

## *The Constant Plate Varieties of the Eight Cent Small Queen*

Canada's first Eight Cent stamp was issued in August, 1893 as a late addition to the Small Queen issue which started in 1870. Its purpose was to prepay both Postage (3¢) and Registration (5¢). It was also used to 'make up' other rates, but much less frequently. It is the only stamp in the Small Queen issue in which the Queen faces to the left and who's portrait is in an oval rather than a circle.

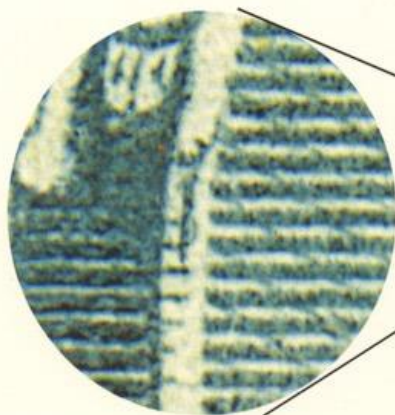
The various catalogues mention several different shades used in the production of these stamps, but only one Constant Plate Variety - the Major Re-entry. While most are admittedly not catalogue 'worthy', there are a considerable number of Constant Plate Varieties to be found on this issue. The majority are Guidelines and Guide Dots which are often more obvious than those found on other Small Queen values.

The following pages will illustrate most, if not all, of the Constant Plate Varieties. While there will be no attempt to describe the many different shades of the Eight Cent, there will be instances where duplicate examples of a variety will be displayed. These will provide the observer with some insight to the many colour varieties within the issue.

Where present, covers illustrate the use of the Eight Cent showing the variety in question.



Unreported  
Re-entry



As the enlarged image clearly shows, this Plate Proof, on card mounted india paper, shows a significant Re-entry - one that has not been reported and has not been found on the actual stamps. It is likely that this error was corrected after the plate was proofed, but before it was used for the production of stamps.

The exact number of Plate Proofs produced is not known, but was very small, so this item may be unique.