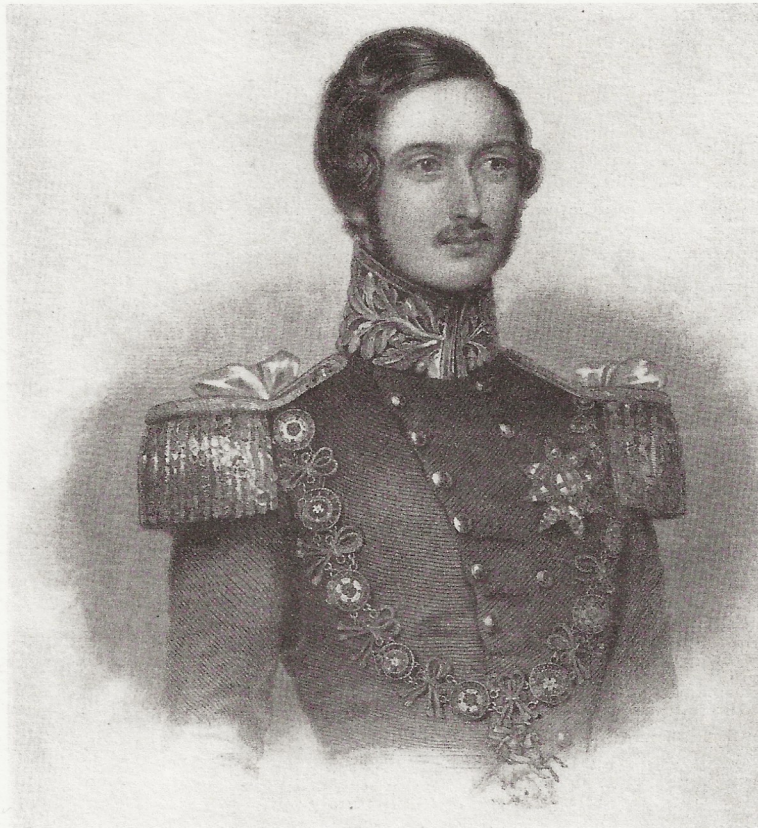


THE 10 CENTS CONSORT STAMP OF 1859 - 1868

This one frame display is a traditional display of the 10 cents stamp from the 1859 Cents issue of Canada. Commencing with die proofs and plate proofs, the display moves on to explore the many different printings and shades of this value and also shows the various constant plate flaws and varieties. Examples of the stamp used on cover to pay a variety of postal rates are spread throughout the display.



Engraving of Prince Albert, the Consort to Queen Victoria, by W.H. Egleton from a drawing by W. Drummond. This engraving is believed to have been the basis for the design of the 10 cents stamp and its predecessor the 6 pence stamp of 1851.



Used block of four of the issued stamp.

CONTEMPORARY DIE PROOFS

One assumes that die proofs must have been produced in 1859 when the stamp was first designed and printed. However, none have survived. The only contemporary die proof is the compound proof shown below which dates from around 1864. Prince Albert had died in late 1861 and this proof may well have been produced as some form of memorial. Although a significant number of these proofs were struck in a wide range of colours, the vast majority of examples have been cut down over the years to produce proofs of the 12d stamp. The examples of the 10 cent die proofs shown at the bottom of the page have been cut from this compound proof.



In dark blue on greyish
bond paper



In black on india paper
(ex. Gawaine Baillie)



In dark violet brown on
greyish bond paper
(ex. Gawaine Baillie)

POSTHUMOUS DIE PROOFS

Following the re-organisation of the American Bank Note Company in 1879, the President, Albert Goodhall, ordered that die proofs be struck of all the values of the Canadian 1859 issue. These were produced in five colours. The official reason for their production was for record purposes although one imagines that they also formed useful marketing material.



A set of the Goodhall die proofs in the five colours used.

PLATE PROOFS AND COLOUR TRIAL PROOFS



Plate proofs in the initially issued colour of black – brown. From left to right: no overprint, vertical SPECIMEN in red and diagonal SPECIMEN in red.



Colour trial proofs. From left to right; in orange yellow, in lilac and in brownish-purple.



Colour trial proofs in black, from left to right; no overprint and with diagonal SPECIMEN in red in block of four.

All of the proofs shown above were produced in the period of use of the stamp. Those in black-brown were produced in 1859. The yellow-orange proof dates from 1864 and the brownish-purple proof from 1867.

INITIAL PRINTINGS OF THE STAMP – PRINTING ORDER 1

The stamp was first issued on 1 July 1859 and, in total, some 26 printing orders were placed. Only one plate was ever used with 100 subjects arranged 10 x 10. It seems that the printers had great difficulty in matching the colour of this stamp and the shade of the stamp varies greatly over time. In addition, the printers made use of four different perforation gauges, all between 11.7 and 12.1, over the course of the 9 year life of the stamp. The combination of shade and perforation allows most stamps to be placed in specific printing orders.

The first printings of the stamp are in a very characteristic shade of black-brown or chocolate brown with a perforation of 11.7 and are scarce.

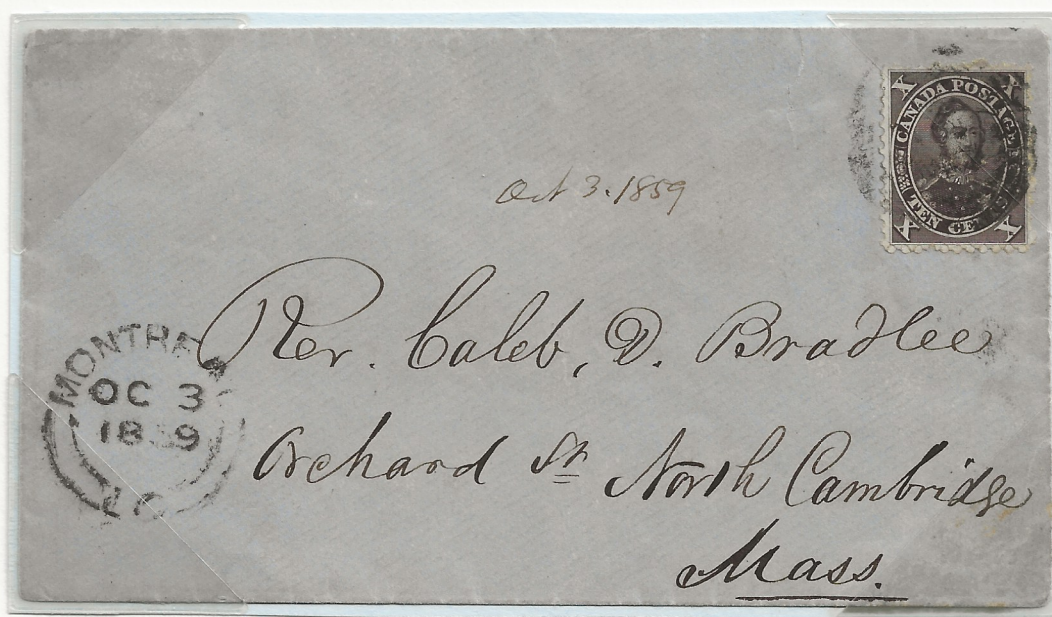


E

Brownish black shade.
VGG cert 3553



Inventive forgery created from a plate proof which has been perforated and had a forged postmark added. Only given away by the wrong paper



October 1859 letter from Montreal to North Cambridge, Mass. Showing the 10 cents stamp used to pay the letter rate to the USA, its primary use. The stamp is the black brown shade from printing order 1.

(ex. Ed Richardson and Dr. John L. Robertson)

EARLY PRINTINGS OF THE STAMP – PRINTING ORDER 2

The quantity of stamps being used in the Colony increased greatly from 1859, in part because the authorities made it more expensive to send mail unpaid. As a result, stamps from printing order 2 started to appear as early as October 1859 and all printings from this order are in shades of maroon or bluish maroon; very different to the first printing order. The perforation is once again 11.7



10 cents stamp from printing order 2A used to pay the double domestic rate on a letter weighing over ½oz mailed in December 1859 from Montreal to London, Ontario. This printing order produced the reddest shades of all the early printings of this stamp.

EARLY PRINTINGS OF THE STAMP – PRINTING ORDERS 3 TO 5

Stamps from these three printing orders date from early 1860 to early 1861. The shades are very characteristic and range from brown purple to agate. All these printings were perf 11.7



October 1861 letter from Woodstock, Ontario to Boston franked with an example of the brown purple shade from printing order 3A. The stamp is from plate position 9 and shows a minor plate variety – a dot in the lower right 'X', found on all of the first 17 printing orders.

PRINTING ORDERS 6 AND 7

Stamps from these two printing orders date from 1861 and 1862. The shades are all sepia brown but some are very dark – almost approaching the shade of the first printing order. These printings were once again perf 11.7



October 1861 letter from Montreal to Manchester, New Hampshire franked with an example of the brownish-sepia shade from printing order 6A.



PRINTING ORDERS 8 AND 9

Stamps from these two printing orders date from 1862 and 1863. Stamps from these printing orders are all in various shades of brown. They were the only printing orders to appear with a perforation of 11.8 on all sides.



Example on very thick paper.
(ex. Dale- Lichtenstein)



Two copies of the stamp paying the double letter rate to the USA in August 1862. The stamps are from printing order 8B in a shade of dark brown.

PRINTING ORDERS 10 TO 12

Stamps from these three printing orders date from mid to late 1863. They were the first printings to appear with compound perforations, mostly perf 11.9 x 11.8, although a few stamps from P.O. 12 can be found perf 12.1 x 11.8. the stamps from P.O. 10 are in a very characteristic red-brown shade, the remainder are in various shades of sepia and brown.



Printing order 10 – red brown shades



Printing orders 11 and 12 – shades of sepia and brown.



Miniature cover sent from Quebec to New York in May 1864. The stamp is from P.O. 12B and is an example of the rich dark brown shade.

PRINTING ORDERS 13 TO 17

Stamps from these five printing orders date early 1864 to mid 1865. They all have the compound perforations, either perf 11.9 x 11.8 or perf 12.1 x 11.8. The stamps from P.O. 13 - 15 are in a range of brown or purple-brown shades, many similar to those found from P.O. 3 - 5. Stamps from P.O. 16 are in sepia or brown but those from P.O. 17 reverted to shades of plum and maroon, similar to those found on some stamps from P.O. 2



Printing orders 13 - 15 brown or purple-brown shades



Printing order 16 - shades of sepia and brown.

Printing order 17 - shades of maroon and plum



June 1864 letter from Drummondville to Kentucky franked with a stamp from printing order 14 in dark brown purple. Kentucky is an unusual destination at this time during the U.S. Civil War.

PRINTING ORDERS 18 AND 19

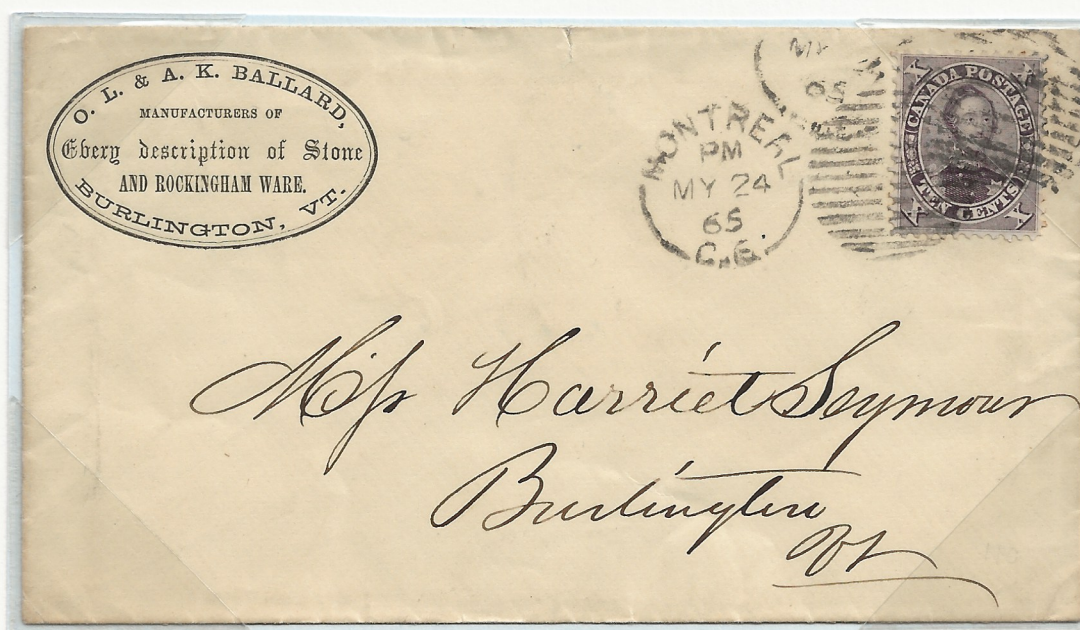
Stamps from these printing orders date from mid to late 1865. The majority of stamps from these orders have perf 11.9 although the initial printings from order 18 were perf 11.9 x 11.8 They are the first printings to have marginal plate imprints. Shades vary from dull maroon and plum in order 18 to a very characteristic violet or reddish violet in order 19.



The 'C' flaw



December 1865 letter from Picton to New Hampshire. The stamp is from printing order 18A and is in maroon. The stamp shows the 'C' flaw which first appeared shortly before this printing was completed and exists on all later printings. The flaw is found on all stamps from the right hand column of the sheet.



May 1865 advertising cover from Montreal to Vermont showing an example of the deep dark reddish violet shade from order 19B.

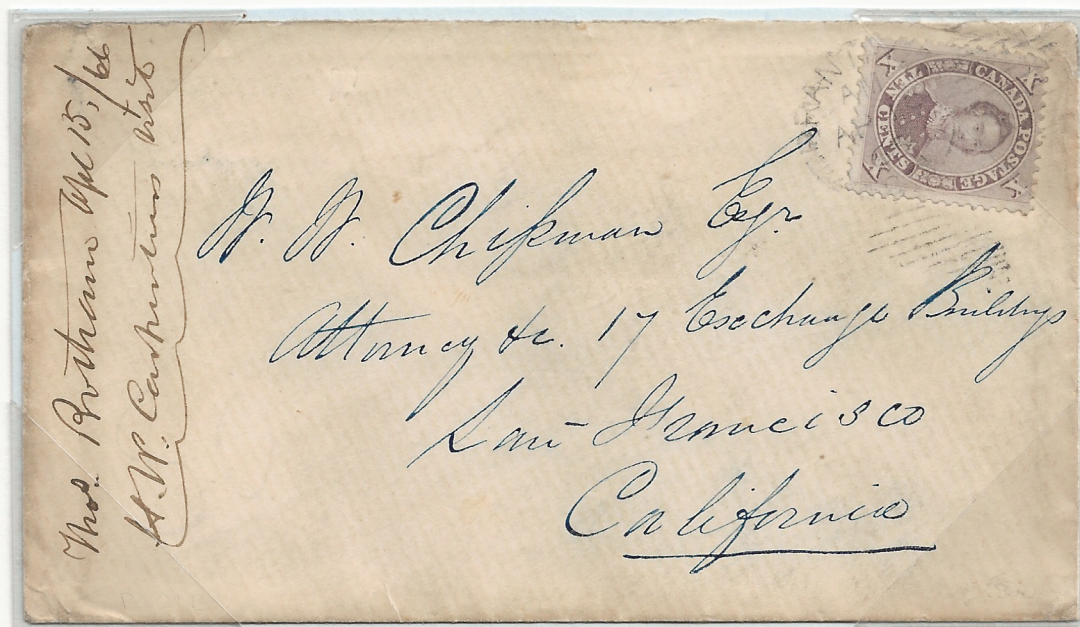
(ex. Ron Brigham)

LATE PRINTINGS - PRINTING ORDERS 20 TO 22

Stamps from these printing orders date from late 1865 to late 1866. The stamps from these orders have perf 11.9 or 12.1 x 11.9. Shades are all purple with all being dull or very dull in hue.



Example showing the
'C' flaw – P.O. 20A –
dull slate purple.



10 cents stamp from printing order 21B in dull purple used to pay the letter rate to California in April 1866. The rate to California and Oregon had initially been set at 15 cents in 1859 but was reduced in 1864 bringing it into line with the rate to all of the Eastern USA.

LATE PRINTINGS - PRINTING ORDERS 23 TO 26

Stamps from these last four printing orders date from late 1866 to early 1868. Most stamps from these orders have perf 11.9 but those from P.O. 25 have a perf of 11.9 x 12.1 unique to this printing. Shades range from brown lake to claret, similar to the plate proofs struck in 1867.



Stamps from printing orders 23 and 24 – perf 11.9



Printing order 25 – perf 11.9 x 12.1



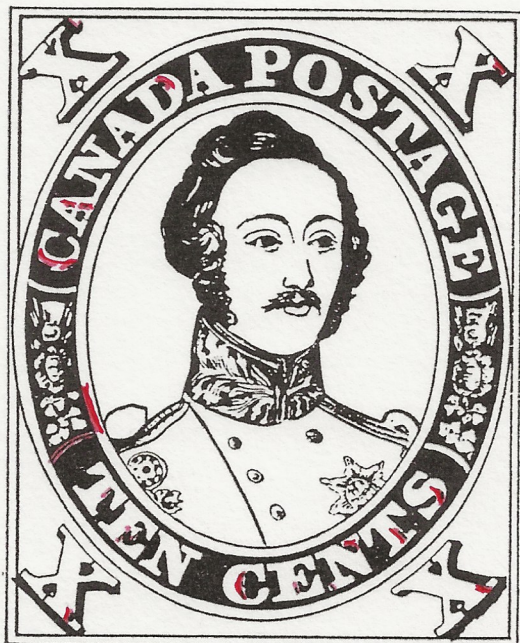
Printing order 26 – perf 11.9



November 1867 letter from Ardtrea to Vancouver Island franked with a 10 cent stamp in brown lake from P.O. 24. The letter rate to Vancouver Island was set at 15 cents in 1859 and subsequently increased to 25 cents when mail had to be routed via Panama during the US Civil War. The rate was reduced to 10 cents in 1864.

PLATE RE-ENTRIES

Two significant re-entries are found on this stamp and both are constant across all the printings. They occur from plate positions 29 and 51.



The major re-entry from plate position 29 with the features shown in red.
Stamps from printing order 17B onwards will also show the 'C' flaw.



P.O. 18C – dull purple



P.O. 23A – dark red brown



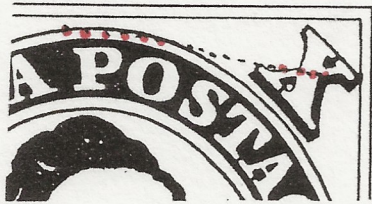
P.O. 23 - claret



Lower portion of the design showing the features of the major re-entry from plate position 51. The doubling in the lower right 'X' is the most prominent feature.

CONSTANT PLATE VARIETIES

In addition to the re-entries, there are two other notable plate flaws which are constant across all of the printings at plate positions 3 and 61.



The 'String of Pearls' flaw – found from plate position 3



Upper left corner strip of four of the colour trial proof in brownish – purple, showing the variety at plate position 3.



P.O. 12B – rich dark brown



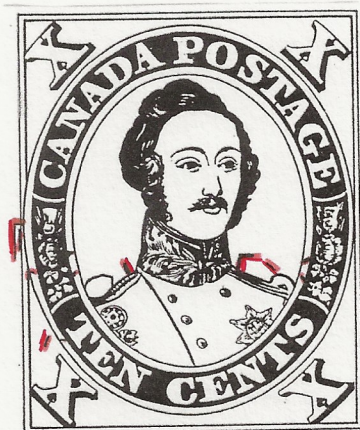
P.O. 19C – reddish violet



P.O. 6B – deep brownish sepia



P.O. 26A - lake



The 'Double Epaulettes' flaw found from plate position 61.