

# Dots & Scratches

Re-entries and Constant Plate Varieties

Study Group of BNAPS



## *A New Misplaced Entry Discovery?*

*Once again, Earl Noss has shared a stamp that graces our cover. The 13¢ Royal Yacht Britannia stamp (Unitrade #216), like most of the 1935 King George V Silver Jubilee issue, is known to feature a large quantity of minor varieties. This one may be a previously undiscovered misplaced entry. Look closely at the left quarter of this stamp to see if you can spot the two details of this constant variety.*

*See page 34 for more information.*

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October 2022, Volume 9, Number 2, Whole Number 30

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#### BNAPS Re-entries and Constant Plate Varieties Study Group

**Chairman: Bill Radcliffe**  
478 Media Road  
Oxford, PA 19363 USA  
Email: bsbvp88@hotmail.com

**Newsletter Editor: Scott Robinson**  
4371 Chateau Pierrefonds  
Pierrefonds, QC H9K 1L7 Canada  
Email: scott@flyspecker.com

This newsletter and previous issues are available as PDF files from the BNAPS website.  
Submissions for and feedback about the newsletter should be sent to the Editor, Scott Robinson.  
All other correspondence should be addressed to the Chairman, Bill Radcliffe.

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## My Two Cents – From Your Editor

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Welcome to the second edition of Dots & Scratches for 2022. Although this issue is being distributed in November, I have left the official date on the issue as October since that is when the newsletter was principally assembled and edited. Some production problems resulted in the delay in getting this out to you.

While I was not able to pick up the pace and get four issues out this year, rest assured that an additional issue will be coming your way before the end of the year. I already have several articles in hand for the next issue.

I know that some of our study group members, including your editor, have had some challenges related to the tropical storms/hurricanes that have greatly affected the east coast of Canada and the U.S.A. earlier this year. Also, health issues related to COVID-19 and an extremely harsh cold/flu season this year continue to be a problem. Hopefully we will all come out on the other side of this ready to enjoy our hobby to its fullest.

### In This Issue

This issue begins with an article from John Breukelaar highlighting some new constant plate varieties he has discovered on the Nova Scotia 8½ Cent Queen Victoria issue from 1860.

This is followed by the fourth 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 issue, Bill features varieties on the 5¢ Blue, 20¢ Olive, and 50¢ Black values. He also announces another new website blog where collectors can upload and share information on Admiral plate varieties.

Our third article, by your editor with help from Brian Hargreaves, summarises some existing information and provides new evidence supporting the existence of a second plate used for printing the 2¢ Large Queen. We think you will agree that the existence of a second plate is a virtual certainty.

Also included is our latest *Show & Share* featuring some interesting varieties contributed by Earl Noss, Jim Jung and Mike Smith, plus details of our cover image showing a possible undiscovered misplaced entry.

Happy stamping!



# Constant Plate Varieties on the Nova Scotia 8½ Cent Queen Victoria

By John Breukelaar BNAPS, ASNP

This article will report on some constant plate varieties that I have found on the 8 ½ cent Nova Scotia stamp of 1860. As far as I can determine, they have not been previously reported.

Nicholas Argenti, in his book, *The Postage Stamps of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia*, reports a dozen constant plate varieties. Ralph E. Trimble discusses a major re-entry at position 92 on his website at re-entries.com. My findings are based on two full sheets that I own, a high-resolution scan of another full sheet obtained from a dealer, and a high-resolution scan of a full proof sheet from another dealer. I have also noted some of these varieties in other multiples that I own or have seen listed in online auctions.

Argenti used a Thirkell Position Finder (TPF) to report the locations of each variety. I will do so as well. Since the sides of the stamp design are not straight edges and the perforations quite often cut into the design, I have set the intersection of the 3-4 line and D-E line of the TPF at the pupil of the left eye (see figure1). This provides consistency with locations described in Argenti's notes.

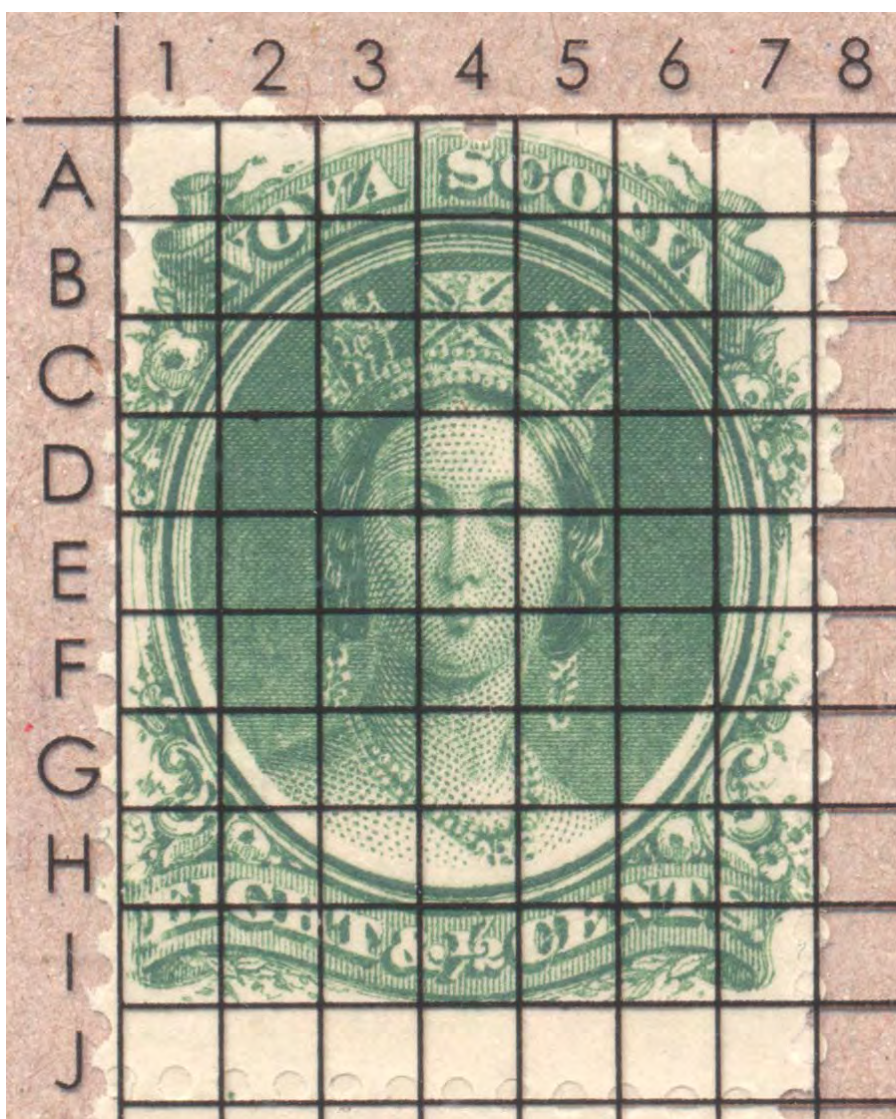


Figure 1: The appropriate position for using the Thirkell Position Finder (TPF) for locating the varieties reported in this article.

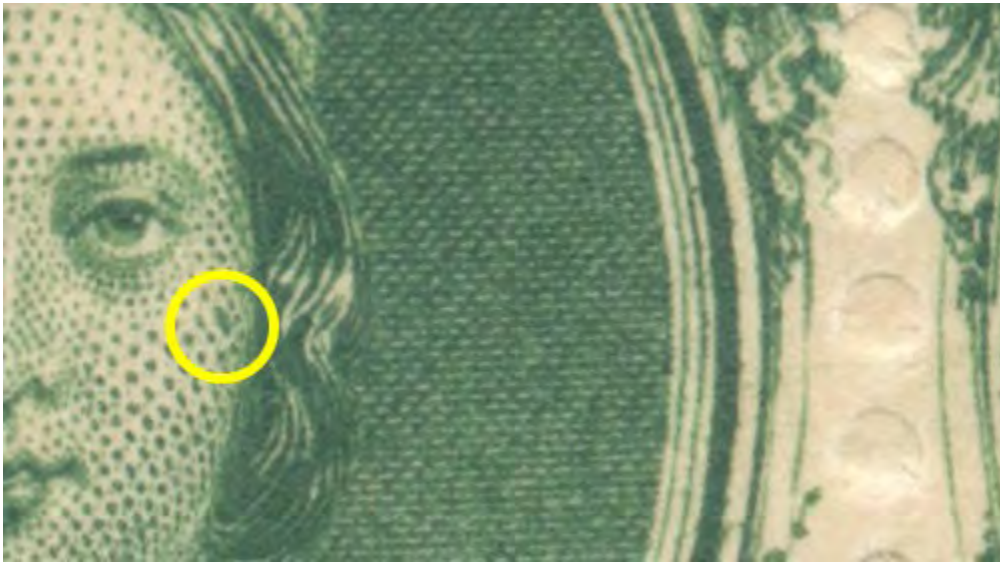
Six of the varieties that I have found are shown in the figures below along with a description and their TPF location. The constancy of each variety is established by their appearance on each of my sheet references, except where noted.



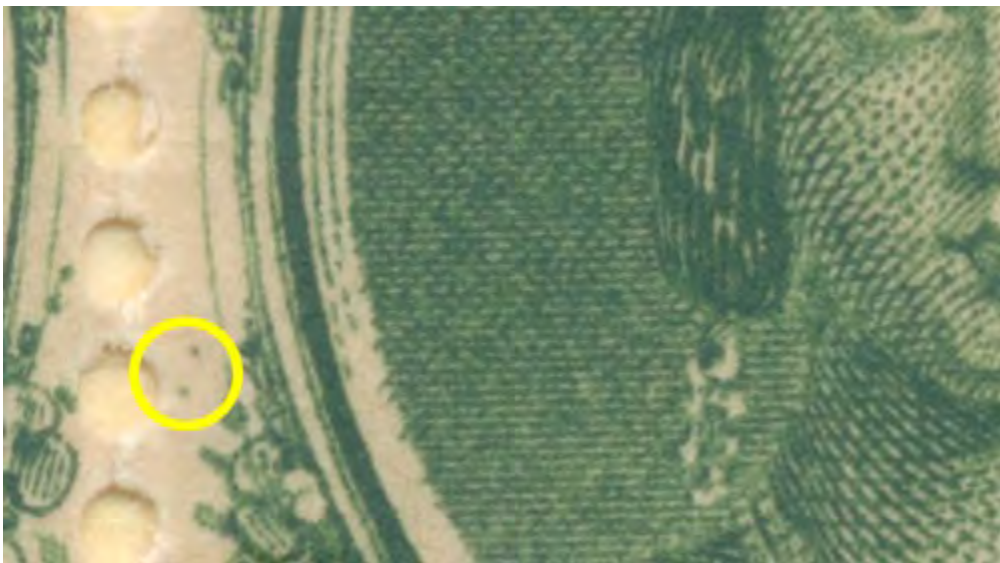
*Figure 2: From plate position 28, TPF location E8. A small dot in the right margin that may often be lost in the perforations. The image is from my first reference sheet and is visible because the perforation is not complete. The dot is actually closer to position 29 but assigning it to position 28 avoids a negative number for its TPF location. This dot is faint on my dealer sheet reference.*



*Figure 3: From plate position 53, TPF location A3-A5. This appears to be a short entry with missing arc line and vertical shading at the top of the stamp. The image is from my dealer proof sheet reference.*



*Figure 4: From plate position 93, TPF location E5. A small scar on the Queen's cheek at the right, caused by two dots of the design that are joined. The image is from my first reference sheet.*



*Figure 5: From plate position 98, TPF location F1. Two small dots in the left margin near the lower foliage ornamentation. The image is from my second reference sheet. In addition to my sheet references, I have seen this on another multiple.*



*Figure 6: From plate position 99, TPF location E7. A small dot between the outer oval lines of the right border. Missing from my second reference sheet where it is lost to the perforations. The image is from my first reference sheet.*



*Figure 7: From plate position 100, TPF location J2. A short dash sloping downward to the right in the bottom margin below "H" of "EIGHT". The image is from my second reference sheet. In addition to my sheet references, I have seen this on two other multiples.*

I have plated the imperforate 1852 stamps of The Netherlands and some of the 1872 issue, and my experience tells me almost every position has an identifying mark. I have found more constant varieties on this Nova Scotia stamp and hope to report them later. For example, there are numerous marks between positions 34 and 44. Argenti reports on some of these marks above position 44 but leaves it at that. At re-entries.com, Ralph E. Trimble identifies these marks as a misplaced entry, possibly caused by a dropped transfer roll.

This stamp offers a wealth of possibilities for variety collectors. I welcome comments from readers and can be reached at [jbreek3@gmail.com](mailto:jbreek3@gmail.com).

## References

- *The Postage Stamps of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia*, Nicholas Argenti, The Royal Philatelic Society, 1962 (Also Quarterman Publications Inc., 1976)
- Re-entries.com: Ralph E. Trimble's visual database of re-entries for Canada, the provinces, USA, and worldwide stamps.

# Beasts of Burden: Reference Images for Hans Reiche's Admiral Constant Plate Varieties (Part 4 - 5¢ Blue, 20¢ Olive and 50¢ Black)

By William G. Burden

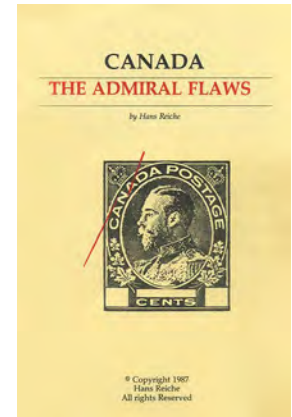
**Editor's Note:** *This is the fourth in a series of articles by Bill Burden where he presents examples of stamps with constant plate varieties (CPVs) that match those described by Hans Reiche in his 1987 booklet, Canada - The Admiral Flaws. Most of these interesting varieties have not previously appeared 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.*

Last time we took a break from the study of Reiche's many 2¢ Carmine listings and considered the 1¢ Green items I have identified. There are still some 2¢ Carmine and 3¢ Brown items to offer, but maybe we should look at some other colours this time. How about the 5¢ Blue, 20¢ Olive and the 50¢ Black? This group should provide about a dozen items to study.

Oh yes, if you make it all the way to the end, I have another "announcement" of sorts.

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 #2: "sloping line crossing centre of design from left margin"  
Plate position is unknown.



Reiche #2



**Reiche #4: "dot top right margin"**

Plate position is unknown.



**Reiche #4**



Reiche #9: "sloping line right bottom design into margin"

Plate position is unknown.



Reiche #9



**Reiche #11: "short line in right numeral box"**

Plate position is unknown. There are several other examples of similar marks to be found on the 5¢.



**Reiche #11**



**Reiche #13: "line from margin into bottom right leaf"**

Plate position is unknown. Reiche's diagram indicates the "bottom left" leaf, which agrees with this example.



Reiche #15: "dot opposite first leaf (on left), not a guide dot"

Plate position is unknown.



Reiche #15



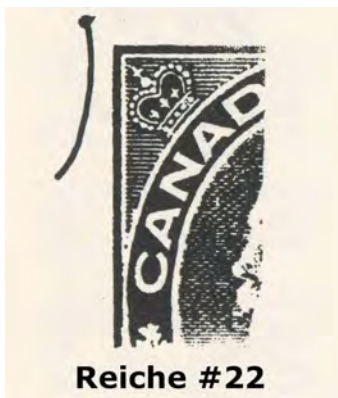
**Reiche #21: "large dot in C of Canada"**

Plate position is unknown and currently "Q" status.



Reiche #22: "curved line starting from a dot left margin"

Plate position is 13UR20.





**Reiche #1: "line at bottom of G and top of G of Postage"**

Plate position is unknown.



**Reiche #1**



**Reiche #2: "broken bottom frame line in right corner"**

Plate position is stated as 1L54 in Marler's personal collection. However, I have seen a few different positions which seem to match Reiche's description.



**Reiche #3: "bottom frame line extended into (right) margin"**

Plate position is unknown and currently "Q" status. This one does not match Reiche's diagram as closely as I would like, but after many 100s of 20¢ examples examined, this is as close as I have found.



Reiche #4: "short stroke into oval above N of Twenty"

Plate position is unknown.



Reiche #4: "curved line left centre margin"

Plate position is 1R1.



Reiche #4



Reiche #5: “plate crack with line from top of crown into left numeral box and right line margin, line in right numeral box and extended right frame line”

Plate position is 1R10. I have seen a few of this CPV, but it has been a real challenge to find one with centring which allows all the extra lines to be clearly seen.



As this is my fourth offering of suggested images for Reiche's Admiral CPVs, it might be reasonable to assume that I am enthusiastic about this area of Canadian Philately. It would probably also be fair to suggest that I would like to share this excitement with others. I am hoping that this affliction is contagious.

I have spent some time thinking about possible methods that might enhance our ability to disseminate new information in a timely manner. I would also like to have new CPVs easily listed and shared by others. The ability to share comments and have discussions with each other would also be helpful to maintain interest levels.

My current project is an attempt to facilitate those goals: <https://newblog.wgburden.com>

It is a significantly upgraded version of the blog which has been online for a while now. The "new" version will require you to create a free account. When you have an account and you log-in, you will be able to see each full article and have access to images at much higher resolution. You will also be able to leave comments, questions and/or concerns on any and all of the blog listings.

Should you find that you would like to join the "unpaid staff" of the new blog, simply send me an email and I will promote you to "author" status. Then you will be able to add your bio and, more importantly, you will be able to submit blog listings with images and share your findings with the rest of us.

Like most of my web work, newblog is a work in progress. If you see issues that need my attention or have suggestions for improvement, I would be very grateful to hear from you. I can be contacted easily using the menu on the blog.

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# Latest Evidence for a Second Plate of the 2¢ Large Queen

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By Scott Robinson with Brian Hargreaves

The quantities of Large Queen stamps issued and the number of plates used to print them can only be estimated for most values. This is due to several factors, but the key problem is that most of the surviving records of the number of stamps printed and issued to post offices do not make a distinction between the transition from the Large Queen issue to the Small Queen issue. Complicating the matter even further is the fact that the plates and resulting sheets do not show any labelling of plate numbers. Preserved records from the British American Bank Note Company (BABNC) do show the number of original and re-entered plates for the various values that were billed to the Post Office Department (POD), but these numbers are again complicated by the overlap with the Small Queens. Even more interesting is the fact that the number of plates and re-entries billed does not always correspond with the numbers that appear to have been used to print the stamps.

The agreement between the POD and BABNC stipulated that the number of impressions or sheets that should be produced was 25,000 for each original plate and an additional 15,000 for repaired or re-entered plates. Many years of detailed study of the Large Queen stamps (particularly the 6c value) suggests that if plates were able to support the printing of a larger number of stamps than stipulated in the contract, the printer could bill for additional plates or repairs even if this work was not actually required or carried out. In their formative Large Queen book, *The Large Queen Stamps of Canada and Their Use*, H. E. and H. W. Duckworth use a sample of late dated 2¢ Large Queen stamps in an attempt to define when the change was made to the 2¢ Small Queen stamps and to reconcile this with BABNC records.

They estimated that approximately 103,000 sheets of the 2¢ Large Queen stamp were printed and delivered to the Post Office Department. They also concluded that the BABNC billing records included 3 original plates and 2 re-entered plates that could be attributed to the 2¢ Large Queen. They further calculated that 3 plates x 25,000 printed sheets plus 2 re-entered plates x 15,000 printed sheets would indicate 105,000 sheets which was almost entirely in agreement with their estimate.

While it is a safe bet that the total printed quantity of 2¢ Large Queens is very close to 105,000 sheets or 10,500,000 stamps, the number of plates used is a much riskier bet. The quantity of stamps printed would certainly suggest the need for at least two plates, and the idea of a second plate has been assumed and written about by some knowledgeable collectors over the years. However, incontrovertible proof of a second plate has not previously appeared. This article will review some evidence presented by Brian Hargreaves in the April 2019 issue of *Dots & Scratches* and present some new evidence that the authors believe makes the existence of a second plate a virtual certainty.

## Evidence from the Top of the Sheet

Several re-entries have been reported for this stamp. By far the most significant and the only one that has been well documented is the major re-entry from plate position 7. In discussing Large Queen re-entries in his 1945 book, *The Postage Stamps and Postal History of Canada*, Winthrop S. Boggs describes this 2¢ re-entry as "the only one warranting listing". According to the Duckworths, this re-entry is known on the thin crisp paper that was characteristic of the first printing, and dated copies are also known from late printings. While this suggests that the re-entry was made to the initial plate and never corrected, the Duckworths also report the existence of a proof block from position 7, 8, 17, and 18 that does not show the re-entry. Since no mention is made of problems with the transfer of position 7 in the block (that might necessitate a re-entry), it is reasonable to conclude that the block comes from a separate plate without the re-entry.

A comparison of two strips of the 2¢ Large Queen has also provided some compelling evidence. As reported previously by Brian, an exceptionally interesting strip of stamps owned by Jim Jung, editor of the BNAPS Pence-Cents Era Study Group newsletter, has shown some contrasting features to a smaller strip owned by Brian that may share some of the same plate positions. Jim's strip conclusively shows positions 4 to 8 from the top of the



plate including the major re-entry at position 7, the “spur” variety at position 4, and the centre point dot between the stamps at positions 5 and 6. The centre point dots are known across most values of the Large Queen issue. They were used in the initial layout of the plate and consist of a strong dot between the stamps in the central positions at all four sides of the plate.

The smaller strip of three owned by Brian can be reasonably identified as plate positions 3 to 5 by what appears to be a strong centre point dot in the margin at the right of the strip. What makes this interesting is that Brian’s strip shows no evidence of the “Spur” variety at position 4. Furthermore, the position 5 stamps from both strips show other differences. The centre point dots are positioned slightly differently in relation to the stamp impression, and Brian’s position 5 stamp shows a strong unerased guide line at the bottom of the stamp that is not visible on Jim Jung’s strip. See closeup views in figure 1.



*Figure 1: Closeup views of likely plate position 5 stamps from the Brian Hargreaves strip on the left and the Jim Jung strip on the right. Note the lower position of the centre point dot on the left stamp and the presence of a clear unerased guide line at the bottom of the stamp that is not visible on the right stamp.*

## Evidence from the Bottom of the Sheet

Next, we will provide some new evidence from the bottom of the sheet. In the authors' previous joint article about misplaced guide lines on the 2¢ Large Queen (May 2021 issue of Dots & Scratches), we provided examples and supporting evidence for stamps with misplaced guide lines from positions 92 to 100 from the bottom row of the sheet. Another stamp from Jim Jung provides contrasting features to our candidate for plate position 100.

Figure 2 illustrates a plate proof from Brian on the left showing our candidate for position 100 with the misplaced guide line highlighted. On the right, is the stamp from Jim that can be plated with almost certainty to position 100 because of the large bottom and right margins, plus the position dot in the perforation at lower right that would be expected from a position 100 stamp. This stamp features a number of constant plate varieties, likely due to plate damage, including marks in the Queen's cheek and hair, in "CANADA POSTAGE", and in the top right foliage and margin. Other marks are also known in the top margin for copies where this is visible. The proof, like other stamp copies observed by the authors of our position 100 candidate, shows none of these marks. More importantly, the stamp from Jim Jung shows no trace of the misplaced guide line. If these copies are truly both from position 100, then this is very strong evidence that they originate from different plates.



*Figure 2: Comparison of two likely position 100 copies (Brian Hargreaves proof on the left and Jim Jung stamp on the right) showing a misplaced guide line on the proof that is not on the stamp plus numerous variety marks on the stamp that are not on the proof.*

The misplaced guidelines observed in bottom row stamps of the 2¢ Large Queen are important for distinguishing stamps from different plates. Although regular unerased guide lines exist to varying degrees for many positions across the plate(s), the misplaced guide lines (since they were placed in error) are unlikely to exist on more than one plate. In their Large Queen book, the Duckworths examine this from a statistical point of view when they note that if there is only one plate, then the misplaced guide lines should appear on approximately 9% of a random sample of stamps. Using a sample of 230 stamps selected randomly for their dated cancels, the Duckworths reported that only 7 copies (3%) showed the misplaced guide lines. They noted that this was strong evidence for a second plate but explained that "a stamp showing a portion of the bottom imprint, that shows no incorrectly drawn guideline" would be needed to conclusively prove the existence of a second plate.

The authors have had some evidence of just such a stamp for a while now. However, the unfortunate placement of an obliterator cancel in the area where the misplaced guide line would appear has made it difficult to draw firm conclusions about its presence. Recently, collector Simon Taylor-Young shared a scan of a rather tatty 2¢ Large Queen stamp that has finally provided the evidence we were looking for. The stamp is shown below in figure 3.



*Figure 3: Stamp scan shared by Simon Taylor-Young showing the imprint at bottom as it appears for plate position 96 but with no sign of a misplaced guideline.*

Simon's stamp shows the imprint as it should appear for plate position 96. It shows an unerased guide line that passes through the guide dot at the lower left corner of the stamp, but does not show the extra misplaced guide line further to the right that is associated with this plate position. This is exactly the evidence that the Duckworths were looking for. There are some other aspects to this stamp worth mentioning. Firstly, there is a horizontal scratch line across the front of the Queen's neck that is also constant. Two other copies seen by the authors for this position show the same line across the neck and also another much fainter line across the "D" of "CANADA" that is not visible on this scan. None of the copies we have seen with the misplaced guide line show these extra lines.

Another important aspect of Simon's stamp is that it reveals the reason why finding copies from the bottom of the sheet that show the bottom imprint but do not show misplaced guide lines is so difficult. As figure 4 reveals, the imprint from the plate that does not have misplaced guide lines is located significantly lower than the imprint on the plate that does have the misplaced guide lines. Therefore, an extremely off-centre stamp is required for the imprint to show.



*Figure 4: Comparison of the imprint location between the stamp at left from position 96 with a misplaced guide line to Simon Taylor-Young's stamp at right from the same plate position but without a misplaced guide line. The bottom of the stamp impressions is aligned along the red line. Notice how the imprint for the stamp without the misplaced guide line is located significantly lower.*

## Conclusion

The information presented here makes it indisputably clear that at least two separate plates were used to print the 2¢ Large Queen. While this may not come as a surprise, clear proof of the existence of more than one plate has never been identified and published until now. It is interesting to speculate if that third plate billed by the British American Bank Note Company to the Post Office Department actually existed. We suspect that it did not, but perhaps more examples of 2¢ stamps showing different imprint locations may prove us wrong.

## References

- *The Postage Stamps and Postal History of Canada*, Winthrop S. Boggs, Quarterman Publications, Inc., 1974 (annotated reprint of original publication from 1945)
- *The Large Queen Stamps of Canada and Their Use* (Second Edition), H.E. & H.W. Duckworth, Vincent Graves Greene Philatelic Research Foundation, 2008
- *The 2 Cent Large Queen. Just one plate... or more?*, Brian Hargreaves, Dots & Scratches, May 2021
- *The Misplaced Guide Lines of the 2¢ Large Queen*, Brian Hargreaves and Scott Robinson, Dots & Scratches, May 2021

## Show & Share

First up this issue is a 50¢ Victoria Diamond Jubilee showing a small spot in the right oval frame just above the older Queen's forehead. The stamp, shared by Earl Noss, shows the typical messy roller cancel that is often seen on the high value Jubilees. Despite this, the variety shows clearly as does a slight slip print to the stamp giving it a mild blurry, doubled appearance. Jim Jung was able to plate this stamp from a proof reference to position 43 from plate 23, the only plate used for this value. The dot is constant, but the doubled appearance is not.



Next up is a couple of interesting 12 ½¢ Large Queen stamps shared by Jim Jung. It seems that some plate pitting or other damage to the plate caused a number of smudgy marks and dots to appear at various positions. I have seen a number of these on individual copies without knowing if they are constant or not. Jim has shared two examples that are confirmed to be constant.

The first example, shown on the following page, is the well known "A Flaw" variety that is likely from plate position 54. The variety shows a distorted upper triangle in the "A" of "HALF" and is believed to occur on all printings of the stamp. So, the variety should be obtainable to sharp-eyed collectors on 1% of the available copies of this stamp. What Jim's copy reveals is that there are a number of marks in the right margin that are also at least semi-constant. I have seen these marks on all copies of the "A Flaw" variety when there is a wide enough right margin to show them. The marks consist of four small dots near the middle of the margin plus a series of smudgy marks at the bottom right corner that are usually lost in the perforations.



The second example shared by Jim shows even stronger marks in the right margin. These marks are also closer to the stamp impression, so they should be easier to find on reasonably centered copies. The marks include some small dots and smudges plus a rather striking hollow triangular impression near the bottom of the right margin. There are also at least two smudgy marks at the right side of the bottom margin. In looking at the appearance of this stamp, your editor would normally attribute these types of marks to one-off printing anomalies. However, Jim also shared an old scan from an online auction that showed another copy with the same marks, proving that they are at least semi-constant.



Our last featured variety comes from a lovely proof block shared by Mike Smith. The block features sharp impressions of positions 89, 90, 101, and 102 from the pane of 120. It is my understanding that these proofs printed in the colour of issue with SPECIMEN overprinted in red are believed to be post contemporary proofs. This means that they were created after regular stamp production when the issue was no longer current. They were not used for proofing purposes but for distribution as samples or “favours”.





Mike's proof block shows a number of small marks, but it is the position 90 impression (shown separately below) that really shines. This position features a major re-entry with strong leftward doubling of many areas including the left inner vertical frame line and outer left oval frame, the upper denomination values, and many of the letters. Note the obvious doubling line across the bottom of "CANAD" and the leftward extensions of the background horizontal lines of the portrait and Cartier's garment into the inner white portrait oval. The hook-shaped line in the top right corner margin and the short transfer (light background hatching) at bottom right are also constant. All of these features appear on the issued stamps.



## Cover Image Information

The Royal Yacht Britannia stamp shown on this issue's cover features a diagonal line in the "3" of the left value tablet and a long vertical line in the sky to the left of the ship. After finding two copies of this variety to ensure that it was constant, Earl Noss also realised that the two constant lines matched up well with the strong lines from the rope holding the left sail and the main mast of the Britannia shown in the main design of the stamp. This was later confirmed by Bill Burden, who did some overlay work in Photoshop to compare the relative positions of the variety marks with the engraved lines of the ship.

Figure 1 shows Earl's stamp with the variety marks highlighted in pink and the corresponding lines from the engraving of the ship highlighted in red. In creating this image, your editor noted that the lines of the variety needed a very slight rotation to align perfectly with the lines in the ship. Despite this, it seems very reasonable to conclude that the variety lines may have been caused by a partial misplaced entry or "dropped transfer role" whereby the engraving of the transfer role is accidentally touched down and transferred to the plate in the wrong position.

It does seem strange that this variety has not been reported before. Hans Reiche, in his 1982 book, *Canada Steel Engraved Constant Plate Varieties*, reports no less than 21 separate varieties for this stamp. Although the vertical line in this variety discovered by Earl is not mentioned, Reiche does mention a "Line in left -13-" that he plates to position 54 of the upper pane of plate 2. Perhaps this is the same variety but with the vertical line going unnoticed. If any readers have access to a sheet or sheets of this stamp, it would be very interesting to know if this variety appears in the plate/position suggested by Reiche or if another plate/position can be provided.



Figure 1: A likely new misplaced entry discovered by Earl Noss. The pink lines indicate the lines of the variety that appear on the stamp. The red lines indicate the corresponding lines of the design that are likely the source of the doubling.