

A TALE OF TWO RE-ENTRIES

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Although printed from a mere ten plates, the Admiral 3¢ brown sidewise coil is a microcosm of the Admiral issue. The plates were manufactured in pairs over a three-year period, and the stamps on each pair have unique characteristics that distinguish them from the other four pairs. Besides these five “design types”, there are many obvious retouches and, the subject of this article, two major re-entries. The re-entries are not listed in Marler’s 1982 opus on the Admiral issue [5], although both are on the plate proofs at Library and Archives Canada.

The ten plates consisted of 400 subjects arranged in 20 rows of 20 stamps with a gutter of about 22 mm between rows 10 and 11. The sheets of 400 were guillotined into horizontal strips of 20, and 25 strips were pasted together to form rolls of 500 stamps. The sidewise coil was issued in August 1918, and was replaced by the 3¢ carmine coil in April 1924.

The first re-entry is shown in Figure 1. The coil has characteristics that Marler



Figure 1. Major re-entry on plate 2 of the Admiral 3¢ brown sidewise coil, position 2UR3/7. The re-entry affects AN in CANADA, AGE in POSTAGE, and the oval above AG. There is also a vertical line in the right margin and the right frame is very thick opposite the G. The blotchy extensions into the oval above AG and the round bump at the top of the right frame are also constant features on this stamp.

designated as Type SR1. Since Type SR1 is specific to plates 1 and 2, this effectively reduces the search for the re-entry on the plate proofs from ten to two. Viewing the plates as consisting of four panes of 100, the re-entry's position is 2UR3/7 (plate 2, upper right pane, row 3, column 7 – more commonly specified as 2UR27 by Admiral enthusiasts).

Peter Payne reported this re-entry in the July 2009 issue of *Maple Leaves* [7]. He acquired a cover for its “HELP THE TORONTO FREE HOSPITAL FOR CONSUMPTIVES” slogan cancel dated 19th December 1918. While examining the 3¢ sidewise coil on the cover, he realized he was holding not just an interesting slogan but also a major re-entry. His search for his fortunate find in Marler's book was fruitless so he turned to the members of the CPS of GB for help. Jim Watt responded, noting that he had a copy of the same re-entry [12], an image of which is posted on Ralph E. Trimble's re-entries web site [10]. In July 2010, a third copy turned up on eBay where, unrecognized as a major re-entry, it sold for about £13 [1]. It was the left stamp in a mint pair, and is the stamp illustrated in Figure 1. This brings the number of recorded copies to three: a mint pair, a used single, and a single on cover.

Why Marler did not record this re-entry is puzzling because he does describe a minor re-entry at 2UR1/ 7 (2UR7), in the same column and just two rows above. Harkening back to the cancel on Peter Payne's cover, plates 1 and 2 were approved on 3rd July 1918, and Marler's earliest recorded date for Type SR1 is 26th September 1918 [5, pp. 512-513].

The second re-entry is shown in Figure 2, overleaf. It is on a coil with the characteristics of Marler's Type SR4, which means that it must come from plates 7 and 8. With this as a guide, the position was relatively easy to find: 8UR4/4 (8UR34).

This second re-entry left a much longer trail in the philatelic literature than the first. Marler doesn't mention it in his 1982 book, but surprisingly he does in his first Admiral book published in 1949 [4, p. 42]. Hans Reiche describes it in his Admiral handbook of 1965 [8], and Ralph E. Trimble wrote about it in 1984 in the BNAPS Re-entries Study Group newsletter [9]. More recently, it was the subject of three articles in the BNAPS Admiral Study Group newsletter [3] [6] [11], and it is listed in the Unitrade catalogue [2]. To date, four used singles have been recorded, including the one illustrated in Figure 2 and the one posted on Ralph E. Trimble's web site [10].

I would like to thank Richard M. Morris for providing the illustration in Figure 2.

References

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Figure 2. Major re-entry on plate 8 of the Admiral 3¢ brown sidewise coil, position 8UR4/4. The re-entry affects CANA in CANADA, TAG in POSTAGE, and the oval band below ANA and TAG. (Courtesy Richard M. Morris)

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