

The 3-Cent Small Queen of 1870

▼ CHARLES J.G. VERGE

The 3-cent (Canada Scott 37) was the first value issued in the long running Canadian series called the Small Queens (1870-97). This name was given to the series to distinguish it from the Large Queens that had been issued earlier in 1868.

These series were also known as the Large and Small Heads, descriptive terms still used by some collectors mainly in Great Britain and the United States (Figure 1).



Figure 1: 3-cent Large Queen and 3-cent Small Queen showing the size difference that allowed for 200 Small Queens to be printed in the same space as 100 Large Queens.

The difference in size is due mainly to the fact that the Canadian Post Office was looking for a more efficient use of the printing plate and by extension savings in its stamp-printing budget. To this end they were accommodated by the printers, the British American Bank Note Co. (BABN) who started preparing Small Queen dies as early as the fall of 1868.

During its 27 years of production more than 1-1/2 billion 3-cent stamps were printed. The Canadian Post Office placed its first order with the BABN for 1-cent and 3-cent Small Queens on Dec. 17, 1869, and the earliest known use of the 3-cent is on a piece dated Jan. 12, 1870, at Port Hope, Ontario.

The 3-cent stamps were all perforated 12 except for a very few sheets that were perforated 12-1/2 (Canada Scott 37d). John Keenlyside, in his extensive study of the 3-cent Small Queen perf 12-1/2, reports that about 150 of these stamps exist of which five are unused.

The largest multiple is used pairs of which six are recorded. There is one vertical pair, one on piece (Figure 2) and one on a cover to Cuba. There are at least two distinct shades of the perf 12-1/2 stamp. The mixing of inks at the time was not the most precise art even if recipes were kept to ensure the proper portions of each color was put into the mix. The current catalogued shades are those referred to as Indian red and copper red.

One has to look at Canada's First Bill Stamp issue of 1864 to explain the reason for this rare variety of the Small Queens (Figure 3). On June 30, 1864, the Province of Canada passed "An Act to Impose Duties on Promissory Notes and Bills of Ex-



Figure 2: One of the six largest recorded multiples. In addition to this piece there are three horizontal pairs, one vertical and one on cover.



Figure 3: Examples of Canada's First Bill Stamp issue of 1864. It was the only other Canadian stamp perforated 12-1/2 in the middle of the 19th century.

changes." This empowered the government to collect taxes on fiscal instruments such as checks, promissory notes, drafts, bills of exchange and other documents of the same nature.

These Bill Stamps and the 3-cent Small Queens were the only Canadian stamps in the mid-19th century that were perforated 12-1/2. Keenlyside writes that the Bill stamps perforator was put into service due to a breakdown of the regular perf 12 machine. Apparently this was done in order to meet the delivery deadline for the first order.

How many sheets were perforated 12-1/2 is unknown. The strong dominance of two correspondences bearing the 3-cent Small Queen perf 12-1/2 makes one think there were more of these stamps issued than there really was. In the 1930s, Dr. Lewis Reford, a prominent Canadian collector, went through 19,000 unsorted copies of the 3-cent Small Queens from the early printings. He found 17 copies of the perf 12-1/2 variety. This would indicate that less than one-tenth of 1 percent of the total printing was issued or some 50,000 stamps (250 sheets) of the 59 million early 3-cent printed.

The 12-1/2 perf measurement on this stamp is not an exact 12-1/2. There is a range of variances. In Table 1, based on Keenlyside's research, I give six examples of these varieties to show the difference in measurements. No great store should be put into these small variations. At the time, the pins of perforating machines were not tooled to the fine tolerances we expect of modern equipment.

Surviving usages clearly indicate that the 3-cent Small Queen perf 12-1/2 sheets were sent to the Maritimes. Keenlyside believes the stamps were sent to the St. John, New Brunswick, Post Office and were sold there even if a large number of the Hoyt correspondence usages originate in Nova Scotia. The few late usages of the stamp in St. Stephen, New Brunswick, may also indicate that a few sheets were sent there for sale from the main post office in St. John.

Before writing about the Hoyt and Pickard correspondence, I should point out that

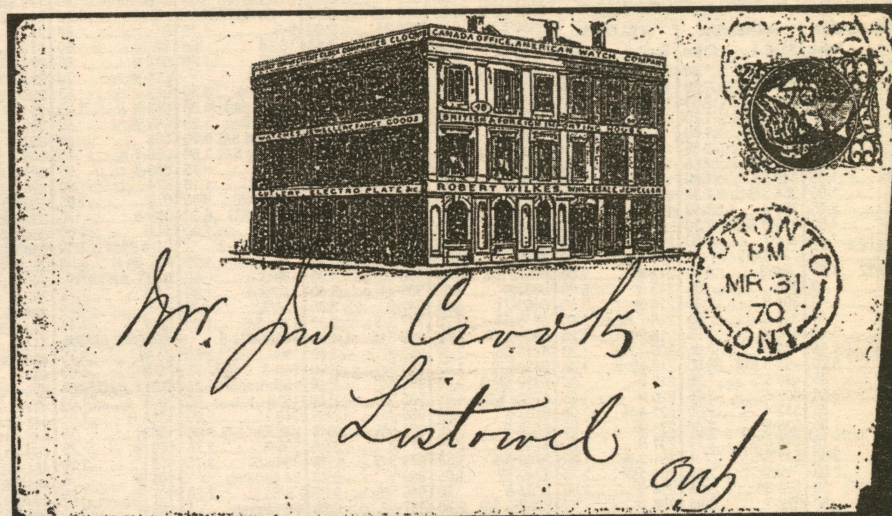


Figure 4: The only recorded cover bearing a 3-cent Small Queen perf 12-1/2 posted outside the Maritimes.

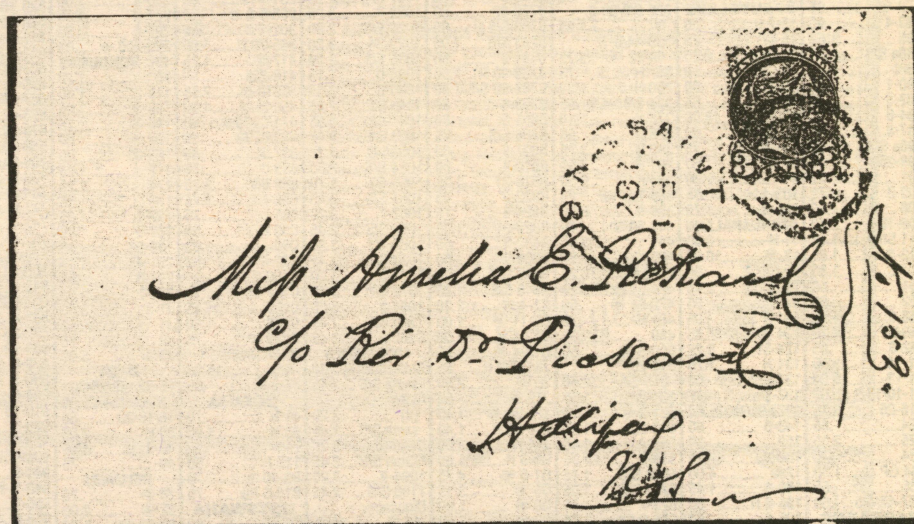


Figure 5: Cover #159 from the Pickard correspondence (Feb. 1, 1870).

only one confirmed usage is known outside the Maritimes. An illustrated cover from the Robert Wilkes wholesale jewelry company is recorded dated March 31, 1870 (Figure 4). It is possible that a traveling salesman may have picked up some of the stamps in the Maritimes and had some left over when he returned to Toronto.

Another two loose stamps canceled by Ottawa cork obliterations have been recorded. Perhaps Dr. Alfred A. Stockton, a lawyer and author of the Pickard letters, carried these stamps with him on his frequent political trips to Ottawa to frank one or more of his regular letters to his Haligonian fiancée, Amelia Pickard.

Miss Pickard, who lived in Halifax, received about two letters per week from her fiancé, Dr. Stockton, between 1867 and 1871. These were consecutively numbered

and several of the 1870 letters bear 3-cent Small Queens perf 12-1/2 (Figure 5). The two were married Sept. 5, 1871, and resided in St. John, New Brunswick, where they raised 10 children. Dr. Stockton's law offices were in the Bank of New Brunswick building, which was situated on William Street right beside the St. John post office.

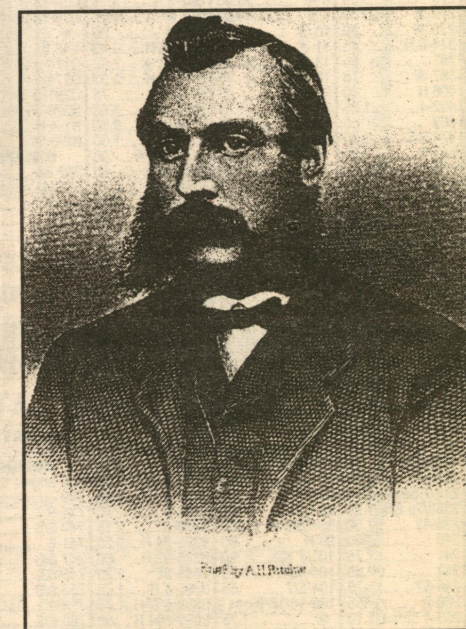


Figure 6: Jesse Hoyt (1825-81). His business reply mail is one of the two major sources of covers for the 3-cent Small Queen perf 12-1/2.

Table 1: Perforation analysis of the 3-cent Small Queen perf 12-1/2

Dated example	Horizontal perforations top/bottom	Vertical perforations top/bottom
February 4, 1870	12.50 / 12.50	12.55 / 12.45
February 10, 1870	12.50 / 12.45	12.55 / 12.50
March 3, 1870	12.50 / 12.60	12.60 / 12.60
March 7, 1870	12.40 / 12.55	12.55 / 12.45
April 4, 1860	12.60 / 12.50	12.50 / 12.55
April 6, 1870	12.50 / 12.55	12.55 / 12.45

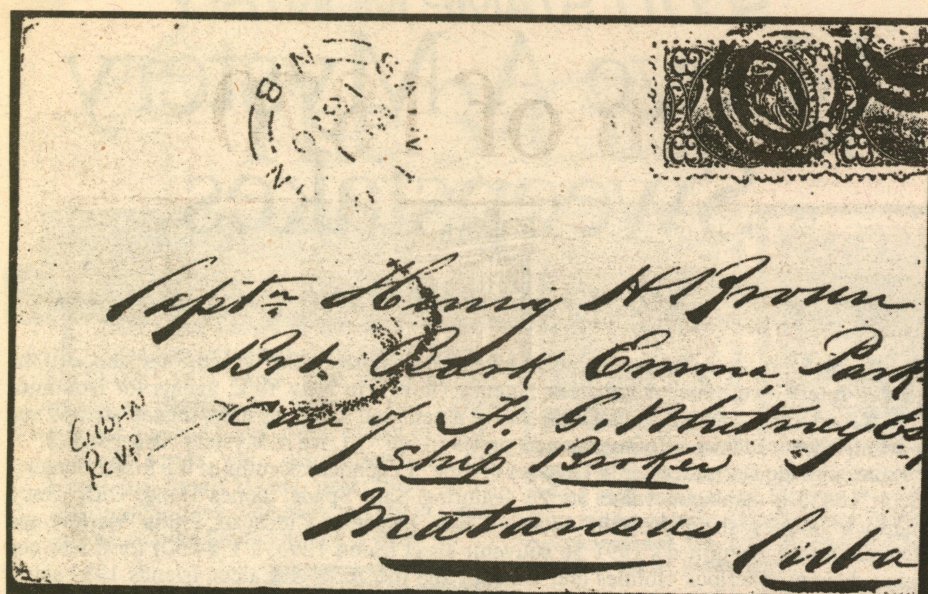


Figure 7: Hoyt posted this letter at St. John on March 1, 1870, to Capt. Henry Brown, his brother-in-law, in Cuba.

Virtually all the recorded usages in Nova Scotia involve mail to or from Jesse Hoyt (Figure 6) of Pictou, Nova Scotia. Hoyt, a ninth generation North American, was a mining and telegraphy pioneer who made important contributions to the completion of the transatlantic cable between Newfoundland and Ireland. He had commercial shipping interests in St. John, New Brunswick.

The March 1, 1870, letter to his brother-in-law, Captain Henry Brown, in Cuba, posted at St. John, suggests that he may have purchased a supply of the 3-cent Small Queens perf 12-1/2 in St. John in early 1870 (Figure 7).

Keenlyside is convinced that most of the Hoyt correspondence consists of business reply mail prepared and stamped by Hoyt with invoices to customers of Acadia Coal Mines. In 1987, the Nova Scotia Archives, on behalf of Keenlyside, conducted handwriting analyses that proved that Hoyt had addressed all the letters bearing his name and address.

The six registered letters recorded are all posted from Truro, Nova Scotia, and addressed to Hoyt but not by him. They were likely ballots being returned by company directors. Since they are all franked the same way (2-cent Large Queen and 3-cent Small Queen perf 12-1/2) the stamps were

probably put on by Hoyt when mailing the ballots but were addressed by the sender.

To complete his decade-long study of this stamp, Keenlyside accumulated a large quantity of this rare Small Queen variety. His collection included 47 stamps, all six recorded pairs (including one on piece and one on cover) and 30 covers (including three registered and the cover with the pair mentioned above).

Once his research was completed, he used the material to put together a special study exhibit that was awarded a Gold Medal and the Richardson Award for research and presentation at BNAPEX 91, the 1991 convention exhibition of the British North America Philatelic Society.

ETHIOPIA

Scott# Mint Used
1-7 12.00 12.00
1-3 NH 8.00b
1 2.25 2.25
80-4 14.00
87-93 31.00 21.75
89 3.50
90 2.50
91 3.75 3.25
92 5.75
93 12.50 9.00
94-100 (#94
99 on piece) 280.00
96 tied to piece 45.00
97 tied to piece 45.00
99 tied to piece 45.00
100 on piece tied by blue D.D. postes 45.00
100 on paper 37.50
101-7 60.00 75.00
101-7 thins 24.00
101 dk violet ovpt 3.50
101 lt violet ovpt 5.00
102 dk violet ovpt 5.00
102 lt violet ovpt 6.00
104 4.50 4.50
105 8.00
106 NH 13.00
107 27.50 27.50
108-15 (no #111) 4.20 4.20
111 70.00 70.00
111 inverted overprint Addis Abeba CDS (7.IX.1917) ties to small piece 120.00
111 thin 30.00
113a 8.75 8.75
113a NH 13.00
113a NH strip of 5 (Payne 107 = 107a: fifth stamp with European date misplaced left under the second Amharic character instead of the third) 60.00
116-9 18.00 18.00
116-9 HR 12.00
116-9 Blks/4 72.00
120-34 originals 18.00
120-34 reprints 4.00
135/1TL/P130 2.40 2.40
139/7TL/P134 28.00 18.00
142a/7NR/P137a 10.00
146/5NR/P142a 18.00 15.00
148/1R/P144 2.40 1.00
149/2R/P145 64.00
149/2R/P145 inverted "u" so= "gnerche" 80.00
149/2R/P145 surcharge shifted down so rosette is on bottom & at top 95.00
152/10R/P150 40.00
155-64 6.10 10.00
155-64 NH 9.60
165-74 13.00 11.00
165-74 NH 18.00
165-75 all red 14.00
175-9 5.00
175-9 NH 9.00
180-9 12.30
180-9 NH 18.00
190-9 12.75 11.00
190-9 NH 18.00
200-9 7.80
210-6 original 4.90 4.90
217-30 15.00 12.00
217-30 no gum 8.00
217-30 NH 21.00
217-28 13.00
217-28 NH 19.00
227a 9.00 7.20
232-41 31.00
232-41 (no #239) 11.00
232-41 blks of 4 64.00
242-6 5.20
242-6 blocks of 4 25.00
247-9 3.00 1.20
247-9 NH 4.50
250-7 5.95 3.30
258-62 120.00
258-62 NH 150.00
263-7 12.80 6.20
268-72 3.90 4.90
268-72 NH 6.10
268a-72a NH corner blocks 6.00
273-7 15.25 8.00
273-7 NH 24.50
279-80 C21-2 5.00
279-80 C21-2 NH 8.00
278-80 NH 2.00 3.20
281-3 5.50 3.90
281-3 NH 8.80
284 25.00 40.00
284 NH 40.00
284 NH toned perfs and gum 20.00
285-96 21.00 4.50
285-96 NH 31.00
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297-301 NH 12.60b
302-6 7.50 4.95
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643-5 NH	2.00b	2.40
646-50 NH	1.50	2.40
651-5	1.60	2.55
651-5 NH	2.65	2.15
656-60 NH	1.40	2.15
664-8	1.40	2.20
672-89	15.00	12.50
672-89 NH	24.00	2.00
690-719 NH 1974 year set	10.00	2.00
695-9 NH	2.00	2.00
720-57 NH	16.00	4.00
720-4	2.25	3.60
720-4 NH	4.00	2.30
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725-30 NH	2.30	3.30
731-5 NH	3.30	2.50
736-8 NH imperforate proofs gummed. Only 10 sets released	85.00	2.50
751-7	1.55	2.50
751-7 NH	2.50	2.50
758-88, 807-16 NH 1976 Comm. year set	16.00	16.00
758-706, 807-16 HR 1976 year set	16.00	2.05
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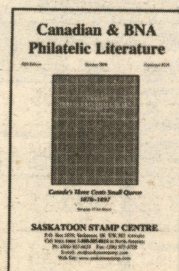
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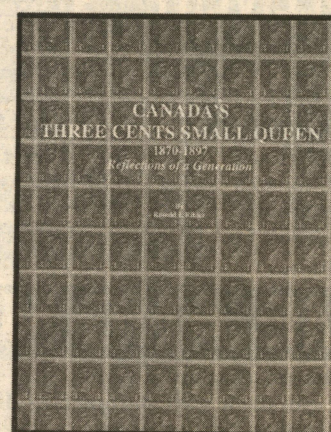
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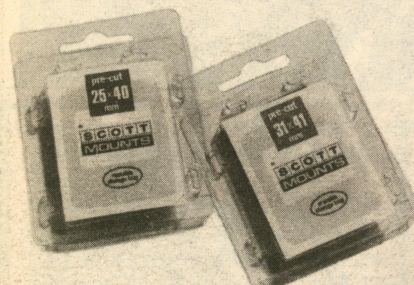
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