

CANADA SMALL QUEENS 1870-1897

PURPOSE & SCOPE

The purpose of this exhibit is to explore the Production, Printing, Varieties, Shades, and Usages of the complete Small Queens issue including the 20 cent & 50 cent Widow Weeds. The Exhibit presents production material of each value, reviews the Ottawa and Montreal printings, including the many shades and perforations associated with this issue. There are further discussions with respect to examples of various cancels throughout the Small Queen era, but it is not meant to be complete. There were 10 stamps in the set which were circulated from 1870-1897. The 20 cent and 50 cent were not sold until the beginning of 1899. The Small Queen's era was one of the most important in Canada's Postal history because it introduced a number of shades, and cancels. It was during this time that Canada joined the UPU which created many rate changes including preferred rates to the United States and England. In 1875 Canada's first comprehensive Postal guide came to force, which helped to better serve the growing population and geographical area.

TREATMENT

The exhibit presents the Production material of each value. It further reviews the Ottawa and Montreal printings and reveals the varieties, shades, perforations, and usages of each value. The exhibit is organized into a separate section devoted to each value except the 20 cent and 50 cent which have been organized into one section. Each section has a separate subsection showing the 1st Ottawa printings, Montreal printings and the 2nd Ottawa printings. The 1st Ottawa printing was from 1870-1873, the Montreal printing was from 1872-1889, and the 2nd Ottawa printing was from 1889-1897.

RESEARCH

Research of this issue has been fairly extensive with several books written on the subject. The exhibit identifies the rarity of some items. The author has completed original work with respect to the three cent 12 ½ x 12 ½ perforations, including recording the possible number available and post offices that it was purchased from, and recording the earliest and latest uses. There is also a review of some of the foreign routes.

HIGHLIGHTS

Earliest recorded use of the ½ cent
3 cent Egypt Nile Expedition to Kaptown
One of four 2nd Afghanistan war cover
2 cent Seaman's concession rate
Earliest day of use of any Small Queens stamp
Mint 12 ½ x 12 ½ perforation three cent stamp
Three of the six known 10 cent Small Die proofs
The only known 6 cent block of 20 Imperforate
22 cent UPU rate to Ceylon
21 cent UPU rate to Peru
Only recorded mint 3 cent block on soft paper
Significant items are framed in Red

PLAN

Section A ½ cent
Section B 1 cent
Section C 2 cent
Section D 3 cent
Section E 5 cent
Section F 6 cent
Section G 8 cent
Section H 10 cent
Section I 12 ½c & 15c
Section J 20c & 50c