

# Dots & Scratches

## Re-entries and Constant Plate Varieties

Study Group of BNAPS



### *Hiding in plain sight!*

*This lovely cover was picked up by Earl Noss on eBay a couple of years ago. Despite having competition from two other bidders, Earl won the cover for less than \$10 including the shipping. See if you can spot the plate variety that got Earl's attention. Even at low resolution, the variety is evident for those with a keen eye and basic knowledge of Small Queen plate varieties. Refer to page 31 for more information.*

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December 2021, Volume 8, Number 4, Whole Number 28

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## My Two Cents – From Your Editor

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Welcome to the fourth and final edition of Dots & Scratches for 2021. We have another big issue chock full of articles and scans submitted by study group members. In our last issue, only about 8 weeks ago, I wrote of the world continuing to “slowly open up after COVID-19” and my faith in “finally seeing many of you in person”. Unfortunately, this holiday season has moved us a step backwards instead of forward due to a new wave of the COVID Omicron variant. The only good news in all of this is that the Omicron variant appears to be less severe, shorter in duration, and less deadly than previous variants. With a bit of luck, this more contagious version will help to eradicate the existing more serious strains. We can only hope at this point.

### Deveney Stamps Sponsorship

I would like to thank Deveney Stamps for sponsoring Dots & Scratches this past year and I am extremely pleased to announce that they have agreed to extend their sponsorship through 2022. Although there are some costs associated with the email broadcasting and electronic distribution of this newsletter, the ongoing sponsorship from Deveney Stamps means that membership dues for our study group will continue to be waived for 2022. I encourage all readers to visit [deveneystamps.com](http://deveneystamps.com) where their Holiday Sale offering 20% off all online stamp orders continues until the end of the day on January 3. As I have mentioned previously, the website includes high-resolution images that allow variety hunters to effectively review the offered varieties or even find others lurking in Deveney Stamps' regular inventory.

### In This Issue

This issue begins with an article from Jim McCormick outlining the different dies and some of the major plate varieties of the 1¢ and 2¢ values of the George V Arch/Leaf issue. This is followed by the second instalment of our *Beasts of Burden* column where Bill Burden provides reference stamp scans for Admiral plate varieties that were previously published as hand-drawn illustrations in Hans Reiche's 1987 booklet, *Canada - The Admiral Flaws*. Our third article is an interesting submission from Stephen Hellsten describing some of his new constant plate variety discoveries of the 15¢ Large Queen that were confirmed and plated in association with the BNAPEX 2021 study group Zoom meeting. The conclusion at the end of his article gave me a nice “warm fuzzy feeling” about the state of our hobby and its ability to function well in these days of COVID and remote meetings.

Also included is the third edition of our *Pagination* column with some nice pages from Jim McCormick showing his collection of Third Issue Bill Stamps, my *Show & Share* featuring some varieties of the 1976 Royal Military College Centenary issue, and details of our cover image showing a Small Queen cover shared by Earl Noss.

Missing this issue is my ongoing Map stamp column, *Uncharted Territories*, where I normally discuss technical details and varieties of the 1898 Map stamp. BNAPS now has a reactivated study group dedicated to the Map Stamp and I also serve as principal editor for their newsletter, the *XMAS 1898 Map Stamp Report*. It was becoming difficult to write and edit material for both newsletters without repeating myself or providing new information to one newsletter at the expense of the other. So, now that I have already covered most of the major introductory information about the Map stamp in Dots & Scratches, I will continue to publish my new research and discoveries in the Map Stamp Report and only provide new *Uncharted Territories* columns in Dots & Scratches when I have something significant to present or have accumulated enough new material for a more substantial column. If you are interested in a more steady stream of Map stamp news and information, please let me know and I will be glad to sign you up for the Map Stamp study group.

I wish you all a happy new year and all the best for 2022!

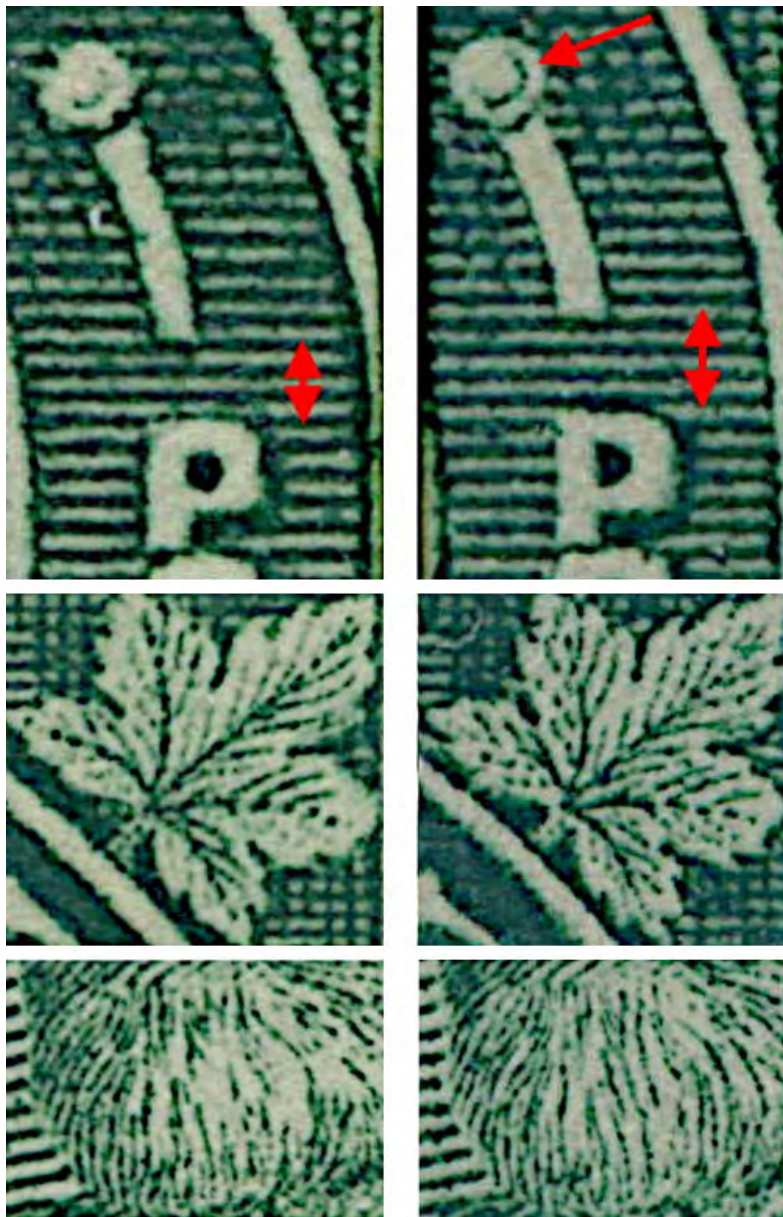


# 1930-31 Arch/Leaf Issue - Plating Observations for 1¢ and 2¢ Values

By J. McCormick

It was not until a few weeks ago that I started taking a close look at the George V Arch/Leaf series. I have always liked used multiples and had accumulated a fair amount of material for study. It was only a matter of time before putting it to good use. A good library for reference is important as a foundation for study, and the best three sources of basic information for me have been from Robson Lowe<sup>1</sup>, Boggs<sup>2</sup>, and Unitrade<sup>3</sup>. A more obscure one is *Dinky Daymus Varieties*<sup>4</sup> with sketches of plate varieties, and recently a friend put me on to Hans Reiche's *Steel Engraved Constant Plate Varieties*<sup>5</sup> for which I only just purchased and eagerly await its arrival.

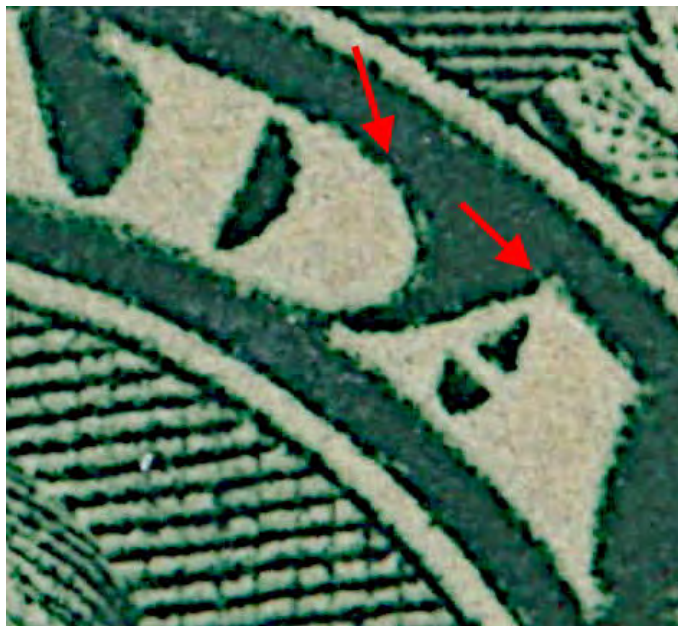
Let's start with the 1¢ dies. Die I of the 1¢ was responsible for plates 1 and 2, and Die II for plates 5-8 (plates 3 and 4 were made but not used). All coils and booklets are Die I. The references indicate minor differences between Die I and II, in particular near the sceptre above "POSTAGE". A good scan reveals that the differences are much more extensive. Figures 1 show some of the key differences between the dies.



*Figure 1: Showing 1¢ Die I on left and Die II on the right. Die II exhibits the longer arc in the ball and more complete horizontal line above "P" of "POSTAGE". The Die II leaf also appears healthier, and the King's beard is fuller.*



Something curious that I noticed is the subtle appearance of re-entry in the outlines of the letters in “CANADA” and “CENT” on many of the stamps, and eventually realized that this was present on all Die II stamps. What could this mean about the newer 1¢ die?



*Figure 2: Typical appearance of subtle re-entry in the outlines of the letters in Die II copies.*

What's really fun about this issue is how there is overlap in the use of plates for the different colours of the issue. One of the best known varieties is the major re-entry on the 1¢, position 96, upper-left pane, plate 2. This catalogued variety displays well in both the orange and green shades.



*Figure 3: Details of the major re-entry in the orange (Unitrade 162i) and deep green (Unitrade 163ii) shades.*

Moving on to the dies of the 2¢ value, Die I was responsible for plates 1-6, and Die II for plates 7-10. I thought that the dies for the 1¢ were interesting, but the 2¢ die differences are even more extensive. The references mention differences near the sceptre above "POSTAGE" (similar to the 1¢) and the larger centre dot in the "P". What they do not mention is how "POSTAGE" is positioned higher and all the outlines of the letters are stronger, giving it a bold appearance with Die II. The horizontal lines behind "POSTAGE" progressively spread apart giving a lighter appearance at bottom. As with the 1¢, the leaves are subtly changed, and the King's beard is again fuller. The bottom right "2" value shows thicker outlines and the appearance of minor doubling, as do many letters in "CANADA" and "CENTS". The triangle of the frame at the bottom right corner is also much stronger with Die II.



*Figure 4: 2¢ Die I in green shade on left and Die II in brown on the right. Die II exhibits the longer arc in the ball, higher and bolder appearance of "POSTAGE", plus changes to leaf, spacing of horizontal lines, bottom corner frame, and doubled outlines of "2" value. Additionally, Die II in red displays a much fuller King's beard.*



A well known variety of the 2¢ is the "Extended Mustache" from position 65, lower right pane, plate 8. This plate was used in both the red and brown printings as well as the provisional issue overprinted with "3" in 1932. The variety exists and is catalogued for each of these variants (Unitrade 165ai, 166i, 191i).



*Figure 5: Comparison of the Extended Mustache variety at left with a normal stamp at right.*

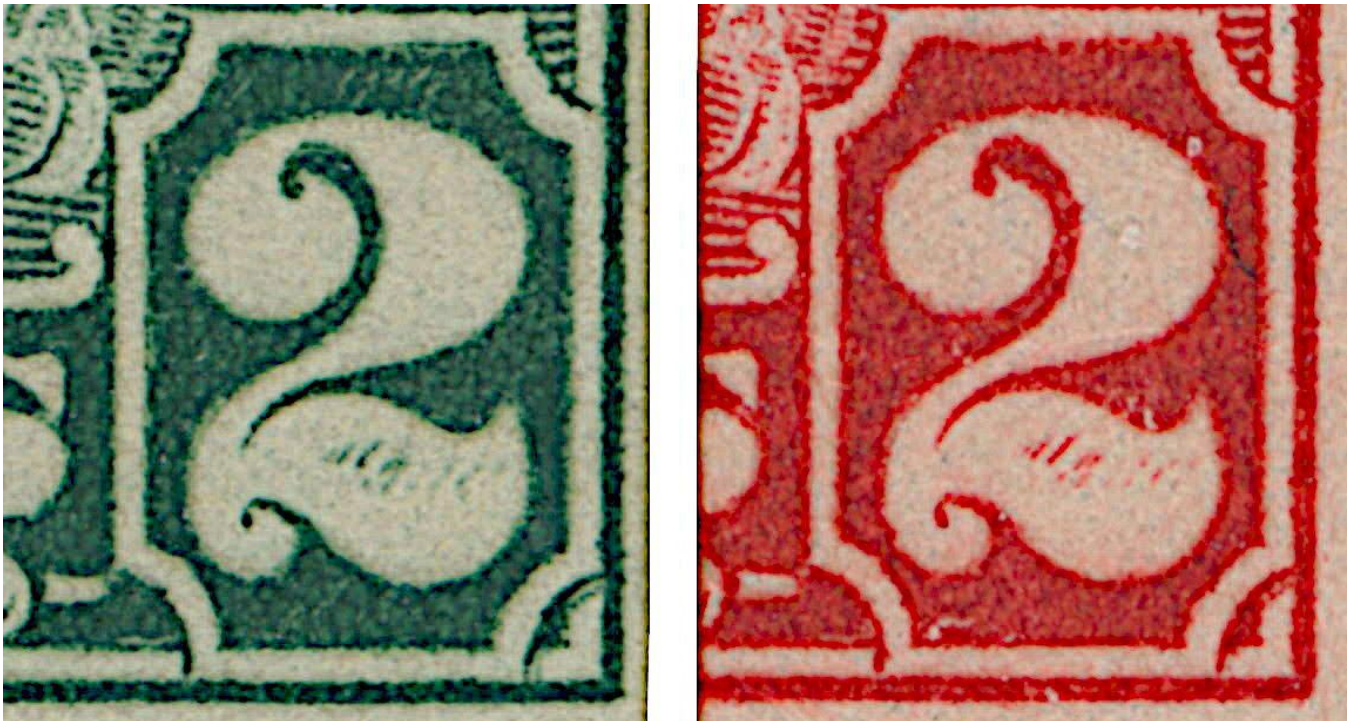
The other famous variety from the 2¢ value is the "Cockeyed King" on the coil stamps. Given its position to the left of the line in coil "line pairs/strips", we know it is from the right column of one of the two curved plates used to print the coil stamps. The variety is believed to be caused by some plate damage that was repaired by some substantial retouching of the King's face. I had no idea how extensive the retouching of this variety was until I blew it up to 2400 DPI. Retouching to both of the king's eyes and to his nose are quite visible under high magnification.



*Figure 6: Cockeyed King from the 2¢ coil stamp, in three colours, with normal stamp at right. The King is looking right back at us with one swollen and bloodshot eye, and missing eyelashes and distorted pupil in the other eye. The King's lower nose and nostrils also show signs of less than perfect retouching.*



The last variety for this write-up has a series of parallel lines in the right "2" value of position 1, upper right pane, plate 3. I recently acquired blocks from the top left corner of the pane, which included the selvedge from the top right corner of the pane to preserve the plate numbers. This variety, from plate 3, can be found in green and red, and in theory the provisional stamps overprinted with "3" as well.



*Figure 7: Small dashes in the right "2" value in both colours printed from plate 3.*

There are plenty of other constant plate varieties, many of which I have yet to acquire, or acquire in more than one colour. I will save these for another day.

## References and End Notes

1. *The Encyclopaedia of British Empire Postage Stamps*, Volume V, North America, Robson Lowe, 1973
2. *The Postage Stamps and Postal History of Canada*, Winthrop S. Boggs, 1945
3. *The Unitrade Specialized Catalogue of Canadian Stamps*, Ed: D. Robin Harris, The Unitrade Press, 2017
4. *Dinky Daymus Varieties*, Aubrey Kelson, circa 1952
5. *Canada Steel Engraved Constant Plate Varieties*, Hans Reiche, The Unitrade Press, 1982

***Editor's Note: Jim's interesting article shows how even a relative newbie to the specialised study of this attractive issue can find many aspects to explore and enjoy. The Hans Reiche book, Canada Steel Engraved Constant Plate Varieties, includes more than 75 constant varieties listed for the 1¢ and 2¢ values.***



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

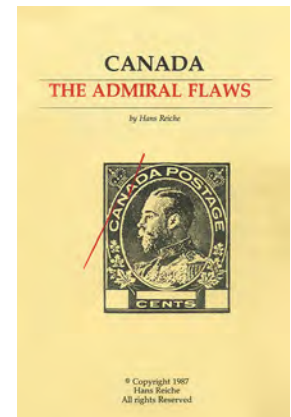
By William G. Burden

**Editor's Note:** *This is the second 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 will need to zoom into the stamp scans to get a closer look at some of the more subtle varieties.*

It would seem to be reasonable to start near the point where we left off last issue, so we will continue with a few more of Reiche's Two Cent Carmine CPVs. At the end, I will use two of his more interesting items to introduce what I believe is a previously unreported CPV.

As a reminder, 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.

On my web site, I use a "Q" in the name to indicate a Questionable ID. I remove the "Q" from the name when I find a second example.



## Erratum

Thanks to Leo Beaudet's eagle eye, I must offer a correction to my previous article:

In the article, the text description for Reiche's #40 indicated that the variety was unplated. The plate position had actually been determined to be 7LL62 by Leo Beaudet through examination of plate proofs at Library and Archives Canada.

**Reiche #10: "sloping line bottom margin"**

Similar to, but not the same as Raymond Matte's #606. Plate position is unknown and currently "Q" status.





**Reiche #16: "bottom frame line extended"**

Plate position is unknown and currently "Q" status as this is the most likely of a few possibilities. Not reported by Matte, but was present in his collection.





**Reiche #30: "short line in O of TWO"**

Plate position is unknown. Marler Type 05 and at least four examples known.





Reiche #35: "dot in left numeral box, original die, also from Plate 104"

Position unknown. This example is clearly from the retouched die. It could be Marler Type R22 (from Plate 104).



Reiche #35





**Reiche #37: "bottom frame line extended to left"**

Position unknown. Not reported by Matte, but there were examples in his collection. This one and Reiche #16 (above) make a nice "couple".





**Reiche #39: "dot below left numeral box"**

Plate position is unknown and currently "Q" status.





**Reiche #50: "parallel curved scratches in left margin"**

Plate position is unknown and currently "Q" status. While I am not certain that this is an example of Reiche's #50, it is the only stamp which I have found to be close to his diagram. If a second example is found it will be most interesting to see if the various marks in CANADA POSTAGE and in the top margin are also constant. This one may have an even more interesting story to tell us someday.



**Reiche #50**





Three of the next four CPVs have been quite well studied but can be a bit of a challenge to identify using only the diagrams provided.

**Reiche #105: “line from left crown through top letters ending in front of right crown, original die”**

Plate position 8LR62. Matte’s #811. Higher line (through the “D” of Canada) than the others shown below. This is the easiest one to identify.





Reiche #106: "line through top of design, lower than on 105, original die"

Could be one of two different, but very similar, varieties reported by Raymond Matte.



Matte's #809, from position 12UR18, which resembles Reiche's diagram for #106 and also shows retouching of the top two horizontal lines in the upper right spandrel.

Matte's #810, from position 12UL93, which also resembles Reiche's #106, but has no apparent retouching in the upper right and the line is slightly higher than Matte's #809.

**You will need to zoom in to see the very minor differences between these two stamps.**





...and just to keep things a bit interesting, I can report a third stamp, position currently unknown, but also from the original die (Marler's Type 05). This one also shows elements of the characteristic horizontal line traversing the stamp through the "N" and "A". It also shows some retouching in the upper right spandrel, but this retouching is significantly different from Matte's #809. The retouching is most noticeable in the top horizontal line, but there is also some retouching of the vertical line at the very top.



## 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.
- *The Admiral Issue of Canada*, George C. Marler, The American Philatelic Society, 1982



# BNAPEX 2021: Three New 15¢ Large Queen Constant Plate Varieties

By Stephen Hellsten (stevehellsten@hotmail.com)

## Introduction

Writing in the November/December 1957 issue of the *Canadian Philatelist*, R.C. Martin described Canada's Large Queen stamps as attractive, well balanced, finely engraved and one of the best produced series. He suggested that the stamps' size, shades, papers, perforations, plate varieties and postmarks provide a wide range of interest even for the advanced specialist.

Of the eight Large Queen denominations, the 15¢ stands out offering collectors, in the words of renowned philatelist Fred Jarrett, "everything the heart desires" from "imperforates to compound perforations" to "watermarked paper" and a diversity of colours and plate varieties spanning a protracted period of use measured in decades rather than years.

The stamp has been diligently studied by Gerald Firth, M.A. Studd and S.J. Menich with useful scholarly contributions from some of the giants of Canadian philately: Winthrop S. Boggs, R.C. Martin, H.E. and H.W. Duckworth and Horace W. Harrison to name but a few.

For collectors interested in constant plate varieties, the work of these prominent philatelists, supplemented by more recent investigations and analysis undertaken by Fred Fawn, Jim Watt and others, has led to significant advances in our understanding of the plating of this magnificent issue.

Indeed, the controversial Major Re-entry and the long-established Pawnbroker, Cracked Plate and Balloon Flaw varieties now share catalogue space with three lesser known constant plate varieties collectively listed in Unitrade as 29vi/30viii – "other plate cracks/scratches": (1) the upper left corner crack from position 9; (2) the crack above "N" in "CENTS" from position 81; and (3) the crack in oval under "P" of "POSTAGE" from position 91.

In addition, a number of equally remarkable varieties such as the Cat Scratch flaw from position 66 and the O-Spur from position 72 have now been plated and documented as constant in philatelic literature despite remaining, at this time, uncatalogued in Unitrade. See figures 1 and 2 below.



Figure 1: Full scan and magnified view of mint Cat Scratch flaw from plate position 66 in Studd's Cold Blue / Deep Blue shade (Unitrade 30e) from the author's collection.





*Figure 2: Full scan and magnified view of mint O-Spur variety from plate position 72 in Grey Blue shade (Unitrade 30b) from the author's collection.*

And yet, with all the advances made by the philatelic community in its ongoing study of the 15¢ Large Queen issue, it is fair to say that Fred Jarrett's 1929 observation still rings true: "with the fullest appreciation of the writings of prominent philatelists... many years will elapse and many thousands of these stamps will be examined before all" the 15¢ Large Queen's "philatelic secrets are laid bare."

### **BNAPEX 2021**

Which brings us to the September 6, 2021 BNAPEX virtual gathering of the Re-entries and Constant Plate Varieties Study Group. This online Zoom event, attended by several Large Queen enthusiasts, included a fascinating 15¢ Large Queen presentation by Jim Watt centered on his digital copy of the complete sheet that was previously owned by Fred Fawn. From this meeting and the ensuing discussion among participants we can now verify both the existence and plate positioning of three previously undocumented 15¢ Large Queen constant plate varieties.

#### **"Dots in the First F of FIFTEEN" – Plate Position 51**

Credit for confirmation of this first variety starts with well known early-Canada collector Jim Jung who, in responding to an email request from the virtual meeting moderator, Scott Robinson, for "Show and Tell" items, shared several scans of interest including the attractive and lightly cancelled 15¢ Large Queen reproduced in figure 3. That stamp, with its distinct configuration of unsharp dots in the first "F" of "FIFTEEN", drew the attention of the author who in turn located a stamp in his collection with the same dot configuration (see figure 4 on next page).

These scans were subsequently presented to attendees at the BNAPEX Zoom virtual gathering and then plated on the spot to plate position 51 by Jim Watt and other study group members using the Fred Fawn digital sheet as a reference point.



*Figure 3: Scan supplied by Jim Jung showing his 15¢ Large Queen with dots in the first “F” of “FIFTEEN”.*



*Figure 4: Full scan and magnified view of dots in the first “F” of “FIFTEEN” variety from plate position 51 from the author's collection.*



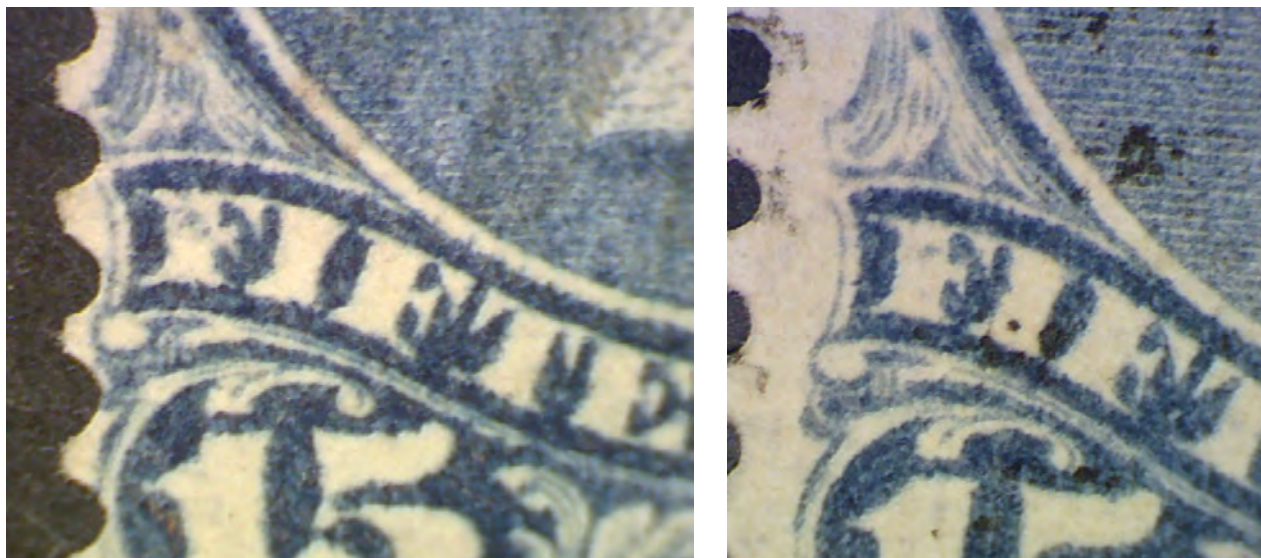
### **“Single Dot in First F of FIFTEEN” – Plate Position 50**

Confirmation of this second constant plate variety is tied to the investigation of the plate position 51 variety described above. In an effort to locate additional copies exhibiting the distinct configuration of unsharp dots in the first “F” of “FIFTEEN”, the author discovered the strip of three used 15¢ Large Queens shown in Figure 5.



*Figure 5: Used strip of three from the author’s collection showing a mark in the first “F” of “FIFTEEN” of the rightmost stamp.*

Examination of the strip’s right stamp revealed the presence of a blurry dot in roughly the same location in the first “F” of “FIFTEEN” as the previous variety from position 51. Although this dot also has an unsharp appearance, it is clearly a single dot as contrasted with the configuration of multiple dots in the previous variety. Figure 6 shows magnified views comparing both varieties.



*Figure 6: Magnified views from the author’s collection showing multiple dots in the first “F” of “FIFTEEN” on the left stamp and a single blurry dot on the right stamp.*

In the BNAPEX Zoom meeting, a careful live examination of the Fred Fawn digital sheet by Jim Watt and other study group members revealed that the single dot version was a separate variety located at plate position 50.



### **“Bird’s Eye” – Plate Position 89**

Confirmation of this third new constant plate variety also came about as part of the author’s search for additional copies of the dots in the first “F” of “FIFTEEN” variety identified by Jim Jung in the lead-up to the BNAPEX virtual gathering. The author was pleased to discover two stamps, reproduced below in figure 7, that presented with an entirely different variety: a single small dot in the upper portion of the numeral “1” found in the lower right corner value tablet.

The positioning of the dot just above the sloping portion of the numeral “1” resembles a bird’s left eye near its beak and has been named the “Bird’s Eye” variety by the author to distinguish it from the “Dot in 1” variety previously identified by Jim Watt and Fred Fawn in their detailed May/June 1996 Canadian Philatelist article, *Plate Varieties of the Fifteen Cent Large Queen of 1868*.



*Figure 7: Full scans and magnified views of two stamps from the author’s collection showing a small dot in the “1” of the right value tablet.*



Confirmation and plating of this variety occurred in the days following BNAPEX 2021. Indeed, the author chose not to draw attention to this interesting find prior to the BNAPEX Zoom meeting and consequently no discussion took place with respect to this variety at that meeting. However, shortly thereafter the author forwarded the stamp scans to several Large Queen and constant plate variety enthusiasts. With their input and access to a digital copy of the Fred Fawn sheet, the author and several colleagues confirmed the Bird's Eye as a previously unidentified constant plate variety located at plate position 89.

## Conclusion

Looking back in time, one wonders what Fred Jarrett would have to say about a 2021 meeting of philatelists from all corners of the country, and indeed from locations throughout the world, gathering together to “lay bare” some of the “philatelic secrets” of the 15¢ Large Queen while connected only by computers and their mutual love of stamps. Much has changed since 1929 and thanks to modern technology and the advent of virtual meetings and exhibitions even a global pandemic cannot stand in the way of philatelic progress. BNAPEX 2021 proves that, even in an age of social distancing, travel restrictions and border closures, like-minded people willing to think outside the box can still find ways to get together, exchange ideas and make real and substantive advances in their understanding of stamps. Three new 15¢ Large Queen constant plate variety discoveries made in September 2021 without two people sitting together in the same room is a remarkable achievement. Bring on BNAPEX 2022. Virtual or not.

## References

- *Canada 1868 – The Large Queen*, R.C. Martin, Canadian Philatelist, November/December 1957, Royal Philatelic Society of Canada
- *Plate Varieties of the Fifteen Cent Large Queen of 1868*, Fred Fawn and Jim Watt, Canadian Philatelist, May/June 1996, Royal Philatelic Society of Canada
- *Stamps of British North America*, Fred Jarrett, Quarterman Publications Inc., 1975
- *The Unitrade Specialized Catalogue of Canadian Stamps*, Ed: D. Robin Harris, The Unitrade Press, 2021

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## 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 Jim McCormick. Although Jim is well known to friends and readers of this publication for his expertise with the 6¢ Small Queen, his collecting interests are actually quite broad. Here he shares some pages from his collection of Third Issue Bill Stamps.

### Bill Stamps - 1864-1882

#### Third Issue 1868-1882 One Cent Re-entered Imprint, positions 1-4

The left imprint on the top margin was re-entered at some point. The date of repair is not known, however there are mint examples displayed here pre re-entry and post re-entry. One might ask how we are certain that the block on the left is not from positions 7-10/17-20. The imprint above those positions is shifted more to the left.



*Pre re-entry positions 1-4/11-14*



*Post re-entry positions 1-2/11-12*



*Top: Imprint above position 2, early printings, close to stamp design  
Bottom: Re-entered imprint above position 2, later printings, further from stamp design, traces of original imprint*



Jim lays out his pages using OpenOffice. He uses a very clean design with little ornamentation other than a strong frame line to outline the page. His pages have a descriptive title and textual overview at the top with specific details below each display item in small italic text. Jim prefers not to place frame lines around the mounted stamps or the enlarged images of varieties but does use black mounts to frame and highlight the perforations of the stamps.

**Bill Stamps - 1864-1882**

**Third Issue 1868-1882  
10 Cent String-of-dashes**

The 10 cent has a constant plate flaw in the form of a few dashes in position 8, and in the margin between positions 6 and 7. The used block/10 displayed below is dated "Feb 6 1873" indicating that the flaw existed before the mid-point of its life. The used single is dated "4/9/81", near the end of its period of use, suggesting that the plate flaw was not repaired.

A full sheet of the stamp displays more dashes into the top margin above position 8, and also in the right margin near the bottom. However, the marks in the right margin have not been proven constant.



*Position 8  
String-of-dashes*



*From full sheet, margin between  
positions 6-7*



*From full sheet, position 8*



*10 cent block/10, positions 4-8/14-18, showing the string of dashes  
in position 8, and between positions 6-7*

Jim's pages can be very simple with lots of white space, but also quite complex when important details of a variety need to be highlighted and explained. His enlarged images of varieties are enhanced and marked up as required to illustrate particular aspects of the variety. Jim likes to revisit his pages when new items are acquired or new information is gleaned. Says Jim, "Often I will review my writings long after the fact, and then find typos or opportunities to reduce text or improve clarity. I am always playing and learning."

**Bill Stamps - 1864-1882**

**Third Issue 1868-1882  
3 Cent Re-entry, positions 51/61/71/81**

Position 61 is the major re-entry including doubling of the right frame line near the top. Position 51 is nearly as strong. Position 71 is hard to distinguish from others on its own, so a multiple may be required. Position 81 with re-entry is unique in that it has a single dot in the H. Evidence is displayed here showing that plate re-entry happened some time between 1872-1873 given that the NS overprinted stamps (pre 1872) show no doubling, and the earliest dates with re-entry are observed in 1874.



Positions 51, 61  
Major re-entry  
24/4/78



Position 61



Positions 71-73 Re-entry  
4/7/81



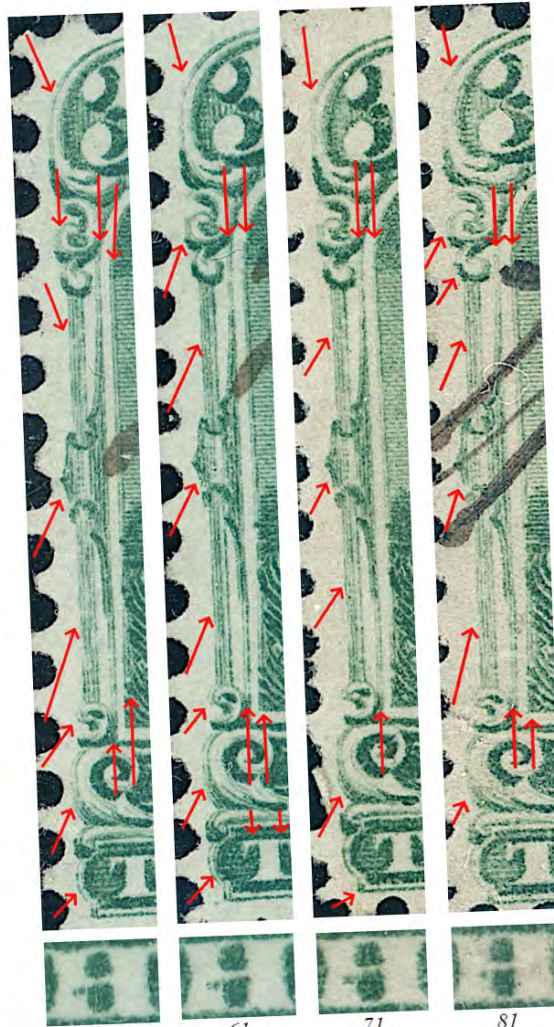
Position 81  
Re-entry



Position 21  
Re-entry  
April 25 1877



Position 61  
Major re-entry  
Early 7/6/74





## Show & Share

Following positive feedback from the last issue, another modern issue is featured again this month. The composite images presented below and on the next page are based on nine stamps from your editor's collection of the Royal Military College Centenary issue from 1976.



Figure 1: Composite image of Unitrade 692 showing (A) 692i – Red dot left of arm from plate position 3, (B) 692ii – Spots on flag from position 40.





Figure 2: Composite image of Unitrade 693 showing (A) 693i – Chinstrap variety from plate position 44, (B) 693ii – Flagstaff variety from position 35, (C) Uncatalogued red mark over window from position 33, (D) 693vi – Red thread variety from position 42, (E) 693iv – UFO variety from position 46, (F) 693v – Pigeon hole variety from position 13, (G) 693iii – Apostrophe variety from position 37.



## Cover Image Information

The lovely cover pictured on this issue's cover is one of my favourites of the hundreds of items Earl Noss has shared with me over the years. Earl won this item at auction on eBay, beating out two other bidders for \$6 and \$2 shipping. That is a fair deal for any decent Small Queen cover with a nice strip of stamps. However, this cover is much more special since it includes one of the more rare and valuable Small Queen constant plate varieties.

The stamps on the cover are tied by a clear duplex cancellation indicating that it was mailed from Quebec City on March 31, 1891. The receiving post mark on the back of the cover shows that it was received the next morning in Montreal on April 1. The strip of three 1¢ stamps is used to make up the standard 3 cent letter rate for use within Canada at the time.



Figure 1: Front and back views of Earl's 1¢ Small Queen cover.

The strip of 1¢ stamps on the cover is not very well centered, but this is more than made up for by the plate variety on the third stamp. This stamp features a very clear constant plate variety that is usually referred to as the “blob under ear” variety (Unitrade #35xii). The variety consists of a dark blob in front of the Queen’s hair just below, but usually touching, her ear. The bottom of the blob is usually defined by a distinct white area with no ink and then a line or shadow farther below.

The variety is believed to be very short-lived with several examples showing a smaller and less striking appearance of the blob and almost no trace of the shadow below. Several dated examples of the variety place its usage in the second quarter of 1891. This cover may be the earliest known dated appearance of the variety.

The variety has not yet been plated but it is logical to assume it comes from one of the four twin-pane “S” plates introduced in the 1880s.



*Figure 2: Close-up view of the third stamp on the cover showing the “blob under ear” constant plate variety (Unitrade #35xii).*