

PENCE-CENTS ERA STUDY GROUP

Of the British North America Philatelic Society
Volume IX, No. 2, Apr 2020



17c Cartier showing a nice Plate Scratch on both stamps from pp46 to pp47. Courtesy of Jim McCormick.

Dear Study Group Member,

Springtime is here, and with it, normally come Philatelic Shows and Exhibitions. But this year, please check if your show has been cancelled due to coronavirus before going to the show. Most Stamp Shows and Stamp Club meetings have been cancelled until further notice. Hopefully, by summer, the outlook will be much better than in March.

This Spring there are also some nice Auction Sales to attend as all the big Canadian Auctionhouses seem to have high quality items in their Spring sales this year.

In this issue, a beautiful pair of 17c stamps, showing a long plate scratch running between the two stamps, gracing our cover page courtesy of Jim McCormick. Richard Thompson talks about a 2c Rate cover, Michael Smith tells of a new 1/2d Flaw he has discovered and shows two interesting 3d Flaws and Ron Majors' article from BNA Topics on Cover Restoration.

Jim Jung

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Correction

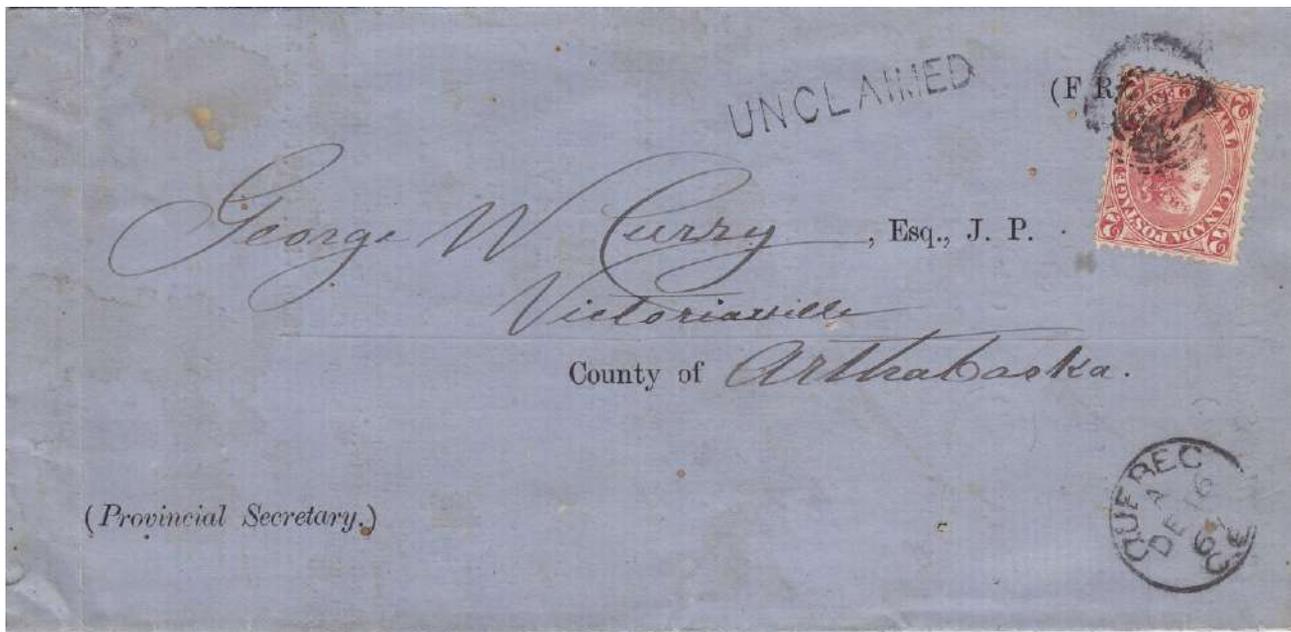
The text in the last newsletter stated that there was only one known strike of the Four Ring 48 postmark from Thorold. This is how it is recorded in the Unitrade Catalog. However, Mike Halhed corrected us:

“For my half penny with the four ring 48, there are three VF strikes known on the half penny... Bill R(adcliffe) has one, I have one, and there was another up for auction a few years ago. Mine and Bill’s are “newly” discovered and weren’t reflected in Unitrade.”

Thank you, Mike, for letting us know.

Jim Jung

Two Cents Circular Rate by Richard Thompson



I recently acquired this cover listed as an example of the two cents circular rate, but I ask myself, "Why is it a two cents circular?" Up to December 31, 1868 certain institutions were exempt from paying postage and these included provincial Governments. And indeed, this item is marked FREE, the last two letters of FREE are covered by the stamp.

If the cover was not exempt from postage, the rate for printed matter (circular) was 1¢ per ounce. (see Whitworth page 93). This item, when unfolded, only measures 27.7 X 18.3 mm. And there is no way it could have weighed more than one ounce so it could have qualified for the 1¢ rate based on weight.

It has been suggested there might have been an enclosure but this item has never been sealed so I do not think anyone could have expected an enclosure to stay with it, I do not think this can be the explanation. Do any of the postal historians out there have a better explanation?

Ron Majors has the following explanation with an RPS Certificate and query from the original owner of one of these covers. The full response letter and certificate are on the following pages.

We would like to make the following comments..

"These covers were in fact considerably larger than they are now and contained two report forms. Franking was used only when the legislature was in session, when not so ordinary postage stamps were used. The "FREE" printing being standard and only applicable when officially franked. Two cents was required on these letters as they must have weighed over 1 oz and thus required double printed circular rate of 1cent per oz."

Two Cents Circular Rate by Richard Thompson



The Royal Philatelic Society, London.

A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE REGISTERED IN LONDON NO. 02352

Telephone: 01-486 1044/5.
Expert Committee: 01-935 7332.
Telegrams: ROYPHIL, WESDO, LONDON.
Cables: ROYPHIL, LONDON.

41, Devonshire Place,
London. WIN 1PE.
REGISTERED OFFICE

EXPERT COMMITTEE.

19th August 1975

Dear Colonel Ptichard,

Thank you for your letter of this morning, you have just "jumped the gun" as it were as this information was prepared but had not been typed as you see the sending back process is a separate job and done when voluntary helpers are available. As you can imagine this is not very consistent and most of the queries I have to deal with as and when possible.

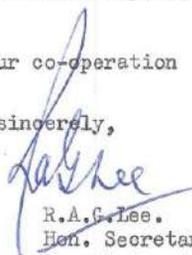
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I hope these comments will explain the situation to you.

Assuring you of our co-operation

Yours sincerely,


R.A.G. Lee.
Hon. Secretary
Expert Committee.

Two Cents Circular Rate by Richard Thompson

Nº 90844

THE ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY
LONDON



41, Devonshire Place,
London, W1N 1PE

Meeting of 11th Nov 1975

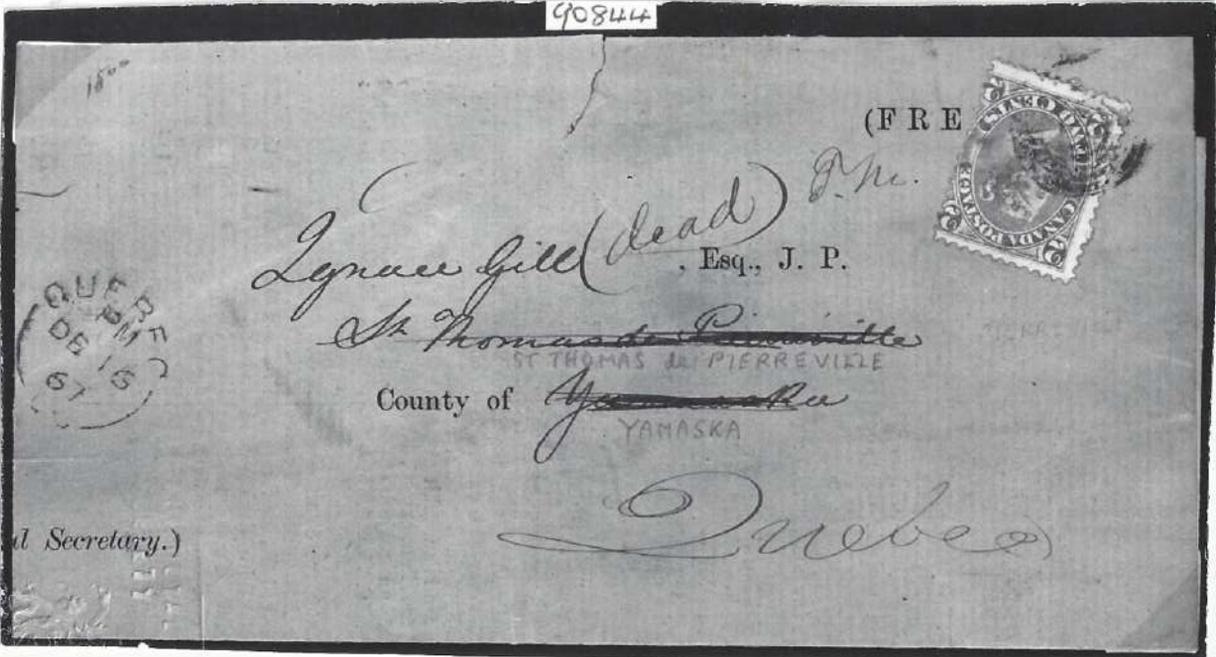
In the OPINION of The **EXPERT COMMITTEE** the item
submitted as

Canada: 1864 S.G. Nº 44
2c Rose-red - used on letter sheet
is genuine

Observations

H. P. Holmes
Chairman

90844



The S-flaw on the 3d Beaver By Michael D. Smith

Fig. 1



Kenneth Kershaw mentions this flaw and has the following to say about Pane A, Position 2:

“The frame break, lower right, with partial short transfer, and guide dot, top centre, are good criteria. The S-flaw can also be clear cut, but not always. The imprint dot is readily seen when present.”

Figure 1 shows the mark referred to as the S-flaw. I have five copies of this position, a number 1, and four nice #4's. Figure 2 shows my #1, and figure 3 shows my four #4's.

Fig. 2



The S-flaw on the 3d Beaver By Michael D. Smith Continued ...



Fig. 3

Figure 4 is what appears to be an unused copy with margins cut close. This is probably how you are likely to find this stamp so we will take a close look at it, and we will also look at the marginal markings present on the copy with the tallest top margin in figure 5.

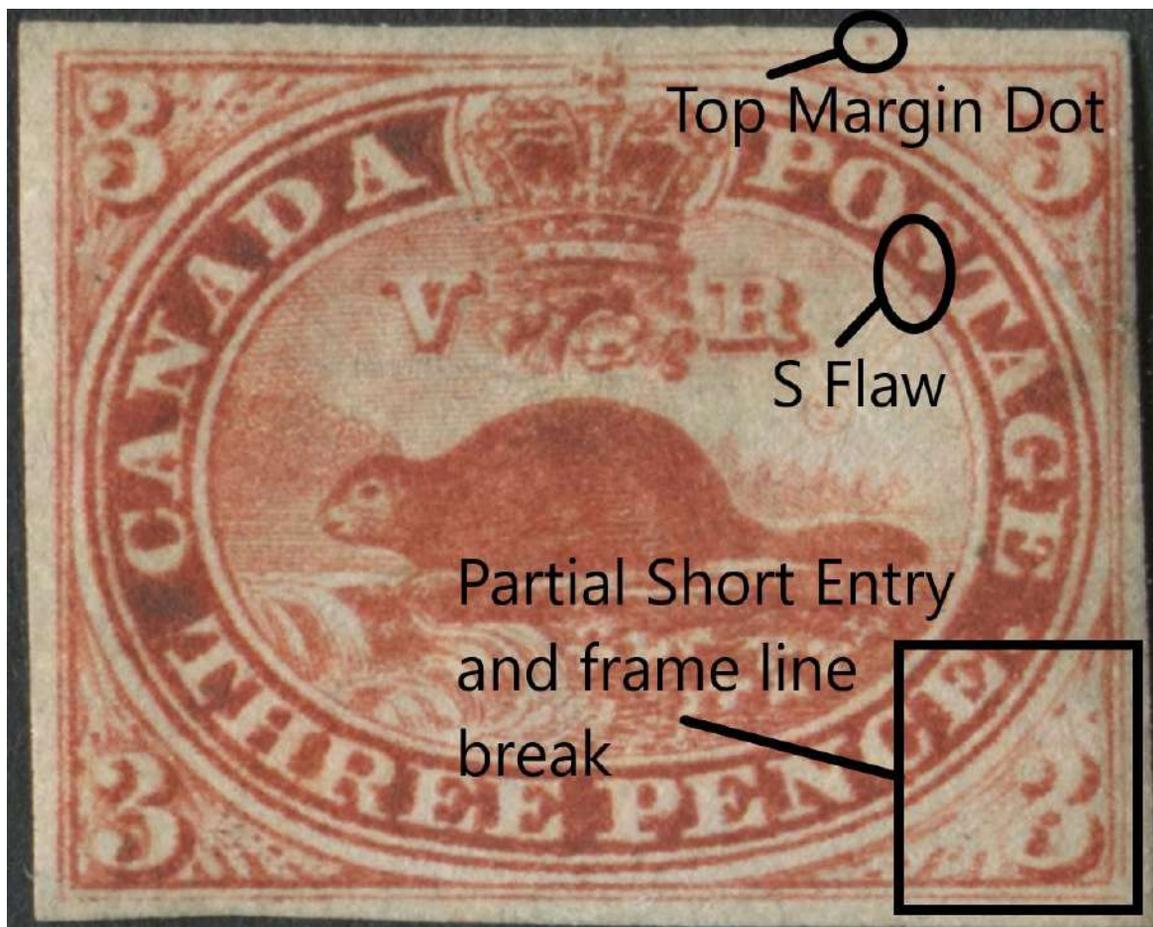


Fig. 4

The S-flaw on the 3d Beaver By Michael D. Smith Continued ...

The two dots at the very top of the upper margin are interesting as they belong to the bottom margin of the B Pane. We do know that the 3d Beaver was printed in two panes of 100 positions. This is proof that the B Pane was above the A Pane on the full plate. Take a look at Figure 6 showing the B Pane positions 91-92 on the next page.

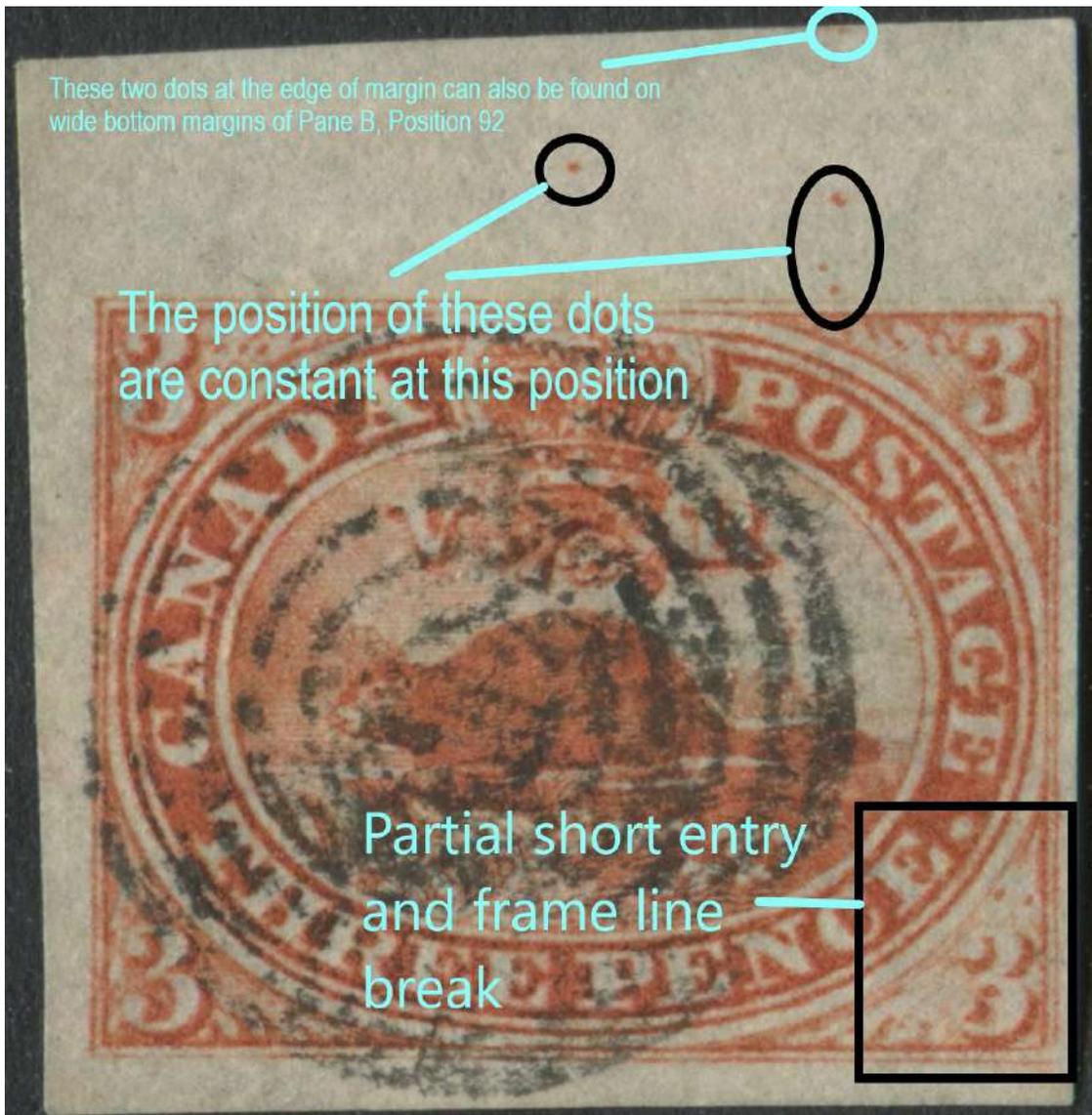
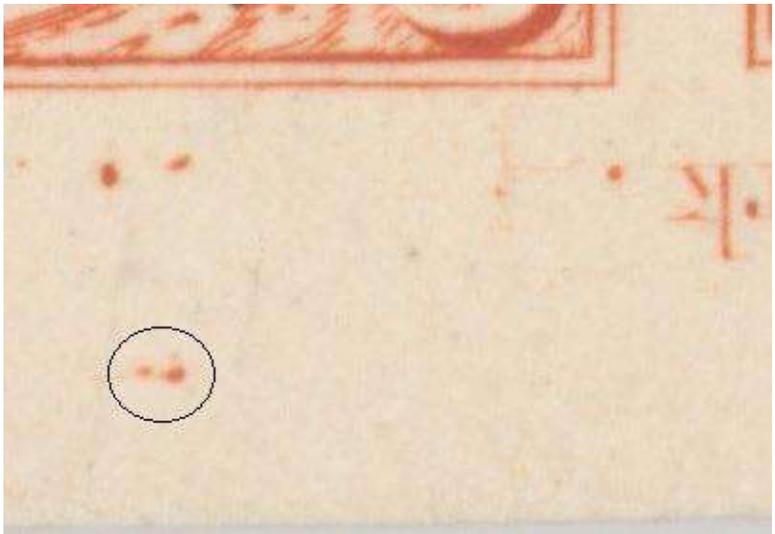


Fig. 5

The S-flaw on the 3d Beaver By Michael D. Smith Continued ...



Fig. 6 – The two dots circled in the lower margin of position 92 match the two dots shown in the top margin of the A Pane Position 2 in Figure 5.



Conclusions:

This position is easily identified by the S-flaw. The appearance of the flaw might vary slightly but can usually be seen. The partial short entry at lower right also helps. When the upper margin is present, the dots in the upper margin are also useful. On copies printed after the imprints were added to the plate, the upper margin could show “Rawd” of the imprint. The S-flaw is a unique flaw and a fun variety to add to a 3d Beaver collection.

References:

Volume 5. The Three Penny Beaver Plate Proof A, Kenneth A. Kershaw.



Sale #33 Will Be Postponed

It is with disappointment that we inform you we will not be holding Sale #33 as scheduled.

The sale is ready to go, and we are proud to say it is the largest we have ever had, by far. However, in view of the COVID-19 global pandemic, the Sparks Auctions team has decided to postpone the auction, originally scheduled for May 28th-30th, 2020. At this point, the situation is too uncertain to guess when we could proceed, so we are using a "date to be determined" approach. Please visit [our website for updates](#) as they appear.

The fact that we have the advantage of offering live internet bidding during our sales saves buyers from having to come in person to our offices for the actual sale, as they can either bid live on the internet, by phone, or through an agent. We are in our thirteenth successful year of operating this way. The more difficult thing for us is accommodating the very important viewing of material in person. We are proud to present our sales with more online scans than anyone in the industry, but because we offer many large collections and box lots, we think viewing in person is an essential element to the experience. As you know, there are several [Provincial](#) and [Federal](#) restrictions currently in effect that are preventing us from having potential buyers come in to our offices to view.

Please feel free to [contact me](#) if you have material to consign for the following auction, which I am currently working on.

Rest assured that we will keep you informed as things progress. Thank you for your business, your understanding, and please stay safe and well.

[Stéphane Cloutier](#)

Director of Lotting & Consignments

3d Beaver 'N' Flaws by Michael D. Smith

The "N" flaws on the three pence beaver stamps are small smudge like marks that occur on some positions of both Pane B and Pane A. Kershaw list the flaws for Pane B at positions: 26, 46, 54, 67, 74, 75, 77, 78, 82, 85, and 98. On Pane A he has positions 4, 12, 15, 16, 17, 26, 36, 37, 57, 62, 65. The images he provides show each 'N' flaw is unique to each position.

I have a few copies some on used stamps and some on proofs. They will be presented here so you will have an idea of what to look for. Some of the "N" flaws are quite faint but when present are useful in identifying plate positions. In Fig. 1, I show Pane A, Position 17 with an "N" flaw in CANADA. It shows well on this copy as a blurry mark in the oval bands above N. In other examples the mark may also affect the "N" of CANADA as well.



Fig. 1

Interestingly Kershaw says that the "N" flaws occurred on the second state of the plate and were eventually burnished off. He has found a copy of #12 from Pane B position 82 that shows the flaw so all of them may not have been burnished. I also have two examples to present that indicate that there are pre-imprint examples so some may also be found on the first state of the plate as well. This raises a question of how many and when these were present. The source of these odd flaws is also unknown. I will now present my other copies. I do not have very many and am watching for more.

3d Beaver 'N' Flaws by Michael D. Smith continued ...

Pane B, Positions 54



Fig. 2

This is the "N" flaw that occurs at position 54. It is useful as a secondary mark but may not be present on all copies of this position. A line East of the crown in the outer oval and a short mark in the 'S' of Postage along with frame line breaks make it possible to plate this position..

3d Beaver 'N' Flaws by Michael D. Smith continued ...

Pane B, Positions 82 and 83

Left stamp in pair is Pane B, Position 82 with "N" Flaw. Position 83 does not have the flaw.



Fig. 3



Fig. 4

Position 82 enlarged showing the "N" flaw.

3d Beaver 'N' Flaws by Michael D. Smith continued ...

Pane A, Positions 6, 7, 16, 17, 26, and 27



Fig. 5

Distinguishing marks on this Block of six are no imprint upper right (early printing), "N" Flaws on positions 16, 17, and 26, and the diagonal line through the 'S' POSTAGE in position 16. There are other constant marks but these are sufficient to plate the block.

3d Beaver 'N' Flaws by Michael D. Smith continued ...

Pane A, Position 7 and 17

Fig. 6

Upper stamp is position 7, early pre-imprint printing. When imprint is present 'Rawd' would be present on upper right margin. Lower stamp is position 17 with 'N' flaw showing.

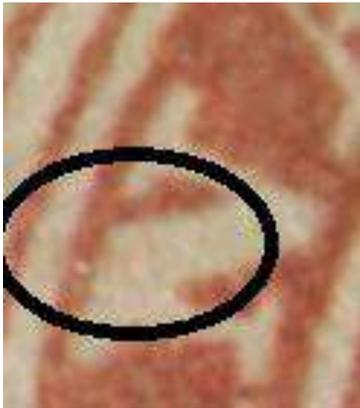


Fig.7

Enlarged image of the lower stamp from the above pair. This is position A17.

3d Beaver 'N' Flaws by Michael D. Smith continued ...

Pane A, Position 16



Faint 'N' Flaw



Flaw in center of 'S' of POSTAGE



Fig.8

Two marks the weak 'N' flaw and the diagonal line in 'S' of POSTAGE define this position.

3d Beaver 'N' Flaws by Michael D. Smith continued ...

Pane A, Position 26 and 36



Fig.9

Positions 26 and 36 are very difficult to plate. If the 'N' flaw is absent the pattern of frame line breaks are the only way to plate these two stamps. It also helps that these are a pair and the two 'N' flaws are shaped differently and match the images in Kershaw for these two positions.

Conclusions

The cause of the 'N' flaw and how long they remain on the plate are questionable. Kershaw suggests that they were introduced when the plate was cut but the imprints were added about 1857 supposedly prior to the plate being cut either in late 1857 or 1858. This causes a problem for me because I have shown two examples of Position 7 with no imprint present but the 'N' flaw clearly showing in position 17 below it. This would indicate that 'N' flaws were present at some point prior to the cutting of the plate. Kershaw reports the finding of #12 Pane B, Position 82 as having an 'N' flaw. A few of my copies of the 'N' flaw are very faint as well.

I also have a proof of Pane A, Position 4. Kershaw indicates on a diagram of 'N' flaw positions that an 'N' flaw is present at this position but I find not a trace of it on my proof presented here.



Are 'N' flaws constant or transient marks? What caused them? Much more study needs to be done on these to determine what they are and how consistently they appear on the plates.

References:

The Three Penny Beaver, Volumes 1-5, Kenneth A. Kershaw, privately printed.

To Restore or Not to Restore by Ronald E. Majors

In examining BNAPEX, Orapex and other Canadian/BNA philatelic exhibits and looking at the submitted articles in BNA Topics, like myself, there are many members who collect postal history. The older the period collected, the greater the chance of finding covers and other historical paper-based items that are not as pristine as one might like. Time takes its toll. I collect decimal (cents) covers so all of my covers are over 150 years old. In those days, papers used for construction of envelopes and even stamps were of different quality than today. Today's storage conditions weren't necessarily available in the 1860's; envelope preservation wasn't given much thought so letters were treated differently than modern postal history. Nevertheless, I am amazed at the number of covers that have survived in excellent condition considering their age. But what about those covers that weren't given proper care? What about letters stored in attics, garages, cellars, under humid conditions, at extremely high temperatures, or in dusty and dirty premises? What about covers mounted or repaired with plastic tape, torn badly when opened, or with heavy pencil or ink notations by "inconsiderate" collectors or dealers or improperly handled by philatelists? I collect rates-- domestic, cross border to overseas destinations. Sometimes, there is only one or perhaps a few covers that exist with that rate or to that destination. The chances of those covers all being of pristine condition is remote. If one exhibits, philatelic judges are usually cognizant of such occurrences so don't have expectations of an exhibit of classical postal history having only pristine items but the best available.

What about the ethical aspects for us as collectors with our obligation to preserve our philatelic items, be they stamps or covers, for future generations? As collectors we are all passing time and keeping our collections in the best possible condition to pass on or dispersed amongst future generation of collectors. Like any cultural heritage, we must ensure that our philatelic gems are preserved for future generations. Like any historical archival material such as a painting, manuscript or pottery item, you are a custodian and, as such, have the responsibility to care for your philatelic items in the best possible way. Most collectors refer to this activity as preservation or conservation. The aim of conservation is to stabilize the condition and to retard further deterioration. If no action is taken, another piece of history may be lost. In my opinion, restoration is a subset of conservation and philatelic covers which have suffered the fate of time or improper handling or defacing deserve to be treated to preserve their character. In the minds of many philatelists, restoration is equivalent to alteration or tampering and any repairs are synonymous with deception or performed purely for financial gains. Indeed, any repair action taken with stamps such as regumming, re-perforating, rebacking, etc. which are acts of deceit is truly unethical and should be shunned upon by the philatelic community.

But what about restoring a cover which is blackened with mold, badly torn during opening, or one defaced with a dealer or collector's heavy pencil or even pen markings of the front or back? In such institutions as the United States National Gallery, archivists work on ancient paintings to "preserve their structural stability and aesthetic appearance". In the United States National Archives, paper conservationists (archivists) frequently clean and de-acidify paper and restore badly damaged manuscripts and other historical documents. How is providing such preservation measures to damaged classical or one-of-a-kind covers any different?

To Restore or Not to Restore by Ronald E. Majors continued...

In fact, an excellent resource for considerations on the ethics and techniques of philatelic preservation can be found on the website established by Paul Skinner, curator of the philatelic collection of the British Library (www.philatelicpreservation.com). On this website, materials (e.g. paper, gum, cancellation ink, writing inks, etc.), deterioration, preservation techniques including cleaning, and professional preservation/conservation resources to contact for advice and help are clearly discussed. I cite the accompanying figure of an example of a restored cover that looks much more pleasing than the original item.



A Wells Fargo cover torn at top.



(Reproduced by permission of Gloria McKown, paper restoration expert, GloriaMcKown@aol.com)

Cover mended using parts from another envelope.

This Wells Fargo cover is quite rare and serves to illustrate what a professional restoration might look like. In this case, the restoration involved affixing paper taken from another Wells Fargo cover in addition to deacidification. Professional paper archivists are expert conservationists that can achieve such improvements and not affect the philatelic integrity of the item in the least. Such items as original cancellations, handstamps, receivers, ink writing, stamps, labels, etc. are untouched and unaffected. Granted, the restoration services of a professional paper archivist are not inexpensive due to the painstaking labor and skill involved but the final product which is now de-acidified, cleaned and surgically repaired can now be enjoyed by postal historians for decades to come. What is your opinion on such philatelic conservation/restoration techniques?

1/2d Plate Flaw Found On Late State of Plate by Michael D. Smith

In 2018 I wrote a presentation on the 1/2d Queen Victoria plate flaws. I used images of a proof sheet of 120 positions and a proof sheet of 100 to discuss the various flaws on the sheets. Just recently I found a proof single in orange yellow (Fig. 1) that showed a mark I had seen before but had not included it in my presentation. Now I know it should have been.

The mark that caught my eye is a blurry patch of color in the bottom margin roughly below the 'H' of HALF. On my plate proof sheet it can be seen much more clearly. Figure 2 is position 15 on my sheet so this orange yellow proof is position 15. Figure 3 is position 19 from a proof sheet of 120 but does not show this flaw in the bottom margin. There is a milder mark that verifies this as the same stamp image and is present on all the proofs.

Fig. 1



**1/2d Plate Flaw Found On Late State of Plate
by Michael D. Smith continued ...**



Fig. 2

The flaw below the H is stronger but may have a bit of ink smear associated with it.

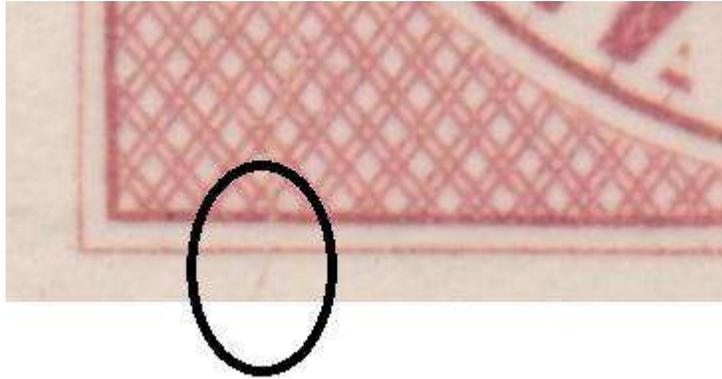


Fig. 3

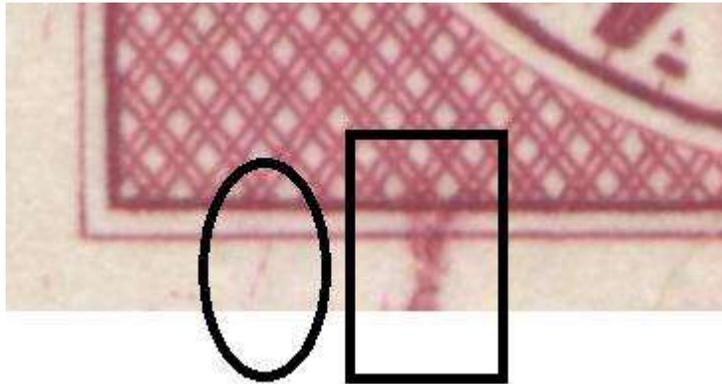
No flaw is present under H on position 19 on the proof sheet of 120.

1/2d Plate Flaw Found On Late State of Plate by Michael D. Smith continued ...

Position 19 Early State



Position 15 Late State



Position 15 Late State

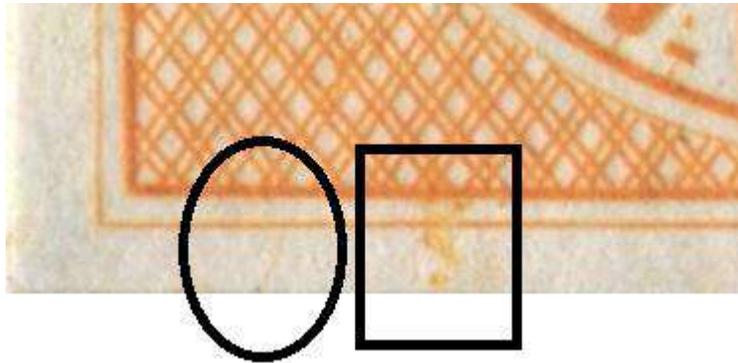


Fig 4. The circled area on the three different proofs is the faint diagonal line. The rectangle on the two images is the later state plate flaw below the 'H' of HALF.

There is a faint diagonal scratch visible on all three proofs. This is faint and may not show well on an actual stamp. The flaw from the proofs from the late state (pane of 100) should be easily seen on a stamp. This should make an easily recognizable flaw for plating stamps from the late state of the plate.

I am now on the hunt for an example of this flaw on an actual stamp. We have discovered evidence that indicates both imperforate and perforate stamps were printed from the trimmed plate so it is possible to have this flaw on both formats. Can anyone report having this flaw on a stamp?

Canada's Five Cents Beaver Proofs Part Four
By Michael D. Smith

Position 31 State 1



W. margin guide dots. Short entry NE spandrel.

Canada's Five Cents Beaver Proofs Part Four

By Michael D. Smith continued ...

15TC iv
Positions 31, 32, 41, 42 State 1



Canada's Five Cents Beaver Proofs Part Four

By Michael D. Smith continued ...

15TC iv Position 31 State 1

W. margin guide dots. Short entry NE spandrel.

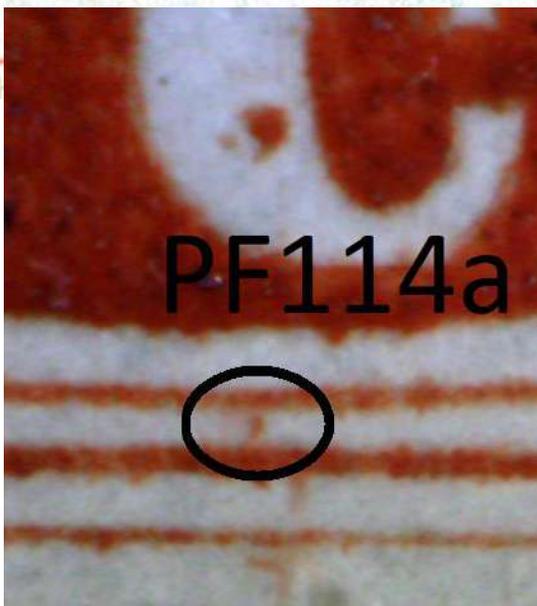
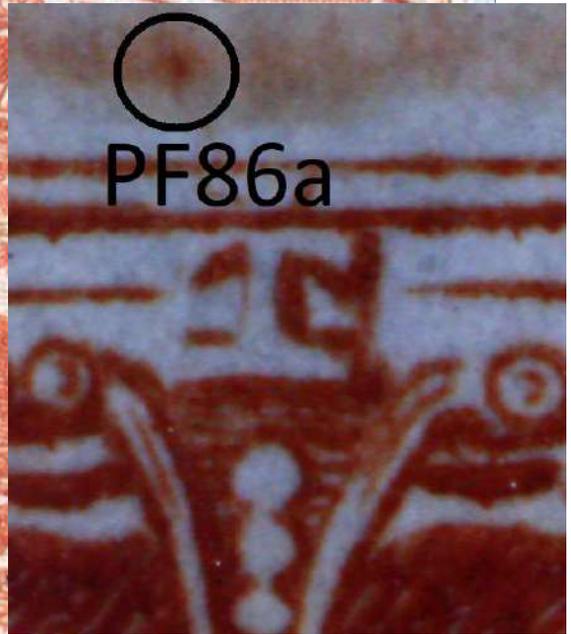


Canada's Five Cents Beaver Proofs Part Four

By Michael D. Smith continued ...

15TC iv Position 32 State 1

Pfs. 86a, 114a

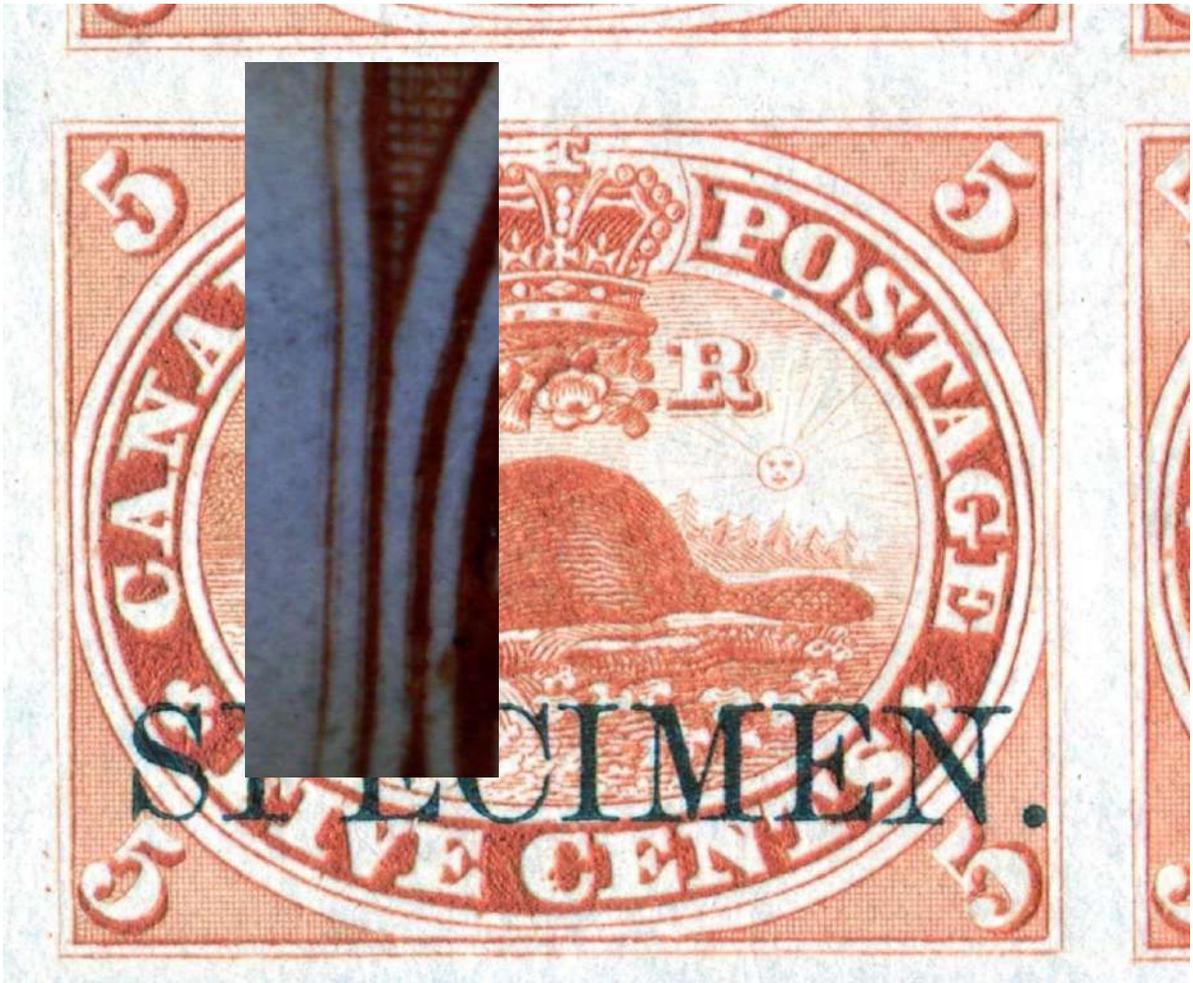


Canada's Five Cents Beaver Proofs Part Four

By Michael D. Smith continued ...

15TC iv Position 41 State 1

W margin guide dots. Traces of fresh entry at W. Two 'C' dots.



Canada's Five Cents Beaver Proofs Part Four

By Michael D. Smith continued ...

15TC iv Position 42 State 1

R. 16 = fresh entry. No 'C' dot.



R. 16 = fresh entry
Doubling in and above 'POST'.

Canada's Five Cents Beaver Proofs Part Four

By Michael D. Smith continued ...

R. 16 = fresh entry
Doubling around crown.



R. 16 = fresh entry
Doubling in 'VR'.

Canada's Five Cents Beaver Proofs Part Four
By Michael D. Smith continued ...



R. 16 = fresh entry
Marks in '5' and below.
Doubling in 'CE'.



Upcoming Shows – 2020

Due to the Coronavirus, please check if the show has been cancelled before going.

The Royal *2020* Royale has been cancelled and the RPSC Annual General Meeting has been postponed. This was scheduled to be held in Fredericton, NB.



ORAPEX 2020
May 2 - 3, 2020
Saturday 10-6, Sunday 10-4
Free admission and parking.
RA Centre
2451 Riverside Dr.
Ottawa, Ontario

Cancelled

ORAPEX 2020 Theme:
Topicals, Thematics and illustrated Mail



Re-Scheduled to 2022

**INTERNATIONAL
STAMP EXHIBITION**



CANPEX 2020 National Philatelic Exhibition

October 31 – November 1, 2020, London, Ontario

The Hellenic Centre,

133 Southdale Road West,

London, Ontario

Show hours; Saturday 10AM – 5PM

Sunday 10AM – 4PM

Free Admission, Free Parking, Lunch Counter

Information, info@canpex.ca

Web site; www.canpex.ca

Upcoming Shows – 2020

Online Virtual Exhibition



SAVPEX 2020



South African Virtual Philatelic Exhibition 22nd – 23rd August 2020

PROUDLY HOSTED BY

The Philatelic Society of the Orange Free State under the auspices of the Philatelic Federation of South Africa

1. STATUS OF EXHIBITION

1.1 The Exhibition will be a competitive 'One Frame Virtual Exhibition' and open to all members of Societies affiliated to The Philatelic Federation of South Africa (PFSA) and all members of Federations affiliated to the *Federation Internationale Philatelique (FIP)*

1.2 The concept of this Virtual Exhibition may be explained as follows:

(a) Exhibitors, after assembling the exhibit, will scan the sixteen pages and send to the e – mail address in Clause 6.3

(b) The exhibits will be judged by appointed National and International Jurors.

(c) The exhibits will be available for display by request of a visitor to the venue of the Hobby Fair hosted by the Orange Free State Philatelic Society (Bloemfontein) in **August 2020**. A number of TV screens will be available for individual viewing of the exhibits.

(d) The exhibits will be available for viewing on the Federation Website after the judging is completed and Exhibitors have been notified of their results. This should be as of **22nd August 2020**.

Remember WWII veteran Fred Arsenault and his desire to receive 100 birthday cards for his 100th birthday?

We'd like to report that Fred is overwhelmed after receiving more than 90,000 birthday cards from all over the world including the Netherlands where Fred served during the Allied Campaign.

It's just a happy story for Fred and for all the veterans everywhere.

To read the whole story, [click here](#).



All this Toronto war veteran wants for his 100th birthday is a birthday card

Jesse Robitaille, from Canadian Stamp News, wrote an article based on my Paper Restoration article from last November 2019. It felt very special to have been part of the article. It was really Ron Majors who gave me the idea to write the article.

Thanks to Jesse for putting it all together. If you'd like to read Jesse's article, then [click here](#)



Articles or Ideas for the Next Newsletter ...

Dear Readers, if you have something interesting in your collection that you would like to share with others interested in the classical period of Canadian philately, please send us an e-mail (jimjung8@gmail.com) with a description of something you are collecting. **We would be interested in researching and writing an article about your area of interest. We will do some legwork for you !!**

Articles or ideas about stamps, covers, revenues, errors, fakes, and just about anything in early Canadian philately qualifies. Whatever you are currently doing to your stamp collection is probably very interesting.

Write a few words about it, take a few pics and share your story with us. We would love to hear from you.

Application for Membership in the BNAPS Pence/Cents Study Group

If you have an interest in early Canadian and BNA stamps, covers and postal history including stampless, please fill out and e-mail the following information to: jimjung8@gmail.com (We really just need your info in an email and you're in for free, as a BNAPS member)

Name: _____

Street
Address: _____ City: _____

Province/State: _____ Postal/Zip Code _____

E-mail _____

FAX: _____ Telephone: _____

Describe your interest area(s):

