

Dots & Scratches

Re-entries and Constant Plate Varieties

Study Group of BNAPS



This mint Map stamp features a strong lavender shade for the oceans and some spectacular varieties for the red British colonies. However, it is some less obvious marks to the black plate that make it a very desirably stamp. Zoom in to see if you can spot these features or see page 31 for all the details.

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This newsletter and previous issues are available as PDF files from the BNAPS website.
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My Two Cents – From Your Editor

I am very pleased to bring you this third addition of Dots & Scratches for 2021. We have a big issue chock full of articles and scans submitted by friends and study group members. As the world continues to slowly open up after COVID-19, I am looking forward to finally seeing many of you in person. Until that time, Zoom (or other online video conferencing) meetings continue to be the *de rigueur* outlet for stamp shows and meetings.

BNAPEX 2021 VIRTUAL

I was pleasantly surprised with the success of the first virtual BNAPS convention. Seeing all the exhibits online was still very interesting and enabled viewers to sit down and enjoy them at that own pace even if discussion with the exhibitors, judges and other collectors was not available. While the absence of a real dealer bourse was soundly missed, Zoom meetings and study group seminars were well-attended and included lively discussion on a great many subjects. Our own Zoom meeting for the Re-entries and Constant Plate Varieties Study Group was lively and informative with presentations from Mike Smith about an interesting proof block of the 3d Beaver that is missing the expected “Railroad Track” plate scratches, Dr. Jim Watt on varieties and shades of the 15c Large Queen and 10c Small Queen, and Jim McCormick with some interesting plate varieties on the 3rd issue Canadian Bill Stamps. We also had lots of time for show-and-tell with stamp scans and discussions contributed by Bill Burden, Jim Jung, Earl Noss, Steve Hellsten, Arnold Janson, plus your editor and several other attendees who had stuff to show.

I must say that some of these online alternatives could still be very useful to carry over to normal shows once they resume. For those of you who may have missed out on BNAPEX 2021, be sure to visit the BNAPS website where the exhibits are available for viewing and videos of the meetings are being posted.

In This Issue

At 33 pages, I believe this is our biggest ever issue of Dots & Scratches. I would like to sincerely thank the members and friends who contributed articles or supplied me with stamp scans for the newsletter. This issue includes a new ongoing feature from Bill Burden where he provides reference stamp scans for interesting Admiral constant plate varieties that were previously only published as hand-drawn illustrations in Hans Reiche’s *Canada - The Admiral Flaws* booklet back in 1987. This is followed by a well-researched article from Stephen Hellsten about the rare 1851 Queen Victoria Twelve Pence issue and a lovely “SPECIMEN” proof with major re-entry in his collection.

Also included is my ongoing Map stamp column with a major new Map plate discovery, the second addition of our featured album pages column with some nice pages from Brian Hargreaves showing his collection of Large Queen varieties, and some scans of modern varieties provided by Paul E. Smith featuring the High-Value National Parks Definitives from the 1980’s.

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.

As always, I encourage all members to reach out with their feedback or thoughts and perhaps an article or two so that I can keep the content flowing.

We will be back with one more 2021 issue in December. Until then, happy stamping!



Beasts of Burden: Reference Images for Hans Reiche's Admiral Constant Plate Varieties (Part 1 - 2¢ Carmine)

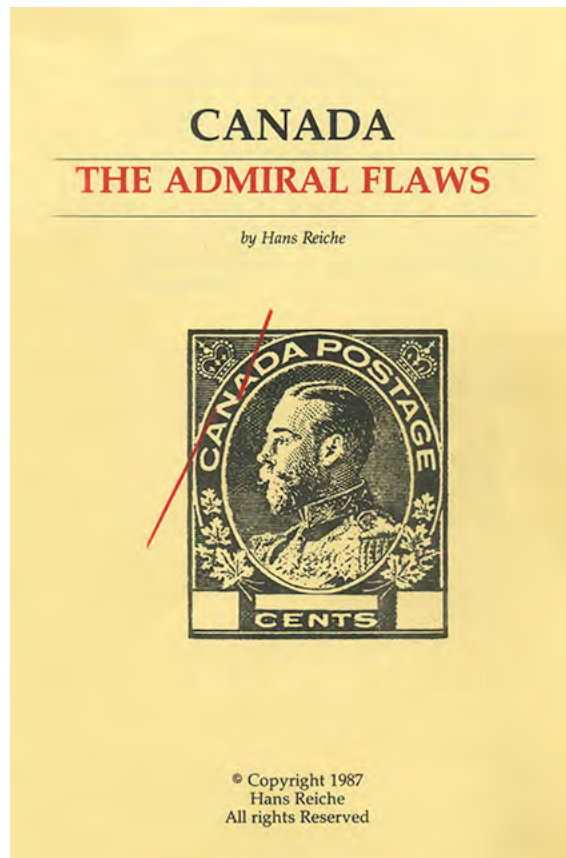
By William G. Burden

Editor's Note: This is the first in a series of articles by Bill Burden where he presents examples of stamps with constant plate varieties (CPVs) that match those described by Hans Reiche. Most of these interesting varieties have not previously appeared in the philatelic literature with actual stamp images. Note that you can zoom into the stamp scans to get a closer look.

With well over 2,500 readily identifiable CPVs, and likely closer to 10,000 existing varieties, it was inevitable that my focus would eventually be drawn to "The Admirals". Over the past decade or so, my attention has become more and more concentrated on the CPVs of this issue. Over the next few issues, I would like to share some of my enthusiasm for these stamps and some of my findings and discoveries.

When I first started putting a magnifying glass to stamps, the only references available were hand-drawn diagrams. I remember driving from Truro to Halifax to view a friend's BNA Topics library to see an actual photo of a particular variety I was hoping to have found. The diagram in Hans Reiche's *Constant Plate Varieties of the Canada Small Queens* handbook did not show the central guide dot that my potential find exhibited. Turns out that useful detail had been omitted, but the picture confirmed my hope that I had, finally, found a really good CPV - the 2¢ Small Queen with latent re-entry at the top.

But I digress - this is supposed to be about Admirals. I am trying to make the point that I really do not much care for hand-drawn diagrams as a means of identifying CPVs: clear pictures are so much better.



Full circle: we are back to Hans Reiche. In 1987 he produced a small booklet, *Canada - The Admiral Flaws*, that was published privately as far as I can tell. In this booklet, over 260 different constant "flaws" of the Admiral issue are diagrammed and described. Over the last little while, I have been trying to find actual reference examples of all these stamps. As with all hand-drawn templated diagrams, it can often be a challenge to be sure that a given stamp matches the diagram.

I use the following model: When I find a single stamp which would seem to be a close match to one of Reiche's diagrams, I consider the match to be a possibility. When I find a second example, I think that the odds are pretty good that I have found a match.

We will start with the Admiral 2¢ carmine. I find the colour easy to work with and have made a decent start identifying some of Reiche's flaws.

Reiche #1: "small curved line on left numeral"

This would seem to be a left vs. right weakness that I share with Mr. Reiche - clearly from his diagram, he meant to indicate the right numeral. This is one of two quite similar markings and is known to come from Plate 8, Lower Left Pane, Position 68 (i.e. 8LL68 from now on). I am aware of multiple examples of this one and am confident that it is the CPV Reiche indicated.



Reiche #7: "three short lines in left numeral box, original die"

Again, this should indicate the right numeral box. I have a high degree of confidence in this one as well - it is very likely a match to 8UL6.



Reiche #28: "sloping line left margin"

The plate position is unknown, but the variety was also reported by Raymond Matte in the 1970s - if not earlier.



Reiche #40: "short parallel line to left numeral box line, from Plate 6 to 8"

The plate position is unknown, but the variety was also reported by Raymond Matte.



Reiche #40



Reiche #61: "two sloping lines through left side of design"

The plate position of this variety is unknown, but it was also reported by Raymond Matte.



Reiche #61



Reiche #70: "oblong large dot in front of face"

This is a striking CPV. The plate position is currently unknown, but the variety was also reported by Raymond Matte.



Reiche #114: "scratch above right crown into margin"

Plate position is unknown, and I do not believe it to have been reported elsewhere. I have seen only the one example, which would seem to match the diagram very closely. A report of a second example would be appreciated.



Reiche #114



Reiche #117: "curved line left margin, from Plate 6 to 8"

Known to be 8UL78 and also reported by Raymond Matte. Compare to Reiche #1 above.



Reiche #117



References

All of the Admiral varieties shown in this article plus many more as originally described by Hans Reiche, George Marler, and Raymond Matte can be explored on the author's website at <https://cms.wgburden.com>.

- *Canada - The Admiral Flaws*, Hans Reiche, Self-published, 1987
- *Study Relating to the George V 1912 Stamp*, Volumes 1, 2 and 3, Raymond Matte, Self-published beginning in 1975. All 3 booklets deal only with the Admiral 2¢ carmine. Published originally in French.

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1851 Queen Victoria Twelve Pence SPECIMEN Proof Major Re-entry

By Stephen Hellsten (stevehellsten@hotmail.com)

Introduction: Canada's Rarest Stamp

For collectors interested in Canadian plate varieties and printing anomalies, few early stamp issues rival Canada's 1851 Queen Victoria Twelve Pence both in terms of the magnitude and quality of its re-entries. Indeed, when describing the Twelve Pence in *The Postage Stamps and Postal History of Canada*, renowned philatelist Winthrop S. Boggs remarked that the plate was "extensively re-entered, so much so in fact that a normal is rarer than one showing evidence of re-entering."

Unfortunately, three distinct but interrelated obstacles confront prospective students of this fascinating stamp issue: (1) scarcity of supply; (2) voracious market demand; and (3) prohibitive cost of acquisition.



Figure 1: A mint example of the 1851 Twelve Penny Black sold by Eastern Auctions Ltd. at the February 2019 Highlands Collection of British North America Part Two sale for an impressive \$155,000.

Scarcity is explained in the May-June 1978 issue of the *Canadian Philatelist*: "of the total printing of 51,000 stamps, 1,510 were distributed to postmasters throughout the Province of Canada and of these, sixty were returned by the postmaster at Ingersoll, Ontario." The remaining stocks "were destroyed in accordance with Post Office procedure" on May 1, 1857, leaving a small pool of survivors that by 1978 had dwindled to "between 100 and 145."

Not surprisingly, limited supply drove market demand; circumstances recognized as far back as the late nineteenth century when Donald A. King – Secretary of the newly formed Canadian Philatelic Association and future Postmaster of Halifax, Nova Scotia – writing in the December 1889 edition of the *Dominion Philatelist* citing observations made by fellow CPA founding member Henry S. Harte, noted that the 1851 Queen Victoria Twelve Pence stamp was "without doubt one of the rarest stamps in existence" making "happy" the collector "who has the luck to have (their) collection of Canadian stamps graced by the presence of this rarity."

And so, with scarce supply sparking collector demand, costs of acquisition rose with the publishers of *The Jubilee Philatelist* confirming in 1899 that "as much as \$500" had "been paid for a

good specimen"; the Queen Victoria Twelve Pence being "one of the rarest stamps in the world."

Today's collector market reflects these longstanding trends with the 2021 edition of *The Unitrade Specialized Catalogue of Canadian Stamps* listing mint and used catalogue values as high as \$150,000 and \$180,000 respectively.

The extraordinary rarity and prohibitive acquisition costs associated with Canada's 1851 Queen Victoria Twelve Pence stamp go a long way to explaining this author's initial detachment from the "12 Penny Black". It is of course a historically significant issue and, for those of us who marvel at plate varieties and printing anomalies, the 12 Penny Black remains a truly captivating stamp. And yet, as suggested by Boggs, "the stamp is so rare however, that any discussion of the re-entries and plate flaws is purely academic so far as the average student is concerned." Like a limited edition, high-performance sports car, few of us will ever have an opportunity to handle much less own a representative example. The truth of the matter is that Canada's 12 Penny Black remains an obscure, extraordinarily rare, and high-value issue with a top position in the pantheon of Canadian stamps that demands respect but does not command consistent attention as a subject of serious philatelic study among most collectors operating on limited budgets.

The Queen Victoria Twelve Pence Black Plate Proofs

Fortunately, prospective budget conscious students of the Queen Victoria Twelve Pence stamp have a collecting alternative; one that provides opportunity to obtain a representative example for study at a more cost-effective price point.

It is here that we turn to the Twelve Pence plate proofs. The 2021 edition of the Unitrade catalogue lists four available proof configurations:

- 3P – Black proof without overprint
- 3Pi – Black proof with vertical SPECIMEN overprint in carmine
- 3Pii – Black proof with diagonal SPECIMEN overprint in carmine
- 3Piii – Black proof with vertical SPECIMEN overprint in green

Catalogue prices listed for these proofs are not inexpensive with values ranging from \$2,500 for a VF copy of the 3Pi to \$6,500 for a VF copy of the 3Piii. However, when considering the prohibitive costs of acquiring one of the less than 150 estimated remaining copies of the actual stamp, a plate proof is an attainable alternative with current lower end auction and dealer prices ranging between \$500 and \$2,000.

For budget-conscious collectors who wish to own a representative example of the 12 Penny Black, the most readily available and affordable option remains the Unitrade 3Pi – black proof with vertical carmine overprint. This plate proof is, essentially, a 12 Penny Black plate impression printed on India paper with a typographed “SPECIMEN” overprint in carmine superimposed on the right side of the stamp face reading vertically upwards from the bottom right corner. Although some composite die proofs are believed to have been made as late as 1878, it seems likely that the 12 Penny Black plate proofs were contemporary proofs printed from the original plate of 200 subjects subdivided into two panes each having ten rows of ten subjects. According to Boggs, the plate of the 12 Penny Black was defaced by the printers and forwarded to The Post Office Department on March 26, 1857. Amazingly, this defaced plate survived the destruction and disposal of most other Pence and Cents (First Decimal) plates, and was exhibited in the National Postal Museum in the 1970’s.

Author’s Proof Discovery

As is the case with most collectors of Canadian stamps, the author’s collection does not, nor likely ever will, include a copy of Canada’s 1851 Queen Victoria Twelve Pence. However, following an unexpected turn of events, the collection now includes a fabulous copy of a heavily re-entered black proof with vertical SPECIMEN overprint in carmine.

Pictured in figure 2, is a plate proof that once formed part of a somewhat eclectic collection of early Canadian stamps, including various re-entries and forgeries, belonging to long time Winnipeg-based philatelist Peter Hellsten. Following Peter’s unfortunate death, parts of his collection passed to the author, who is Peter’s nephew.

The proof went undetected on initial review of the collection content and sadly languished for approximately two years as an undocumented stamp on an old stock sheet near the bottom of a box partially obscured by multiple poor condition



Figure 2: Author’s Black plate proof with overprint.

Pence and Cents stamps. Discovery occurred during the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown; circumstances that presented opportunities to re-examine underappreciated material and to dig through the bowels of stock for possible undiscovered philatelic treasures.

Initial examination revealed that the proof was a Unitrade 3Pi, the black proof with vertical SPECIMEN overprint in carmine, and that it included a prominent re-entry. The words "A. Roig Barcelona" were observed on the back of the stamp – the marks of twentieth century Barcelona based AIEP member and dealer Dr. Antonio Roig Soler – suggesting the stamp once passed through his hands either in his capacity as dealer or, more likely, for purposes of providing expert opinion as to the stamp's authenticity. No accompanying authentication document has been found nor has the author located purchase and sale information that could provide clues to the stamp's provenance predating ownership by Peter Hellsten.

Given the large number of re-entries and minor varieties associated with the 12 Penny Black plate, the probability of securing a 3Pi with an identifiable plate anomaly is high. There are many re-entry configurations, but Boggs lists the principal plate varieties on both the left and right panes with positions 11, 38, 54, 61, 72 and 74 demonstrating the most significant left pane re-entries and positions 56, 61 and 73 the most significant right pane re-entries.

Further investigation with the assistance of a digital microscope revealed that this plate position shows strong evidence of a spectacular clockwise twisted re-entry. The main features are shown in figure 3 on the following page and include:

1. Upward doubling of the outer frame line into the margins at the top left corner.
2. Extensive downward doubling of frame lines into the white space of the frame at right corner plus numerous marks from doubling in "TAGE".
3. Strong leftward doubling of the inner and outer oval frames and crown ornamentation at the middle of the left side.
4. Strong downward doubling of the inner bottom frame line into the whitespace of the bottom frame at middle and right side plus strong marks in "E P".
5. Exceedingly strong doubling marks in the "12" value at bottom left and strong horizontal leftward extension of the thick inner frame line such that it touches the outer frame line.

After consulting with some BNAPS members who specialise in re-entries and plate varieties, it was agreed that this stamp matched the Boggs description for plate position 56 of the right pane. Although Boggs does not recognise twisted re-entries in any of his descriptions, the doubling of the various frame lines generally matches his description and his highlighting of the doubling in "TAGE", the bottom left "12", and his specific mention that the lower left corner frames connect make the identification a virtual certainty.



Figure 3: Composite image showing details of right pane position 56 major re-entry.

Since obtaining clarity as to the identity of the stamp, the author has transferred the right pane position 56 3Pi proof from its former home – that old stock sheet near the bottom of a box – to more suitable accommodations in a new Lindner album befitting its status as one of the author’s more interesting stamp items.

Continuing efforts are being made to learn more about the stamp’s provenance; although the only sales information obtained to date that speaks with certainty to a right pane position 56 3Pi is located in the January 26-30, 1970 H. R. Harmer auction catalogue of the BNA portion of the famous Dale-Lichtenstein stamp collection. Excerpts from that auction catalogue, generously made available by Librarian Willow at the Vincent Graves Greene Philatelic Foundation’s Harry Sutherland Philatelic Library, confirm the sale of Lot 832: a “complete right pane of 100” “Twelve Pence black on India on card vert. specimen in red” “showing major re-entry (pos. 56).” Any reader comments concerning the 3Pi and, more specifically, the SPECIMEN proofs of the right pane with particular attention to position 56 including information with respect to sales of same would be most welcome.

References

Permission to publish the mint stamp image from figure 1 was generously provided by Eastern Auctions Ltd.

- *The Postage Stamps and Postal History of Canada: Volume 1*, Winthrop S. Boggs, Chambers Publishing Company, 1946
- *The Twelve Penny Black*, Canadian Philatelist, May-June 1978, Royal Philatelic Society of Canada
- *Some Remarks on the Canada Twelve Pence*, Donald A. King, Dominion Philatelist, December 1889
- *A Short History of Canadian Stamps*, The Jubilee Philatelist, October 2, 1899
- *The Unitrade Specialized Catalogue of Canadian Stamps*, Ed: D. Robin Harris, The Unitrade Press, 2021
- *The American Banknote Company’s B.N.A. Specimen Plate Proofs*, Norman Boyd, BNA Topics, September-October 2000, British North America Philatelic Society
- *The Louise Boyd Dale and Alfred F. Lichtenstein Collections*, H. R. Harmer, January 26-30, 1970 Auction Catalogue

Uncharted Territories – Varieties of the Map Stamps of 1898

A Significant New Map Stamp Plate Discovery

By Scott Robinson

As Map stamp enthusiasts and attentive readers of this column will already know, each Map stamp was printed using three separate plates, one for each colour of the design.

The Black Plates

The black portion of the stamp was printed by the usual intaglio process from four engraved plates numbered 1, 2, 3 and 5. A plate 4 was also produced but never used, although imperforate proofs from this plate exist in the Canadian Postal Archives and are known in the collector community. Plate 5 was heavily reworked and re-entered after a small quantity of stamps had been printed, leading to a second state of that plate.

The Lavender/Blue Plates

The lavender/blue oceans on the Map stamps were printed separately using the typographic relief printing process from electrotype plates. The number of plates used to print the oceans is speculative and impossible to deduce from the stamps themselves because the oceans are printed in light shades and their boundaries are obscured by the black ink. The details of the oceans are generally indistinguishable from copy to copy except for the colour. However, some recent discoveries do provide evidence that there was more than one plate used for the lavender/blue oceans.

The Red Plates

Like the lavender/blue oceans, the red territories on the Map stamps were also printed from electrotype plates using the typographic relief printing process. Unlike the oceans which show many shades but virtually no differences that can be attributed to plate varieties, the red territories show no significant differences in shade but are chock full of plate varieties. These varieties include numerous instances of missing, misplaced, or added islands and territories.

Two distinctly different red plates were used for printing the Map stamps. The so-called red plate A was used exclusively with black plates 1, 2 and 3 (plus the proofs of black plate 4), and red plate B was used exclusively with black plate 5. This plate combination schema, shown in Figure 1, has been established for more than 70 years and has remained unchallenged until now.



Figure 1: Graphical representation of traditional Map stamp plate assignments

Discovering a New Plate Combination

Over the last few years, I have examined thousands of Map stamps in an effort to assemble all of the black plate varieties for display on my Flyspecker.com website and to complete my own personal collection of all 400 distinct black plate positions. During this research, I have come across two stamps, shown in Figure 2, where I could not reconcile the appearance of the black and red plates to a single plate position.



Figure 2: Two unusual Map stamps

The first of these unusual Map stamps was provided by my friend, Mike Smith, who sent me a selection of scans from a collection he had purchased a while back. He warned me to check the plate position assignments as they had not been verified by him. The scan in question was labelled as 2A92, meaning that it was position 92 from black plate 2 and red plate A. This position is known to have substantial retouching of the cable at the bottom and the lower sides on black plate 2. After checking my reference books, I was fairly satisfied that the retouched cable matched position 92 from black plate 2. However, since similar retouches also appear at several plate positions from black plates 2 and 3, I decided to check the red plate characteristics. At this point, I was disappointed to find that the red plate A varieties mentioned in my references did not match this stamp.

It should be noted that some positional varieties of red plate A do evolve somewhat during its usage with the three black plates. Also, because of their vibrant colour and the method of printing, the red plates will occasionally show characteristics that are transitory in nature and related as much to printing and inking variation as they are to plate differences. Not every red mark on the Map stamps is constant. So, I did a careful examination of all the retouched plate positions in my reference books and stamp copies to see if the observed red plate varieties matched another position. To my dismay, they did not. Even allowing for some transient printing issues, the general shape of the red plate islands and colonies just did not seem to match. Then it occurred to me to check position 92 of red plate B as normally used only with black plate 5. To my surprise, the variety characteristics of position 92 of red plate B matched my black plate 2 stamp.

Figure 3, on the next page, shows a comparison of Mike's stamp (2B92) in the middle, with a normal 2A92 stamp above and a normal 5B92 stamp below. Notice that the two upper stamps from black plate 2 show the same retouched cables. Although it is hard to see without a highly magnified image, both of these stamps show a bottom cable that has been retouched using two horizontal lines. The inner line also turns up and continues into the left cable until just above the left value tablet. The outer retouch line turns up and continues into the right cable past the centre of the stamp. The bottom stamp from black plate 5 is also retouched but has only a single outer retouch line at the bottom of the cable. This line rises to the left so that it appears in the middle of the cable for the last few leftmost links. Notice also how the top of the cable is very faint since it has not been retouched with an inner horizontal line. The left cable is slightly doubled and blurry since there is a re-entry as expected for position 92 on black plate 5.

What makes the middle stamp unusual is that it does not show the same red plate characteristics as the normal plate A stamp from position 92 above. The main characteristics that differentiate red plate A from plate B are highlighted in yellow. Notice that all of the characteristics of plate A are missing from the middle stamp, but that it does possess all the red plate B characteristics of the lower stamp.



Figure 3: Comparison of red and black plates for position 92

Having satisfied myself that Mike's stamp was indeed from black plate 2 and red plate B, I let Mike know about it and resigned myself to the fact that this was likely to be the only such stamp I would ever see. To my surprise, I was recently looking at Map stamps on eBay when I came across what looked like a nice black plate 2 re-entry from position 47. When I checked the red plate, I was shocked to find that it did not match the expected position 47 characteristics of red plate A at all. This time, I went straight to my reference material to see what red plate B looked like at this position and, sure enough, there was a match! It goes without saying that I immediately purchased the stamp.

Figure 4, on the next page, shows a comparison of my stamp (2B47) in the middle, with a normal 2A47 stamp above and a normal 5B47 stamp below. Notice that the two upper stamps show the same black plate re-entry. This is most visible as some rightward spurs coming from the right value tablet and the cable at right. There is also a line that cuts off some of the bottom text which is most visible at the bottom of "BEEN". Some faint marks in both "2" values are also just barely visible. The bottom stamp from black plate 5 shows a normal stamp with no sign of re-entry.

Again, the uniqueness of the middle stamp is that it does not show the same red plate characteristics as the normal plate A stamp from position 47 above. Instead, it shows all the red plate B characteristics of the lower stamp. The main characteristics that differentiate red plate A from plate B are highlighted in yellow. This is particularly noticeable for the islands in the Pacific Ocean that are configured very differently between the two red plates.



Figure 4: Comparison of red and black plates for position 47

Conclusions

The two unusual Map stamp examples illustrated here show clearly that at least some Map stamps were printed from black plate 2 using red plate B. It was previously thought that red plate B was used exclusively with black plate 5.

While it is hard to identify shades in images of stamps that are over 120 years old, subject to oxidization, and scanned with different scanners, it does appear that both of these plate 2B stamps have similar ocean colours. So, it is certainly possible that they came from the same print run. In fact, the ocean colours of both stamps could be favourably compared with the bright blue green ocean shade traditionally associated with black plate 5 stamps. They are certainly not the very deep greenish blue shade that is normally found on black plate 2 stamps.

It is also extremely unlikely that I would have come across two of these stamps without even looking specifically for them unless there are a reasonable number of them in existence. Perhaps, when black plate 5 was being repaired and re-entered, the new red plate B was used for a short time with black plate 2.

Whatever the explanation, it is clear that this new combination of plates must be exceedingly rare. For more than 70 years, the Map stamp has been studied, plated, and written about by many specialists without this combination of plates being discovered. Perhaps other new plate combinations are also out there. For now, I have updated my illustration of Map stamp plate assignments, shown in figure 5, to reflect this new combination.



Figure 5: Graphical representation of revised Map stamp plate assignments

References and End Notes

- *The Canadian 1898 Christmas Map Stamp - A Definitive Plating Study*, Kenneth A. Kershaw & Roger Boisclair, Reprinted by the British North America Philatelic Society, 2009
- *The Canadian Map Stamp of 1898*, Frederick Tomlinson, The Canadian Philatelic Society of Great Britain, 1960
- *The Canadian Map Stamp of 1898 - A Plating Study*, Whitney L. Bradley, British North America Philatelic Society, 1989
- *The Postage Stamps and Postal History of Canada*, Winthrop S. Boggs, Quarterman Publications, Inc., 1974 (annotated reprint of original publication from 1945)
- Many thanks to Michael D. Smith for sharing scans of his collection with me and for granting permission to use them here.

Note: This article is a revised version of a featured cover article that appeared in the November/December 2020 issue of *The Canadian Philatelist*, the journal of The Royal Philatelic Society of Canada.

Pagination – Samples of Imaginative Album & Exhibit Pages

This regular column features a few custom album or exhibit pages from variety collectors that illustrate their own unique display style. Hopefully, it will provide some inspiration to other collectors to get those stamps out of the stock book and mounted into a custom album page.

This issue we feature some pages from Brian Hargreaves. Although Brian collects all aspects of the Large Queen issue, he says his custom Large Queen varieties pages “are the only part of my collection that is presented for display in this way. I keep them in protective covers in a special box produced for this purpose. My other Large Queens are kept in traditional albums.”



Most of Brian's pages feature only one variety but multiple copies and even covers showing the variety. His pages are created in Microsoft Publisher using one of the supplied templates for the title and border. Brian keeps text to an absolute minimum and lets the stamps and some enlargements of the varieties do the talking.



Brian's pages have a nice unadorned tactile look to them because he does not use black mounts or even add borders around the mounted items. Instead, he uses clear corner mounts for covers and simple hinges for the used stamps that make up the majority of his varieties. Clear mounts are used only sparingly for mint and unused copies. His pages are printed on a handsome cream-coloured card stock.



Show & Share

Canada's High-Value National Parks definitives from the 1970's and 1980's are probably best known, in terms of varieties, for the very rare and expensive versions that completely omit the engraved inscriptions. Whether caused by a misfire on the press that slipped out or actual printer's waste that illegally made its way to the collector's market, these stamps are certainly printing errors and not constant varieties. However, the issue does include a few nice constant varieties that are certainly very collectible and obtainable even for collectors on a modest budget.

With the objective to feature some modern varieties in the newsletter, your editor went back to a horde of scans that were sent to him several years ago by BNAPS member Paul E. Smith. These National Parks varieties are listed in the *Unitrade Catalogue* but with very small images that can make it hard to identify them. Like many modern stamps that are at least partially printed by lithography from multiple process colour plates, the alignment of the halftone process plates can make these varieties look somewhat different from copy to copy. For this reason, highly magnified scans are not always the best way to illustrate the varieties. A good quality full-stamp scan is usually the best way to illustrate the look and location of these constant varieties.

Presented below are used copies collected by Paul (as opposed to removing them from commonly available mint sheets and multiples) that illustrate the major constant varieties from the Canadian Bank Note Company printings of these stamps.



*Figure 1: The inset displayed here on the right shows a clear white dot in the mountains on the right side of the design. This appears on most copies of the stamp. The full stamp image reveals the variety listed in *Unitrade* as 935i without "beacon in mountain" and shows no sign of the dot.*



Figure 2: Unitrade 936iv showing a small “pink dot” in the water next to the trees at left. This constant variety comes from plate position 12.



Figure 3: Unitrade 936v showing a small “red spot” near the peak of the mountain on the right. This constant variety comes from plate position 14.



Figure 4: Unitrade 936vi showing a “black scratch” across the mountain on the right. This constant variety comes from plate position 22. Although not mentioned in the Unitrade catalogue, this position also features an additional constant black scratch in the snow near the bottom of the mountain.

Cover Image Information

The Map stamp from this issue's cover comes from your editor's collection and features the uncommon deep lavender shade to the oceans and some spectacular varieties to the red plate colonies in the Pacific Ocean including: (1) an extra slash mark west of South America, (2) two normally separate islands joined together as a large wedge, (3) an extremely long westward projection from the north island of New Zealand, and (4) two prominent extra islands. These are highlighted in figure 1.



Figure 1: Highlighted red plate varieties in the Pacific Ocean as described in the text above.

These red plate varieties make it easy to identify this stamp as coming from plate position 12 of red plate A. The Tonkin gulf details and a plate scratch make it easy to identify the black plate as plate 1. So, this stamp comes from 1A12. What makes this stamp a particularly desirable copy is that it has sharp black plate details from early in the print run before some of the minor details were worn away.

The middle magnified image in figure 2, on the next page, shows the details of the Tonkin gulf with a very large guide dot that is bisected by a prominent horizontal arc line that protrudes into the left margin of the stamp. While these types of features are common to many black plates and positions, here they have the particular characteristics known for Map stamps from position 12 of black plate 1. Note also a very faint vertical guide line that descends from the guide dot. Although this line is reported in the standard Map stamp references works by Bradley and Kershaw for various plate positions, 1A12 is not one of them. The author believes this guide line is very likely a feature of all stamps from black plate 1, but is worn away at most positions as the plate is used on the printing press. The bottom image in figure 2 shows the continuation of this faint guide line as it descends to the west of Australia and into the ball of the "2" in the left value tablet.

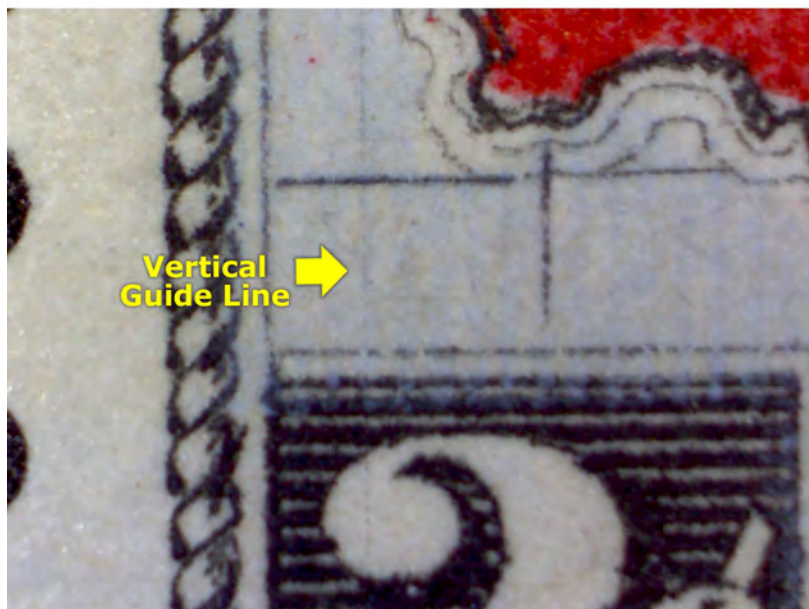
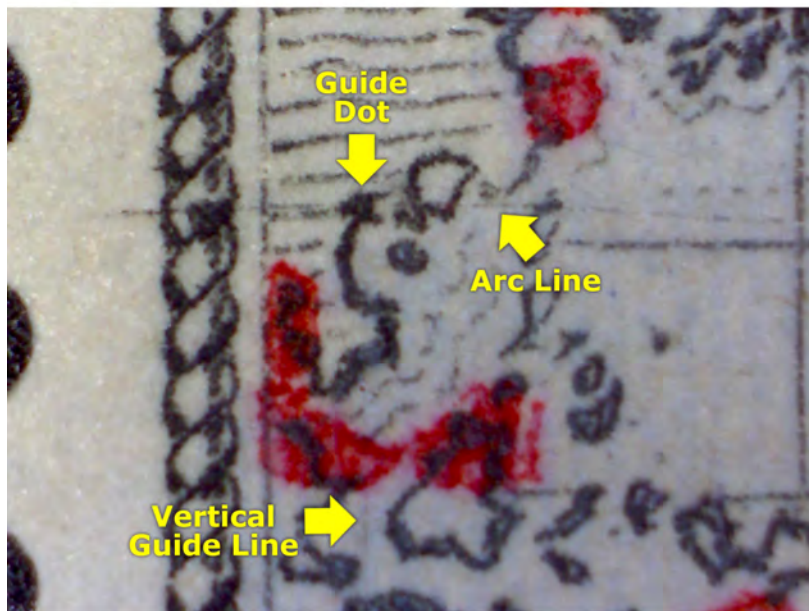
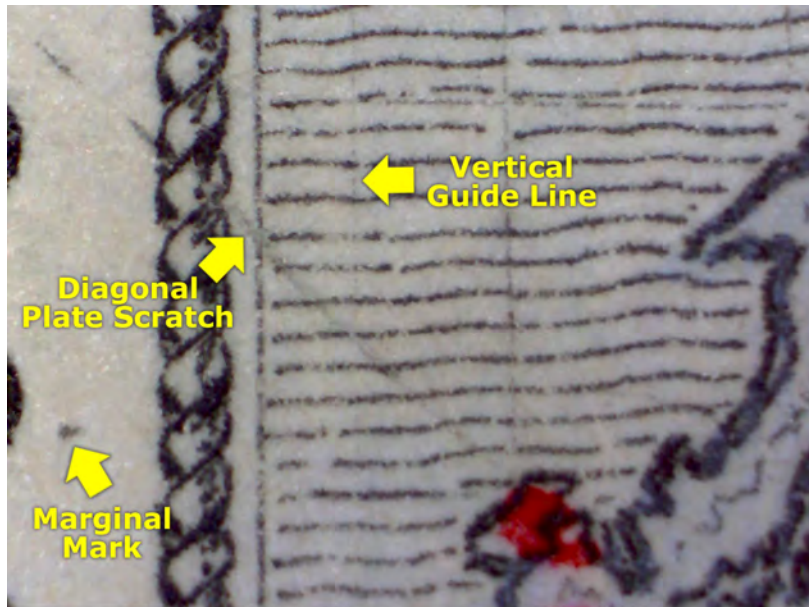


Figure 2: Magnified images showing details of black plate characteristics of 1A12.

The top magnified image in figure 2, on the previous page, shows the continuation of the faint vertical guide line as it rises up through China and Russia. This image also shows two other features of plate damage from 1A12: (1) a faint diagonal scratch line that extends from the coast of China up into the left margin as reported by Kershaw, and (2) a small additional constant mark in the margin that has not been reported before. The diagonal scratch line is particularly strong on this copy and is the reason that the author purchased this stamp. Both the faint vertical guide line and the diagonal scratch are often very hard to see or even almost completely absent on typical copies of this stamp from 1A12.

Figure 3 shows two highly magnified images of the top and bottom right corners of the stamp. Here we see another very faint variety that has not been reported before. There is a vertical guide line, almost a double dotted line, that passes through the right side of the right cable, where it is concealed, but appears at the top and bottom margins of the stamp. Similar guide lines have been reported by Kershaw and Bradley for various plate positions, usually of plate 1, but not for this stamp from 1A12.

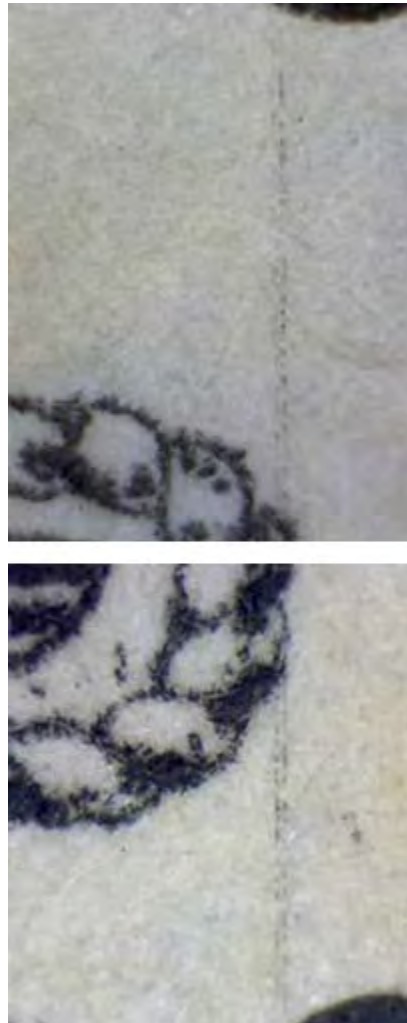


Figure 3: Magnified details of a very faint guide line that appears in the top and bottom right corner margins.

In summary, this early production copy of Map stamp 1A12 displays uncommon details of plate damage varieties (the scratch through China and the mark in the left margin) and clearly reveals two previously unreported vertical guide lines.

References

- *The Canadian 1898 Christmas Map Stamp - A Definitive Plating Study*, Kenneth A. Kershaw & Roger Boisclair, Reprinted by the British North America Philatelic Society, 2009
- *The Canadian Map Stamp of 1898 - A Plating Study*, Whitney L. Bradley, British North America Philatelic Society, 1989