

Dots & Scratches

Re-entries and Constant Plate Varieties

Study Group of BNAPS



Losing an eBay Gamble!

Your friendly neighborhood editor picked up the stamp shown above on eBay for a few dollars in the hope that it was the major re-entry from plate position 40 of the re-entered first plate of this registration stamp. The auction listing had only a low-resolution scan that revealed the short entry at the bottom left corner but no other visible signs of the re-entry. Unfortunately, my gamble did not pay off, but the stamp does still have several aspects that are typical of the re-entered plate. See page 35 for more information.

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My Two Cents – From Your Editor

Welcome to the first edition of Dots & Scratches for 2022. Your editor has had a very busy and difficult start to the year, and this has delayed the final preparation and publication of this issue. Hopefully, I will be able to pick up the pace and still get four issues out this year.

It looks like the COVID-19 pandemic has finally begun to diminish in its control of our lives and in-person stamp events and meetings have begun to take place once again. Although I was not able to attend either ORAPEX or CAPEX22, I am told that both shows were lively and well-attended. I am looking forward to attending my own local stamp club meetings later this year to catch up with friends and fellow collectors who I have not seen for more than a couple of years now!

In This Issue

This issue begins with another great article from Stephen Hellsten about the Nova Scotia 1 Cent Black stamp of 1860. Stephen includes an interesting history of the issue and presents some significant new constant plate flaw discoveries.

This is followed by the third 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*. In this instalment, Bill shows some varieties on the 1¢ Green and shares information on his new web project for identifying new Admiral constant plate varieties.

Our third article, submitted by Leopold Beaudet, greatly expands on my previous listing of varieties of the 1976 Royal Military College Centenary commemoratives from the last issue. Updated composite images show all the new flaws described by Leo as well as the flaws listed in the 2022 Unitrade catalogue that were featured in the previous issue.

Also included is our latest *Show & Share* featuring some interesting varieties on Canada's first Special Delivery stamp as shared by Earl Noss and Jim McCormick, plus details of our cover image showing my Registered Letter stamp.

I wish you all a happy summer of stamping!



Nova Scotia's 1 Cent Black: Some History and Discoveries of New Constant Plate Varieties

By Stephen Hellsten (stevehellsten@hotmail.com)

Introduction

On August 23, 1860, Halifax newspaper *The British Colonist* published a Post Office Notice advising readers that, beginning October 1, 1860, all mail posted both within Nova Scotia and from Nova Scotia to the other British North American colonies, to the United States and to the United Kingdom would require prepaid stamps denominated in decimal currency. To that end, Nova Scotia entered into a services contract with the American Bank Note Company of New York (ABNC) for the design, production and supply of four new decimal-denominated, perforated stamp issues: the 1 Cent Black; 5 Cents Blue; 10 Cents Red; and 12½ Cents Black.

And so, 1860 marked a turning point in the postal history of Nova Scotia: the end of the useful lifespans of the imperforate pence and shilling issues dating to 1851 and the start of the new decimal issue era. That era would carry on for almost a decade through four subsequent ABNC orders in 1862, 1863, 1864 and 1866 that included the additions of two new denominations – the 2 Cents Lilac and 8½ Cents Green – before finally yielding to changing times that saw Nova Scotia join the Dominion of Canada on July 1, 1867, and the subsequent 1868 introduction of the Dominion of Canada's own stamps.

The Nova Scotia 1 Cent Black

Between 1860 and 1868 the ABNC supplied Nova Scotia with 1,150,000 copies of the 1 Cent Black stamp (1860: 250,000; 1862: 400,000; 1864: 500,000) before the issue was rendered obsolete and of no legal value on April 1, 1868, and replaced by the Dominion's new Large Queen stamps.

The 1 Cent Black was, in its day, a classically beautiful black and white stamp consisting of an engraved profile of a young Queen Victoria contained within a circle resting on and topped by scroll work inscribed with the name of the colony and the stamp value surrounded by ornamental foliage.



Figure 1: Pair of Nova Scotia 1 Cent Black with imprint on yellowish paper showing the typical close spacing that makes perforations problematical on the issue.

Printing was completed on both white and yellowish paper sheets each consisting of 100 stamps laid out in 10 by 10 format with “American Bank Note Co. New-York” imprints above and below columns 2/3 and 8/9 and to the left and right of rows 2/3, 5/6, and 8/9.

Turn of the century accounts of Nova Scotia’s decimal era issues are largely complimentary with writers describing the stamps as “exceedingly interesting to collectors” on account of “their beautiful designs and exquisite colouring”, while suggesting the stamps “were not only finished in the highest style of the engraver’s art of that period but quite equal to any” in design, colours and printing. And so, it stands to reason that the 1 Cent Black – an attractive colonial decimal era issue with a limited print run – was a stamp desired by early British North America stamp collectors.

As philately gained momentum in the late nineteenth century and buyers purchased circulating copies of existing stamps, market access to copies of the 1 Cent Black diminished. However, opportunities to acquire unused examples improved as the century drew to a close.

Indeed, documentary investigations conducted by Dr. J.J. MacDonald in 1985 – reported in BNA Topics Volume 42, Number 1 – suggest that more than 350,000 copies of the 1 Cent Black stamps remained unused on April 1, 1868, when government authorities withdrew all remaining copies from circulation. Most were not destroyed. Instead, the Dominion government transported the stamps, along with unused quantities of the other Nova Scotia decimal era stamp denominations, to Ottawa. There they lingered in storage until 1897 when Nova Scotia’s government secured their return to the province and successfully sold its decimal era stamp issue remainders for a purported sum of \$18,000 to a syndicate headed by famed Prince Edward Island businessman and stamp dealer, Arthur Bartlett, and renowned Nova Scotia philatelist and former Halifax Postmaster, Donald A. King.

Dr. MacDonald’s investigation into the fate of Nova Scotia’s decimal remainders indicates that approximately 348,000 of the 1 Cent Black stamps exchanged hands as part of the government/syndicate sales transaction. Thereafter, the syndicate sold portions of their holdings into the local Canadian market while worldwide sales were completed via agents Stanley Gibbons in Europe, Asia, Africa and Australia and the Scott Stamp and Coin Company of New York in the United States and the West Indies.

Contemporaneous writings suggest that the market influx of large quantities of these colonial stamps depressed their values and lowered their costs of acquisition thus ensuring proliferation of unused copies into collections throughout the world.

Over the last century, Nova Scotia’s decimal era stamps have been extensively studied with early scholarly contributions from a host of individuals culminating in the highly regarded 1962 book, *Postage Stamps of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia*, authored by British collector, Nicholas Argenti, and published posthumously after his April 1, 1961, death. That book remains the authority on these most interesting stamps.

The 1 Cent Black is currently listed in the *Unitrade Specialized Catalogue of Canadian Stamps* as Nova Scotia issue number 8.

Discovery of New Constant Plate Varieties

In his 1985 BNA Topics article, Dr. MacDonald opined that Nova Scotia’s Cents Issues had “been exhaustively described”, the “varieties noted” and “the classic covers illustrated.” Consequently, he surmised that it was “highly unlikely that much new remains to be uncovered.”

With this in mind, it is fair to say that new Nova Scotia decimal era stamp discoveries are rare. And yet, the author can now confirm discovery of some new and very interesting constant plate varieties on a pair of plate positions of the Nova Scotia 1 Cent Black.

The discovery occurred following a March 2022 email exchange of Canadian and British North America constant plate variety scans between the author and well-respected, long-time collector Earl Noss. That exchange

included representative examples from Nova Scotia's decimal era. While conducting subsequent online research, the author stumbled onto the unusual pair of mint 1 Cent Black stamps (Unitrade 8a on white paper) shown in Figure 2.



Figure 2: Pair of Nova Scotia 1 Cent Black from plate positions 69 and 70 on white paper showing several notable plate varieties.

Examination of the stamp on the right of the pair reveals a thick black, elongated mark on Queen Victoria's ear; a profile configuration entirely distinct from its counterpart stamp on the left. On further examination, the author also noted with interest a similar large black blob of ink extending into the lower right margin from the left stamp of the pair.



Figure 3: Nova Scotia 1 Cent Black with selvedge from plate position 70 showing varieties.

Neither the author nor Earl Noss were familiar with these varieties. Further investigations have since turned up additional copies of both the "Black Ear" and the "Ink Blob Lower Right Margin" varieties. So, we know both are constant.

Notably, one copy of the Black Ear constant plate variety, shown in Figure 3 and now owned by Earl Noss, includes both the Black Ear variety and the Ink Blob Lower Right Margin variety. The latter appearing in the lower left margin due to a perforation shift. The inclusion of the right-side sheet selvedge indicates plate positioning in column ten. Examination of a complete 1 Cent Black sheet owned by collector Jim McCormick has allowed us to plate the Ink Blob Lower Right Margin to position 69 and the Black Ear to position 70.

An extensive review of philatelic literature and additional discussions with various Canadian and British North America stamp collectors with expertise in constant plate varieties has not yielded information concerning either variety. This suggests that both varieties are new discoveries or, at the very least, re-discoveries of previously undocumented constant plate varieties long forgotten due to the passage of time. A close-up scan highlighting the two varieties is shown in Figure 4.

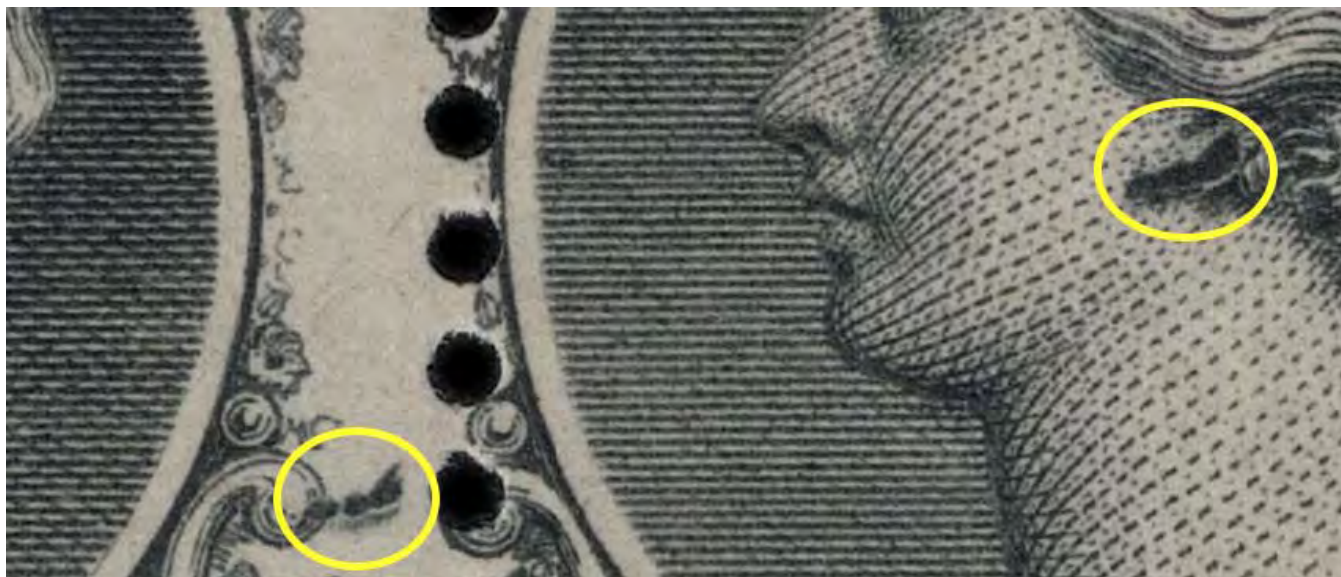


Figure 4: Close-up view highlighting the “Ink Blob Lower Right Margin” variety from plate position 69 and the “Black Ear” variety from position 70.

Interestingly, although the Ink Blob Lower Right Margin constant variety from position 69 is not mentioned in the philatelic literature, other more minor varieties from this plate position are mentioned in Nicholas Argenti’s *Postage Stamps of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia* book. He mentions a “dot of colour in shading of neck just below lobe of ear” and a “black smudge mark below E of CENT”. A close-up scan highlighting the two varieties is shown in Figure 5.



Figure 5: Close-up view highlighting the two constant plate varieties from plate position 69 mentioned by Nicholas Argenti in his book from 1962.

Close inspection of several plate position 69 stamps has revealed two additional minor varieties not mentioned by Argenti. There is a collection of small marks on the Queen’s cheek near her ear and a series of very faint parallel scratch lines running diagonally from the upper left corner margin into the frame and apparently into the first two letters of SCOTIA. A close-up scan highlighting the two varieties is shown in Figure 6.

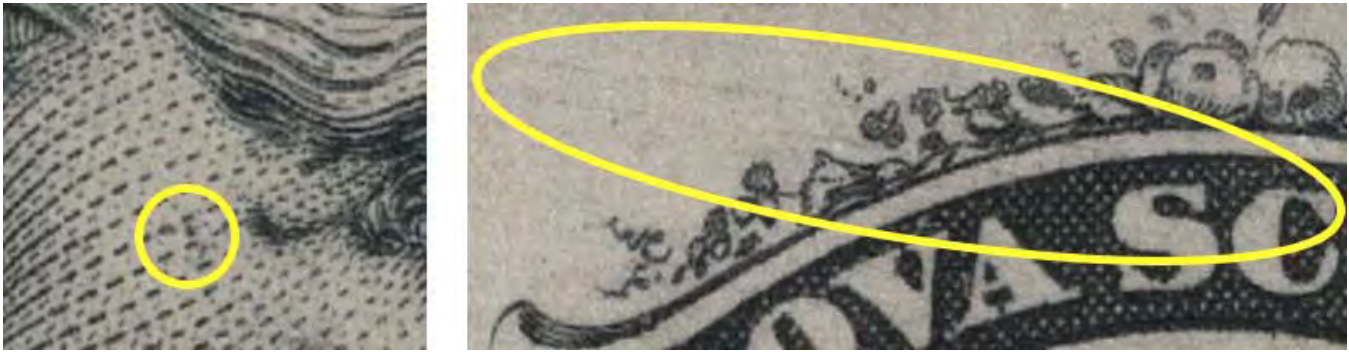


Figure 6: Close-up view highlighting two additional plate varieties from plate position 69 not mentioned by Nicholas Argenti in his book.

Conclusion

In conclusion, while it may be that Nova Scotia's 1 Cent Black has been both extensively studied and, as J.J. MacDonald suggested in 1985, "exhaustively described" over the past 150 years, there is a considerable difference between an extensively studied and exhaustively described stamp and a stamp for which no opportunity for new discoveries exist. The new Nova Scotia 1 Cent Black constant plate variety discoveries presented here in 2022 proves the adage that with stamps as in life there is always something new to learn.

References

- *Letters – Nova Scotia's 12½¢*, Vincent Greene, BNA Topics, March/April 1982, British North America Philatelic Society
- *New Findings About Nova Scotia Pence and Cents Issues – Part 3*, John H.M. Young, BNA Topics, November 1959, British North America Philatelic Society
- *New Findings About Nova Scotia Pence and Cents Issues – Part 4*, John H.M. Young, BNA Topics, December 1959, British North America Philatelic Society
- *Nova Scotia Cents Series*, Edgar Nelson, The Philatelic Record, January 1901, Arthur R. Magill.
- *Nova Scotia's 12½¢: The Other Twelve Penny Black*, John Rose, BNA Topics, November/December 1981, British North America Philatelic Society
- *Postage Stamps of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia*, Nicholas Argenti, The Royal Philatelic Society, 1962
- *The Reminders of the Cents Issue of Nova Scotia - A Solution at Last*, J.J. Thompson, BNA Topics, January/February 1985, British North America Philatelic Society
- *The Unitrade Specialized Catalogue of Canadian Stamps*, Ed: D. Robin Harris, The Unitrade Press, 2021

Editor's Note: The two main discoveries presented here by Stephan, "Ink Blob Lower Right Margin" from plate position 69 and the "Black Ear" from position 70, are particularly interesting since they are strong naked-eye varieties that have not previously been identified even though the stamp from position 69 has other more minor flaws that have been well-documented. This may be because the new varieties appeared later in the life of the plate and were not seen on earlier printings where only the more minor flaws existed. It is important to remember that not all "constant" varieties exist on all printings or all states of the plate.

Beasts of Burden: Reference Images for Hans Reiche's Admiral Constant Plate Varieties (Part 3 - 1¢ Green)

By William G. Burden

Editor's Note: *This is the third 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.*

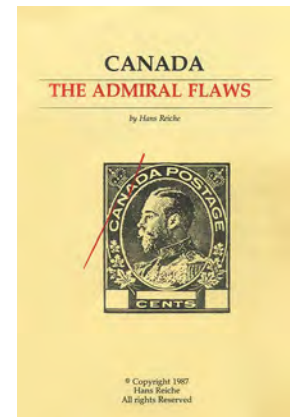
While there certainly are more Reiche listed 2¢ Carmine CPVs which I hope to share, I thought that it might be a time for a change of denomination. Hopefully we will be able to return to the 2¢ Carmine before too long.

Reiche listed 48 CPVs on the 1¢ Green and I may have managed to identify about half of them. I say "may" because, as you might agree, it is a challenge to be 100% certain that a given stamp matches a variety illustrated in a hand drawn template.

We will take a look at the first portion of the 1¢ Green this time and follow that with an "announcement" that readers of *Dots & Scratches* might find interesting.

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.



Reiche #1: "plate scratch and guide dot right top margin, original die"
Plate position is unknown and currently "Q" status.



Reiche #1



Reiche #8: "two parallel lines lower right margin, original die"
Plate position is unknown.



Reiche #10: "short curved line in right numeral box, original die"
Plate position is unknown and currently "Q" status.



Reiche #12: "large dot in left numeral box"

Clearly the diagram would indicate the right numeral box, not the left. Plate position is unknown.



Reiche #14: "curved line through right numeral box, original die"

Plate position is unknown.



Reiche # 15: "short curved line below N of Cent, original die"

Plate position is unknown and currently "Q" status.



Reiche # 21: "dot left margin"

I have seen at least three different similar dots - any of which could be the one indicated. The stamp illustrated is the left of a pair. Plate position is unknown and currently "Q" status.



Reiche # 22: "sloping line left margin"

Plate position is unknown and currently "Q" status.



Reiche #24: "short sloping line below C of Cent, original die"

Plate position is unknown.



Reiche #25: "short spur in left numeral box, original die"

This one may be a bit of a stretch as the diagram indicates a longer 'spur'. Plate position is unknown and currently "Q" status.



Reiche #26: "short line left bottom margin"

Plate position is unknown and currently "Q" status.



Reiche #27: "slightly sloping line from leaves to bottom, left margin"
Plate position is unknown and currently "Q" status.



Reiche #47: "two parallel short lines, top left margin and line through APO, original die"
This is known to be from plate/position 14LL5.



I suspect that we all find some level of joy in finding a nice, clear re-entry and maybe we even put a strong retouch aside as something a bit special. Much of the information that I have found on Admiral CPVs seems to focus on these variety types with very little attention to plate flaws. Reiche's "The Admiral Flaws" was a great start, but very little else seems to have been done in this area over the past 35 years.

Enter some more "new" technology: Add an iPhone with macro focusing to our web database capabilities and one can quite quickly create a fairly large pool of information easily shared within a specialized community via the internet. To that end, I offer *Dots & Scratches* readers early access to my new "Is It Constant" project:

<https://isitconstant.wgburden.com>

It is very similar in style to my larger "Marler & Beyond" site, but has a completely different purpose, which I hope is indicated by the site name. Currently, there are over 600 images of Admiral stamps which show flaws that are not yet known to be constant. More will be added soon. Of course, many of these flaws will not turn out to be constant, but some of them will be – and there is the fun. This group may well be able to contribute considerably to the Admiral plate flaw pool of knowledge simply by comparing their potential plate flaws to those illustrated on the site. The "Helpful Links / Site Use" link is a great place to start. I hope you find something of interest. Please share any matching varieties from your own collection. The "Comment/Help" button on each variety page should make that very easy to do.

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

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1976 8¢ Royal Military College Centenary Plate Flaws

By Leopold Beaudet

The se-tenant pair of 8¢ Royal Military College commemoratives issued on 1 June 1976 was printed by lithography by Canadian Bank Note Co. in sheets of four panes of 50, five rows by ten columns. There are quite a few plate flaws on the two stamps. I described some of them in 1981 [1]. Eight found their way into the Unitrade Specialized Catalogue [2]. Scott Robinson illustrated all eight plus a ninth in the previous issue of Dots & Scratches [3]. This article presents all the previously reported flaws plus a few more.

I found all the flaws on a philatelic pane (that is, one with inscriptions in the four corners of the pane), a post office pane (in 1976, panes sold in post offices did not have inscriptions), and several part panes. This strongly suggests that the flaws are secondary ones (that is, the flaws occur on all four panes of the sheet).

The flaws are listed in table 1 and illustrated in figures 1 to 3. Figures 1 and 2 show the new flaws reported here. Figure 3 shows the flaws listed in the Unitrade catalogue that were previously featured in the Show & Share section of the previous issue.

Table 1: Plate Flaws Listed by Plate Position

Flaws on Unitrade 692: The Colour Parade and Memorial Arch (three cadets and flag)

- 3 Red dot in the sky to the left of the left cadet's upper arm (Unitrade 692i).
- 9 Small red dot in the sky at right, opposite the beam above the arch. Position 49 has a similar flaw higher up.
- 21 Red thread in the sky below the "e" of "postage".
- 40 Spots in the upper left white area of the flag (Unitrade 692ii). This position also features red smudges on the beam above the right cadet's hat.
- 49 Small red dot in the sky at right, opposite the beam above the arch. Position 9 has a similar flaw lower down.

Flaws on Unitrade 693: The Wing Parade and Mackenzie Building (single cadet with sword)

- 8 Small black dot on the rightmost tower above and between the two arch-shaped windows facing the front.
- 10 Two small red dots in the sky at the bottom left.
- 11 Vertical black dash on cadet's right arm just below his elbow.
- 13 "Pigeon hole": Black dot on the rightmost tower just below the green roof on the front close to the right corner (Unitrade 693v). This position also features two red dots in the sky at the bottom left, to the left of the round window of the main tower and a red thread in the sky at the bottom left, above and to the left of the leftmost tower.
- 30 Small red dot between the cadet's left hand and the roof of the rightmost tower. Two other red dots appear higher up in the sky opposite the cadet's elbow and shoulder.
- 31 Small red dash in the sky at top left below the "n" of "Canada".
- 33 Red line above the second storey window to the left of the main tower.
- 35 "Flagstaff": Vertical black line between the left and main towers (Unitrade 693ii).
- 37 "Apostrophe": Brown dash between the top of the "1" and the "8" of "1876" (Unitrade 693iii).
- 42 "John's signature": Red disturbance in the sky at the bottom right to the right of the top of the right tower (Unitrade 693vi). It looks like the handwritten name "John".
- 44 "Chinstrap": Black line below the cadet's chin (Unitrade 693i).
- 46 "UFO": Black horizontal dash in the sky to the left of the green roof of the right tower (Unitrade 693iv).
- 48 Small red dot in the sky to the right of the cadet's left shoulder.



Figure 1: Composite image of flaws (labelled by plate position) on Unitrade 692 that are not listed in the 2022 Unitrade catalogue.



Figure 2: Composite image of flaws (labelled by plate position) on Unitrade 693 that are not listed in the 2022 Unitrade catalogue.

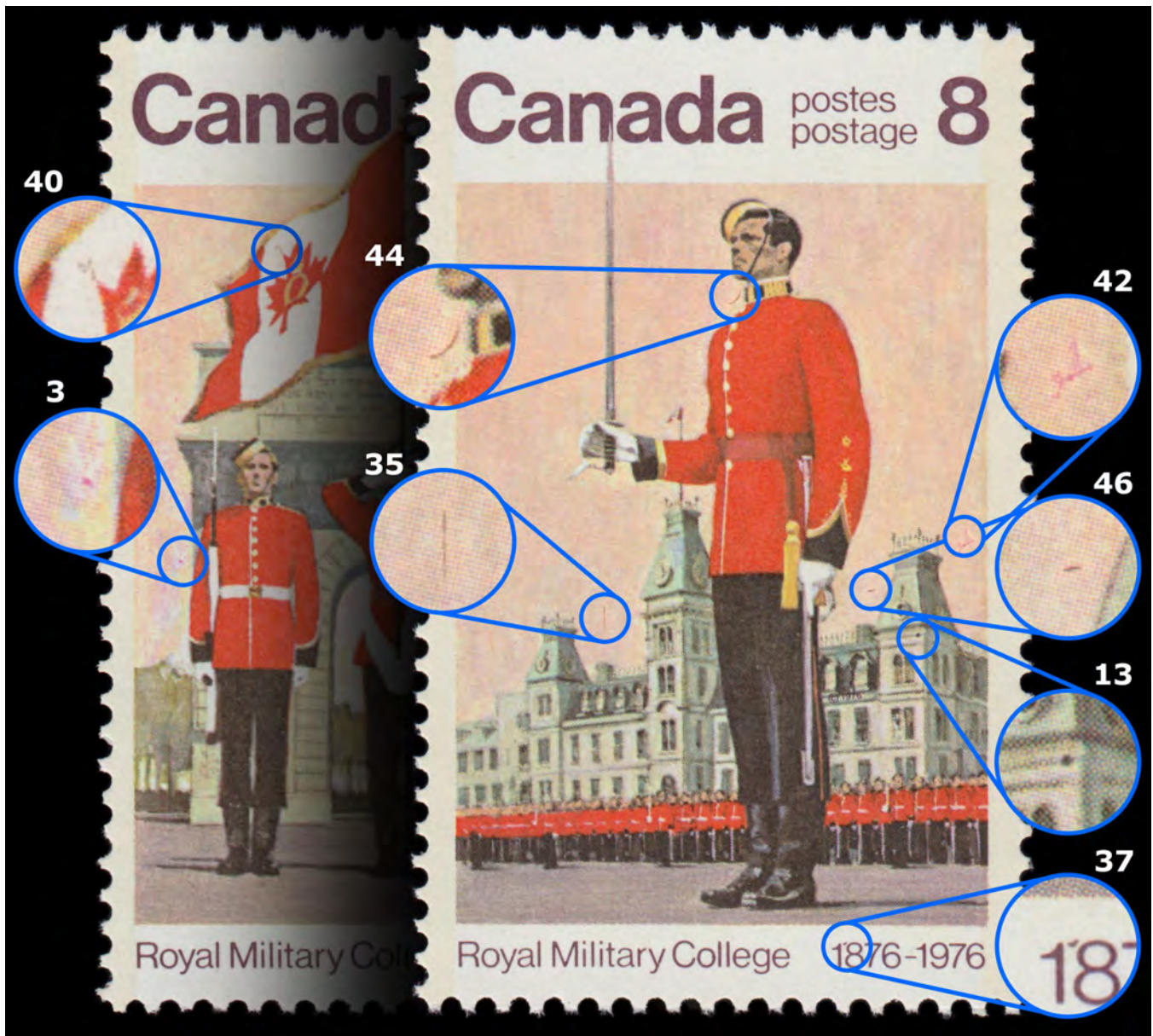


Figure 3: Composite image of flaws (labelled by plate position) on Unitrade 692 and 693 as listed in the 2022 Unitrade catalogue.

References

1. *Canadian Stamp Varieties – 7*, Leopold Beudet, Canadian Philatelist, Vol. 32, No. 6, Nov-Dec 1981.
2. *The Unitrade Specialized Catalogue of Canadian Stamps*, Ed: D. Robin Harris, The Unitrade Press, 2021
3. *Show & Share*, Scott Robinson, Dots & Scratches, Vol. 8, No. 4, Dec. 2021.

Show & Share

This issue, I am pleased to share a selection of varieties on Canada's first Special Delivery stamp. This stamp, listed as E1 in the Unitrade catalogue, was in use from 1898 through 1922. With almost 25 years of use, the stamp is available in a wide variety of green shades but with very few reported plate varieties. The first plate was in use for 15 years until it was re-entered in 1913 and finally a second plate was created in 1922.

Wear on the first plate has created a variety that is described in the Unitrade catalogue as "no shading in value tablet". This description is confusing since the value tablets and the number "10" that appears within them always have a significant drop shadow. What is missing on the worn plate printings is an additional cross-hatched shaded area that appears below the hard drop shadows. This variety exists in several states as the wear on the plate increased. A more rapid fading of the vertical lines that appear on both sides of the "CANADA POST OFFICE" tablet and a generally lighter appearance to the stamp overall are also characteristic of the worn plate. Unitrade lists this variety as #E1ii. Figure 1 shows an illustrated comparison of the different states of the variety.



Figure 1: Comparison of the different states of plate wear leading to the "no shading in value tablet" variety.

Although the first plate is known to have been re-entered at least once, very little information or examples of re-entries have been featured in the philatelic press. It seems likely that the re-entering was well done and that no major re-entries have been observed or documented. Following are two very different, although minor, re-entries that illustrate the types of re-entries that are out there for those with a keen eye to spot.

The first re-entry was shared with me by Earl Noss, who has two copies of it. It is a typical re-entry with signs of doubling to the upper left corner of the stamp. Both the outer frame line and the vertical lines in the tablet behind "CAN of "CANADA" show clear doubling. Interestingly, the shading in the value tablets is quite faint despite the stamp having been re-entered.



Figure 2: Corner re-entry as shared by Earl Noss.

The second re-entry was shared by Jim McCormick and it features isolated doubling of the left circular value tablet into the left margin. Note how the shading in the value tablets is very strong as would be expected from a re-entered stamp.



Figure 3: Left side re-entry to tablet as shared by Jim McCormick.

Next up, we have an interesting engraver's slip shared by Earl Noss that is probably the result of a manual retouch to the upper right frame line. There is a thin but steady line that projects into the right margin beside the "CANADA POST OFFICE" tablet. This stamp shows an unusually strong, if slightly uneven, frame line around the entire stamp except in the area of the slip where it appears thinner. Earl has two copies of this variety, proving its constancy.



Figure 4: An engraver's slip from a manual retouch to the frame line as shared by Earl Noss.

Earl also shared a scan of a much more typical engraver's slip where there is only a slight extension to one of the frame lines. In this case, the left vertical frame line is extended slightly into the top margin.



Figure 5: A very basic engraver's slip as shared by Earl Noss.

The last two varieties are less typical and could be the result of some stray ink or other printing anomaly. The sharpness of the marks does suggest that they might be constant. Anyone with information or a second copy should contact your editor.

The first unconfirmed constant variety was shared by Jim McCormick. It consists of what appears to be a simple plate scratch extending across the top right corner of the stamp.



Figure 6: Possibly a constant plate scratch as shared by Jim McCormick.

The second unconfirmed constant variety is an unusual series of marks shared in a scan from Earl Noss. The marks appear around the "TS" of "CENTS". There is a short vertical line extending downward from the left side of the "T" and a further curved line that extends from the bottom of the tablet frame line and into the "S". Note that the vertical series of dots just to the right of the "C" are not part of the variety. These dots, plus some others at the top of the stamp above "POST" appear on almost all copies of this stamp, although they do vary in intensity and appearance.



Figure 7: Possible constant marks in "CENTS" as shared by Earl Noss.

Cover Image Information

Plate 1 of the 2¢ Registered Letter stamp was first laid down in 1875 and it is believed to have had occasional re-entries to specific positions until the plate underwent a major repair in 1886. This repair included re-entries to virtually all plate positions giving the stamps a slightly blurred appearance and distinct doubling of the outer frame lines at left and/or right. Examinations of die and plate proofs reveal that the stamp was intended to have a single outer frame line at left and along the top, while the right side and bottom outer frames consisted of two lines. This arrangement is also confirmed in early printings from the plate in the orange shades. Later printings in the red shades from the re-entered plate reveal a variety of re-entries to these frame lines. Although my eBay find did not turn out to be the major re-entry I was hoping for, it does have a few interesting aspects from the re-entered first plate.



Figure 1: Magnified views of short entry and doubling from re-entry.

As illustrated in Figure 1, my stamp exhibits a strong short entry to the bottom of the left value tablet. The solid ink that should normally show there is replaced by a faint series of horizontal lines. I have observed similar short entries to the left or right value tablets on occasional copies of this stamp. The bottom of the value tablets must include a weak area in the engraving that can intermittently result in missing ink depending on the wear of the plate and the amount of ink applied during printing. The major re-entry from position 40 shows a very similar left-side short entry and this is why I was hoping my stamp might be the major. Unfortunately, my stamp does not show any of the doubling in the letters and numeral value on the right side of the stamp that is featured in the major re-entry. Figure 1 does show other doubling of interest including fine doubling of the entire left outer frame line (showing as two lines), intermittent doubling of the right frame lines (showing as three blurry lines), and distinct doubling of the rounded frame lines at the bottom right. This latter feature is interesting in that it appears to be a single visible instance of vertical doubling that shows a significantly bigger distance between the original and doubled lines than the horizontal doubling seen on the left and right sides of the stamp.

References

- *Canada's Registered Mail 1802-1909*, Horace W. Harrison, George B. Arfken, Harry W. Lussey & K. Gray Scrimgeour (Editor), Collectors' Club of Chicago, 2002