

# Dots & Scratches

Re-entries and Constant Plate Varieties  
BNAPS Study Group



\$3 Jubilee Unitrade 63i with SPECIMEN Overprint.  
Position 19 Major Reentry in POSTA and mark in the left  
slant of the central V.

# Dots & Scratches

Re-entries and Constant Plate Varieties

BNAPS Study Group

January 2024, Volume 10, Number 1, Whole Number 33

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

This newsletter and previous issues are available as PDF files from the BNAPS website.

Please send submissions and feedback about the newsletter to the Editor – jimjung8@gmail.com.  
All other correspondence should be addressed to the Chairman, bsbvp88@hotmail.com

Dear Study Group Member,

It's a wonderful New Year. 2024 is a Leap Year and a year full of events. On July 26, the Summer Olympics begin in Paris, France. On November 5. Joe Biden and Donald Trump could square off in the United States Presidential Elections, solid entertainment for Canadians as well as our friends to the South. In the Dark Side, Putin is set to win the Presidential Election on March 15-17.

On the prediction front, clairvoyants are looking for a deal in Ukraine and a cease fire in Gaza. This is the year that Flying Cars will make their debut. Electric vertical take-off and landing (eVTOL) cars may be available as taxis this year in major cities around the world. This would make the Traffic circle at the Arc de Triomphe in Paris a wild ride. Look for them if you plan on going to the Olympics.

If something beyond earth is your love, Nasa's Artemis II is expected to launch in November on a manned mission to the Moon. No landing is scheduled but the spacecraft is reusable for future missions to the Moon. Three of the four-person crew (Victor Glover, Christina Hammock Koch and Jeremy Hansen) will become "the first black man, first woman and first non-American respectively to leave Earth orbit" as per The Economist. Jeremy Hansen is a Canadian Astronaut.

So are you ready to have a better New Year? My wishes to you for a great one.

Jim Jung

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## Constant Plate Variations On Nova Scotia 8.5 Cent Queen Victoria (Part 3) by John Breukelaar BNAPS, RPSC

In my last two articles in Dots and Scratches, I discussed some original findings of constant plate varieties (CPVs). I have since then been led to Jim McCormick's site where there are two full sheet scans of the Nova Scotia 8.5 cent to work with. He also has many scans of early Canadian stamps. In this article I would like to report on a few more CPVs. There is a spot on the nose, position 5, see Figure 1. Positions 54 and 95 have a 2 small lines missing on the ornament on the left side, see Figure 2 and 3.

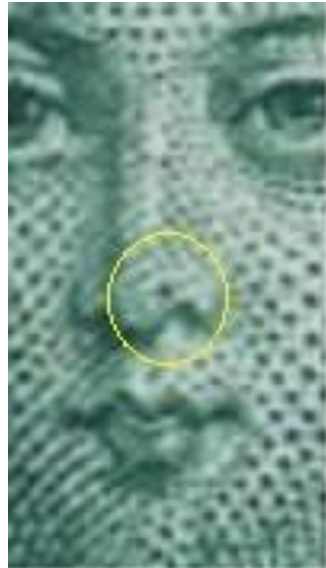


Figure 1: Spot on the Nose Position 5



Figure 2: Missing lines Position 54



Figure 3: Missing lines Position 95

Positions 44 to 14 have a dot above the C of Scotia, see Figure 4. It appears as if the transfer roll had some foreign substance on it as it was used going up the plate. Baxter indicates that generally the transfer roll goes up the plate. This is similar to what happened with the smudges which appear at positions 69 to 39 as reported in D&S Vol 9 No 3 No 31.

Position 61 has a small scratch upper right and smudge bottom right as shown in Figure 5.

I'm starting to put together a visual reference guide for all the CPVs noted thus far. There are too many now to "remember". I was hoping to get to that stage at some point.



Figure 4: Dot above C

Figure 5: Mark and smudge Position 61

## Constant Plate Variations On Nova Scotia 8.5 Cent Queen Victoria (Part 3) by John Breukelaar BNAPS, RPSC

I have also found a consistent set of scratches that are leading me to believe there are two states of the printing plate. These scratches appear on three of my five sheets, on the scan I have of the plate proof sheet and on the sheets at Jim's site. One of my sheets has none of these lines and another of my sheets has line 5. I need to find a pre-production proof sheet to solidify my argument that two states exist. The plate proof scan I have is almost certainly post-production; the printing is messy and would not impress a prospective buyer. Baxter also points out that proofs were often pulled after printing had started or finished. Figure 6 shows the scratches. The lines are at various positions: 1 goes from position 28 to position 29, 2 goes from 36 to 37, 3 is at 37, 4 goes from 71 to 82, 5 goes from 69 to 79, 6 goes from 17 to 28, 7 goes from 45 to 46, 8 goes from 75 to 76 and 9 is at position 64. None of these are parallel to guide lines. Some are fainter than others. I have blocks and pairs of plate proofs but nothing yet where these scratches occur.

I would welcome comments and can be reached at [jbreuk3@gmail.com](mailto:jbreuk3@gmail.com).



Figure 6: Scratches at various positions

### References

- The Postage Stamps of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, Nicholas Argenti, The Royal Philatelic Society, 1962 (Also Quarterman Publications Inc., 1976)
- Printing Postage Stamps by Line Engraving, James H. Baxter, The America Philatelic Society, 1939
  - . Spot on the Nose was brought to my attention by S. Hellsten
  - . Jim McCormick's site is <http://jimmc.ca/stamps>



# The Three Pence Beaver Stamps Showing the Re-entered Imprint on Pane B Positions Two, Three, and Four And Additional flaws

by Michael D. Smith and Jim Jung



Figure 1 - Proof Strip of Three Positions 2, 3, and 4 of Pane B

Figure 1 show a proof strip of three showing a re-entered imprint on Pane B, positions 2, 3 and 4. The re-entry is easily spotted by the marks in and above the stamps. In the next few pages we will inspect the imprint. Each of these positions that I have will also be examined.



Figure 2 - Enlargement of re-entered imprint.

The re-entered imprint is the most outstanding feature above the stamps. Note all the partial letters starting below Rawdon (above position 2) and extending beyond the k and period (above position 4). In the following pages we will look at each individual position. As there are some additional features to be seen and or not seen as the plate changes from wear. So we will have some fun looking at other flaws which may help determine early or late printings.

# The Three Pence Beaver Stamps Showing the Re-entered Imprint on Pane B Positions Two, Three, and Four And Additional flaws by Michael D. Smith and Jim Jung

Position 2

Pre-Imprint

Imprint



Figure 3 above

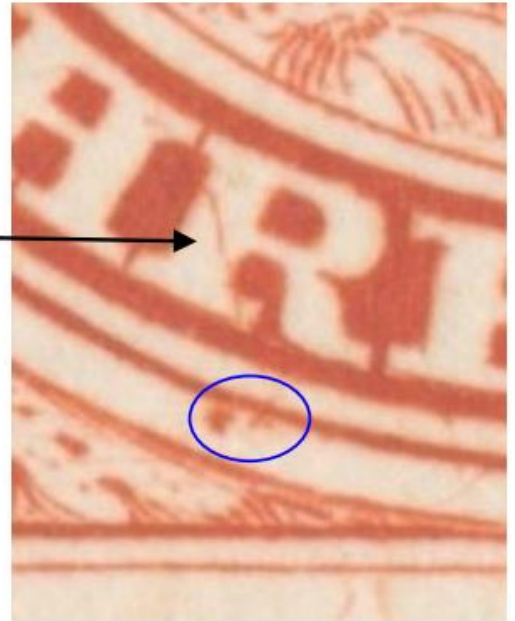
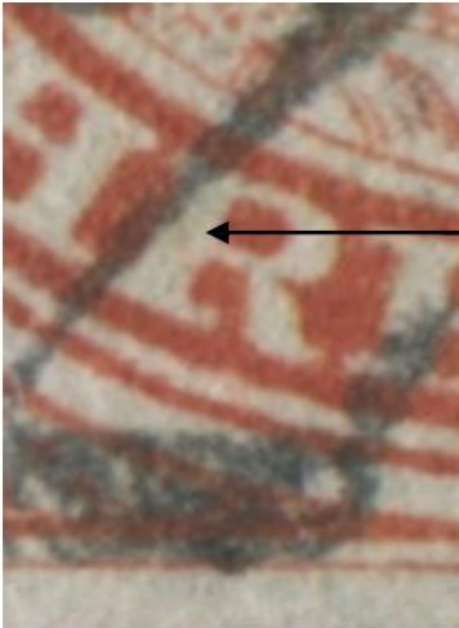


Figure 4

Here we have what I believe are two states of position 2. The left image seems to show the same three marks above the crown as the right image. The diagonal scratch in the back of the "R" of THREE also appears the same. I believe this is a pre-imprint copy. The right copy has some additional marks circled in blue and "RAWD" of the imprint upper left corner. I feel these are different states for this position.



# The Three Pence Beaver Stamps Showing the Re-entered Imprint on Pane B Positions Two, Three, and Four And Additional flaws

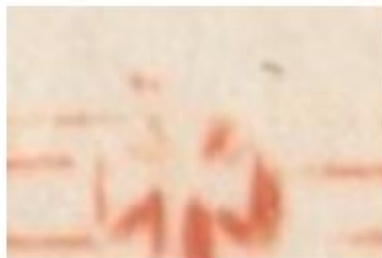
by Michael D. Smith and Jim Jung



Figure 5 – Closeup of the UR margin of the stamp in Figure 3 also shows the doubling of the imprint on position 2.



Figure 6 - The dot above the crown seems to be in the same relative position.

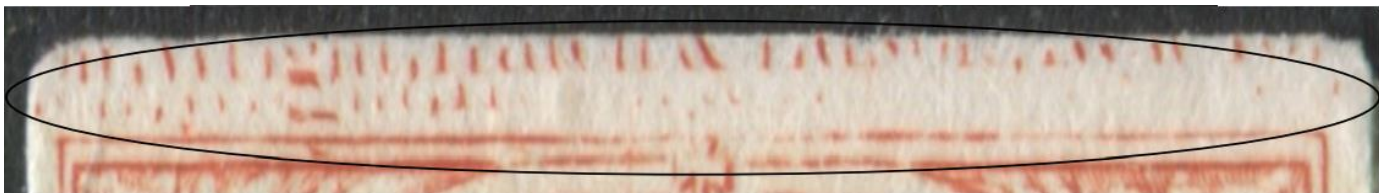


## Position 3



The bulk of the doubling of the imprint is in the upper margin of position 3. Note the bottom of the “g” of Wright actually goes inside the frame lines of the stamp.

Figure 7 – Left: A 3d Proof from Position 3 showing the re-entered imprint in the top margin. Below: a closeup showing the doubling of the imprint letters



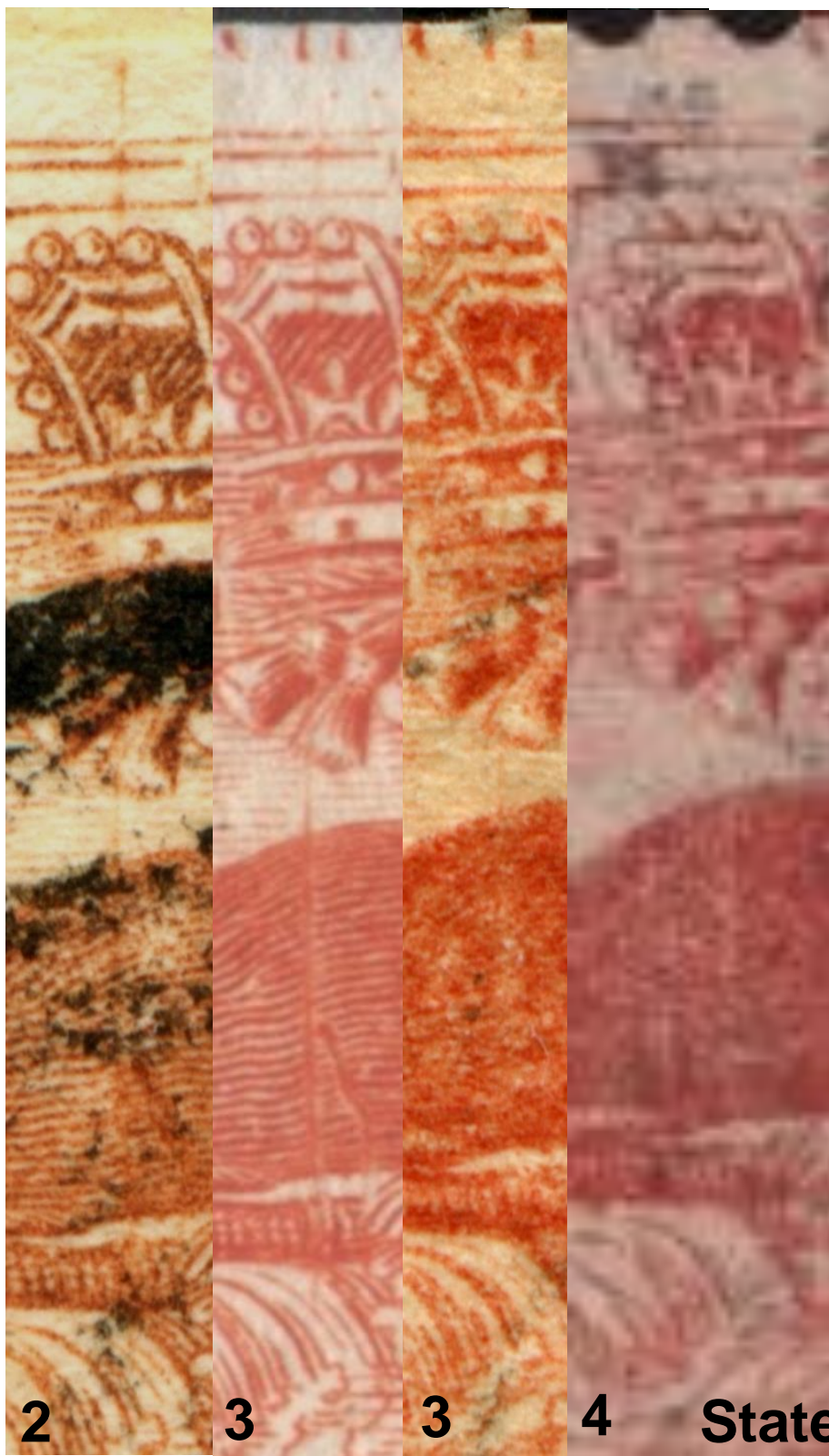
**The Three Pence Beaver Stamps Showing the Re-entered Imprint on  
Pane B Positions Two, Three, and Four And Additional flaws  
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Figure 8 – A copy of a 3d stamp from position 3 stamp showing the re-entered imprint



# The Three Pence Beaver Stamps Showing the Re-entered Imprint on Pane B Positions Two, Three, and Four And Additional flaws by Michael D. Smith and Jim Jung



The other more prominent flaw in Position 3 is the largest Flaw found on the 3d Beaver stamp. This flaw is illustrated in Ken Kershaw's 5 Volume masterpiece on the 3d stamp. Kershaw calls it **The Sliced Crown and Beaver Flaw**. It comes in four States, of which State 2 is the strongest. This close-up at left of the Proof also shows the flaw quite well. The flaw appears as a long vertical line starting in the upper margin in the **h** of **Hatch** and extending downwards through the Crown and the Beaver into the waterfall.

Figure 9 - The State 2 stamp, without the Imprint, is at the left.

The 2nd image is the Proof from the Figure 7. This is a Proof with the Imprint which was applied to the plate after State 2.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> image is a stamp with the Imprint from State 3. You can see the stamp shows a weaker state of the flaw. The flaw line is still noticeable but parts of the line have worn off.

The 4<sup>th</sup> image is the 4<sup>th</sup> State on the Perforated 3d. The line is mostly gone and has turned into a blurred white line through the beaver, almost as if there was an attempt to erase the line.



The Three Pence Beaver Stamps Showing the Re-entered Imprint on  
 Pane B Positions Two, Three, and Four And Additional flaws  
 by Michael D. Smith and Jim Jung



Figure 10 – This is a crossborder cover with two x 3d stamps, dated HAMILTON JY 12 1856. The right stamp has The Sliced Crown and Beaver Flaw in State 2. Below: You can see there is no Imprint in the top margin.





# The Three Pence Beaver Stamps Showing the Re-entered Imprint on Pane B Positions Two, Three, and Four And Additional flaws

by Michael D. Smith and Jim Jung

Position 4



Figure 11 – Above: A 3d Proof in the Orange Yellow shade from Position 4. Below: A closeup of two 3d stamps showing the dots in the UL margin in Position 4. There does not appear to be part of the an imprint on this Proof but these guide dots are generally present to guide the placement of the imprint onto the plate. Perhaps the margin is cut too close to show the k of New York from the imprint.



The best way to identify this position is by looking for the dots in upper left margin of the re-entered upper imprint and the marginal dot above the last 'A' of CANADA.

**The Three Pence Beaver Stamps Showing the Re-entered Imprint on  
Pane B Positions Two, Three, and Four And Additional flaws  
by Michael D. Smith and Jim Jung**



Figure 12 – A copy of the 3d stamp at Position 4 showing the marks in the UL margin. A tiny bit of the k of New York from the imprint is in the upper left corner margin.



# The Three Pence Beaver Stamps Showing the Re-entered Imprint on Pane B Positions Two, Three, and Four And Additional flaws

by Michael D. Smith and Jim Jung

Dr. Jim Watt shared the following images These are perforated so are representative of last state of the plate.



Figure 13 - Positions 1 and 2 The doubled imprint is on the upper right corner of position 2

Note the rough top frame line above the P of POSTAGE. This mark appears to be constant there but depending on how inking was applied they may look differently as can be seen on these stamps.



Figure 14 - Another example of positions 2 and 3.



The Three Pence Beaver Stamps Showing the Re-entered Imprint on  
Pane B Positions Two, Three, and Four And Additional flaws  
by Michael D. Smith and Jim Jung



Figure 15 -  
Two other  
examples of  
position 3.



The Three Pence Beaver Stamps Showing the Re-entered Imprint on  
Pane B Positions Two, Three, and Four And Additional flaws  
by Michael D. Smith and Jim Jung



Figure 14 –  
Left: Pane B  
Pre-Imprint  
Positions 2,  
3, and 4

Right: Pane B  
with Imprint  
Positions 2,  
3, 4.

# The Three Pence Beaver Stamps Showing the Re-entered Imprint on Pane B Positions Two, Three, and Four And Additional flaws by Michael D. Smith

## Conclusions:

The images presented in this article are attributed to Eastern Auctions, Dr. James Watt, Jim Jung and Michael D. Smith. They help show that at various times flaws occurred on the plate used in the printing of 3d Beaver, and some flaws could even disappear. These positions (2, 3, and 4) have the only re-entered imprint (when present) that occurred on the 3d. Plate B.

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## The Gouge Flaw on Cover by Jim Jung Cover Image Courtesy of Bill Radcliffe

I have always been a lover of Postal History as well as collecting off-cover stamps. There is so much more to a cover than there is to just the stamp. There are some benefits to having the full cover. For example, the stamp is usually in fault free condition since it is stuck to an envelope. You can also get the dates when the stamp was used which gives you a good indication of when the stamp was printed. The route the cover took from source to destination can be interesting, and in rare instances, the addressee or sender could be important. Bill Radcliffe has generously donated this pretty little cover to our newsletter, which is illustrated in Arfken Leggett.



Figure 1 – 5c Cover to Prince Edward Island from Montreal, dated DE 9 67, prior to Prince Edward Island joining the Dominion of Canada



For this tiny cover, the stamp, routing, destination and date all contribute to this being a very nice cover to own. The cover source is a common Montreal with a nice duplex dated DE 9 67 with a destination of Price Edward Island; a nice inter-provincial cover. Although this date is after July 1, 1867 when Confederation created the Dominion of Canada after the Charlottetown Conference, Prince Edward Island didn't join the Dominion until 1873,

## The Gouge Flaw on Cover by Jim Jung Cover Image Courtesy of Bill Radcliffe

when they faced bankruptcy, due to the construction of the railroad and the "Land Question". This cover was sent from the Dominion of Canada to Colony of Prince Edward Island, not the **Province** of Prince Edward Island.



There is a bonus on this cover when you look at the stamp. The stamp has the well known Gouge Flaw, which is a large mark above the O of POSTAGE. With the DE 9 67 date on the cover, we can date the time when the flaw existed on the plate. Whitworth states that the Flaw existed only in State 11 at position 23. Whitworth has dated State 11 from December 1867 to March 1868 so this should be an early State of the flaw. When we compare different copies of the flaw, we can see that Bill Radcliffe's cover shows a strong dark mark at the bottom of the flaw. As the flaw progresses, we see the dark mark separate and grows weaker, becoming almost transparent.



## **The Gouge Flaw on Cover by Jim Jung**

### **Images Courtesy of Bill Radcliffe**

The Interprovincial rate was the same as the domestic rate; 5c per ½ ounce. But the routes that were used for mail to travel from Ontario and Quebec to the Maritimes were quite interesting. There were 6 known routes that a letter could take.

Route 1: During the summer months, when the weather was warm and the St Lawrence River had no ice, mail delivery was made by boat to the ports along the St Lawrence River and the Gulf of St Lawrence ending up at Pictou, on the northeast coast of Nova Scotia.

Route 2: This route was by rail from Montreal to Quebec City to Riviere du Loup. From there, the mail took a difficult and formidable trail through central New Brunswick. This route was used heavily at the beginning of the Decimal Era but diminished to only local mail by 1867.

Route 3: This route was by rail through the United States, specifically from Montreal to Bangor, Maine. Then the mail was transferred by closed bag to St John, N.B. by Stagecoach. From St John, the mail was sorted and went it's separate ways, depending on the destination.

Route 4: This is another rail routing by Grand Trunk Rail to Portland, Maine. The mail was then transferred to a Steamship and travelled to St John, N.B.

Route 5: This is another rail routing to Boston, then by Cunard Packet to Halifax. This differs from the other rail options because the charge was 12 1/2c instead of the 5c Domestic rate for the other routes. The extra charge is for the Cunard steamer, which ran from Boston to Liverpool, but there was a stop in Halifax that made this route possible.

Route 6: This route is similar to Route 4 in that the first leg of the journey is by Grand Trunk Rail to Portland, Maine. However, the second leg is by steamship to Halifax.

## **References**

George B. Arfken and Arthur W. Leggett - Canada's Decimal Era 1859-68, Toronto, Ontario, Canada, Vincent Graves Greene Publishing, 1996.

## An Interesting Small Queen Three Cent Variety by Guy Jeffery

Many years ago, I found some unusual marks on a three cent small queen. The marks were two dots in the lower left margin. The left dot was lower and to the right of a usual guide dot. The second mark was to the right of and higher than the first dot. The second dot was surrounded by what I called a halo of much smaller dots. It was the halo that made the stamp so unusual. But, was it constant?



Over the years I continued to watch for another copy of the "halo" small queen. I was rewarded in finding three additional copies. I decided that the extra copies made the halo stamp a constant plate variety and I decided to send scans to Bill Burden's Admiral and Small Queen CPV site ([www.wgburden.com](http://www.wgburden.com)) but, before doing that, I had another, closer look through my hoard of various dots on small queens. Surprisingly, I found two more stamps with the exact dots but without any halo. Bill added the variety with the six examples to his site as 3F1.20. It is a constant variety.





## An Interesting Small Queen Three Cent Variety by Guy Jeffery



I did some more digging and I found one more “halo” stamp but the halo was on a dot in the right lower corner of another three cent small queen. It was a feeble halo without a clear dot in the centre. Those seven stamps, six of which are the same variety, are the only halo dots that I have come across.

What I don't understand is what caused the “halo” effect. Does anyone have an explanation for how these varieties occurred? Are there any other examples of “halos” on small queens?

An Interesting Small Queen Three Cent Variety by Guy Jeffery





## 6c Small Queen Hairball Variety by Jim McCormick (Some Images Courtesy of Dr Jim Watt)

I have been scanning Dr. Watt's 6 cent collection for study, and came across what is similar to the hairball variety (pane B position 97), but the marks are in "OS" of POSTAGE. Jim Watt had it labelled **C46 Whorl in OS of Postage**. I was reading that a full sheet of the C pane was studied at one point, which must be how the position was identified. My understanding is that the majority of the interesting varieties are from a late state of the plate and they seem to be quite scarce. I wish we had a scan of the pane C sheet.



Figure 1 – Dr Jim Watt's position C46, The Whorl in OS of POSTAGE



**6c Small Queen Hairball Variety by Jim McCormick  
(Some Images Courtesy of Dr Jim Watt)**

I also have C46 in my collection, and it is nice to be proven constant here.



Figure 2 – Jim McCormick position C46 with the same flaw in OS of POSTAGE



## 6c Small Queen Hairball Variety by Jim McCormick (Some Images Courtesy of Dr Jim Watt)

This block of 6 is Dr. Watt's and has a small curl above the P of POSTAGE on the top left stamp. I am not clear how this was plated as position C86 ... rumour of a full C pane existing at one time.



Figure 3 – Dr Jim Watt's Block of Six with closeup of the Top left stamp from the Block showing the curl above the P of POSTAGE. This has been marked as position C86 in Dr Jim Watt's collection.



## 6c Small Queen Hairball Variety by Jim McCormick (Some Images Courtesy of Dr Jim Watt)

This single is my collection. The small curl is in the P of POSTAGE. I have no idea of plate position. Both could be printing anomalies. They could be from a thread on the plate. But they also look similar to the hairball & whorl varieties that we know are constant. This is a callout to other collectors to watch for another like them. Please send us your scans !



Figure 4 – Jim McCormick's stamp showing a curl in the P of POSTAGE. The Plate position is Unknown but the flaw is similar to the other stamps shown in this article.



## 6c Small Queen Hairball Variety by Jim McCormick (Some Images Courtesy of Dr Jim Watt)

Guy Jeffery suggested including a scan of the B97 hairball stamp for comparison. The variety is listed in Unitrade as 43vii. This stamp is from Jim McCormick's collection and occurs on the later Red Brown shade printings.



### **ORAPEX 2024**

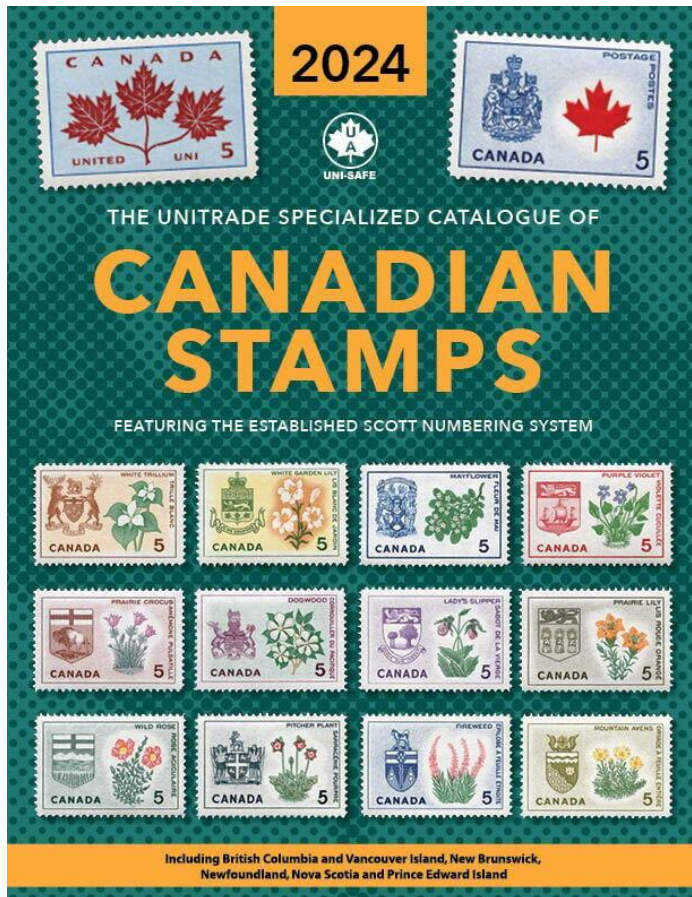
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May 5 10am-4pm

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Our theme for 2024 is "Marcophily/Postmarks." 2024 will mark the 61st anniversary of this show, which is managed by volunteers drawn from the RA Stamp Club, the Amicale des philatélistes de l'Outaouais, the Ottawa Philatelic Society and related philatelic societies and organizations. ORAPEX is one of only a few national-level stamp shows held annually in Canada and is part of the American Philatelic Society's "World Series of Philately."

## Unitrade Sale by Jim Jung



**Linn's Stamp News** reports that the owner of Unitrade Associates, Gino Casa, will retire in November 2024 and has decided to sell the Unitrade business. There is an announcement on the [Unitrade website](#) with reads in part:

**After more than 50 years in business, the owner of Unitrade Associates is retiring in November, 2024 and has put the business up for sale.**

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