

Dots and Scratches

Re-entries and Constant Plate Varieties
BNAPS Study Group



5c Small Queen - Flaw in lower right margin
Courtesy of Jim Jung

Dots and Scratches

Re-entries and Constant Plate Varieties

BNAPS Study Group

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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,

[Eastern Auctions](#) has the majestic, collection altering Camellia Collection's first sale this month on November 22. The catalog is available and the lots are ready to view on their website. It's an outstanding offering with items not seen for quite awhile mixed in with some cream of the crop pieces; certainly worth viewing and hoping you can win something in this auction. I suspect attending and bidding will be very exciting.

We have been summoned to think about the virtual BNAPEX which will be on January 31, 2026. In order to get you interested, I have decided that we will have the next Deveney Gift Certificate draw Live at the Study Group meeting. I will send out details to all members as we approach the Virtual BNAPEX.

Enjoy the offerings of local stamp shows and sales as we near the Holiday Season. Please have fun and best of luck in your hunt for the elusive stamp you wish for.

Jim Jung

P.S. BNAPEX 2026 is in Valleyfield, Quebec.

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Some of the many highlights of the "Michael Roberts" collection



17c Prussian blue, an exceptional block of nine showing the major re-entry.



A charming 10c Consort cameo advertising cover.



12½c yellow green on thick paper with stitch watermark, ex Mangold.



12½c original gum horizontal pair showing the major re-entry.



1c pale rose, original gum block of four, very fine.



17c imperforate sheet margin pair with stitch watermark.



12½c dark green original gum block of four, one of the finest surviving mint multiples.

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Five New Second Issue Bill Stamp Constant Plate Variety Discoveries by Stephen Hellsten

Introduction

I did not have the pleasure of meeting Ralph Trimble. Ralph faded from the philatelic scene before I developed an interest in constant plate varieties. Then he passed away last year. And yet, he and I have a connection. A shared passion for re-entries.

Forever linked by his legacy: Ralph's many journal articles and the fabulous re-entries.com website he created years ago. Resources I find myself returning to. Again, and again. As I cross-reference my collection against the many observations and insights of this Canadian philatelic icon. Bringing an occasional smile to my face when pondering his reaction to a new re-entry discovery.

We all walk in the footsteps of those that come before us. Building on the work of our predecessors. And so, I thought I would mark the 2024 passing of this giant of our hobby. By reporting on five remarkable Second Issue Bill Stamp constant plate variety discoveries. Stamps that I would have relished discussing with Ralph Trimble. But instead, I share with the Dots and Scratches community with whom I have no doubt he held in the greatest esteem.

1. FB21: 4 Cents "Dots & Scratches" Variety



Let's first look at the 4 Cents denomination. Here we have an interesting new variety. It's not a Trimble-preferred re-entry. But it is nevertheless appropriate for the Dots and Scratches newsletter. Since it is, quite literally, comprised of a significant number of curiously located dots and a prominent scratch.

I have two copies. Both on trial colour plate proofs. The position is not known. Although I can confirm that it is not found in column 10 as one of my copies is the left position proof of a plate proof pair.

Five New Second Issue Bill Stamp Constant Plate Variety Discoveries by Stephen Hellsten

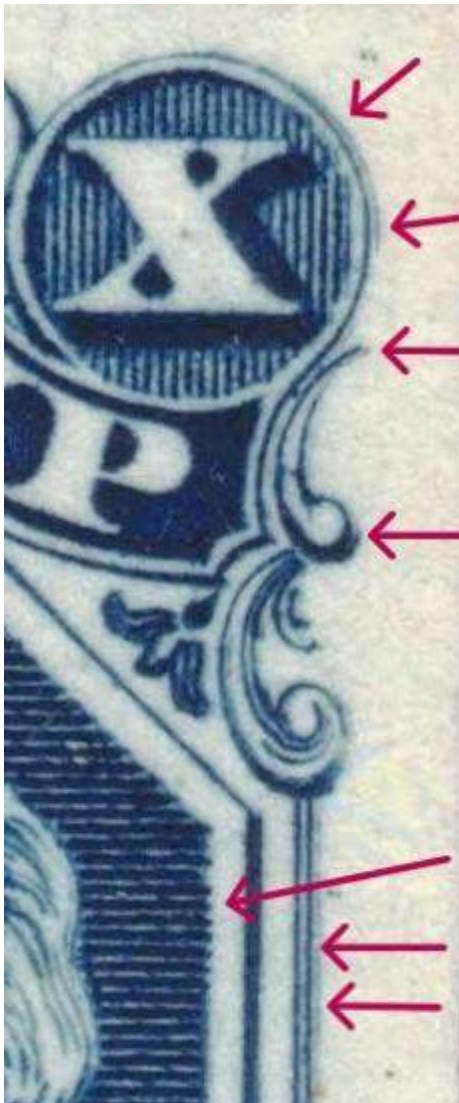
2. FB23: 6 Cents “Dash in S of Cents” Variety



Next, we have a flaw (or dash) in the letter S of CENTS on the 6 Cents denomination. I have two copies of this variety. The first on a trial colour plate proof block of four. The second on a used stamp dated March 12, 1868.

The position is not known. However, the block of four position suggests the variety is neither a column 1 nor a row 10 stamp.

3. FB27: 10 Cents “Upper Right Re-entry”



This third new variety is one I think Ralph Trimble would appreciate.

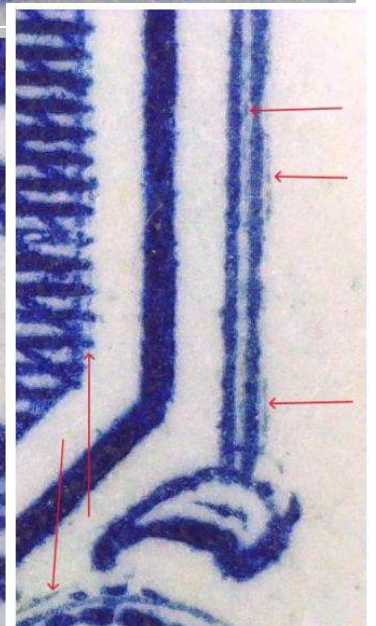
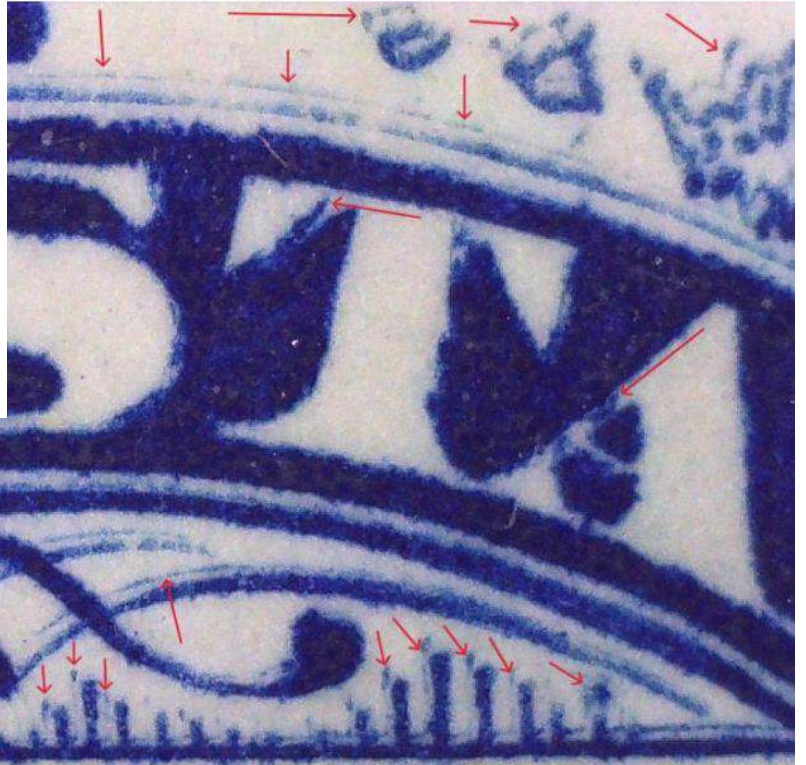
It's a clean re-entry in the upper right corner of the 10 Cents denomination. The re-entry consists of doubling in each of the scroll work, frame line and circular feature surrounding the Roman numeral X. There are also some prominent extensions of

the blue horizontal shading lines adjacent to the queen's hair into the inner frame white space. I have two copies of this re-entry. One on a single plate proof. The second – the bottom proof – of a vertical plate proof pair. The position is not known. However, the vertical plate proof pair eliminates row 1. And the wide left margins suggest the re-entry may be found in column 1. Meaning the re-entry could be a Position 11, 21, 31, 41, 51, 61, 71, 81, or 91 variety.

Five New Second Issue Bill Stamp Constant Plate Variety Discoveries by Stephen Hellsten

4. FB29: 30 Cents “Major Re-entry”

This spectacular major re-entry discovery on the 30 Cents denomination exhibits prolific doubling throughout the image: among many of the letters, in the horizontal cross-hatching and the numeral tablets, along the frame lines and throughout much of the ornamentation. I have a single copy from a plate proof pair. The position is not known. However, because my copy is the right position of a plate proof pair, we know this re-entry is not from column 1.



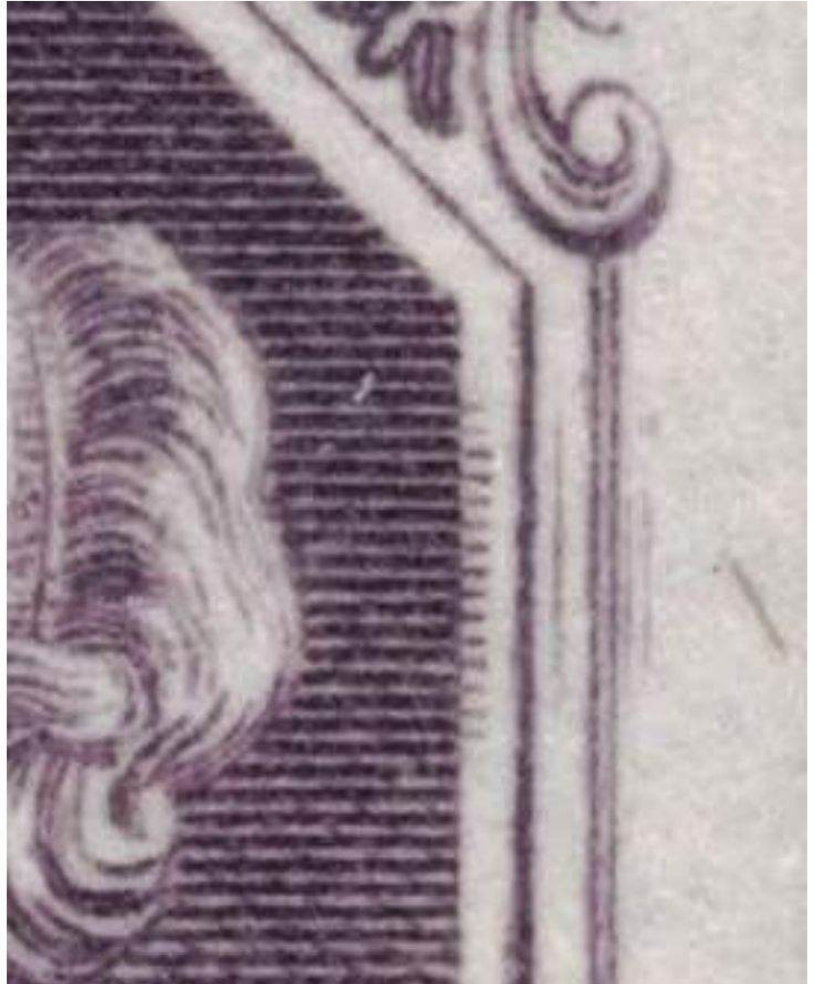
Five New Second Issue Bill Stamp Constant Plate Variety Discoveries by Stephen Hellsten

5. FB32: 50 Cents “Upper Right Re-entry”

Finally, we have a lovely re-entry on the 50 Cents denomination.



This impressive re-entry is located on the upper right side of the image. It includes extensions of many of the horizontal shading lines



adjacent to the Queen's hair into the white space interior of the inner frame. There is also a prominent vertical line in the white space between the inner and outer frame. And in the right margin, we find two parallel vertical lines adjacent to the outer frame lines. I have one copy of this re-entry. On a single trial colour plate proof. Yet again, the position is not known.

A 6 Cent Small Queen Two Dot Variant by Bill Radcliffe

I bought the first stamp pictured (Fig. 1) on Ebay. It is a major plate scratch going all the way through the right 6. It was the two dot state. I sent a picture of the stamp to Jim. McCormick, who has plated the six cent Small Queens Jim looked at his plate records for the 2 dot state and determined it was plate position 100. His only had a weak scratches (Figs. 2, 3a,b), and when he checked Jim Watt's scanned collection Jim found one with a stronger plate scratch. Mine must be an early state of the 2 dot plate, which comes in perf 11.5x12 The light scratch is on perf 11.75x12, which Jim defines as state 2A. He could not find a scratch in the 1 dot state or the 3 dot state position 100s or on the perf 12x12 examples in the 2 dot state, defined as 2B, which show the plate scratch has worn away by that point. So, the stamp I found is state 2A, Jim Watt's stamp is 2A, and Jim McCormick's stamps would be 2A. There is no plate scratch in state 2B as far as we know. You might get lucky and find one on a perf 12x12. You never know what you find in group of random stamps so happy hunting

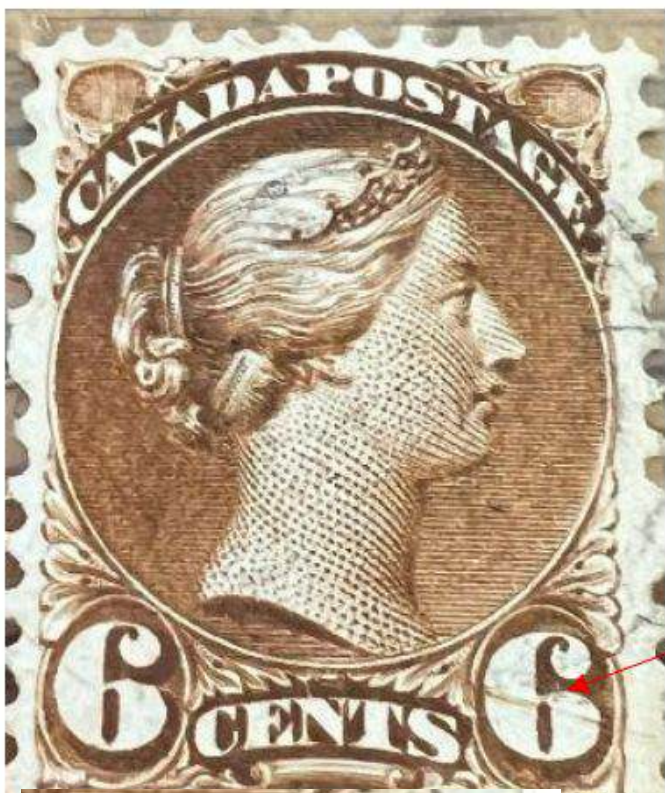


Fig 1 (Left): Scratch through right 6 of 6¢ Small Queen, 2 dot state 2A pos. 100

Fig 2 (Right): Scratch through 6¢, weaker line

A 6 Cent Small Queen Two Dot Variant by Bill Radcliffe



Fig 3a: Pos. 100 state 2A weak strikes

38c Parliament Re-entry by Arnie Janson



Arnie Janson sent in this nice re-entry found on a booklet stamp of the 38c Parliament, Scott 1188. Clearly, there is doubling in the letter on the left side of the stamp as well as in the fine background lines on the left side of the design.

When compared with other versions of the same stamp, the reason for the re-entry is apparent as the lettering is not well defined

38c Parliament Re-entry by Arnie Janson

Right: Here is a scan of stamp version before the re-entry. I've called it "dry plate" but I'm not sure if that is the correct term. This will help you see the "before and after".



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Canada's Five Cents Beaver Proofs with Various Plate Flaws Part 5

by Michael D. Smith

Positions 43 and 44 State 4



Positions 43
State 4



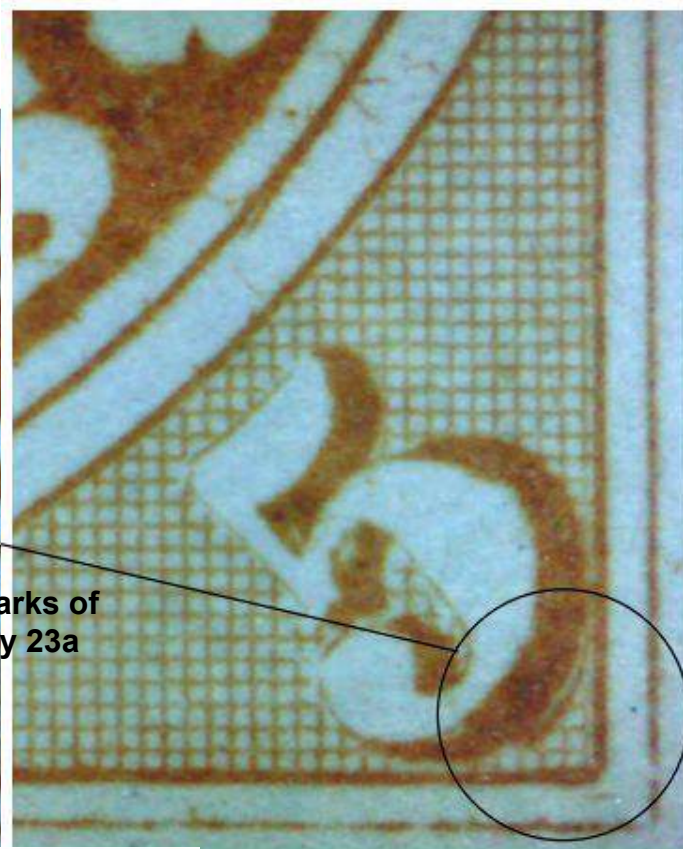
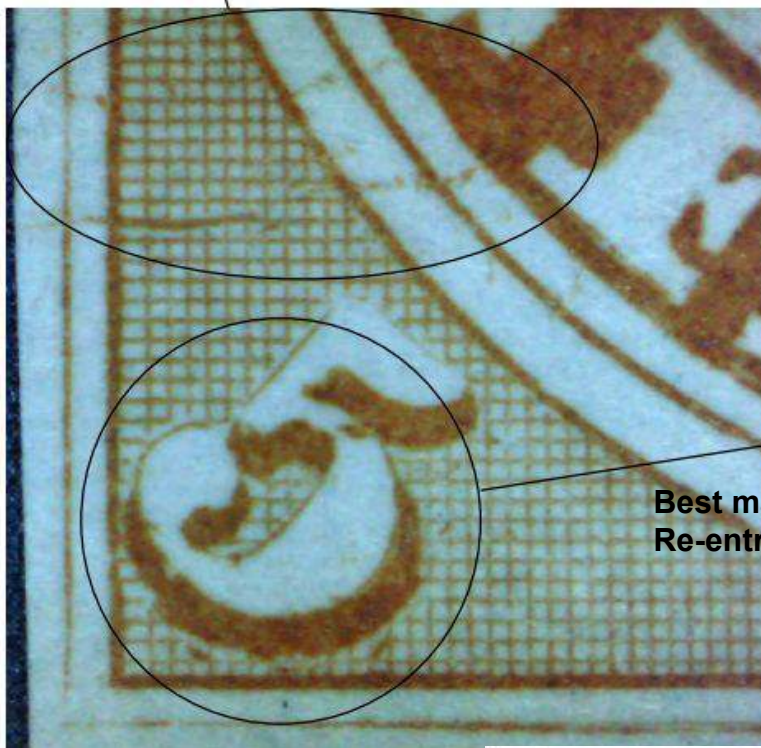
Re-entry 23a doubling of lower 5's, printing flaw 94a = scratches going from letter tablet to W margin above SW 5, one dot top margin right of cross.

Canada's Five Cents Beaver Proofs with Various Plate Flaws Part 5

by Michael D. Smith

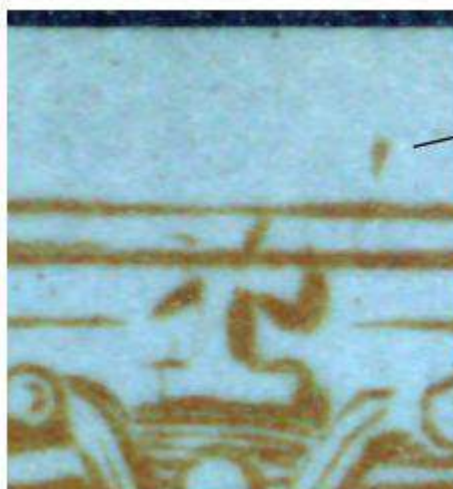
Positions 43 State 4

Pf. 94a



Best marks of
Re-entry 23a

Re-entry 23a doubling of
lower 5's, printing flaw 94a
= scratches going from
letter tablet to W margin
above SW 5, one dot top
margin right of cross.

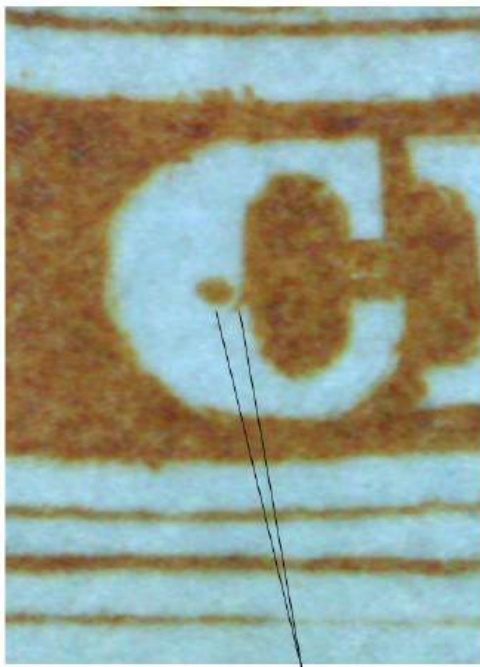


Dot right of cross

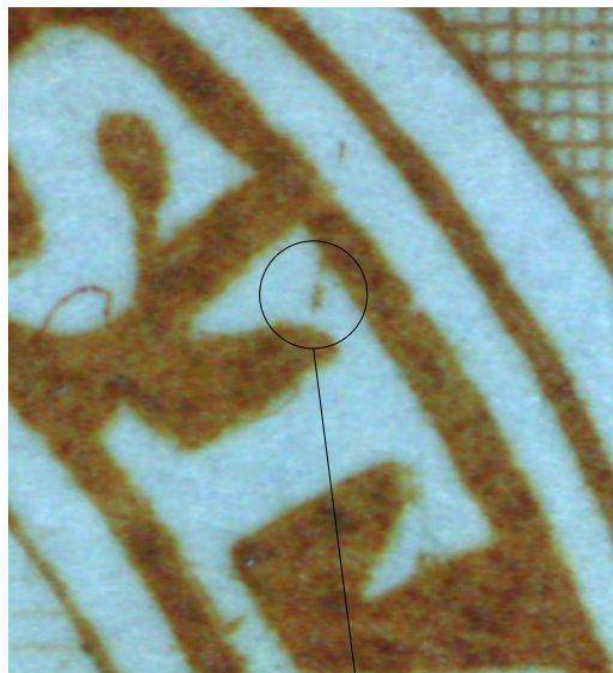
Canada's Five Cents Beaver Proofs with Various Plate Flaws Part 5

by Michael D. Smith

Positions 44 State 4



Doubled 'C' dots



Pf. 80

Canada's Five Cents Beaver Proofs with Various Plate Flaws Part 5

by Michael D. Smith

15TC viii Position 63 State 4



Pf. 86b (not present) pf. 114c and new 'C' dot shown.

New 'C' dot



Pf. 114c

Canada's Five Cents Beaver Proofs with Various Plate Flaws Part 5
by Michael D. Smith

15TC viii Position 69 State 4



Pf. 3.



Short entry NE
spandrel.



Canada's Five Cents Beaver Proofs with Various Plate Flaws Part 5
by Michael D. Smith

15TC viii Position 74 State 4



R.44 Left
vertical
frame lines
doubled.



R.44
Right
bottom
frame lines
doubled.



Canada's Five Cents Beaver Proofs with Various Plate Flaws Part 5

by Michael D. Smith

15TC viii Positions 75 and 76 State 4



Position 75 State 4



S frame lines doubled W. pf. 7.

Canada's Five Cents Beaver Proofs with Various Plate Flaws Part 5

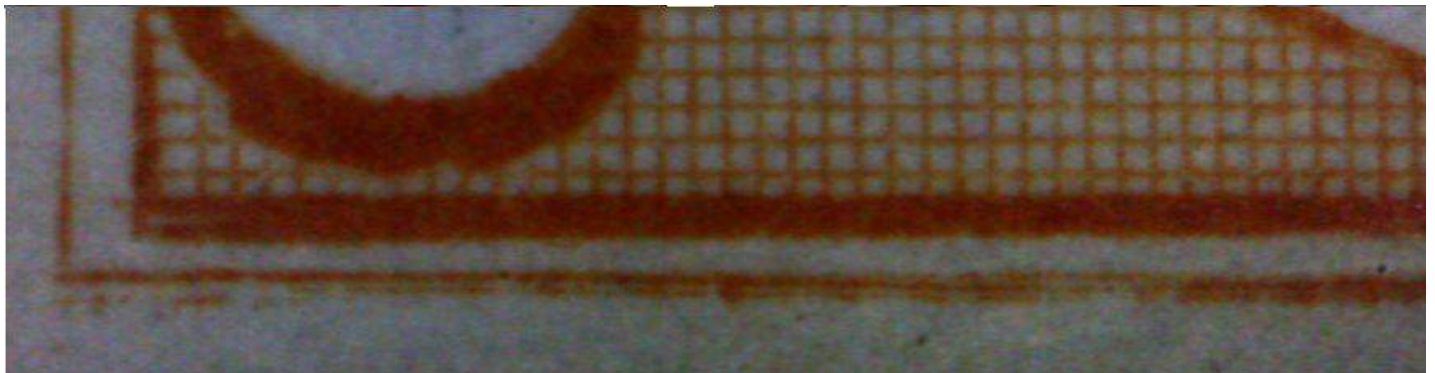
by Michael D. Smith

Positions 43 State 4



pf. 7 Scratches running from 'R' to 'A' (Left).

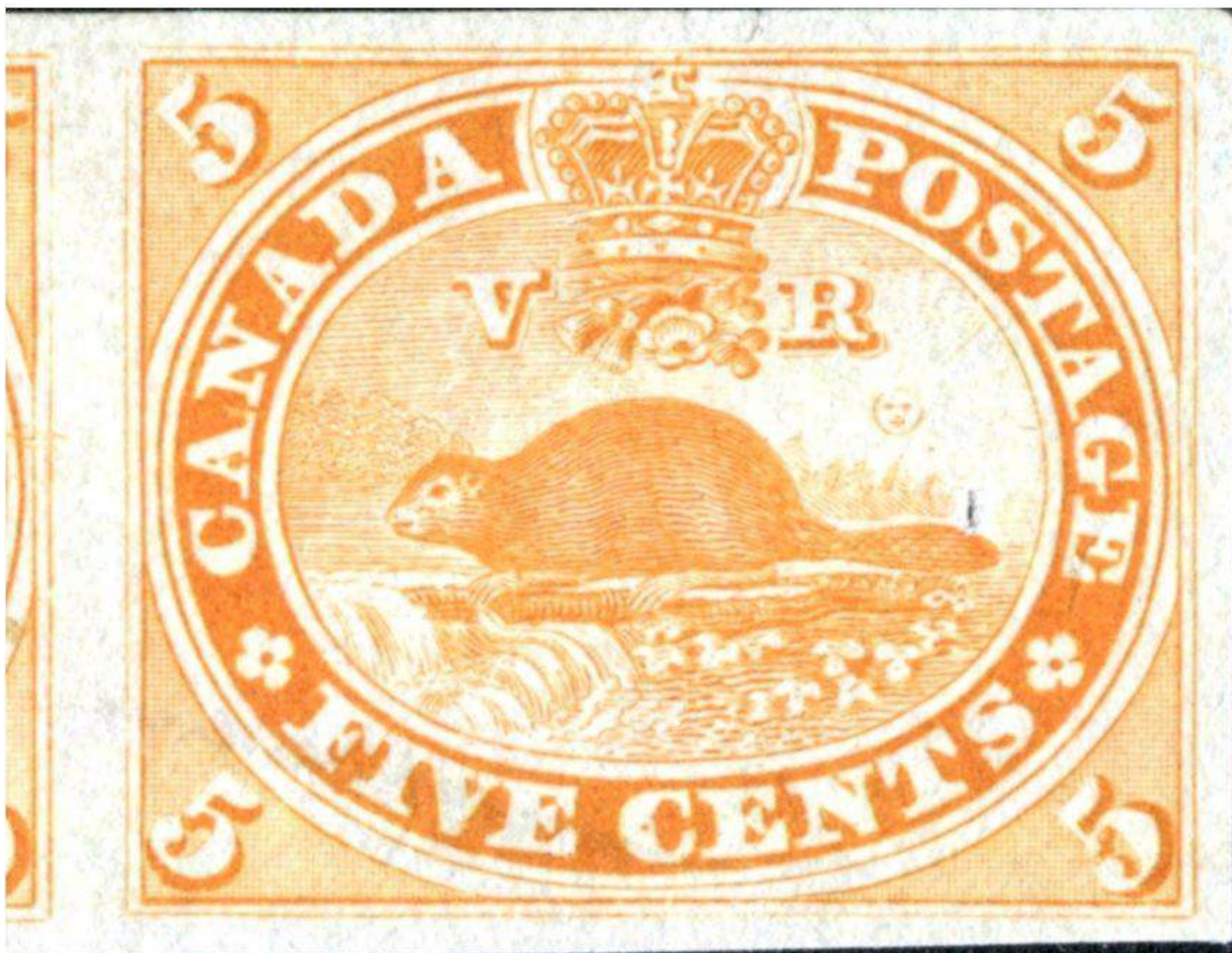
pf. 7 And scratches running from letter tablet at 'G' into R margin (right).



S frame lines doubled W.

Canada's Five Cents Beaver Proofs with Various Plate Flaws Part 5
by Michael D. Smith

15TC viii Positions 76 State 4



Normal

Canada's Five Cents Beaver Proofs with Various Plate Flaws Part 5

by Michael D. Smith

15P Position 18



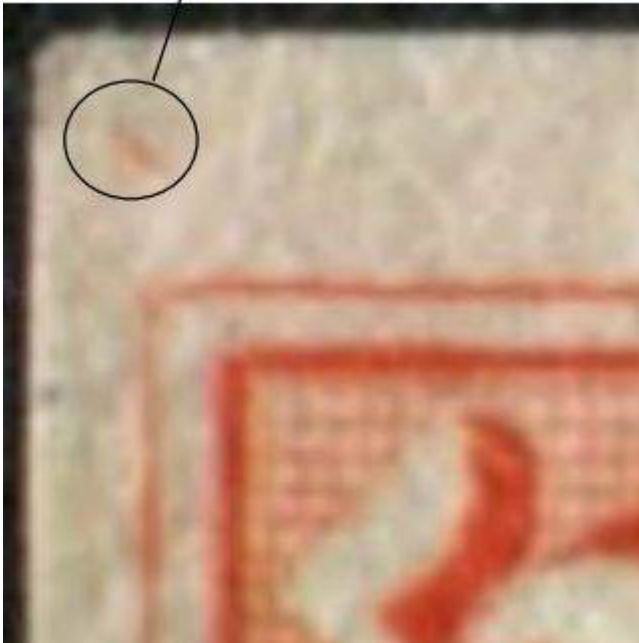
Small diagonal line above UL corner, small dot in E margin above G of POSTAGE, Printing flaw 24a = light ">" inside T of CENTS.

Canada's Five Cents Beaver Proofs with Various Plate Flaws Part 5

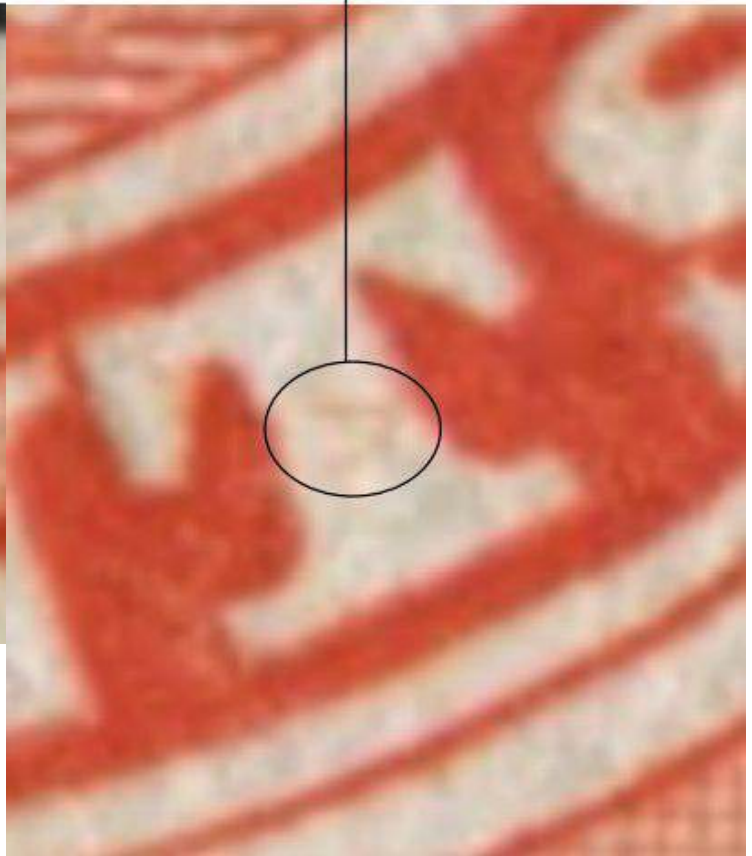
by Michael D. Smith

15P Position 18

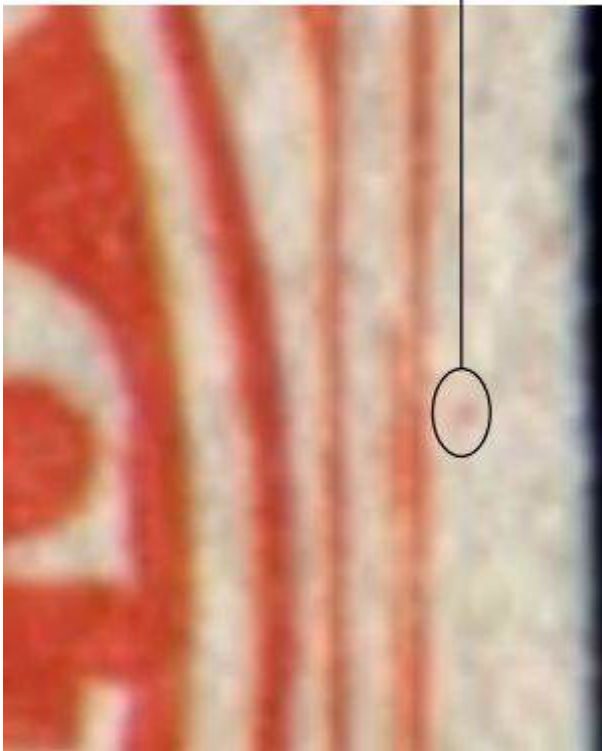
Diagonal line



PF 24a



Small dot right margin



Small diagonal line above UL corner,
small dot in E margin above G of
POSTAGE, Printing flaw 24a = light ">"
inside T of CENTS.

5c Small Queen Plate Cracks by Jim Jung



A long while ago, a bunch of us noticed that there are a lot of plate cracks on the 5c Small Queen stamp. These are not plate scratches and look like crooked jagged lines across a small part of the design. Here are some of the ones we found starting with this one smaller one that is listed as R&S 5-20, plate position unknown. It is clearly a plate crack and the jagged line is in the strong olive green colour of the stamp.

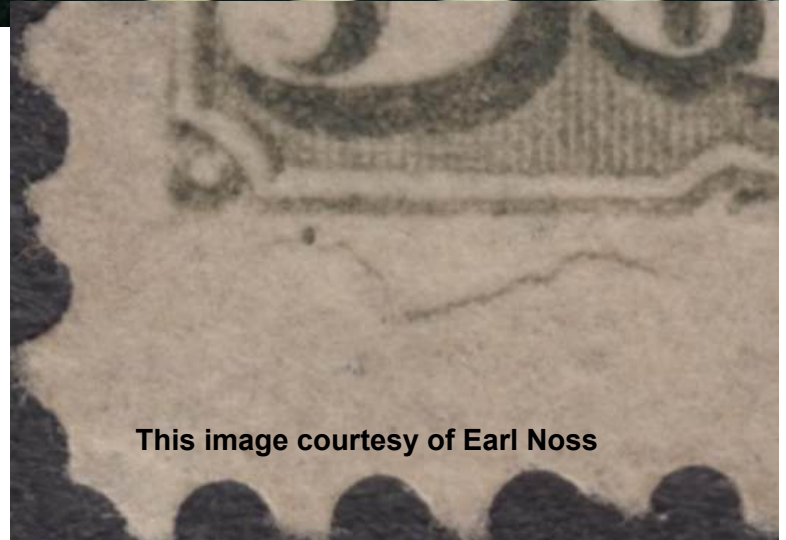
Images are courtesy of Jim Jung unless otherwise marked

5c Small Queen Plate Cracks by Jim Jung



Here is one that is more common and is more well known. It has been plated at position 195 and has lived long enough that it has different states. The Ex Simpson copy with the large lower margin shows some extra marks in the perfs as well as a tiny part of the imprint.

A 2nd and 3rd copy of this plate crack is shown below the closeup of the Ex Simpson copy and shows the crack as being much longer



This image courtesy of Earl Noss

5c Small Queen Plate Cracks by Jim Jung



Although I'm not sure exactly how long this plate crack existed on the plate, here is a dated copy from Earl Noss showing a date of JY ?? 85. The copies we have seen are all on Scott 38 as opposed to 42. They have shades from a very greenish Olive to a more Grayish Green. The British American Bank Note Co moved their operations from Ottawa to Montreal in September of 1874 and stayed there until 1887. The plates used for the Montreal printings continued to be used afterwards as well. This plate crack comes from a plate of 200 subjects in one pane. In the Montreal period, the imprint was changed and stamps appeared in a different shade. A new plate was made for the 5c in the period of 1888-92. These were different and came in two 10 x 10 panes of 100.

This is a very general description of the printing of the Small Queen stamps. For more details, it is advised to get a copy of a specialist book on the Small Queen issue. It is such a large subject in itself.

5c Small Queen Plate Cracks by Jim Jung



Here is one more that is much smaller and appearing in the upper right margin near the corner of the design. It's just a short diagonal but slightly jagged line.

5c Small Queen Plate Cracks by Jim Jung



Here is an extensive plate crack sent in by Jim McCormick. It features a large crack at the top right margin and a second crack at the bottom right across the lower framelines.



Images are courtesy of Jim McCormick



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