

# Canada – The 10c Small Queen of 1874-1897

The first of the Small Queen stamps was issued in January 1870. The 10c Small Queen, the subject of this traditional exhibit, was issued in November 1874 despite a lack of changes in postal rates or new specific requirements for this denomination. Initially, the primary purpose of this value was to pay the letter rate to various European countries, notably France. This changed over time as a result of a general reduction in postal rates.

The 10c Small Queen was printed in relatively small quantities (2 million stamps over 23 years), resulting in a wide array of shades which have always fascinated collectors. The 10c Small Queen is the rarest denomination of the issue to find on covers. The exhibit has maintained a census of recorded covers, which currently stands at 724 (about 30 per year of use). This exhibit was developed to include all aspects of the 10c Small Queen, starting with pre-production material, dated used stamps supporting the evolution of the colour, examples showing the different types of gums and papers, an extensive group of mint stamps including Montreal printing multiples, plate varieties, imperforate stamps, newly-introduced stamp handling processes (precancels and perfins) and a curated group of covers showing the most exceptional uses of the 10c Small Queen, several of which are unique based on the original census research of the exhibitor.



1875 pale milky pink, perf 11x12 | August 19, 1875 - Toronto to Baltimore, Ireland - 12¢ (up to 1 oz.) 2nd step pre-UPU letter rate plus 5¢ registration fee. Only recorded pre-UPU registered cover to Ireland with 10c Small Queen

## Exhibit Plan

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## Pre-production material

On September 8, 1874, the Post Office requested the British American Bank Note Company (BANK) to prepare a ten cent stamp, the "colour to be light pink and the stamp to be of the ordinary size". The BANK used the existing vignette of Queen Victoria from the Large Queen and Small Queen issues. The vignette was engraved by Alfred Jones, Vice-President of the BANK, while the lettering is believed to have been completed by William C. Smilie, President of the BANK. A few die proofs are recorded in private hands. Plate proofs are recorded in three different colours.



Die proof in dull rose lac on watermarked paper showing "188" (partial year of production) 7 die proofs are recorded, only 2 of which are on watermarked paper

Engraving of Queen Victoria by Alfred Jones

Plate proofs in magenta Plate proof in dull rose Plate proofs in bright pink

In 1891, the Government of Canada undertook a competitive tendering process for the printing of postage stamps. On November 7, 1891, both the BANK and the Canadian Bank Note Engraving & Printing Company (CBNEP) submitted tenders. Although both offers were "very nearly equal", the BANK was granted the new contract on the basis of years of satisfactory work and recent expenses incurred to erect new premises in Ottawa. As part of this process, the CBNEP prepared dies and plates for 1¢, 2¢, 3¢ and 5¢ values, while only dies were prepared for 5¢, 10¢ and 15¢ values. Only six examples of the 10c die essay are recorded, three of which are displayed below.



Die essay in green 2 examples recorded in this colour

10c and 15c composite die essays in deep carmine Only 2 composite die essays are recorded, each in a different colour

Die essay in brownish red Unique example recorded in this colour

## The plate

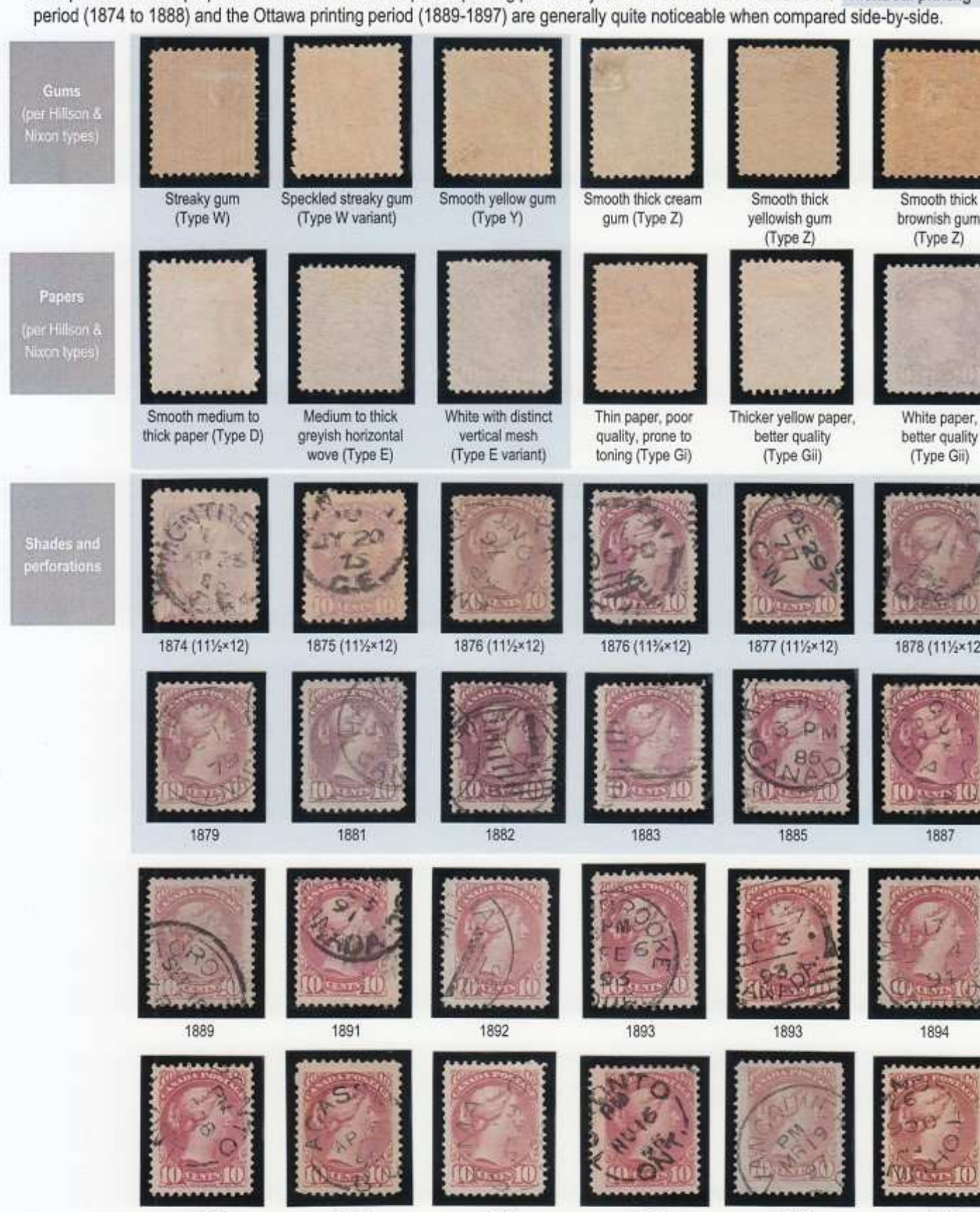
A single plate of 100 subjects was prepared for the 10c Small Queen and used to print all stamps from 1874 to 1897. The plate has BARN inscriptions on each side, along with a "10" counter in upper left and a "TEN" counter in shaded font at upper right. The plate has no other identification letters or numbers.



Bright rose lac 1884 Lac rose 1888 Rose carmine 1894 Brown red 1896 Deep brown red 1897

## Shades, gums and papers

The 23 years of production of the 10c Small Queen resulted in different gums and papers being used, along with various perforations (simplified here in three groups—perf 11x12, 11x12 and 12x12—perforated 12x12 unless indicated otherwise). Finally, dated stamps allow for the proper allocation of shades to specific printing periods or years. The differences between the Montreal printing period (1874 to 1888) and the Ottawa printing period (1889-1897) are generally quite noticeable when compared side-by-side.



1874 (11x12) 1875 (11x12) 1876 (11x12) 1877 (11x12) 1878 (11x12) 1879 1880 1881 1882 1883 1884 1885 1886 1887 1888 1889 1890 1891 1892 1893 1894 1895 1896 1897

## Montreal printings | 1874-1888

From 1874 to 1888 the 10c Small Queen was printed by the BANK from their Montreal premises. As noted previously, the Post Office Department asked for this value to be printed in "light pink", but the results proved unsuitable. The colour was changed in late 1875 to darker shades of dull lac, which further evolved over the years to darker shades of rose lac and purple from 1876 to 1888, and brighter shades of magenta from 1887 to 1888.



Pale milky rose lac (11x12), 1874 Pale milky pink (11x12), 1875 Dull rose lac (11x12), 1875 Dull lac (11x12), 1876 Deep magenta (12x12), 1877 Rose lac (12x12), 1879 Rose lac (12x12), 1880 Deep rose lac (12x12), 1881 Purple (12x12), 1882 Deep purple (7x7) (12x12), 1882 Deep bright purple (12x12), 1883 Bright rose lac (12x12), 1884 Bright magenta (12x12), 1885 Magenta, thin paper (12x12), 1887 Magenta, thick paper (12x12), 1887 Pale bright magenta (12x12), 1887 Dull rose lac (11x12), 1877 Deep magenta (11x12), 1877 Magenta (12x12), 1887

## Montreal printings | 1874-1888

Multiples, including largest recorded multiples



Largest recorded multiple perf 11x12 (2 blocks of 4 are recorded)

Reddish purple (12x12), 1881

Largest recorded multiple from 1874-1888 printings

## Ottawa printings | 1889-1897

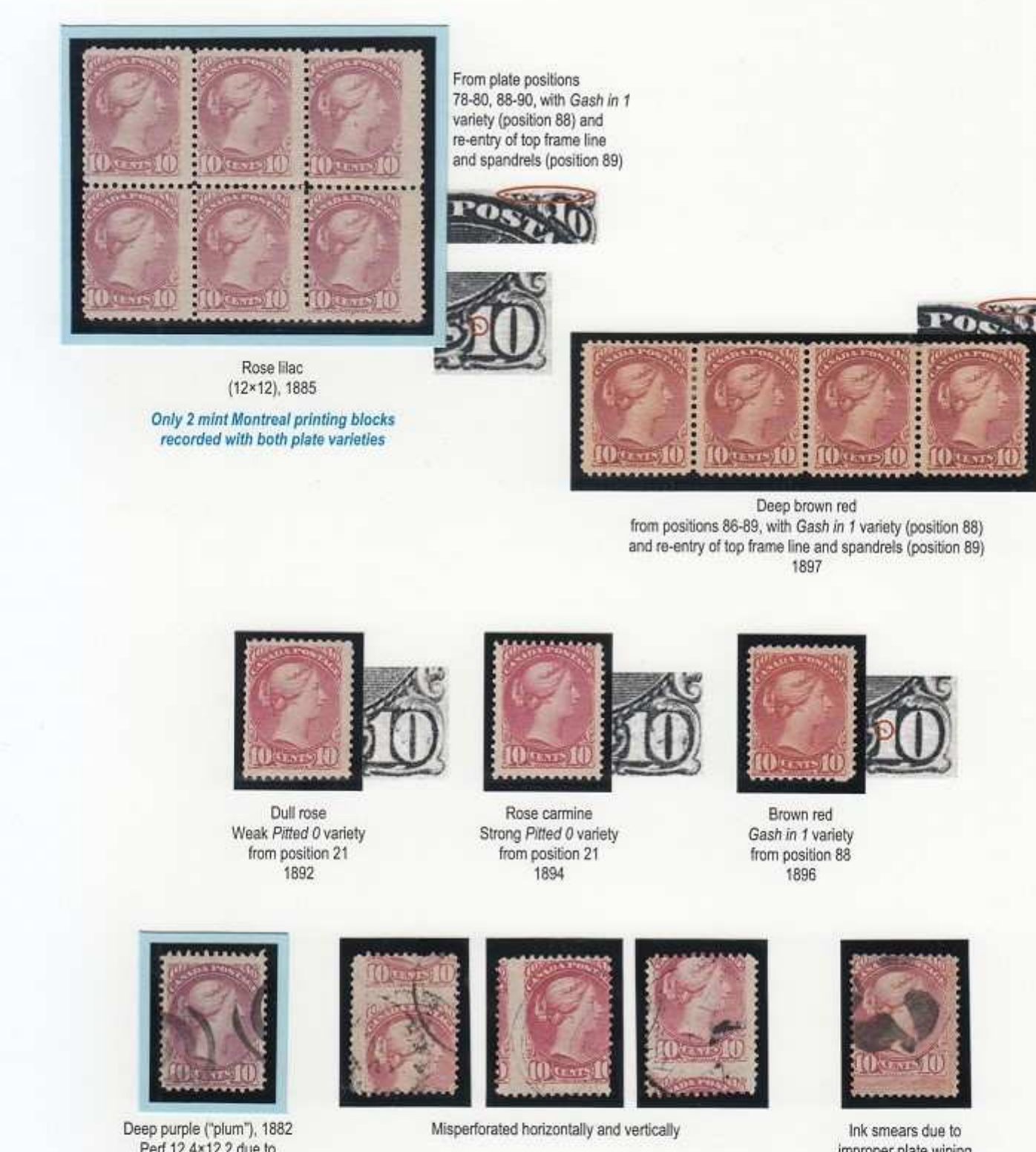
From 1889 to 1897 the 10c Small Queen was printed by the BANK from their Ottawa premises. It continued to be printed in a wide range of shades. From 1889 to 1893 the stamps were printed in a range of dull rose to carmine shades. From 1893 to 1896 the shades varied from almost rose carmine to softer shades of rose pink. In 1896 the pink changed to "balmier" shades, and further evolved to brown red by the end of 1896. Finally a deep brown red shade, or brick red, appeared in 1897.



Dark dull rose 1889 Dark rose carmine 1893 Rose carmine 1894 Bright rose carmine 1895 Bright rose pink 1896 Rose red 1896 Deep brown red 1897 Pink 1896 Pale dull rose, thin paper 1891 Rose carmine 1894 Brown red 1896 Deep brown red 1897

## Plate and production varieties

Despite no evidence existing that the sole plate used to print the 10c Small Queen was repaired at any time during its life, three constant plate varieties are recorded. In addition a rare perforation variety has been recorded, the so-called "perf 12x12", likely the result of excessive shrinking of the paper. Other production varieties also exist, including imperforate stamps and improperly printed stamps.



From plate positions 78-80, 88-90, with Gash in 1 variety (position 88) and re-entry of top frame line and sponderis (position 89) 1887

Deep brown red from positions 88-90, with Gash in 1 variety (position 88) and re-entry of top frame line and sponderis (position 89) 1887

Dull rose Weak Plate variety from position 21 1882

Rose carmine Strong Plate variety from position 21 1884

Brown red Gash in 1 variety from position 88 1886

Deep purple (7x7), 1882 Perf 12x12, due to excessive paper shrinkage, the so-called "Perf 12x12"

Misperforated horizontally and vertically

Ink smears due to improper plate wiping

## The imperforates

Along with other values of the issue, the 10c Small Queen is known in imperforate form. None of the imperforate stamps were regularly issued to the public. Rather, it is believed that a number of imperforate sheets of Small Queens were given by the Post Office Department authorities to Mr. Lauchlan Gibbs of Montreal who had provided them advice on designs and new issues. It is estimated that 1,000 imperforate 10c stamps were thus released. They exist in three shades, one with gum and two without gum as prepared.



Rose pink ungummed Brown red Type V imprinted Rose carmine ungummed

As the imperforate stamps were printed from the regular printing plates, the constant plate varieties found on the normal perforated stamps can also be found on the imperforates. Given the small number of imperforate sheets of the 10c Small Queen that were prepared and released, the imperforate stamps with varieties exist in exceptionally low numbers—10 being the maximum possible numbers.



Rose carmine, ungummed Brown red, gummed Re-entry of top frame line and sponderis on Position 89 7 of the 19 examples printed have been recorded

Rose pink, ungummed Strong Pitted 5 variety on Position 21 6 of the 19 examples printed have been recorded

## Precancels and perfins

Precancelled stamps, or precancels, are postage stamps which have been cancelled prior to being affixed to mail. They are typically used by mass mailers, who could save the Post Office time and effort from not having to individually cancel mailed items. By 1888 the use of precancels had started in Canada. Precancels were most prevalent on lower denomination stamps used on individual circulars, newspapers and other printed matters, but higher denominations were also precanceled. The precanceled 10c Small Queen was used on bulk mailing receipts and individual heavier items sent by mass mailers. The Standard Canada Precancel Catalogue identifies 19 different styles of "bar" precancels, of which 6 have been found on the 10c Small Queen.



Style A double Style I Style J Style K double Style L vertical Style M vertical double Style N double Style O double Style P double Style Q double Style R Style S double Style T double Style U vertical Style V double Style W double Style X double Style Y double Style Z double

In 1868 the concept of perforated initials, or "perfin", was introduced in the United Kingdom to prevent theft of stamps by employees of large commercial firms. By 1889, one Toronto firm, W.J. Gage & Co., was using stamps with perforated initials including the 10c Small Queen. In 1893 a few additional firms started using perfins, but not the 10c Small Queen—it only exists with the W.J. Gage & Co. perfins and no other. The January 1898 Official Postage Guide formally authorized the use of perfins—Perforated Stamps - No objection is made by the Department to the perforation of postage stamps with the initials of the individual firm using them".



Upright Inverted and reversed

## The uses | Pre-UPU

Upon its issuance, the 10c Small Queen was frequently used to pay the 10c pre-UPU letter rate to continental Europe. This continued up to Canada's admission to the Universal Postal Union (UPU) on August 1, 1878, when the letter rate to most countries was reduced to 5¢. The census of 10c Small Queen covers currently include 74 pre-UPU covers, with the most common destinations being France (27), the British Isles (15) and Belgium (9).



1876 dull lac, perf 11x12 September 11, 1876 - Quebec to Bohemia, Austria Empire - 10c pre-UPU letter rate. Canada only had domestic and US post rates at that time. The 2¢ in red denotes the British claim for 25 percent (5¢) for delivery of the cover to Austria. Only recorded pre-UPU use of a 10c Small Queen to Austria Empire. Only 2 examples of 10c Small Queen are recorded used on a post card

1877 deep magenta, perf 11x12 February 27, 1877 - Preston to Germany - 10c pre-UPU letter rate. Only 4 examples of pre-UPU 10c Small Queen single ranking covers to Germany are recorded

1878 magenta, perf 11x12 July 28, 1878 - Gibraltar to France - 10c pre-UPU letter rate. The rate was reduced to the 5¢ UPU letter rate 7 days after this letter was mailed

## The uses | Pre-UPU registered

The 10c Small Queen was useful in the ranking of registered letters during the pre-UPU period due to the high postal rates associated with such letters. Of the 724 10c Small Queen covers currently recorded, only eight registered covers are recorded during the pre-UPU period. Of these, five are addressed to England, and one is addressed to each of Ireland, Norway and Spain; three unique covers are displayed here (Norway and Spain) and on the first page of this exhibit (Ireland).



1874 pale milky rose lac, perf 11x12 | July 23, 1875 - Halifax to Norway - 14¢ pre-UPU letter rate plus 16¢ registration fee, for a total rate of 30¢. Only recorded 10c Small Queen registered cover to Norway, and has been described as the most important Small Queen cover

Illustration: Canada's Small Queen Era, George B. Arden, p.308 CAPEX '96 Gems of Canadian Philately, p.64

1878 magenta, perf 11x12 | June 6, 1878 - Quebec to Spain - 10c pre-UPU letter rate plus 16¢ registration fee, for a total rate of 26¢. A new discovery and unrecorded to date. Only recorded 10c Small Queen registered cover to Spain, and earliest recorded use of the 5¢ Registered Letter Stamp to any overseas destination

## The uses | Non-UPU

Some countries joined the UPU at a later date than Canada did on August 1, 1878. Postal rates to these countries remained high during this "non-UPU" period as compared to the standard 5¢ UPU letter rate. Twenty-seven non-UPU rate covers are currently recorded bearing the 10c Small Queen, including 11 to New Zealand, 10 to Australian States and four to China.



1877 deep magenta, perf 11x12 (late use) January 2, 1884 - Sydney Mines to Victoria, Australia - 15¢ non-UPU letter rate. The 10c stamp shows the "Gash in 1" constant plate variety. Only 5 examples of the 10c with "Gash in 1" constant plate variety are recorded on cover

1879 rose lac, perf 12x12 December 10, 1879 - Carlton Station to New Zealand - 15¢ non-UPU letter rate. Only recorded example of 10c non-UPU letter rate to New Zealand (most others are at the lower 12c non-UPU rate)

1880 rose lac, perf 12x12 February 19, 1881 - Montreal to China - 20¢ double weight non-UPU letter rate. Only recorded example of 20¢ double weight non-UPU letter rate to China

## The uses | UPU

The UPU permitted its members to charge a surtax for cases of lengthy sea transit. The United Kingdom imposed this optional surtax for several destinations up to 1887 for the Caribbean, Central and South America, and up to 1891 for Indian Ocean area (Asia). Although 10c Small Queen UPU surtax covers are common to India (with 127 records), they are rare to other destinations, with only two recorded to Jamaica and one recorded to each of Trinidad and Java. These three rare destinations are displayed below.



1879 deep dull rose lac, perf 12x12 December 8, 1879 - Halifax to Jamaica - paying 10c UPU letter rate, but sent via US postcard at 5¢ UPU rate rather than via the British packets (Canada Line). Only 2 examples of 10c Small Queen are recorded paying 10c UPU surtax to Jamaica (both sent via US postcard)

1882 purple, perf 12x12 March 9, 1883 - Ottawa to Trinidad - paying 15¢ UPU letter rate. Only recorded example of 15¢ UPU letter rate to Trinidad

1887 magenta, perf 12x12 September 8, 1887 - Yarmouth to Java, Dutch East Indies - paying 10c UPU letter rate. Only recorded example of 10c UPU letter rate to Dutch East Indies

## The uses | UPU

Following Canada joining the UPU and the introduction of the standard 5¢ letter rate in 1878, the volume of mail sent overseas increased significantly. The registration fee was also significantly reduced to a uniform 5¢. Currently 324 10c Small Queen covers are recorded paid based on a UPU rate, of which 85 are registered (a significant increase when compared to the pre-UPU period).



1882 purple, perf 12x12 January 21, 1883 - Sydney to Cuba - paying 10¢ (up to 1 oz.) 2nd step UPU letter rate. Only recorded example of a 10c Small Queen to Cuba

1885 deep rose carmine, perf 12x12 April 1, 1885 - Galt to Toronto, Turkey in Asia - paying 5¢ UPU letter rate plus 5¢ registration fee. Only recorded solo use of a 10c Small Queen to Turkey

1883 rose carmine, perf 12x12 May 23, 1883 - Hamilton to Sweden - paying 15¢ (up to 1 oz.) 2nd step UPU letter rate plus 5¢ registration fee. Only 2 examples recorded of a 10c Small Queen on a registered cover to Sweden

## The uses | Domestic and to the United States

The 10c Small Queen did not lend itself to be used broadly on domestic mail or mail to the United States as a result of the letter mail being based on increments of 3¢. Of the 122 covers or items recorded domestically and 35 to the United States (representing only 17% of all recorded 10c Small Queen covers), about 40% are large registered items, while most of the others are some form of non-letter mail (printed matter, bulk mailing receipts or fifth class mail).



1887 magenta, perf 12x12 May 30, 1887 - Coburne to Coburne - paying 12¢ (up to 2 oz.) 4th step domestic letter rate plus 5¢ registration fee. Only 4 examples recorded of 10c Small Queen paying this rate

1884 rose carmine, perf 12x12 Montreal to New York, USA - paying 11¢ printed matter rate (1¢ per 4 oz. = total weight of 41 to 44 oz.). Only recorded example of 10c Small Queen paying this rate

1886 pink, perf 12x12 Montreal to Hamilton - paying 10¢ fifth class mail rate (1¢ per 1 oz. = total weight of 10 oz.). 6 examples recorded of 10c Small Queen on fifth class rate items

# Canada – The 10¢ Small Queen of 1874-1897

The first of the Small Queen stamps was issued in January 1870. The 10¢ Small Queen, the subject of this traditional exhibit, was issued in November 1874 despite a lack of changes in postal rates or new specific requirements for this denomination. Initially, the primary purpose of this value was to pay the letter rate to various European countries, notably France. This changed over time as a result of a general reduction in postal rates.

The 10¢ Small Queen was printed in relatively small quantities (4.2 million stamps over 23 years), resulting in a wide array of shades which have always fascinated collectors. The 10¢ Small Queen is the rarest denomination of the issue to find on covers. The exhibitor has maintained a census of recorded covers, which currently stands at 724 (about 30 per year of use).

This exhibit was developed to include all aspects of the 10¢ Small Queen, starting with rare pre-production material, dated used stamps supporting the evolution of the colour, examples showing the different types of gums and papers, an extensive group of mint stamps including important Montreal printing multiples, plate varieties, imperforate stamps, newly-introduced stamp handling processes (precancels and perfins) and a curated group of covers showing the most exceptional uses of the 10¢ Small Queen, several of which are unique based on the original census research of the exhibitor.



1875 pale milky pink, perf 11½×12 | August 19, 1875 - Toronto to Ballymonte, Ireland - 12¢ (up to 1 oz.) 2<sup>nd</sup> step pre-UPU letter rate plus 8¢ registration fee. *Only recorded pre-UPU registered cover to Ireland with 10¢ Small Queen*

## Exhibit Plan

### The stamps

Pre-production material	p.2	Ottawa printings	p.7
The plate	p.3	Plate and production varieties	p.8
Shades, gums and papers	p.4	Imperforate stamps	p.9
Montreal printings	p.5-6	Precancels and perfins	p.10

### The uses

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Pre-UPU registered	p.12	UPU	p.15
Non-UPU	p.13	Domestic and US	p.16

On September 8, 1874, the Post Office requested the British American Bank Note Company (BABN) to prepare a ten cent stamp, the "colour to be light pink and the stamp to be of the ordinary size". The BABN used the existing vignette of Queen Victoria from the Large Queen and Small Queen issues. The vignette was engraved by Alfred Jones, Vice-President of the BABN, while the lettering is believed to have been completed by William C. Smillie, President of the BABN. A few die proofs are recorded in private hands. Plate proofs are recorded in three different colours.



Engraving of Queen Victoria by Alfred Jones



Die proof in dull rose lilac on watermarked paper showing "188" (partial year of production)

*7 die proofs are recorded, only 2 of which are on watermarked paper*



Plate proofs in magenta



Plate proof in dull rose



Plate proofs in bright pink

In 1891, the Government of Canada undertook a competitive tendering process for the printing of postage stamps. On November 7, 1891, both the BABN and the Canadian Bank Note Engraving & Printing Company (CBNEP) submitted tenders. Although both offers were "very nearly equal", the BABN was granted the new contract on the basis of years of satisfactory work and recent expenses incurred to erect new premises in Ottawa. As part of this process, the CBNEP prepared dies and plates for 1¢, 2¢ and 3¢ values, while only dies were prepared for 5¢, 10¢ and 15¢ values. Only six examples of the 10¢ die essay are recorded, three of which are displayed below.



Die essay in green

*2 examples recorded in this colour*



5c, 10c and 15c composite die essays in deep carmine

*Only 3 composite die essays are recorded, each in a different colour*



Die essay in brownish red

*Unique example recorded in this colour*

## The plate

## Imprints and counters

A single plate of 100 subjects was prepared for the 10¢ Small Queen and used to print all stamps from 1874 to 1897. The plate has BABN inscriptions on each side, along with a "10" counter at upper left and a "TEN" counter in shaded font at upper right. The plate had no other identification letters or numbers.



Bright rose lilac  
1884



Lilac rose  
1888



Rose carmine  
1894



Brown red  
1896



Deep brown red  
1897

## Shades, gums and papers

The 23 years of production of the 10¢ Small Queen resulted in different gums and papers being used, along with various perforations (simplified here in three groups—perf  $11\frac{1}{2}\times 12$ ,  $11\frac{3}{4}\times 12$  and  $12\times 12$ —perforated  $12\times 12$  unless indicated otherwise). Finally, dated stamps allow for the proper allocation of shades to specific printing period or year. The differences between the Montreal printing period (1874 to 1888) and the Ottawa printing period (1889-1897) are generally quite noticeable when compared side-by-side.

Gums (per Hillson & Nixon types)								
	Streaky gum (Type W)	Speckled streaky gum (Type W variant)	Smooth yellow gum (Type Y)	Smooth thick cream gum (Type Z)	Smooth thick yellowish gum (Type Z)	Smooth thick brownish gum (Type Z)		
	Papers (per Hillson & Nixon types)							
		Smooth medium to thick paper (Type D)	Medium to thick greyish horizontal wove (Type E)	White with distinct vertical mesh (Type E variant)	Thin paper, poor quality, prone to toning (Type Gi)	Thicker yellow paper, better quality (Type Gii)	White paper, better quality (Type Gii)	
		Shades and perforations						
			1874 ( $11\frac{1}{2}\times 12$ )	1875 ( $11\frac{1}{2}\times 12$ )	1876 ( $11\frac{1}{2}\times 12$ )	1876 ( $11\frac{3}{4}\times 12$ )	1877 ( $11\frac{1}{2}\times 12$ )	1878 ( $11\frac{1}{2}\times 12$ )
1879			1881	1882	1883	1885	1887	
1889	1891		1892	1893	1893	1894		
1895	1896		1896	1896	1897	1897		

From 1874 to 1888 the 10¢ Small Queen was printed by the BABN from their Montreal premises. As noted previously, the Post Office Department asked for this value to be printed in "light pink", but the results proved unsuitable. The colour was changed in late 1875 to darker shades of dull lilac, which further evolved over the years to darker shades of rose lilac and purple from 1878 to 1886, and brighter shades of magenta from 1887 to 1888.



Pale milky rose lilac  
(11½×12), 1874



Pale milky pink  
(11½×12), 1875



Dull rose lilac  
(11½×12), 1875



Dull lilac  
(11½×12), 1876



Deep magenta  
(11½×12), 1877



Rose lilac  
(12×12), 1879



Rose lilac  
(12×12), 1880



Deep rose lilac  
(12×12), 1881



Purple  
(12×12), 1882



Deep purple ("plum")  
(12×12), 1882



Deep bright purple  
(12×12), 1883



Bright rose lilac  
(12×12), 1884



Bright rose lilac  
(12×12), 1885



Magenta, thin paper  
(12×12), 1887



Magenta, thick paper  
(12×12), 1887



Pale bright magenta  
(12×12), 1887



Dull rose lilac  
(11½×12), 1877



Deep magenta  
(11½×12), 1877



Magenta  
(12×12), 1887



Magenta  
(11½×12), 1877



Light rose lilac  
(12×12), 1884



Rose lilac  
(12×12), 1885

*Largest recorded mint multiple perf 11½×12  
(2 blocks of 4 are recorded)*



Reddish purple  
(12×12), 1881

*Largest recorded mint multiple from 1874-1886 printings*

From 1889 to 1897 the 10¢ Small Queen was printed by the BABN from their Ottawa premises. It continued to be printed in a wide range of shades. From 1889 to 1893 the stamps were printed in a range of dull rose to carmine shades. From 1893 to 1896 the shades varied from vibrant rose carmine to softer shades of rose pink. In 1896 the pink changed to "salmon" shades, and further evolved to brown red by the end of 1896. Finally a deep brown red shade, or brick red, appeared in 1897.



Dark dull rose  
1890



Dark rose carmine  
1893



Rose carmine  
1894



Bright rose carmine  
1895



Bright rose pink  
1895



Rose pink  
1896



Brown red  
1896



Deep brown red  
1897



Pale dull rose, thin paper  
1891



Rose carmine  
1894



Pink  
1896



Brown red  
1896



Deep brown red  
1897

## Plate and production varieties

Despite no evidence existing that the sole plate used to print the 10¢ Small Queen was repaired at any time during its life, three constant plate varieties are recorded. In addition a rare perforation variety has been recorded, the so-called "perf 12½", likely the result of excessive shrinking of the paper. Other production varieties also exist, including misperforated stamps and improperly printed stamps.



From plate positions 78-80, 88-90, with *Gash in 1* variety (position 88) and re-entry of top frame line and spandrels (position 89)

Rose lilac  
(12×12), 1885

Only 2 mint Montreal printing blocks recorded with both plate varieties



Deep brown red  
from positions 86-89, with *Gash in 1* variety (position 88) and re-entry of top frame line and spandrels (position 89)  
1897



Dull rose  
Weak *Pitted 0* variety  
from position 21  
1892



Rose carmine  
Strong *Pitted 0* variety  
from position 21  
1894



Brown red  
*Gash in 1* variety  
from position 88  
1896



Deep purple ("plum"), 1882  
Perf 12.4×12.2 due to excessive paper shrinkage, the so-called "Perf 12½"



Misperforated horizontally and vertically



Ink smears due to improper plate wiping

## The imperforates

## Including constant plate varieties

Along with other values of the issue, the 10¢ Small Queen is known in imperforate format. None of the imperforate stamps were regularly issued to the public. Rather, it is believed that a number of imperforate sheets of Small Queens were given by the Post Office Department authorities in Ottawa to Mr. Lauchlan Gibbs of Montreal who had provided them advice on designs and new issues. It is estimated that 1,000 imperforate 10¢ stamps were thus released. They exist in three shades, one with gum and two without gum as prepared.

Rose pink  
ungummed



Brown red  
Type V imprint  
gummed



Rose carmine  
ungummed



As the imperforate stamps were printed from the regular printing plates, the constant plate varieties found on the normal perforated stamps can also be found on the imperforate stamps. Given the small number of imperforate sheets of the 10¢ Small Queen that were prepared and released, the imperforate stamps with varieties exist in exceptionally low numbers—10 being the maximum possible numbers.



Rose carmine, ungummed

Brown red, gummed

Re-entry of top frame line and spandrels on Position 89

*7 of the 10 examples printed have been recorded*



Rose pink, ungummed

Strong Pitted 0 variety on Position 21

*6 of the 10 examples printed have been recorded*

## Precancels and perfin

Precanceled stamps, or precancels, are postage stamps which have been cancelled prior to being affixed to mail. They were typically used by mass mailers, who could save the Post Office time and effort from not having to individually cancel mailed items. By 1888 the use of precancels had started in Canada. Precancels were most prevalent on lower denomination stamps used on individual circulars, newspapers and other printed matters, but higher denominations were also precanceled. The precancelled 10¢ Small Queen was used on bulk mailing receipts and individual heavier items sent by mass mailers. The *Standard Canada Precancel Catalogue* identifies 18 different styles of "bar" precancels, of which 6 have been found on the 10¢ Small Queen.



Style A  
double



Style I



Style J



Style J  
double



Style J  
vertical



Style J  
vertical double



Style R



Style R  
double



Style S



Style S  
double



Style T



Style T  
vertical

In 1868 the concept of perforated initials, or "perfin", was introduced in the United Kingdom to prevent theft of stamps by employees of large commercial firms. By 1889, one Toronto firm, W.J. Gage & Co., was using stamps with perforated initials including the 10¢ Small Queen. In 1893 a few additional firms started using perfin, but not the 10¢ Small Queen—it only exists with the W.J. Gage & Co. perfin and no other. The January 1896 Official Postage Guide formally authorized the use of perfin—"Perforated Stamps - No objection is made by the Department to the perforation of postage stamps with the initials of the individual or firm using them".



Upright



Inverted and reversed

## The uses | Pre-UPU

Upon its issuance, the 10¢ Small Queen was frequently used to pay the 10¢ pre-UPU letter rate to continental Europe. This continued up to Canada's admission to the Universal Postal Union (UPU) on August 1, 1878, when the letter rate to most countries was reduced to 5¢. The census of 10¢ Small Queen covers currently include 74 pre-UPU covers, with the most common destinations being France (27), the British Isles (19) and Belgium (9).

**1876 dull lilac, perf 11½×12**

September 11, 1876 - Quebec to Bohemia, Austrian Empire - 10¢ pre-UPU letter rate (Canada only had domestic and US post card rates at that time). The 2½ in red denotes the British claim for 2½ pence (5¢) for delivery of the cover to Austria.

*Only recorded pre-UPU use of a 10¢ Small Queen to Austrian Empire*

*Only 2 examples of 10¢ Small Queen are recorded used on a post card*



**1877 deep magenta, perf 11½×12**

February 27, 1877 - Preston to Germany - 10¢ pre-UPU letter rate.

*Only 4 examples of pre-UPU 10¢ Small Queen single franking covers to Germany are recorded*

**1878 magenta, perf 11½×12**

July 25, 1878 - Stellarton to France - 10¢ pre-UPU letter rate.

The rate was reduced to the 5¢ UPU letter rate 7 days after this latter was mailed.



The 10¢ Small Queen was useful in the franking of registered letters during the pre-UPU period due to the high postal rates associated with such letters. Of the 724 10¢ Small Queen covers currently recorded, only eight registered covers are recorded during the pre-UPU period. Of these, five are addressed to England, and one is addressed to each of Ireland, Norway and Spain; these three unique covers are displayed here (Norway and Spain) and on the first page of this exhibit (Ireland).



1874 pale milky rose lilac, perf 11½×12 | July 23, 1875 - Halifax to Norway - 14¢ pre-UPU letter rate plus 16¢ registration fee, for a total rate of 30¢.

*Only recorded 10¢ Small Queen registered cover to Norway; and has been described as the most important Small Queen cover*

Illustrations: Canada's Small Queen Era, George B. Arfken, p.326  
CAPEX '96 Gems of Canadian Philately, p.64



1878 magenta, perf 11½×12 | June 8, 1878 - Quebec to Spain - 10¢ pre-UPU letter rate plus 16¢ registration fee, for a total rate of 26¢. A new discovery and unrecorded in literature.

*Only recorded 10¢ Small Queen registered cover to Spain; and earliest recorded use of the 5¢ Registered Letter Stamp to any overseas destination*

## The uses | Non-UPU

Some countries joined the UPU at a later date than Canada did on August 1, 1878. Postal rates to these countries remained high during this "non-UPU" period as compared to the standard 5¢ UPU letter rate. Twenty-seven non-UPU rate covers are currently recorded bearing the 10¢ Small Queen, including 11 to New Zealand, 10 to Australian States and four to China.



1877 deep magenta, perf 11½×12 (late use)

January 2, 1884 - Sydney Mines to Victoria, Australia - 15¢ non-UPU letter rate.

The 10¢ stamp shows the "Gash in 1" constant plate variety.

Only 5 examples of the 10¢ with "Gash in 1" constant plate variety are recorded on cover



1879 rose lilac, perf 12×12

December 10, 1879 - Carleton Station to New Zealand - 15¢ non-UPU letter rate.

Only recorded example of 15¢ non-UPU letter rate to New Zealand (most others are at the later 12¢ non-UPU rate)



1880 rose lilac, perf 12×12

February 19, 1881 - Montreal to China - 20¢ double weight non-UPU letter rate.

Only recorded example of 20¢ double weight non-UPU letter rate to China

The UPU permitted its members to charge a surtax for cases of lengthy sea transit. The United Kingdom imposed this optional surtax for several destination up to 1887 for the Caribbean, Central and South America, and up to 1891 for Indian Ocean area (Asia). Although 10¢ Small Queen UPU surtax covers are common to India (with 127 recorded), they are rare to other destinations, with only two recorded to Jamaica and one recorded to each of Trinidad and Java. These three rare destinations are displayed below.



1879 deep dull rose lilac, perf 12x12

December 6, 1879 - Halifax to Jamaica - paying 10¢ UPU surtax letter rate, but sent via US packet at 5¢ UPU rate rather than via the British packets (Cunard Line).

*Only 2 examples of 10¢ Small Queen are recorded paying 10¢ UPU surtax to Jamaica (both sent via US packet)*



1882 purple, perf 12x12

March 9, 1883 - Ottawa to Trinidad - paying 10¢ UPU surtax letter rate.

*Only recorded example of 10¢ UPU surtax letter rate to Trinidad*



1887 magenta, perf 12x12

September 9, 1887 - Yarmouth to Java, Dutch East Indies - paying 10¢ UPU surtax letter rate.

*Only recorded example of 10¢ UPU surtax letter rate to Dutch East Indies*

Following Canada joining the UPU and the introduction of the standard 5¢ letter rate in 1878, the volume of mail sent overseas increased significantly. The registration fee was also significantly reduced to a uniform 5¢. Currently 324 10¢ Small Queen covers are recorded paid based on a UPU rate, of which 85 are registered (a significant increase when compared to the pre-UPU period).

1882 purple, perf 12x12

January 31, 1883 - Sydney to Cuba - paying 10¢ (up to 1 oz.) 2<sup>nd</sup> step UPU letter rate.

Only recorded example of a 10¢ Small Queen to Cuba



1895 deep rose carmine, perf 12x12

April 1, 1896 - Galt to Tarsus, Turkey in Asia - paying 5¢ UPU letter rate plus 5¢ registration fee.

Only recorded solo use of a 10¢ Small Queen to Turkey



1893 rose carmine, perf 12x12

May 23, 1893 - Hamilton to Sweden - paying 10¢ (up to 1 oz.) 2<sup>nd</sup> step UPU letter rate plus 5¢ registration fee.

Only 2 examples recorded of a 10¢ Small Queen on a registered cover to Sweden



**The uses | Domestic and to the United States**

The 10¢ Small Queen did not lead itself to be used broadly on domestic mail or mail to the United States as a result of the letter mail being based on increments of 3¢. Of the 122 covers or items recorded domestically and 35 to the United States (representing only 17% of all recorded 10¢ Small Queen covers), about 40% are large registered items, while most of the others are some form of non-letter mail (printed matter, bulk mailing receipts or fifth class mail).



**1887 magenta, perf 12×12**

May 30, 1887 - Colborne to Cobourg - paying 12¢ (up to 2 oz.) 4<sup>th</sup> step domestic letter rate plus 2¢ registration fee.

*Only 4 examples recorded of 10¢ Small Queen paying this rate*

**1894 rose carmine, perf 12×12**

Montreal to New York, USA - paying 11¢ printed matter rate (1¢ per 4 oz. = total weight of 41 to 44 oz.).

*Only recorded example of 10¢ Small Queen paying this rate*



**1896 pink, perf 12×12**

Montreal to Hamilton - paying 10¢ fifth class mail rate (1¢ per 1 oz. = total weight of 10 oz.).

*6 examples recorded of 10¢ Small Queen on fifth class rate items*