

The Large Queens  
By Alf Brooks

First, let me make a disclaimer. I am not an expert on this issue, far from it; I am a neophyte. I know of this issue, have a few copies in my collection, but have never studied it in detail. I know that some members of WPS reading this know much more about this group of stamps than I will ever know. However, as the Executive has chosen the Large Queens as the theme of our 2009 Show, May 1-3, I decided to lessen my own ignorance about this first stamp issue of the Dominion of Canada and, perhaps, inform some others who may share my lack of knowledge. And if this prompts you to look for more information on this group of stamps, so much the better; go immediately to *The Large Queens of Canada and Their Use, 1868-1872*, H.E. and H. W. Duckworth, unashamedly my principal source for this article.

**Beginnings** The British North America Act, 1867, created Canada from Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, following conferences in Charlottetown, Québec and London; the Act came into effect on July 1, 1867. Manitoba in 1870, British Columbia in 1871 and Prince Edward Island in 1873 joined Confederation, and thus their citizens also used Large Queens. The Parliament of Canada passed a Post Office Act in December, 1867, to come into effect April 1, 1868. Until this time the stamps of the former separate British colonies were valid for postage in Canada.



**The Stamps** The British American Bank Note Company was given the contract to produce this first Dominion issue. The image of Queen Victoria was from an engraving by Charles Henry Jeems, who had used an image on a medallion as his model. Alfred Jones engraved the portrait for the stamps, Henry Earle engraved the lettering and frame. The original printing for 1868 (total printed over the life of the stamp in parentheses):



- Half cent: 500 000 (6 700 000) Black and shades
- One cent: 2 000 000 (9 600 000) Red-brown, later orange-yellow
- Two cent: 2 000 000 (10 300 000) Green and shades



- Three cent: 6 000 000 (22 000 000) Red and shades
- Six cent: 2 000 000 (9 400 000) Brown and shades
- Twelve and a half cent: 500 000 (1 940 000) Blue and shades



- Fifteen cent: (2 370 000) Violet-purple and shades.

This last stamp was not listed with the originally-planned issues, but was first issued in February, 1868, to be used for mail from Canada to the United Kingdom via the USA. It "...holds the world record for length of service, 'having been on sale at post offices and available for postal duty for not less than 33 years.'" (Duckworth, from Jarrett) This 'record' has since been broken; according to *"The Guinness Book of Stamps"*, by James Mackay, "The stamp with the longest period of sale was the 1 öre definitive of Sweden, issued in March 1912 and still on sale at main post offices

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# The Buffalo



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**WINNIPEG  
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The Buffalo is published monthly except in July and August. Deadline for article submissions and advertising copy is the 15th of each month preceding the month of issue.

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May 2	Exhibition @ Viscount Gort 10AM to 6 PM
May 3	Exhibition @ Viscount Gort 10 AM to 4 PM
May 7	Meeting and Auction

NB: The first meetings of each month are normally reserved for auctions. The second meetings of each month are reserved for formal programs. Meetings start at 7:45pm

Check out our WPS WEBSITE:

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**Terms of Payment**

- payable to Winnipeg Philatelic Society in a single payment at the time of the agreement.

**NOTICE  
YOUTH CLUB MEETING**

The WPS Youth Club will be meeting on Saturdays at the usual place  
St Luke's Anglican Church,  
130 Nassau St N at Stradbrook  
Winnipeg, MB

free parking available on  
the north side.

Enter via North Side Entrance  
Meeting from 1pm to 2:30pm  
Meeting Dates Feb 7, Feb 21, Mar 7, Mar  
21, Apr 4, Apr 18, May 9

For more information contact

Gerry Babij @ 736-4276 or  
John Salmi @ 895-2781

**WANTED**

One perfin from each of the following:  
Korea, Macao, Oceana, Oman, Philip-  
pines, Quatar, Vatican, Vanuatu, Yemen,  
Zanzibar.

Contact: G. Green.

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in 1970, if not later.” (Thanks, Robin)

The other stamps in the above list were to come into use on April 1, 1868; for some of them there is evidence of use before that date.

#### Some Postal Rates

- Domestic: 3¢ per ½ ounce
- USA: 6¢
- Red River: 6¢
- British Columbia and Vancouver Island: 10¢
- Great Britain and Newfoundland: 12½¢
- Great Britain via New York: 15¢
- Transient newspapers: 2¢
- Printed matter: 1¢
- Single periodicals: ½¢
- Drop letters (posted for delivery at the same post office: 1¢
- Registration: 2¢ (letters), 5¢ (parcels)

(all information from Unitrade)

#### Production

- **Plates:** The stamps were produced from line engraved steel plates, ten stamps by ten stamps. Specialists have identified the number of plates used for each stamp and the number of re-entries (Re-entry is defined as retouching or enhancing a worn plate by rocking the transfer roll over the worn plate. Sight variations in placement results in doubling of parts of the design of subsequently -printed stamps). The Company and the Government had agreed that “...each plate shall give 25,000 impressions before retouching and 15,000 afterwards....” (Duckworth, p. 70).
- **Papers** The stamps were printed on a wide variety of papers; this was particularly true in the beginning, when perhaps the BABNC was looking for a good supply of paper and was using papers from various sources. Duckworth lists ten types with some subtypes. Some denominations can be found on a number of papers; some papers can be found on a few only denominations.
- **Perforations** Spacings for perforations were expressed in inches, the several spacings used were approximately one-sixteenth of an inch per perforation. Conforming to our current metric system – the number of perforations per two centimeters – the variation is from 11.58 to 12.30, rounded off to 12x12. Stamps are found with skipped perfs (from a damaged machine?), more rarely double perfs.

**Small Queens** Within a year of the introduction of the Large Queens the Post Office began plans to replace them with smaller stamps of similar design. For example, the Small Queen 3¢ saw first use in January 1870, the 1¢ in March

1870. Unitrade states the period of use for Large Queens as 1868-1876, for Small Queens as 1870-1893.

**Where to Next?** As initially stated, the principal source for the above information is the excellent Duckworth volume. It also has information on other related topics, such as

- Cancellations
- Carriers: stage coaches, trains, boats
- Foreign destinations

Our Library has a copy of Duckworth, free loan for the asking. I have barely begun to write all it contains.

#### Minutes of the Winnipeg Philatelic Society Mar. 5, 2009

Russ Thompson called the meeting to order at 7.55.

Sid reminded us of the Red River Bourse at the Best Western Charterhouse Hotel, Sun. Mar. 8, from 10.00 to 5.00 p.m.

Bev Barr announced that the WAG stamp sale will take place April 2-4, Thurs. 11.00 to 8.00 p.m., Fri. 11-5.00 and Sat. 11.00 to 4.00.

Robert Zacharias and Ken Kristjanson talked about the big auction that is on March 21 at 10.00 a.m., viewing will begin at 9.00. This will be a members only auction. Please wear your name tags. Russ Thompson will take bids for absent members.

Russ let us know we have a new member: Scott Rapchuk, and we lost a member as well, David Keddie passed away.

Bill Pooley. has volunteer sign up sheets for working at the show and he will circulate them. Sign up if you already haven't.

Thank you to Marjorie Hughes for the coffee and cookies.

Next meeting we will have a presentation from Alf Brooks on the Faeroe Islands.

Adj. 8.04.

Draw: Walter Wasyluk, Bill Voort, Sam Singer, Herb Warkentin..

## Large Queens

Over the past few months I have had the great opportunity to scan material from Ben Cohen's Large Queen collection, one of the finest such collections put together in Winnipeg. His material includes many kinds of Large Queen varieties, some of which have resulted in new listings in the *Unitrade Specialized Catalogue of Canadian Stamps* over the past couple of years.

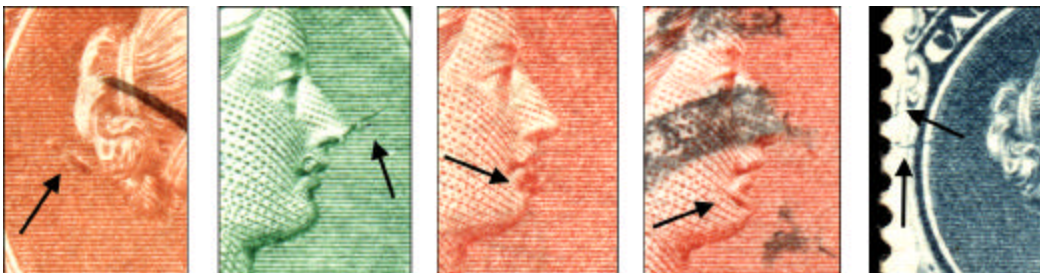
As with any stamp issue, my particular interest in perusing Ben's collection is in the constant plate varieties, although Ben's material also includes the many other types of varieties associated with the Large Queen era: papers, shades, watermarks and cancels.

A couple of years ago, while attending a Royal Philatelic Society of Canada stamp show in Calgary, I had the opportunity to meet and visit with a collector who enjoys the hunt for constant plate varieties, including re-entries (which are in fact a variety that are constant in specific locations on the printing plate). At stamp shows he will literally spend hours perusing dealer's stock looking for stamps containing plate varieties that have not yet been identified by the dealer. Invariably he will find several at any given show. At this particular show he found the 3¢ Large Queen "shaving nick" flaw. The moral of this story is "studying and gaining knowledge about these varieties can result in the purchase of scarce stamps at inexpensive prices". I have tried doing just this with different dealers and am almost always asked by the dealer before the purchase has been completed "what have you found that I didn't spot?" In a couple of cases the dealer has subsequently refused to sell the item to me!

Is it possible to find a scarce or rare variety in a dealer's stock or even in one's own collection, even though the stamps (such as the Large Queens) have been around for 140 years? Certainly. One just needs to know what to look for.

The Unitrade catalogue lists nearly 20 different constant plate varieties on the Large Queen stamps (a few of which have only been added to the Unitrade in the last couple of years), but there are many more. *The Large Queen Stamps of Canada* book, written by H.E. and H.W. Duckworth (second edition just recently released) illustrates many others. Their book includes illustrations of these varieties which were first hand drawn by Horace W. Harrison, a prominent collector of these stamps. If you are an avid philatelist you will recognize this name from the British North America Philatelic Society. I believe you can view many of these drawings in the BNAPS journals, which are available on-line at: <http://bnatopics.org/>

Here are my five favourite Large Queen constant plate flaws...



From left to right these are: 1¢ brown red, "burr to left of head" (Unitrade 22iii), 2¢ green, "needle nose" (24vii), 3¢ red, "goatee" (25iv), 3¢ red, "shaving nick" (25vii), and 15¢ grey violet or grey, cracked plate (29iv, 30v). The first four may have resulted from some kind of object striking the plate; the last variety is due to long term use of the plate and/or a weakness in the steel plate.

Why do I like these/what is the significance between them? They are all "large" in size. That is, they are more significant than "fly speck" varieties. For most collectors, you will not need a magnifying glass to find them.

Don't get me wrong, *any* constant plate variety is important and worth looking for, even the smaller fly specks. However, these larger flaws, whether it be on the Large Queen stamps or any other stamp issue, just have a better "feel" to them. [My favourite modern day flaw is the "extra spire" on the 8¢ Centennial (544), because it is large]. If one of these "large" flaws existed from the initial preparation of the printing plate, why was it not spotted and corrected? I don't think these specific Large Queen flaws fall into this category. One of the thrills of viewing material at the Library and Archives in Ottawa is finding a "large" flaw on the proof sheets; this proves that the flaw was there from the outset, *not* spotted during the preparation of the plates and therefore not corrected before printing began. A bonus for collectors!



### A Healthy New Zealand Stamp

If you collect New Zealand you know about their annual Health stamps, issued every year since 1929. Part of the money from the sale of Health stamps goes towards the running of Health camps.

In 1932 the designers of the stamp for that year described their intentions in detail: "The new Health stamp depicts Hygeia, the Goddess of Health, in a graceful pose. The conventional insignia—the cup of health and the serpent—are featured, and the Goddess is holding aloft the cup. A background of radiating lines forms a harmonious background for the stamp, and emphasizes the idea of radiating health.

Classical ornament in keeping with the subject has been chosen, the ornament at the base being derived from the Greek wave motif. The lettering is strictly classic. The strong light falling on the figure brings it out in relief against the background, and is symbolical of the health-giving rays of the sun."

A writer for the *Australian Stamp Monthly* saw it differently, declaring that the stamp depicts a scantily dressed young lady seated on a pedestal, greeting the rising sun with an upraised goblet. He further stated that she evidently had been participating in an all-night orgy; one must be healthy to indulge in such an activity. And as there are no snakes in New Zealand the one around her arm must be a hallucination. The red wine colour of the stamp is appropriate.



## Editor Notes

A **web site** where one can spend hours looking at all the items is the British Postal Museum and Archives: <http://postalheritage.org.uk/>

Where to begin?

If you collect British stamps you will have heard of the Phillips Collection; in 1965, Reginald M Phillips donated his award-winning collection of British Victorian stamps. It contains the world's first first day cover - that of the Penny Black. It also includes 1839 Treasury Essays for pre-paid postage, Rowland Hill letters and unique proofs and studies of stamps such as the Twopenny Blue and the Penny Red. There are over 2000 pages to view.

A recent addition to the web site is a collection of over 3000 searchable postal history items.

**Queen Elizabeth II** has one of the world's best stamp collections, inherited from her grandfather, George V. She is not an active collector, has someone employed to manage the collection. However, another head of state, French President **Nicolas Sarkozy**, recently revealed that he is an active collector. One comment was that it was interesting for him to reveal the information, as "stamp collecting is not a hobby that people generally readily own up to." Russian tennis player **Maria Sharapova**, for one, regretted letting on that she enjoyed poring over albums. In reply to a question by a journalist: "You're a stamp collector then?" she laughed and said "Oh God, stop. Everyone's calling me a dork now."

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## Minutes of the Winnipeg Philatelic Society

Mar. 19, 2009

Russ Thompson called the meeting to order at 7.50. Russ thanked Debbie Birch for taking over the draw.

Michael Zacharias asked if anyone in the club took home something extra from the last auction. A packet of military postcards was purchased and paid for by someone who did not receive them and they are missing. Please see Michael or Hassan Madjid.

Michael also brought up the subject of the time we start our meetings. If there are no serious objections, we would like to start the meetings at 7.30, beginning in the fall.

Robert Zacharias and Ken Kristjanson talked about the big auction that is on March 21 at 10.00 a.m., viewing will begin at 9.00. This will be a members only auction. Please wear your name tags. Russ Thompson will take bids for absentee members.

Russ thanked Marjorie Hughes for the coffee and Eve-Ann Kristjanson for the cookies. Russ is also looking for someone to volunteer to take over the position of membership recording secretary. Don Fraser is retiring from the position in June.

Robert also reminded us that the WAG stamp sale begins two weeks from today.

Al Wingate gave us some information on this year's show. We are short one dealer and Al has not been able to find anyone to fill the gap. We've undertaken some cost cutting measures and \$10.00 will buy you a business card sized ad in the show program.

Bob Stanley has application forms for a number of stamp related associations such as the Royal Philatelic, BNAPS and Postal History Society. Please see him if you are interested in any of these.

Adj. 8.00

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SUPPLY YOU WITH A REPLACEMENT BUFFALO.  
THANK YOU!  
WELLCOME!!

Draw: Vern, George Green, Nick Fedorchuk,  
Robert Zacharias.

And our presentation tonight: Alf Brooks on the  
Faeroe Islands.

Judy Lipsey

## Member Reminders

Please check out the sign up sheets for this years  
exhibition at next meeting and find 2 hours that you  
can do your part to help out the club. It does not cost  
anything to help out.

Place mailing label in same  
direction as this text