



Canada's 1/2d Plate Varieties

By: Michael D. Smith

Plate Position Chart

The original plate had 120 positions. The numbers added in red are positions on the trimmed plate. The left two columns of the plate were removed so the sheets printed could be fed through a perforator. Imperforate stamps are numbered from the 120 stamp placements and perforated stamps from the 100 stamp red placements.

---IMPRINT---											
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
		11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36
		21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48
		31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60
		41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50
61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72
		51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60
73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84
		61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70
85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96
		71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80
97	98	99	100	101	102	103	104	105	106	107	108
		81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90
109	110	111	112	113	114	115	116	117	118	119	120
		91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100
---IMPRINT---											

Top, bottom and side imprints at left were removed when the plate was trimmed.

This is a composite using a 100 position proof sheet with proofs from the two columns trimmed from the plate of 120 positions. The composite lacks nine positions to finish the reconstruction.

There are flaws and other marks on some positions of the trimmed plate of 100 that are not on the plate of 120.



POSITION 4 (2) CURVED TOOL LINE BOTTOM RIGHT



Note: When they occur on both sheets I list the position from the sheet of 120 and then in parenthesis the position from sheet of 100 will be in red.

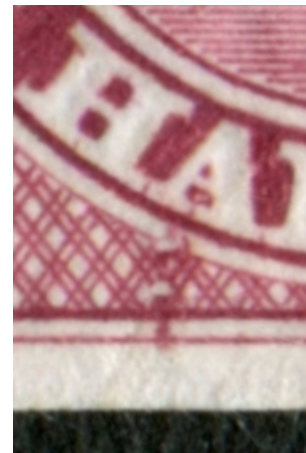


On this position there is an interesting curved tool mark in the bottom right corner crossing the outer frame line. This flaw is present on the sheet of 120, stamp #4, which also shows "York ." of the imprint in upper left margin. On the sheet of 100, stamp #2, the imprint was removed but as can be seen here the curved line is still present. Position 16 (12) could have the bottom portion of this line in upper margin as it almost touches the top frame line.

POSITION **6** FROM PROOF SHEET OF 100



This plate flaw is present on the trimmed proof sheet of 100. It is not present on the proof sheet of 120. The flaw is a odd smear of ink under the “A” of HALF. I have two proof examples but have not found it on an actual stamp.



POSITION 10 (8) STRONG RE-ENTRY AND TOP RIGHT IMPRINT



A strong re-entry in the letters "CAN" and above, and in the letters "ON" and "H". This re-entry is found on both the sheet of 120 and the sheet of 100.

POSITION 22 (18) MAJOR RE-ENTRY



Fred Jarrett describes this re-entry as “Fine line runs parallel to inside bottom frame line; dot in N of ONE at bottom right; letters ADA POST show traces of doubling.”
Note doubling of O of ONE.

POSITION 26 RE-ENTRY



Fred Jarrett describes this re-entry as “Doubling of “PE” and doubling of left frame line at bottom; other letters show doubling and there is a stroke of color above the last “A” of CANADA.”

POSITION 29 SCRATCH IN "E" OF POSTAGE



This is an interesting plate flaw which may be only on the plate of 100. There is a scratch that starts in the hatching above "A" of POSTAGE running through the "E" and ending in the portrait shading lines above the "Y" of PENNY. Easily spotted running through the "E".

POSTION 42 (34) MAJOR RE-ENTRY



Fred Jarrett describes this re-entry as follows: "Frame line doubled at bottom left; two dots in "D" of CANADA; dot in "P" and other letters."

Also note the marks above "CAN" of CANADA. There is also a small mark in portrait oval below "E" of POSTAGE.

POSITION 46 (38) MAJOR RE-ENTRY UPPER LEFT FRAME LINE



Fred Jarrett describes it as “Inner frame line doubled top left.”

The upper left corner is also doubled upward and top frame line doubling extends a good way to the right. Bottom left corner is slightly off vertical, a small mark under “H” in bottom margin can be found on stamps but is less defined. There is also doubling of the right vertical frame line lower right corner.

Position 52 (42) LINES UNDER BOTTOM FRAME LINE



This is a nice example of a guide line and an engravers slip at the bottom of this position. Fred Jarrett describes this one as follows: "One line parallel and one short oblique line under frame line at bottom under "HAL".

POSITION 58 (48) MAJOR RE-ENTRY



Fred Jarrett describes this re-entry as:
“Letters CANA and P show signs of doubling; there are two dots at left side of “P” and a dot in “EN” and stroke of color at top right of “Y” of “PENNY”.

POSITION 59 (49) UNERASED BOTTOM GUIDE LINE



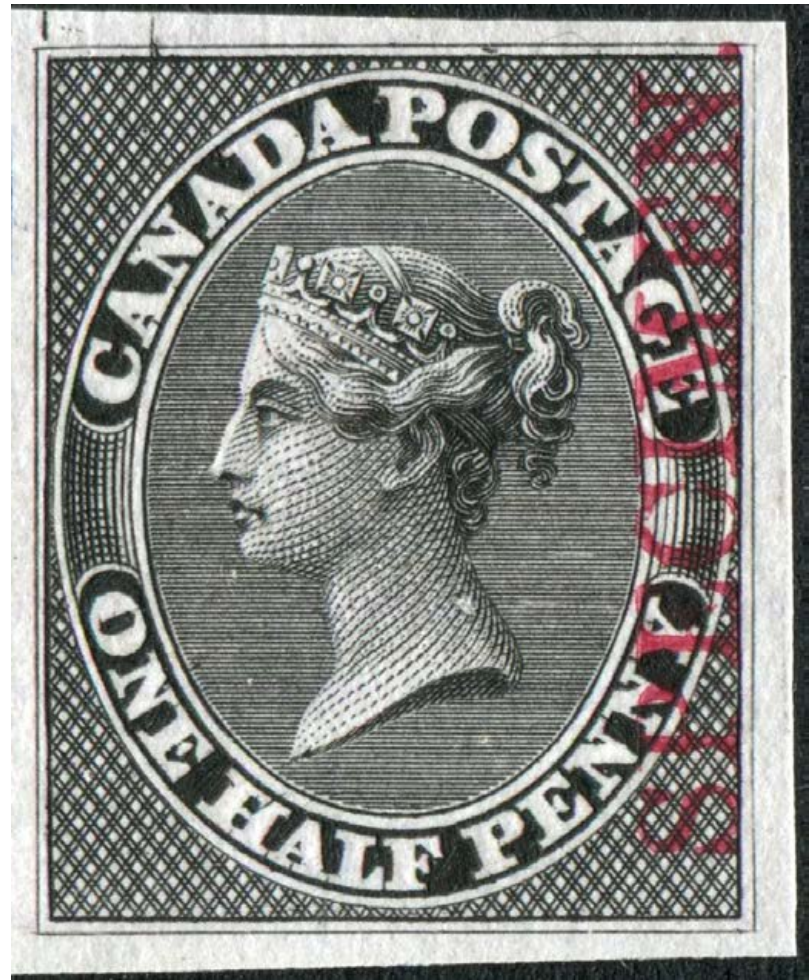
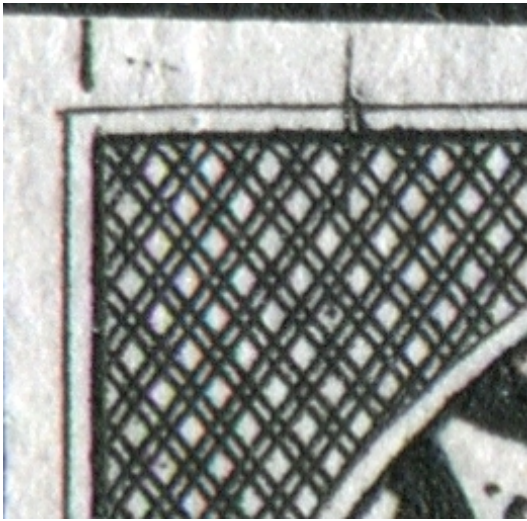
This position exhibits an un-erased guide line running across the bottom margin and connecting two guide dots.

POSITION 60 (50) MAJOR RE-ENTRY



Fred Jarrett says the following about this position: "A fine line runs through bottom portion of letters HALF. Guide dot in panel between ONE and CANADA is very pronounced."

POSITION 49 AND 61 PLATE FLAW BETWEEN STAMPS



There are two strong vertical lines in the upper left corner of position 61 that extend upward into position 49 on the plate of 120. Fred Jarrett does not mention these flaws. A used copy clearly shows the bottom frame line of position 49 at top with marks between position 61 and 49.

POSITION 70 (58) MAJOR RE-ENTRY



Fred Jarrett describes this re-entry as: "Single re-entry at bottom left and correspondingly inside frame line at top left and right."

The bottom has much more doubling as can be seen.

POSITION 71(59) SCRATCH IN TIARA



This position exhibits an interesting flaw in the front of the tiara. This appears to be a scratch that starts just in front of the Queen's forehead arching upward through the tiara. It is present on both the 120 position proof sheet and the 100 position proof sheet. I haven't seen it on an actual stamp.

POSITION 72 (60) MAJOR RE-ENTRY



Fred Jarrett says “Double re-entry shows in all letters, particularly in lower left corner where frame lines are doubled. Correspondingly the frame lines show doubling at top and top left.”

POSITION 73 BOTTOM FRAME LINE MISSING



Fred Jarrett mistakenly identifies this as position 61 but it is position 73. He states “The bottom frame line is missing.”

This is the only position this occurs.

POSITION 64 FLAW IN FRAME LINES ABOVE "G"



An interesting diagonal line between the frame lines above the "G" of POSTAGE. The used stamp #11 shows the diagonal mark in the same position as that of the proof. Note the extra ink smear on the proof. This may only be on the trimmed plate as I do not see it in the image of the proof sheet of 120 I have.

POSITION 83 (69) LOW STROKE IN "P"



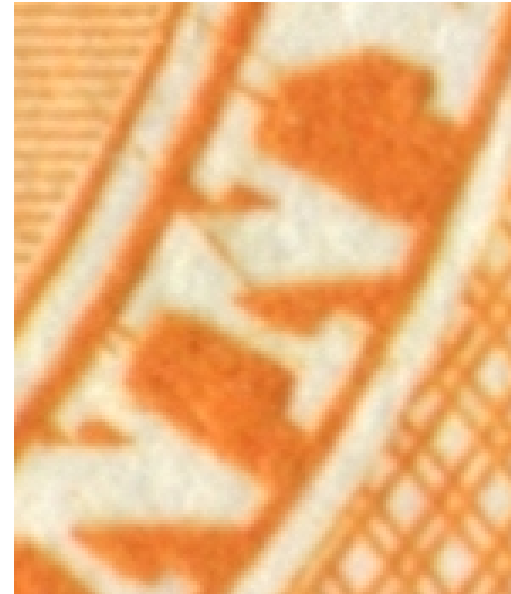
This one is not mentioned by Fred Jarrett. He does mention a similar flaw at position 93 (77). This line crosses over the "P" and into the portrait oval.

POSITION 84 (70) MAJOR RE-ENTRY



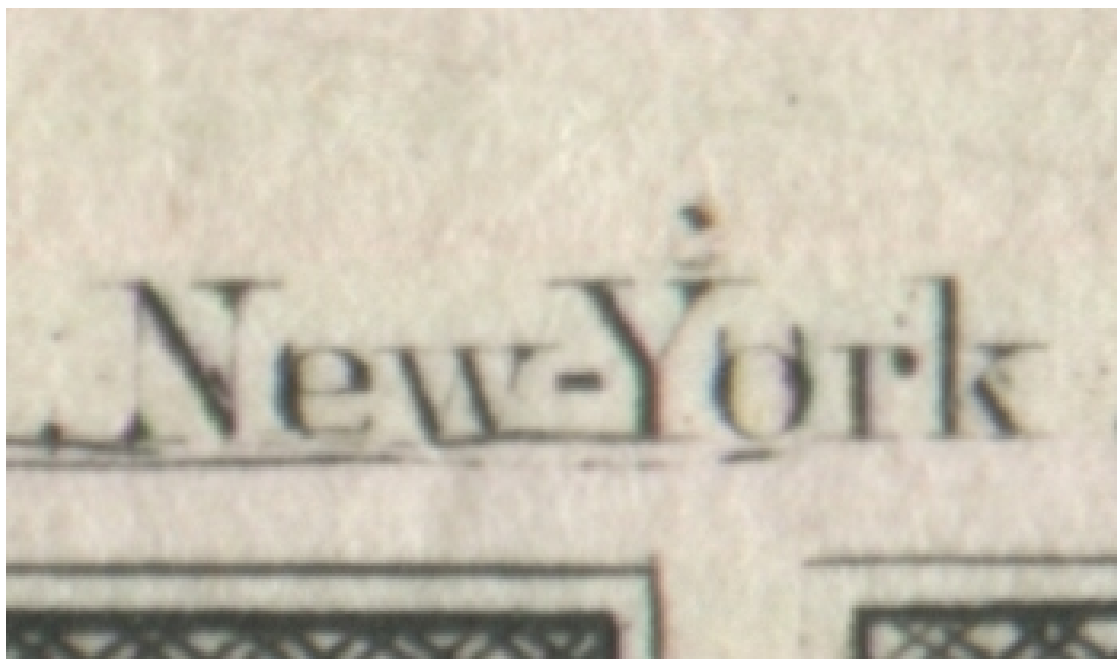
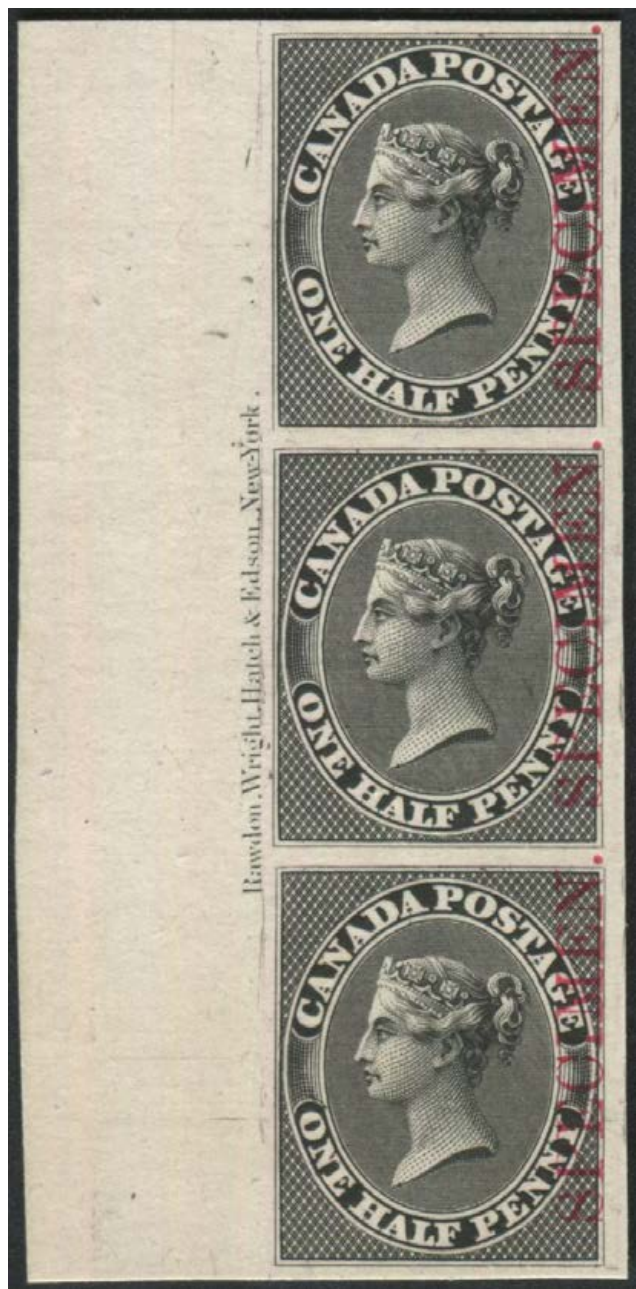
Fred Jarrett offers the following: “Left frame line doubled. Letters CANADA OSTAG and PENNY show traces of doubling. Inner frame line at left extends as a fine line to next stamp. Portion of imprint at bottom right.”

POSITION 94 (78) SCRATCH IN SECOND “N” OF PENNY



This flaw is present on the proof sheet of 120 and proof sheet of 100. The orange yellow proof was printed in 1864 so is position 78 from the 100 image plate. I have not found this on a stamp yet.

POSITIONS 73, 85, 97 LOWER LEFT IMPRINT RE-ENTRY



The imprint lower left shows evidence of a re-entry in New-York. A small mark between the cross member of the “N” and the right upright, small mark on top back of “e”, line above the right top of “Y”, the “o” has two marks at top, small mark above the crook of “r”, and a small mark to the right of the “k” indicate a misplacement of the inscription. This is hard to see on the red printing.

POSITION 93 (77) HIGH STROKE IN “P”



Fred Jarrett has the following: “A line through the “P” of POSTAGE sloping up to the right.”

This is a different placement than the one at position 83 (69). There is also a mark through the left top frame line and another in the right bottom frame line. These are good guides to distinguish the difference in the two positions.



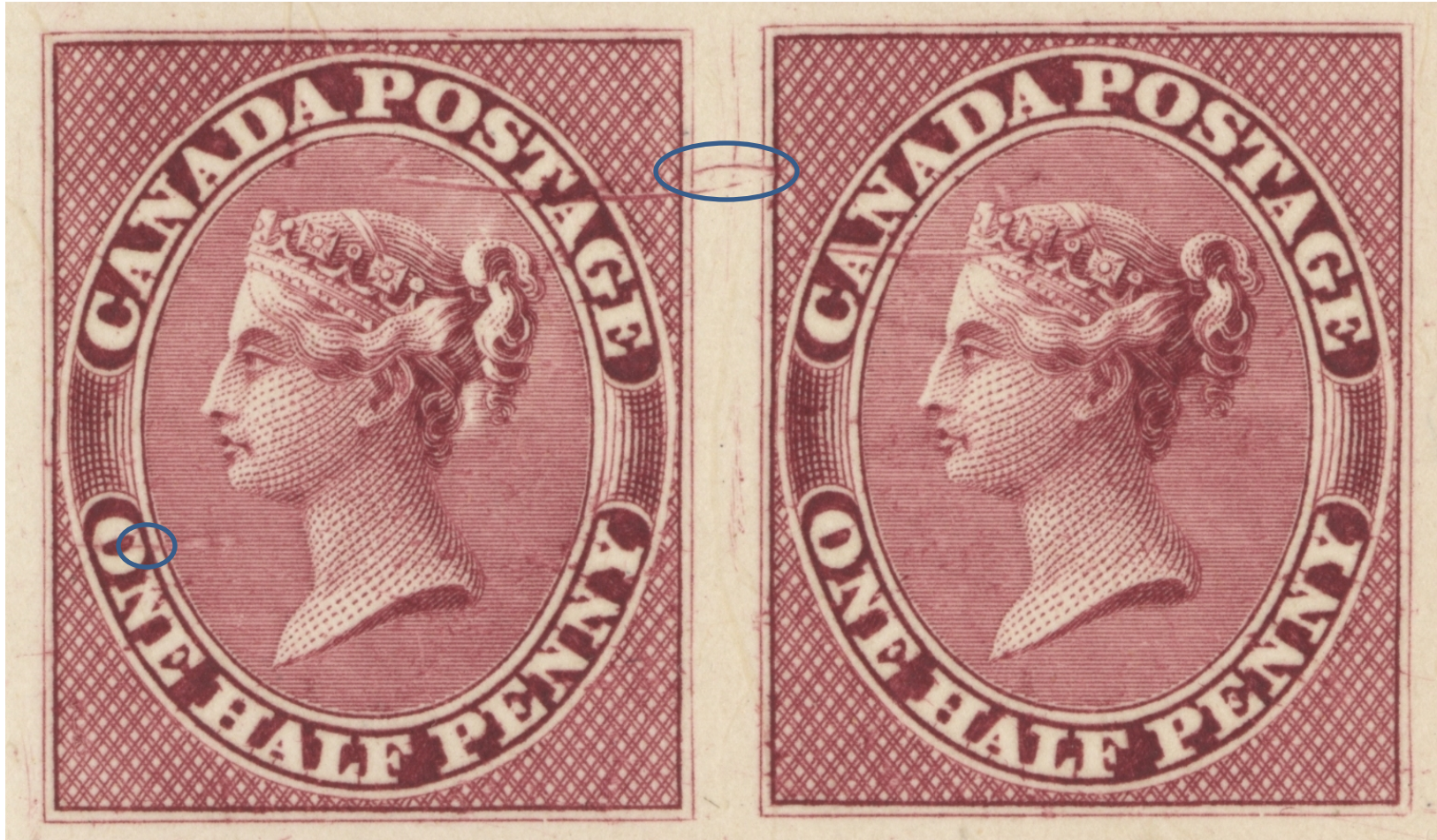
POSITION 96 (80) MAJOR RE-ENTRY

Fred Jarrett has the following information: "Faint doubling of frame line at bottom left. Inner frame line extends as a fine line into next stamp at top left. Imprint at right."

The description hardly does this re-entry justice as almost all the lettering shows marks of re-entry and there are some bold marks in the outer portrait oval below ENNY.



POSITIONS 81 AND 82 POSSIBLE PLATE DAMAGE



There appears to be a paper wrinkle running from just under the “D” of CANADA at position 81 into position 82 ending in the tiara which is not constant. There are two marks circled in blue that are constant. An arched line between the two positions and a line from the “O” of ONE into the inner portrait oval on position 81.

Position 102 (84) STRONG RE-ENTRY



Fred Jarrett notes: "Frame line doubled at top, and bottom left. Traces of doubling in "P" of POSTAGE and "ALF." Inside frame line at top extends to left and crosses outer frame line. Below bottom frame line there is a flourish of horizontal lines to right, to left, to right, Z fashion."

POSITION 111 (91) PLATE FLAW



The only examples of this position available to me for showing flaws of this position are from the trimmed plate. I will show the full image on the next slide. The flaw presented here is constant for this position throughout the use of the plate. The two diagonal lines from inner and outer frame lines in top left margin can be used to plate this position. The plate inscription on examples of position 111 will be present in the bottom margin.

POSITIONS 91, 92 AND 93 PLATE FLAW



The diagonal marks are present in top margin of left proof. However, it is believed that plate damage occurred when the plate was trimmed. Note the strong intermittent line that extends left to right and slightly upward through the three positions. It starts in position 91 between “GE” of POSTAGE extending into position 92 between “CA” of CANADA. It starts again at the “G” of POTAGE and extends to the “N” of CANADA in position 93. This is only present on the trimmed plate. No imprint information is present on these positions as the imprint was removed with the trimming of the plate.

POSITION 117 (97) DOUBLED TOP FRAME LINE

Fred Jarrett says "Stamp shows beginning of imprint at bottom. The top frame line is doubled for almost its entire length."

Under high magnification the frame line is indeed doubled. The best way to plate this position is the strong dot in the left upper margin and the imprint right lower margin.



Position 118 (98) DOUBLED TOP FRAME LINE



Fred Jarrett describes this position as “Stamp shows center portion of imprint at bottom. The top frame line is doubled for almost its entire length.”

This one also requires high magnification to see the frame line doubling. The best way to plate this one is the presence of the bottom imprint.



POSITION 120 (100) "THE MAJOR" RE-ENTRY

Here is Fred Jarrett's description:
"Double re-entry, showing at top
and bottom, left, and doubling
in nearly all letters."

There is also a strong diagonal
line upper left that runs from the
bottom left of position 108 (90)
to the right frame line of position
119 (99).



CONCLUSIONS

Many of the positions presented are confirmed on the actual stamps printed. There are of course the few I have indicated that need to be verified as being on the stamps themselves. Should anyone have confirming copies I would welcome hearing from you. Use dotsscratchesnwsltr@hotmail.com as a means of contacting me.

If anyone wishes a link to 1200 dpi scans of my material you may also use the e-mail address to request a link to the files which can be downloaded. I will also have the presentation saved as a PDF file if anyone wishes to download it as well.

Many of the plate flaws in this presentation are well documented and some are not. I have confirmed most of these with actual stamps and comparing a proof sheet image of a sheet of 120 positions and my proof sheet of 100 as well as other proof pieces.

I believe further study of fine detail might well bring lesser constant varieties to light so I welcome further discussion on these in the future.

REFERENCES

STAMPS OF BRITISH NORTH AMERICA, Fred Jarrett, Quarterman Publications, Inc.,1975.

WWW.RE-ENTRIES.COM Ralph Trimble

WWW.FLYSPECKER.COM Scott Robinson

Dots and Scratches Newsletter, Whole #7, #8, #18

BNA TOPICS, Whole number 551, Volume 74, Number 2, pg.42