

CANADA

The 8 Cents Small Queen Issue Used in Combination With Other Values

The purpose of this exhibit is to explore 8 Cents Small Queen stamps utilized to help to pay a variety of rates when used in combination with various other denominations and issues that were available during the period that this stamp was in general circulation.

Background: In 1893, the Canadian Post Office issued the 8 Cents Small Queen denomination in order to provide a single stamp to pay the single first class postage rate (3 cents) and the registration fee (5 cents). In an apparent effort to make this value instantly recognizable and to distinguish it from other small queen denominations, the profile of Queen Victoria is facing to the left, and enclosed in an oval frame, while for all other values, the profile is facing right, and is enclosed in a circular frame. Although the last distributions to post offices is stated to have been June 30, 1898 (Hillson, Nixon), used examples into 1899 exist.

Treatment: Since the focus of this exhibit is the 8 cents value, each example of that stamp will be described in terms of its colour or shade, its perforation measurements and Plate # origin (courtesy of Bob Cumming's research). These two elements provide valuable data in the determination of the times of printing, and plate use. The exhibit will provide a number of examples of registered items to Canada and the U. S. A., another group of registered items to the United Kingdom and Europe, and non-registered usages to a variety of destinations. Included in the above will be a number of different rates with appropriate frankings. Because of the nature of these items, there will be many uncommon, scarce, and rare presentations.

Research: This exhibitor has spent many years examining the colours, shades, perforations and printing periods of the small queens issues. His exhibit *Colours, Shades and Perforations as seen in Blocks of Canada's Small Queens Era* was the Grand Award winner at Novapex 2010, and was subsequently entered in the APS Champion of Champions Stampshow in Columbus, Ohio in 2011. With particular reference to the 8 cents denomination, a one frame exhibit *Shades of Canada's 8 Cents Small Queens* won Gold, and the Herb McNaught Best One Frame Award at BNAPLEX 2009 in Kingston, Ont.. Articles have been written for BNA Topics on the subject of this 8 cents issue, and there have been consultations with other collectors interested in this topic.

Rarity and Condition: In 1893, two other stamps were released by the post office department—the 20 cents and 50 cents denominations dubbed the Widowed Queen issue. As a result, items requiring higher value frankings had those stamps to provide the proper postage. Consequently, it is uncommon to see the 8 cents being used in combination with other stamps to make up higher rates on correspondence or parcels. Further, the use of multiples of the 8 cents in those situations is even more unusual. One of the two reported examples of three 8 cents on an addressed cover or piece is in this exhibit, while there are items where two were used. Additionally, there are scarce rate situations, particularly to the U. K. and Europe, several of which may well be unique. Considering the size of the envelopes and distances traveled, the condition will be found to be good to excellent.

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