearing respectively under positions 94 and 97. Figure 2 shows typical imprint copies as it appears under positions 95 and 96. These scans were provided by Jim Jung although the position 95 copy is the same one pictured in the Duckworths' book.



*Figure 2: Copies of positions 95 and 96 showing misplaced guide lines and portions of the printer's imprint in the bottom margin.*

Once the plate position of some misplaced guide lines has been determined with some certainty using imprint copies, it then becomes easier to plate other positions from multiples and inferences based on the location of the misplaced guide lines in relation to the guide dot and stamp impression. This is essentially what Harrison, Reiche, the Duckworths, and Johnson have attempted to do in their various studies. At issue is the fact that a careful examination of the plating done by these authors reveals some inconsistencies. Harrison's hand drawn illustrations do not match up completely with images supplied by Johnson. Harrison and Reiche have identified a misplaced guide line at position 100 (albeit without an illustration or photo) while Johnson and the Duckworths only speculate that this could exist. On the other hand, Johnson and the Duckworths have plated a misplaced guide line at position 92 while Harrison and Reiche provide no suggestion that this exists.

Based on a couple of dozen examples collected by Brian Hargreaves and some further studies by Scott Robinson, the authors decided to examine the topic of plating these misplaced guide lines in detail. Our proposal for each position is shown in figure 3 on the following page. Each of these stamps or proof copies is from Brian's collection.



*Figure 3: Examples of proposed misplaced guide lines as discussed by various philatelic authors and labelled with our proposed plate positions.*

The essential information to be gleaned here is the following:

- Our position 97 (shown here from a blue proof, although we have other regular examples) matches the Harrison illustration for that position. However, it is not included in Johnson's images of the various plate positions. The Johnson article shows the same stamp as us for position 96 and then skips to our position 98 stamp, but identifies it as position 97.
- With the addition of our position 97, Johnson's positions 97, 98 and 99 become our new positions 98, 99, and 100. This would also mean that the image labelled as position 99 in the Duckworths' book should actually be position 100.
- The stamp shown for position 92 is an interesting one. While it is the same stamp as postulated by Johnson and the Duckworths to be position 92, the authors believed for some time that it did not belong there because its appearance and location are inconsistent with the longer and thinner vertical lines in the other plate positions. Some recent evidence has caused us to reconsider. More on this later.

## Evidence from the Brigham Block

In order to confirm our plate assignments, we were interested to compare them to a very famous large block of the 2¢ Large Queen that is currently in the Brigham collection. This block is arguably one of the most important mint multiples in Canadian philately because it contains the only known complete “E. & G. BOTHWELL CLUTHA MILLS” watermark as found on all values of the Large Queens. An image of the block showing a simulated overlay of the watermark is shown in figure 4.



*Figure 4: Famed block from the Brigham collection showing stamps from the bottom two rows of the plate and a complete watermark (simulated via the black overlay).*

What is not so well known about this block is that it comes from the bottom two rows of the pane and contains several positions with the misplaced guide lines. This is mentioned in the Duckworths’ book, and the Johnson article mentions that “to date, even high-density scans of these have failed to give sufficient detail to confirm this for all stamps”. The block has a very storied background having been owned by at least half a dozen of the most famous collectors of Canadian stamps. Beginning with Jarrett and Boggs, and more recently in the Duckworths’ book and Johnson article, this block has been described as having anywhere from 14 to 20 stamps. The perforations have been reinforced in several areas and additional stamps have been attached or re-attached at both ends of the block. Harrison even mentions that it was once separated into two blocks. It is generally believed that the current configuration includes positions 91 to 99 of the bottom row. The 14 stamps at the centre of the block are clearly from a single original piece despite some repairs and reinforcement since the perforations match very well and the watermark appears flawlessly across 13 of these stamps.

The writers are indebted to Maxime Stephanie Herold of Canada Stamp Finder for providing us with a high-resolution scan of the block on behalf of the Brigham Collection. Our examination of the bottom row reveals the following:

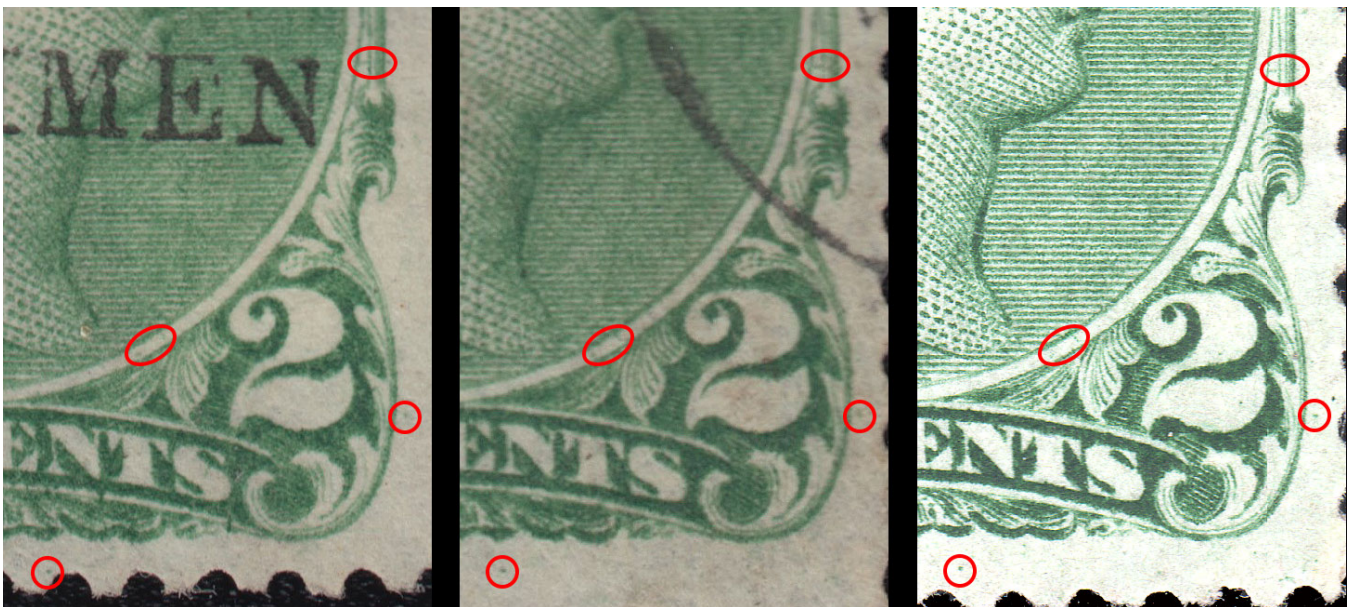
- The first stamp, purported to be position 91, and the stamp above it show no specific marks that would allow us to plate them. There appear to be traces of unerased vertical and horizontal guide lines plus some stray ink marks but no obvious guide dots. They have clearly been joined to the block (apparently they were at one time joined to the right side of the block) but appear to be stamps from the first column and may possibly be correctly re-joined to the core block of 14 stamps.
- The second stamp is of particular interest since it should be position 92. Unfortunately, this stamp has had a small piece of the bottom left corner repaired or replaced (see figure 5). Evidence of this is visible on all images I have seen of the block including an early image in Boggs (1945) that is credited to Godden’s Gazette. Since this repaired corner has been with the block for so long, it stands to reason that it might be the original corner piece re-attached. If this is true, then the strong guide dot but no trace of any misplaced guide line would indicate that our candidate for position 92 is incorrect. Apparently, Harrison examined this block when it was owned by Gerald Firth and he was satisfied that position 92 had no misplaced guide line. However, a detailed comparison of two copies of our position 92 candidate and position 92 of the Brigham block reveals a number of matching random plate anomalies that



indicate they are almost certainly from the same plate position. Several extra dots throughout the stamp impression and a horizontal line on the right side of our copies are a perfect match with position 92 of the Brigham block. A comparison of some of these anomalies is shown in figure 6. Based on this apparent match of the plate positions, it must be concluded that the attached corner on the Brigham block is not actually from position 92.



*Figure 5: Bottom right corner from plate position 92 of the Brigham block showing a clear repair but no misplaced guide line.*



*Figure 6: Comparison of random plates marks from two copies of our position 92 candidate and the Brigham block.*

- We are pleased to report that positions 93 to 98 of the block are in complete agreement with our proposed candidates for those positions, including 97. The exact misplaced guide lines that are shown in figure 3 were visible for these corresponding positions on the block. Since this core section of the block contains the watermark and has no evidence of tampering, we believe this provides sure confirmation for these positions.
- The final stamp on the bottom right of the block (see figure 7) is interesting. It and the stamp above it have clearly been heavily reinforced or reattached. We were disappointed to find that instead of showing our candidate for position 99, it showed our position 100! This leaves two possibilities: (1) the two stamps on the right side of the block were attached there in error and they really come from one position further to the right or (2) our candidate for position 99 is plated incorrectly and comes from somewhere else despite having an obvious misplaced guide line at the appropriate position. The scan does suggest that the horizontal perforations and the horizontal guide lines for the top stamps (supposedly 88 and 89) do not match very well. However, this could simply be because the reattachment or reinforcement was not done very accurately. The vertical perforations do look like a reasonable, if not perfect, match. It is also interesting that Harrison’s anecdotal report of examining the block confirms all of his positions up to 98, but he does not mention the last position even though he confirms a block of 18!



*Figure 7: Closeup of lower right stamps from the Brigham block showing misplaced guide line from plate position 98 on the left and misplaced guide line from position 99 (or 100) on the right stamp which shows evidence of being attached or reattached.*

The Brigham block confirms our candidates for positions 93 to 98 with reasonable certainty. It further suggests that position 92 is also correct despite an attached corner piece that does not show a misplaced guide line. It also suggests that our position 99 candidate may be wrong and that the position 100 candidate is actually position 99. However, repairs and attachments or reattachments to each side of the Brigham block make it difficult to draw definitive conclusions for positions 91, 92, and 99 from the block. We should note at this point that the images from the Johnson article and the illustrations from the original Harrison article do suggest that the sequence of our candidates for positions 98 to 100 is correct. The fact that Harrison overlooks the last position of the Brigham block when confirming his plate assignments, which he established from “large multiples left and right”, is also a telling omission.

## Measuring the Dots and Lines

To further test our conclusions, we performed some measurements in Photoshop using the Brigham block scan and scans of our own examples. Due to possible variances from paper shrinkage in the stamps themselves and scans created from different scanners in different file formats, we have made measurements only to the nearest tenth of a millimetre.

For the Brigham block, the distances as measured between individual guide dots for positions 93 to 98, the core central section of the block, are always between 22 and 22.1 mm. The distances between misplaced guide lines are always between 22.3 and 22.4 mm. These results are consistent with the theory that the misplaced guide lines were originally entered in anticipation of a larger stamp width. The measurements for the last two stamps in the block, supposedly positions 98 and 99, showed 22.4 mm between the guide dots and 22.9 mm between the misplaced guide lines. Even allowing for some misalignment due to the re-attachment of the stamps, this much larger spacing between both the dots and the lines clearly indicates that the final stamp does not fit the spacing pattern of the other positions.

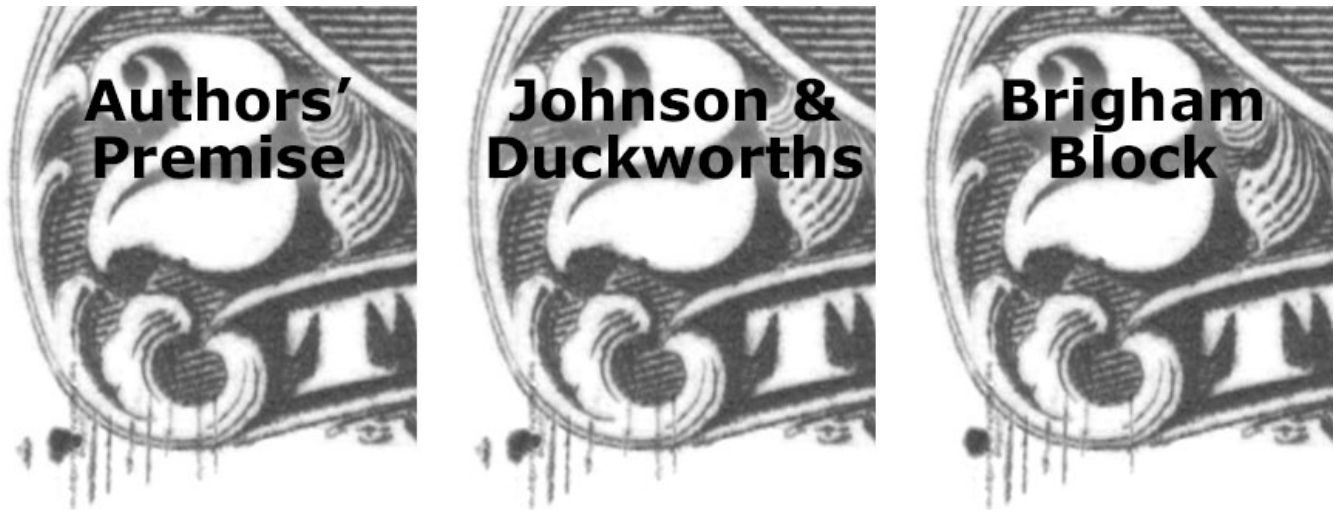
We also examined the distance between the guide dot and the misplaced guide line for each plate position. For positions 93 to 98 these measurements showed a consistent progression from 0.1 to 1.5 mm. Each position showed the expected progressively larger distance between the dot and the line of 0.3 mm except for one position where it was slightly smaller at 0.2 mm. The measurements of the distance between the guide dot and the misplaced guide line for the final stamp of the block, supposedly position 99, was 2.1 mm. This represents a progression of 0.6 mm from the stamp at position 98 and is exactly double the expected value of 0.3 mm as seen with the core stamps from positions 93 to 98 of the block. We also measured this distance for a copy of our position 99 candidate (not shown in the Brigham block) and found it to be almost exactly 1.8 mm, which is precisely the expected value for this plate position and a near perfect fit for the stamp that appears to be missing from the Brigham block.

Finally, we wanted to perform some measurements for position 92. Since the corner of this position appears to have been attached in error to the Brigham block, we used Photoshop to precisely overlay a copy of our position 92 candidate over the scan of the block. The distance measured between the guide dots for position 92 and 93 was 22.2 mm. This is one tenth of a millimetre more than expected but well within normal tolerances due to visual positioning of the overlay image. The distance between the misplaced guide lines of positions 92 and 93 was 22.7 mm. This was not consistent with our other measurements, being between 3 and 4 tenths of a millimetre more than expected. Based on these results, it should not be surprising that the measured distance between the guide dot and the misplaced guide line for position 92, at -0.4 mm, is also two tenths of a millimetre more than expected. While it is normal and expected for this number to be negative, since the misplaced guide line is to the left of the dot, the distance from the dot is still larger than would be expected based on the other positions. The measurements for the Brigham block, including our overlay of position 92, are summarised in the following table. All measurements are in millimetres.

	Position 92 (overlay)	Position 93	Position 94	Position 95	Position 96	Position 97	Position 98	Position 99
Distance between guide dot at this position and one on next (right) stamp	22.2	22.1	22.1	22	22.1	22.1	22.4	N/A
Distance between misplaced guide line at this position and one on next (right) stamp	22.7	22.4	22.4	22.3	22.3	22.4	22.9	N/A
Distance between guide dot and misplaced guide line at this position	-0.4	0.1	0.4	0.7	1	1.2	1.5	2.1
Change in distance between guide dot and misplaced guide line at this position compared to previous (left) stamp	N/A	0.5	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.6

## Comparing the Visual Appearance and Relative Location

Another way to visualise the changing appearance and location of these misplaced guide lines is to overlay them on a single stamp image. The images in figure 8 show an extremely accurate overlay of the guide dots and the misplaced guide lines as suggested by the different sources discussed here. The first image shows our premise for the misplaced guide lines for positions 92-100. The second image shows the Johnson/Duckworth premise for positions 92-99. The third image shows positions 93-99 as suggested by the current state of the Brigham block.



*Figure 8: Overlaid images of all guide dots and misplaced guide lines as suggested by the authors and other published philatelic sources.*

It is the authors' considered opinion that these images entirely support our premise as being the most logical. The much larger spacing discrepancies seen in the Johnson/Duckworth and Brigham overlay images are hard to reconcile with the theory that the misplaced guide lines were evenly spaced but for a larger stamp width. It should be noted that some small anomalies in the perceived spacing of the misplaced guide lines are to be expected because of possible imperfections when they were created and when the final stamp impressions were laid down. Our position 99 candidate shows a guide dot that is located slightly rightward compared to the other positions. This would cause the position 98 stamp to also be laid down a little rightward and may account for the perceived leftward placement of the misplaced guide line at that position in all three of the overlay images. Despite this, a quick scan of figure 8 suggests that position 97 is missing from the Johnson/Duckworth premise image and that positions 92 and 99 are missing from the Brigham block image.

## Conclusions

While incontrovertible conclusions for all positions cannot be drawn from the evidence available to us, the authors stand by our position candidates for all of the misplaced guide lines as reflected in figure 3. A preponderance of the evidence from published written accounts, illustrations, and images plus the consistent appearance and spacing of our candidates all support our premise.

In summary, we posit that misplaced guide lines appear to the right of the guide dot for positions 93 through to 100. These misplaced guide lines appear progressively and systematically further to the right at each position as would be expected from lines that were laid down in error for a larger stamp size. The stamp at position 92 also has an extra guide line or similar mark to the left of the guide dot. While its presence to the left of the dot is to be expected, the precise location of the line and its short but thick appearance are inconsistent with the other misplaced guide lines. It is difficult to state with certainty that the mark at position 92 is part of the series of misplaced guide lines observed at the other positions. We have seen no evidence to suggest that there would be a misplaced guide line at position 91.

We welcome all feedback from collectors knowledgeable on this subject including any scans of multiples or clearly plated singles that can provide further evidence for positions 91, 92, 99, and 100.

When studying these misplaced guide lines that were likely placed in error at the bottom of the plate, it is interesting to imagine that these would surely be missing if there was a second plate used to produce this stamp. The Duckworths report that a random sample of 230 copies selected for their dated cancels showed only 3% with misplaced guide lines. This is less than half of what should be expected if there was only one plate. Despite this, there are no reported copies we are aware of that show the printer's imprint at bottom without a misplaced guide line. In an upcoming article, we will examine the evidence for a second plate and try to resolve this apparent conflict.

## References

**The high-resolution scan of the Brigham block was generously provided by Maxime Stephanie Herold (Canada Stamp Finder) and courtesy of Mr. Ron Brigham.**

**We would also like to acknowledge Richard Johnson for providing feedback to an earlier draft of this article and suggesting the addition of the section with our numerical measurements. We are not sure if we have entirely convinced him of our findings, but we thank him for his input.**

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***Note: This article is a revised and greatly expanded version of an article by Brian Hargreaves that appeared in the December 2020 issue of Confederation, the newsletter of the BNAPS Large and Small Queen study group.***

## Constant Line Discovered on 6¢ Small Queen Die Proof

By Scott Robinson

Black proofs of Canada's early stamps are popular with collectors because they can show details of the engraving not seen when printed in lighter colours. The die proof shown below is from the Daniel Cantor collection and was sold by Sparks Auctions in 2015. The proof shows a prominent line from an engraver's slip or scratch that appears to originate at the top of the stamp. The line appears in the upper frame lines and descends in an irregular arc-shape as it passes through the "D" of "CANADA" and into the portrait area behind the Queen's head where it seems to terminate in the top of the Queen's bun.



*Figure 1: Black die proof from the Daniel Cantor collection showing a clear engraver's slip or scratch. Image used with permission courtesy of Ian Kimmerly, Sparks Auctions.*

Since this line appears in a die proof contemporary to the original production, it should appear to some extent in all 6¢ Small Queen stamps. Below is a random sample of stamps and a proof from the collection of Jim McCormick showing how the line appears through the various plates and states of the issue in chronological order. Notice how the earlier printings and proof in the lighter yellow brown shades only show traces of the line in the “D” and the frame lines above and below. The line is almost imperceptible on the “Ghostly” plate 2 sample. Of particular interest are the double guide dot state of plate 1 that shows some of the line in the center dark area of the “D”, and the final triple guide dot state that shows some of the line at the top of the portrait area.



**Plate 1 (A plate)  
Early proof in  
issued colour**



**Plate 1 (A plate)  
Single guide dot**



**Plate 2  
(ghostly plate)**



**Plate 1 (A plate)  
Double guide dot**



**Plate 3 (BC plate)  
No visible guide dot**



**Plate 1 (A plate)  
Triple guide dot**

*Figure 2: Sample copies showing the constant line as it appears through various plates and states of the issue in chronological order. Please zoom in to see the details. All copies and their plate identification courtesy of Jim McCormick.*

# Uncharted Territories – Varieties of the Map Stamps of 1898

By Scott Robinson

## Inexpensive eBay Finds

In my previous Uncharted Territories column, I mentioned my recent success in finding inexpensive unidentified copies of the catalogued major re-entry from plate/position 5B91 and the major misplaced entry from 2A84. These were found by identifying the red plate characteristics from low-resolution images in the eBay auction listings using the techniques described in my column. Several readers emailed me asking to see these stamps.

Although these are not my best copies, they are nice copies of what I consider to be my two favourite Map varieties. My first find was a fine dated example of the major re-entry from 5B91. This was offered as part of a pair of used Maps that were only identified as being #85 and 86. The auction got my attention because I noticed the extra island between islands 3 and 7 in the Pacific Ocean Group. After scrutinizing the auction image more closely, I was also able to just barely discern the extra dot at the top of Africa hidden in the cancellation. These are the key red plate characteristics for identifying this stamp. Although I could not really make out the black plate re-entry characteristics in the auction scan, I did note that some of the letters in “CANADA” looked misshapen. I made an offer to the seller of \$24 for the pair which was accepted.



Figure 1: Major re-entry from 5B91 showing highlighted black and red plate characteristics.

Although this copy is a little off-centre, it does have a nice, dated Woodstock cancel and exceptionally good alignment of the three plate colours. Figure 1 shows the stamp with the two red plate characteristics used to identify it highlighted in yellow. The re-entry is extensive and appears throughout the design. The most obvious characteristics are highlighted in blue. These include strong doubling of the background horizontal lines into the



letters of "CANADA" which gives it an almost chiseled 3D appearance, plus doubling of "XMAS" and the left "2" value. There is also doubling in some areas of the cable, the lines of latitude on the left half of the design, and very faint doubling of the squiggly lines in the northeastern tip of Russia. The other interesting aspect of this stamp is that it also includes obvious retouching of the bottom cable. Several of the diagonal lines of the cable have been strengthened leaving spurs into the bottom margin and there is a poorly placed horizontal line running along the bottom of the cable.

My second eBay find was the major misplaced entry from 2A84 shown in figure 2 below. I spotted this one in a lot of four Maps which I won for \$12. This plate position is frequently easy to spot because Great Britain can have a blob-like appearance with Ireland joined to Britain and the Orkneys and Shetlands fused as one island above. There is also a distinct extra horizontal island above New Zealand and small marks in Africa. These red plate characteristics can change somewhat from copy to copy for position 84, but they are usually fairly consistent for black plate 2 copies. Identifying the black plate can be difficult because all of the misplaced entry characteristics for plate 2 appear as light marks in or near the top margin. However, careful examination of even a poor scan can usually reveal traces of the marks above the left and right cables or the ghostly marks above "TAG" of "POSTAGE".



*Figure 2: Major misplaced entry from 2A84 showing highlighted black and red plate characteristics.*

I previously wrote about this misplaced entry in a 2017 Dots & Scratches article. This stamp is the only misplaced entry known among the Map stamps, but it is a beauty with all the misplaced marks at the top of the stamp coming from doubling of a narrow horizontal strip from the centre of the stamp design. 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. Figure 3 highlights the misplaced entry marks in blue and their original locations in red. This misplaced entry appears to have been caused by a dropped transfer roll that accidentally transferred part of the impression from the middle of the stamp to the upper margin area. This is certainly one of the more spectacular varieties of this issue.



*Figure 3: Major misplaced entry marks shown in blue with their original locations shown in red.*

## Reader Feedback

Study group member, Guillaume Vadeboncoeur, sent me an interesting email related to the 1998 Canada Post commemorative of the 100th anniversary of the Map stamp (Scott #1722) that I used as a plating example in the last newsletter. I would have assumed that Canada Post would get the materials they needed for such a stamp, including the images of a crown, Postmaster General William Mulock, and the old Map stamp itself from their own archives or those of Library and Archives Canada. Apparently this was not the case. They required a nice example of the stamp with deep blue oceans, so they went to a dealer on their advisory committee to get a copy. Unfortunately, that dealer did not have a satisfactory copy in his inventory at the time, so he contacted Guillaume, who happened to have what they were looking for.

So the old Map stamp that appears on the 1998 commemorative is the copy from Guillaume's collection. He says he was hoping to get the stamp back but instead they paid him \$100 for his hinged copy. While the price was certainly fair, I think having the actual copy that was featured on the modern commemorative would have been an exciting exhibit piece.

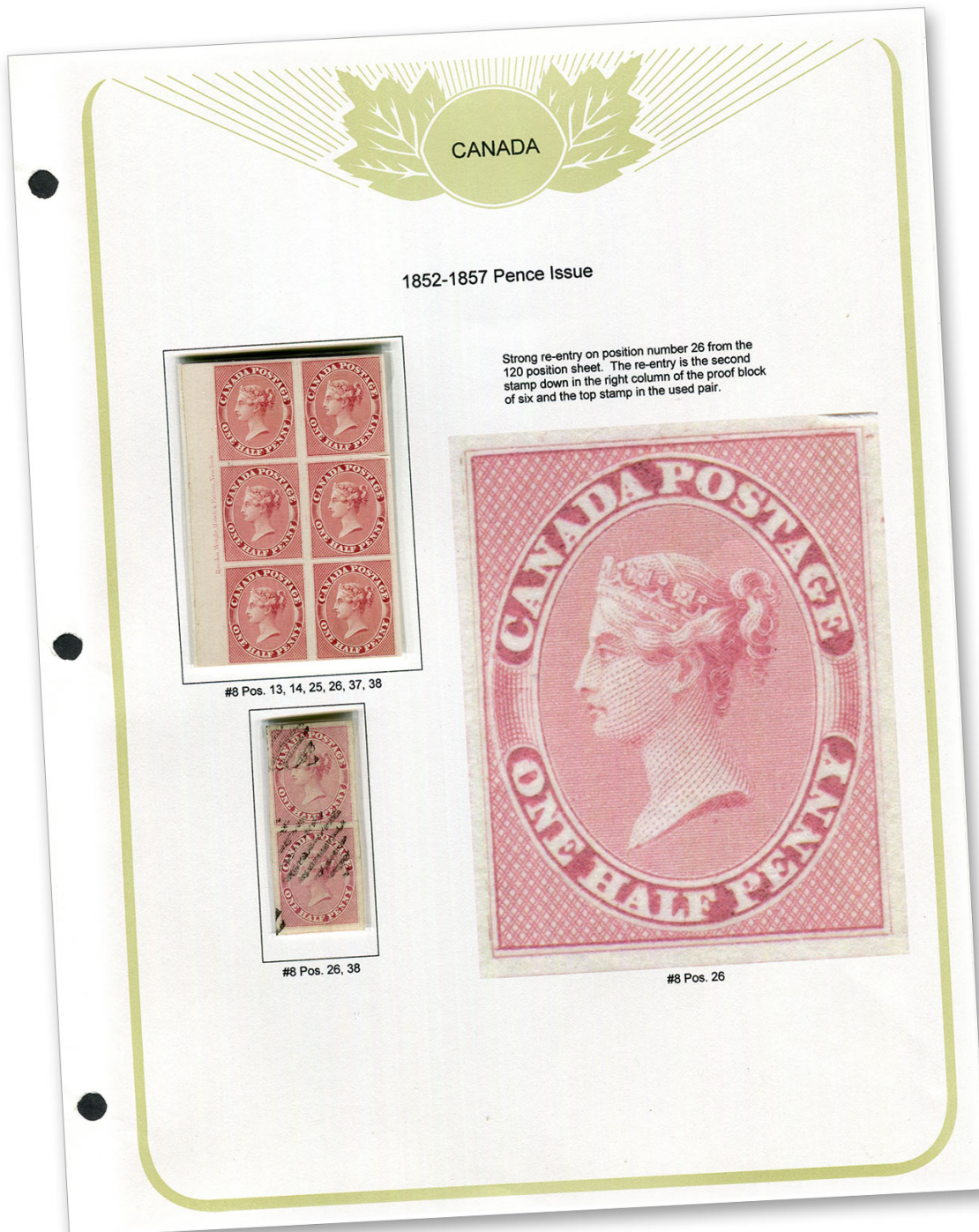
Thanks for sharing this story Guillaume!



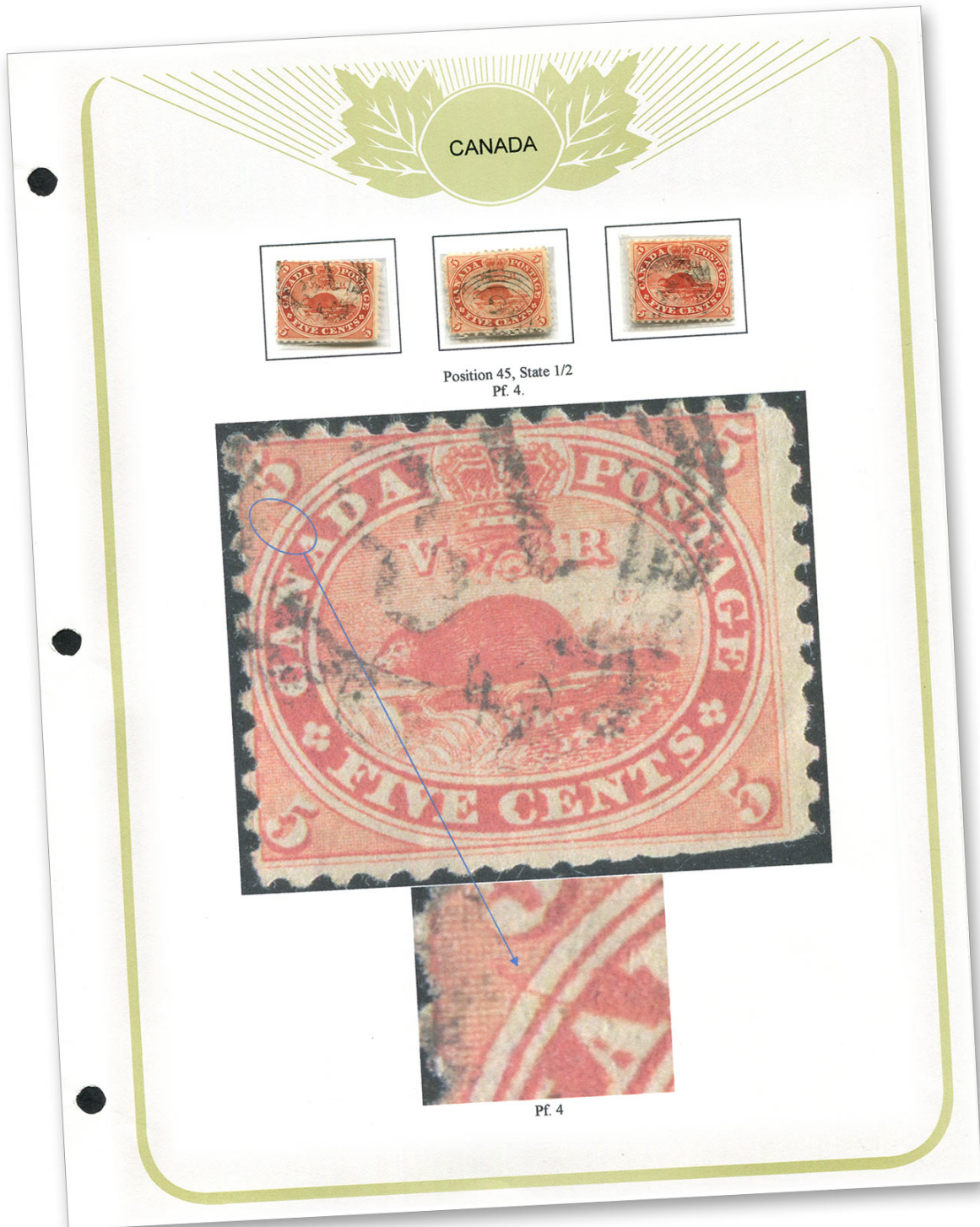
## Pagination – Samples of Imaginative Album & Exhibit Pages

Displaying stamp varieties in a collection does not have specific rules and collectors each have their own styles and formats. Some collectors like to display their varieties with detailed scans and descriptions, while others prefer to let the stamps do the talking. Exhibit pages usually need to adhere to more stringent rules, but collectors still find ways to show their originality. This new regular column will feature a few album pages from variety collectors that illustrate their own unique display style. Hopefully, it will provide some inspiration to collectors, such as your editor, who still have most of their varieties in unadorned stock books.

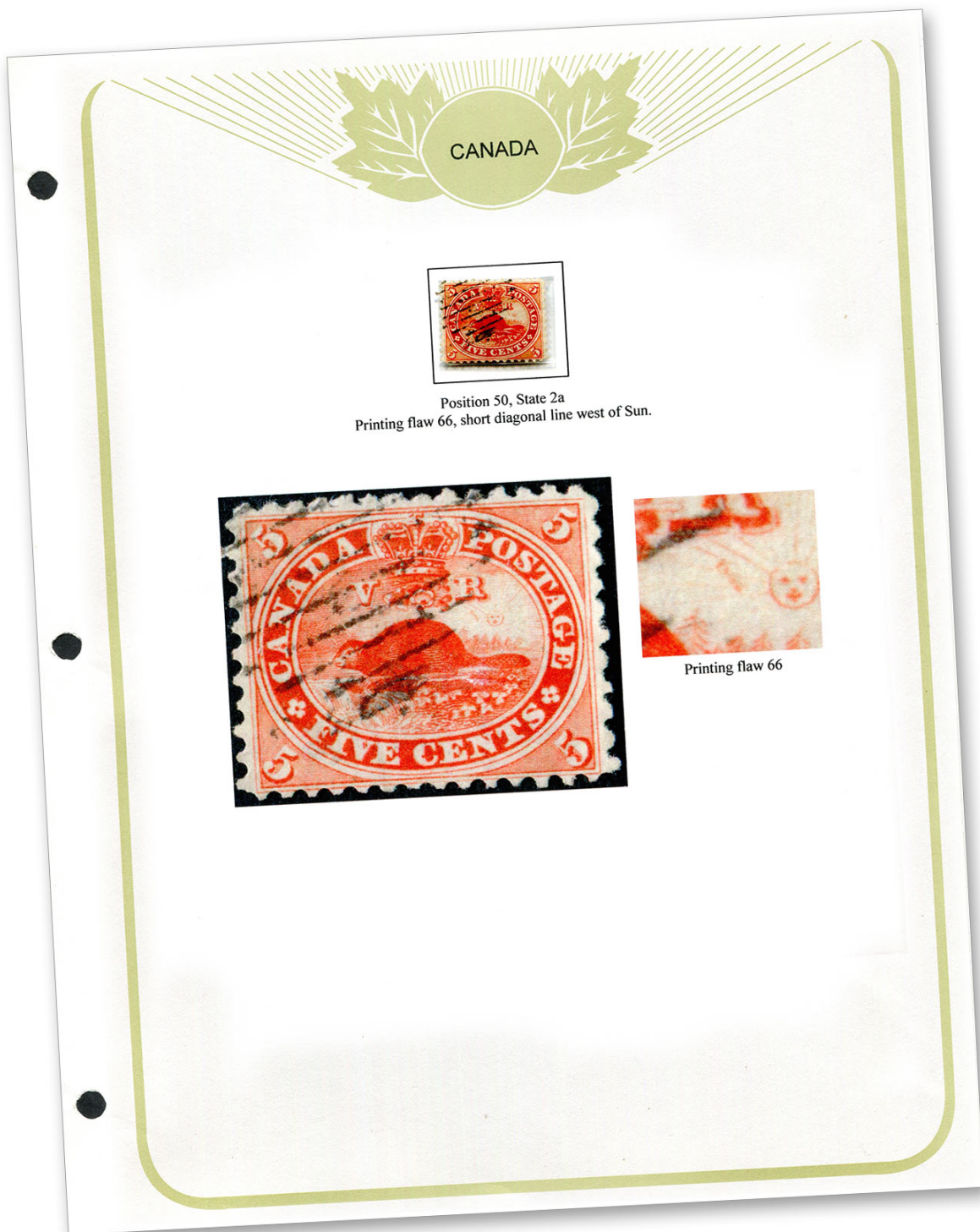
We kick off this new feature with some sample pages from Michael D. Smith, your previous newsletter editor. Mike comes from a multigenerational family of collectors. His album pages are styled after those from his mother's collection that used Niagara loose-leaf pages with rounded corners and a green border with leaf motif.



When he first started collecting, Mike made his own pages by hand. "I used a T-square, ruler triangle and a pen with ink bottle and a straight edged ruler. I used both quadrille and plain paper. And occasionally did hand drawings." Adapting to the computer age, Mike now prints his custom pages which include minimal text but high-definition colour enlargements of the stamps to highlight the specific plate varieties. "I like to mount more than one copy of a variety as used stamps may have some features hidden by cancelations or removed when the stamps were perforated or cut."



Although Mike's enlarged stamp images are usually presented against a black background, he prefers to mount his actual stamps and covers using PermaGuard clear mounts. Says Mike, "The clear mounts allow you to look at the back of the stamp by lifting it as if it were properly mounted on a hinge. You do not have to remove the stamp for viewing."



## New Finds and Discoveries

This issue we have a couple of wonderful Pence issue varieties shared by Domenic DiMartella-Orsi. Technically these stamps are not really new finds or discoveries. Dom has provided scans for several varieties that appear on my FlySpecker website. He acquired the stamps shown here for his collection and shared them with me back in 2019. Somehow, they got lost in a flurry of email and I never found them again until this week.

The 7½d stamp is a remarkably clear copy showing the major re-entry from plate position 7. There are subtle elements of doubling visible in and around most of the lettering. In particular, there is a faint line across the tops of several letters in "POSTAGE" and "SIX PENCE" along with corresponding lines and marks in the white ovals below. Notice also that the value indicators at the bottom of the stamp are doubled into the frame lines below.



The 6d stamp shown below features a more subtle re-entry from plate position 12. Unlike the 7½d stamp and many of the major re-entries of this issue that show lines of doubling from the oval frames that cross the lettering, this stamp shows a re-entry that is more typical of later issues where subtle signs of doubling are shown at the sides of the letters. Most of the letters in "CANADA" show doubling from their right sides and "TEN" shows some doubling from the left. There are several scratches known on this plate and one of these is clearly visible cutting into the design from the bottom of the left margin. The weak transfer at the top right corner and the dot just above in the margin are also constant at this position.



## Reader Feedback

Study group member, Alain Gauthier, contacted me in reference to the triple entry of the ½¢ Small Queen that was shared by Robert Coulson in our last newsletter. Alain owns several panes of this stamp and he suggested that the triple entry comes from position 26 of the right pane. My own references for that position do indeed show a very similar re-entry with signs of tripling, if not quite as strong as Robert's copy. However, position 26 was still the best match I could find and seems like a reasonable identification of the plate position. If any members have a copy of Ken Kershaw's books on plating this stamp, I would be very interested to see a scan of the information for position 26 of the right pane.



**Reference Copy (Right Pane, Position 26)**



**Robert Coulson Copy**

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## Cover Image Information

The 2¢ Large Queen stamp from this issue's cover is interesting because it appears to combine two constant plate varieties that are not known from the same plate position. The stamp is actually from plate position 98 and includes the misplaced guide line that would be expected there (see the article on page 4) plus some other very tiny constant plate marks that are also specific to position 98. The stamp also includes what appears to be the well-known major re-entry from plate position 7. This re-entry is most commonly recognised by the significant doubling that shows in the "D" of "CANADA". Both of these features are highlighted in figure 1 below.



*Figure 1: Magnified and highlighted misplaced guide line and apparent re-entry.*

Although the mark in the "D" is a dead ringer for the major re-entry, it is actually something else entirely. The major re-entry from plate position 7 does show a strong mark in the "D" but it also shows marks in several other letters plus strong doubling of the "2" value and the border in the bottom left corner of the stamp. None of these additional attributes are seen on this stamp.

Normally stamps from plate position 98 do not show signs of re-entry and certainly not a prominent mark in the "D" of "CANADA". The explanation for the apparent re-entry doubling in the "D" of this stamp is that it is an optical illusion caused by poor inking to the green background of the letters. This is sometimes known as a "dry print". Careful examination of the stamp shows that there are white areas around several of the letters in "CANADA POSTAGE". The "C" shows white marks in the centre area. The "P" shows odd extensions to the serifs at top and bottom. And there are some white blotchy marks to the right of the letters in "TAG". The odd appearance of the "D" is not caused by doubling of the green background into the white of the letter as is typical

of a re-entry. It is caused by an extra white area directly to the left of the “D”. This gives the impression that the white vertical stroke line of the “D” is thicker and that there is a green mark within this stroke line. However, the green mark is really just the normal left edge of the letter. Figure 2 provides comparative images and graphical illustrations of a normal “D” as found on most stamps, the major re-entry “D” from plate position 7, and the illusionary re-entry “D” as shown on this stamp from position 98. Notice how the left vertical stroke of the “D” appears much thicker in the bottom image. The illustration reveals how this is really caused by an extra white area to its left.



**Normal “D”**



**Major Re-entry “D” (Position 7)**



**Re-entry Illusion “D” (Dry Print)**

*Figure 2: Comparative images and illustrations for a normal stamp, re-entered “D”, and the illusionary re-entry caused by a dry print.*

The key point to remember is that a re-entry always entails extra ink and is a constant variety that originates on the plate. A dry print involves areas that are missing ink and is usually just a transitory variety that originates during printing when the paper is not damp enough for the ink to adhere to it. Despite these differences, dry prints are frequently mistaken for re-entries by both collectors and dealers.