

The Stamps of Canada, Chapter 58

The 2 Cents Carmine of 1899

Based on a Mekeel's Weekly Publication by B. W. H. Poole, with images added



[Note: except for the mention of the booklet pane, we covered this stamp, Scott 77, as part of the Canada Numeral Issues, Chapter XV. JFD.]

According to the Post Office circular quoted in our last chapter the issue of the 2¢ stamp in carmine—or red, as the color was officially termed—was to begin when the supply of surcharged 3¢ stamps was exhausted. The new 2¢ stamp was eventually placed on sale on August 20th, 1899, and it is, of course, exactly like the same value previously issued in purple in all respects except that of color. The same plates were used and later many new ones were put to press. No accurate record of the different plates used for this denomination has been kept but, in addition to plates 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 listed by Mr. Howes, there were probably many others.

In 1900 Canada followed the lead of many other countries by issuing the 2¢ value in convenient booklet form. The Postmaster-General's Report for 1900 refers to these booklets as follows:—

“In the month of June, 1900, the department commenced the issue to Postmasters, of a small book of 2 cent postage stamps, containing 12 stamps, disposed on two sheets of 6 stamps each, and interleaved with wax paper to prevent adhesion of the sheets. The size of the book is such as to make it convenient to be carried in the pocket or pocket-book. Printed on the cover is postal information calculated to be of interest to the public. The price at which the book is issued is 25 cents, one cent over the face value of the stamps being charged to cover the cost of binding, etc.

“These stamp books were first placed on sale on June 11th and they rapidly came into public favor as is evidenced by the increasing sales every year since. Mr. Howes tells us that “the books are about two by three inches in size, with stiff cardboard covers which are bound together by red cloth. The coat-of-arms of Canada with the words CANADA POSTAGE beneath are engraved in red on the front cover, while inside are four pages of postal information and the two sheets of six stamps each—three horizontal pairs—backed by leaves of paraffined tissue paper.”

Reference List.

Aug. 20th, 1899. Engraved and printed by the American Bank Note Co., Ottawa. No Wmk. Perf. 12.

[Author's No.] 75. 2¢ carmine, Scott's No. 77b.

The Stamps of Canada

Chapter 59

The 20¢ Value of 1900

Based on a Mekeel's Weekly Publication by B. W. H. Poole, with images added

[Note: We covered this stamp, Scott 84, as part of the Canada Numeral Issues, Chapter XV and have added images to accompany this additional Chapter in the Poole manuscript. JFD.]

* * * * *

On the 29th of December, 1900, a 20¢ value was added to the Numeral series, its advent being quite unannounced. The large 20¢ stamps of 1893 had been finally used up and the new label not only conformed to the others of the series in design but also took on a new color—olive-green in place of scarlet.

It was printed from the usual style of line-engraved plate with the usual sheet arrangement of 100 stamps arranged in ten horizontal rows of ten each, with the imprint and plate number in the centre of the top margin. Only one plate—numbered “1”—seems to have been used and Mr. Howes tells us that “an examination of the stamp accounts during its term of life make it appear probable that approximately 500,000 were issued.”



Sc. 84P 20¢ Large Die Proof in black on India paper on thin card with Die No F-122 and complete AMERICAN BANK NOTE CO. OTTAWA IMPRINT; Sc. 84P Small Die Proof; stamp as issued, with Specimen overprint.

The Stamps of Canada: Chapter 60

The Queen Victoria Seven Cents

Based on a Mekeel's Weekly Publication by B. W. H. Poole, with images added

[Note: We covered this stamp, Scott 81, as part of the Canada Numeral Issues, Chapter XV and have added images to accompany this additional Chapter in the Poole manuscript. JFD.]

Although the reduction in the domestic rate of postage from 3¢ to 2¢ in 1899 made the 8¢ stamp—which was primarily intended for the combined payment of postage and the registration fee—of little use, it was not until December, 1902, that this value was replaced by a seven cents denomination. The new stamp was first announced as being in preparation in a newspaper despatch dated Ottawa, Dec. 18th, 1902, viz.:



7¢ olive yellow tied by Burtts Corner, New Brunswick Nov. 2, 1903 c.d.s. to registered cover to New York



Left to right: Left to right: 7¢ Trial Color Die Proof in brown with die No O-10 and complete American Bank Note Co. Ottawa imprint; Plate Proof in color of issue on India paper mounted on card; issued stamp with Specimen overprint.

The Post Office Department announces that on the 24th instant it will be in a position to supply a seven cent postage stamp to accounting post-offices throughout Canada. This stamp, which is of yellow color, will be especially convenient for postage and registration fee on single rate letters, while it may also be used for other postage purposes to the extent of its face value. Non-accounting offices can obtain their supply through the city post offices. This new stamp will bear the Queen's head, the department not having yet decided on the design of the King's head issue.

This posthumous Queen's head stamp was of similar design to the other values of the numeral series and had the same sheet arrangement and marginal inscriptions. There was but one plate—numbered "1"—from which Mr. Howes estimates about one million stamps were printed.

This stamp was issued on December 23rd, 1902, according to a statement in the official Report.

Reference List.

Dec. 23rd, 1902. Engraved and printed by the American Bank Note Co., Ottawa. No Watermark. Perf. 12.
Author's No. 77. 7¢ olive-yellow, Scott's No. 81.



7¢ plate proof with Ottawa—No— imprint, without a plate number

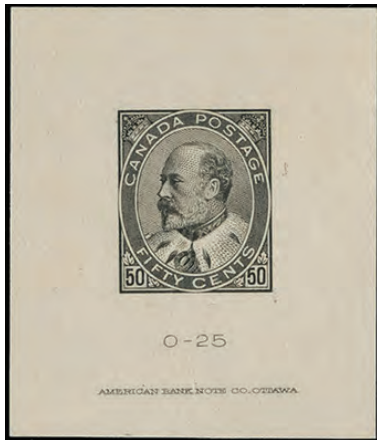
The Stamps of Canada: Chapter 61

The King Edward VII Issue

Based on a Mekeel's Weekly Publication by B. W. H. Poole, with images added

(In this first Chapter for the 1903 King Edward VII issue we illustrate pieces leading up to production of the stamps, as well as one stamp as issued. JFD.)

King Edward VII ascended the throne on January 22nd, 1901, but it was not until nearly two and a half years later that the Dominion of Canada issued new stamps bearing the portrait of the new sovereign. In the meantime there was much comment



50¢ Large Record Die Proof in Black on thin glazed card from the hardened state with American Bank Note Co. Ottawa imprint and die number O-25, Sc. 95P.



Composite Essay Presentation Panel prepared in November 1901 by American Bank Note for the transition to the proposed Edward VII issue, which was to replicate the Victorian Numeral issue but use a central portrait of the new King. Five different elements are mounted on a thick card including a single 2¢ Numeral and 2¢ Edward in carmine, a bi-colored 2¢ Edward denomination, a set-tenant horizontal pair of a 1¢ green Numeral and Edward and a 'stamp-sized' photographic sepia reproduction of the central vignette portion to be used.



Same portrait as seen in the panel, this is a post-contemporary vignette die proof in sepia black on stiff wove showing Edward VII in full regalia with caption "King Edward VII" and die number "163", possibly prepared for use by the American Bank Note Co. on a banknote



Above, 1¢ De La Rue Essay consisting of a perforated 14 stamp in carmine mounted on thin glazed card, Sc. 89-E; left, the 1¢ stamp, Sc. 89, as issue, printed by ABNC.



Above, 1¢ Perkins Bacon Plate Essay pair in black on thin gummed wove paper; left, Large 1¢ Perkins Bacon Die Essay in Green on thin card, Sc. 89E



concerning the expected stamps appeared in the *Metropolitan Philatelist* for April 18th, 1903, viz:—

"The King's head series of Canadian stamps will probably shortly make its appearance. The die has been received by the Post Office Department and approved of. The stamp will be very similar to the present stamp except that the maple leaf in each of the upper corners will be replaced by a crown. The figures of value will appear in the lower corners as at present and the value will be spelled out as at present in the oval frame which surrounds the portrait. This frame will be as in the present stamp. The portrait of the King shows him three-quarters to the right, head and shoulders, as the Queen is in the present stamp, but there is no crown on his head. The portrait is an exceptionally nice one and it is understood that Royalty has had something to do with its selection. The die was made in England, although the American Bank Note Co. are contractors for the government work."

and speculation as to when the new stamps would appear and as to what form they would take, though the Post Office Department for reasons best known to itself, exercised a discreet silence on the matter.

Early in 1903 it was reported in the newspapers that designs had been submitted and that the Postmaster-General had chosen one "bearing an excellent likeness of His Majesty." But the earliest detailed information

The Stamps of Canada: Chapter 62

The King Edward VII Issue, Part 2

Based on a Mekeel's Weekly Publication by B. W. H. Poole, with images added



Left to right, Scott 89-95

These details [in the designs planned for the Edward VII issue] all proved correct and shortly afterwards postmasters were given definite information with regard to the forthcoming stamps by means of an official circular, dated June 10th, and worded as follows:—

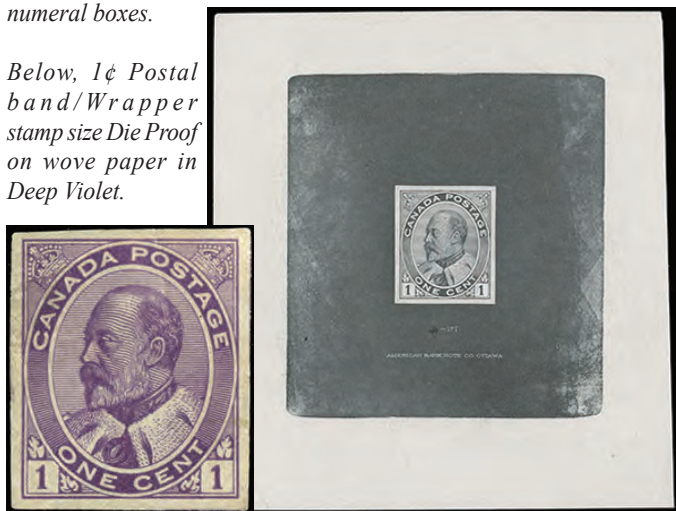
“Postmasters are hereby informed that a new issue of postage stamps, bearing the portrait of His Majesty, King Edward VII, and comprising five denominations (1¢, 2¢, 5¢, 7¢ and 10¢), is about to be supplied to Postmasters for sale in the usual way, but none of these stamps are to be sold until the first of July, 1903.

The colors of the forthcoming series will be the same respectively as those now used for the denominations specified, except that the shade of the 7¢ will be slightly deeper.

“Postmasters will please bear in mind that, notwithstanding the new issue, they are not to return to the Department any of the old stamps on hand, but will sell them in the ordinary way. At first, the public may prefer getting new stamps, and if so, there is no objection to this wish being acceded to, but it is also desirable to work off in due course all remnants of old stamps. A change in the design of the stamp of the present series of postcards, post-bands and stamped envelopes, to correspond with that above referred to, will be made as soon as the present stock of these items shall have been exhausted.”

Large 1¢ Postal Band/Wrapper Relief Printed Die Proof in Black on thin white card with glossy front surface and Die number “C-171” and full American Bank Note Co. Ottawa imprint, uncleared except for numeral boxes.

Below, 1¢ Postal band/Wrapper stamp size Die Proof on wove paper in Deep Violet.



The new King Edward 1¢, 2¢, 5¢, 7¢ and 10¢ stamps were accordingly issued to the public on Dominion Day (July 1st), 1903.

It will be noted in one of the extracts quoted above that the die

for the new stamps was engraved in London, and shortly after the appearance of the stamps the *London Philatelist* published the following article which is of such interest as to merit its reproduction in full:—

“Although for a long time past we have been aware of the circumstances attending the preparation of the new postage stamps for Canada, and in a position to illustrate the approved design, we have refrained from publishing the facts in compliance with the desire of the authorities that no details should be made public until the stamps have been completed and were ready to be put into circulation. We believe that the delay which has taken place in bringing out the new issue has been due to questions arising out of the existing contract under which the postage stamps of the Dominion are produced, and that even after the approval of the design and the receipt of the die some difficulties were experienced in connection with the preparation of the plates by the contractors.

“These have happily been surmounted, and now that the issue is an accomplished fact it is with much gratification that we illustrate the design of the new stamp, our illustration, prepared some time back, being taken from a proof from the steel die engraved by Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Co., of London, and used in the manufacture of the plates of the several values issued by the Canadian postal authorities on the 1st instant. By comparing our illustration

with the stamp as issued it will be seen that the contractors or the postal authorities have made some alterations in the design, which, in our judgment, are by no means improvements. The leaves in the lower corners have been



Left, the design as proposed, from a Large 1¢ Perkins Bacon Die Essay, Sc. 89E; right, the stamp as issued, Sc. 89.

redrawn on a smaller scale, and hardly impinge upon the frame; their drawing is vastly inferior, and the graceful effect of the broken circle is lost. The numerals of value are in color on a white ground reversing the original design, the labels being larger and the figures taller and thinner, this also detracting materially from the charming homogeneity of the stamp as first proposed. The greatest alteration, and the worst, is the substitution of heavy diagonal lines for horizontal ones in the background. The latter were finely drawn and delicately shaded, leaving the King's Head in clear outline, and framed by the dark oval band containing the inscriptions. The background and frame no longer present this artistic effect, and the whole design materially suffers thereby.

To be Continued

The Stamps of Canada: Chapter 63

The King Edward VII Issue, Part 3

Based on a Mekeel's Weekly Publication by B. W. H. Poole, with images added

“The circumstances connected with the inception of the [King Edward VII] issue are as gratifying as they are novel, and will be hailed with acclamation by the Philatelists of the British Empire.”

The Postmaster of Canada, Sir William Mulock, being one of the many distinguished visitors to this country [England] during the Coronation festivities, took the opportunity afforded by his visit of approaching the Prince of Wales, and of meeting His Royal Highness's suggestions and advice in the preparation of a new die for the Canadian stamps. The Prince, with his characteristic energy and courtesy, cheerfully undertook the task, and it will be seen from our illustration with absolute and conspicuous success. H. R. H. wisely decided, in the first instance, that it is advisable to have some continuity of design in succeeding issues, and therefore adopted the frame and groundwork of the then current stamps as a basis. In selecting a portrait of His Majesty the Prince decided to rely upon a photograph giving a true likeness of the King as we know him, in lieu of an idealised representation by an artist. The photograph eventually chosen, with the full approval of His Majesty, was one taken shortly before the Coronation.

The likeness is undoubtedly what is termed a speaking one, and with the addition of the Coronation robes represents as faithful and as pleasing a picture of the King, at the time of his accession to the throne, as it is possible to find. The introduction of the Tudor crowns in the upper angles, which was another of the Prince's innovations, obviates the difficulty that has so often made “the head that wears a crown” lie “uneasy” on a postage stamp. These emblems of sovereignty, taken in conjunction with the Canadian maple leaves in the lower angles, completes a design that for harmony, boldness and simplicity has assuredly not been excelled by any hitherto issued stamps of the British Empire. It is palpable, on analysing the stamp,



Scott 89

(1) that the attractiveness of the design has in no way been allowed to militate against its utility, for the country of origin and denomination are clearly expressed;

(2) that the boldness of the design has not been detracted from (as is so often the case) by superfluous ornamentation, and that the design has been artistically balanced by the introduction of the right-sized portrait and the proper treatment of light and shade.

These stamps were printed from line-engraved plates like those of the preceding issues, and the same sheet arrangement of 100 stamps in ten rows of ten each. The marginal imprint shown on the top margin of each sheet is like that shown on the Queen's head sheets and the plates for each value were numbered from 1 upwards. Mr. Howes records the following plates as having been used up to December, 1910:—

1 cent—Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 13, 14, 18, 19, 22, 24, 25, 34, 47, 48, 51, 52, 55, 58.

2 cents—Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 47, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 62, 63, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 78.

5 cents—Nos. 1, 2.

7 cents—No. 1.

10 cents—Nos. 1, 2.



1¢ deep green in top margin “OTTAWA-No-12”
Imprint block of eight

It is very possible other plates were used for most denominations before the King George stamps were issued in 1912. The colors were very similar to those employed for the corresponding values of the Queen's head series except as regards the 7¢, which was printed in a darker and more pleasing shade.

Nearly fifteen months elapsed before any other King Edward stamps were issued when, on September 27th, 1904, the 20¢ denomination made its appearance. This is of similar design to the others, was printed from the usual sized plate of 100, and bore imprint and plate number in the top margin as before. Only one plate has been recorded and as the use of this denomination did not average over 400,000 a year, it is quite probable that only this one plate was made. This value was issued in the olive-green shade adopted for its predecessor.



20¢ olive green in top margin “Ottawa-No-1” Imprint block of eight.

More than four years elapsed before the next and last value of the King Edward series appeared. This was the 50¢ denomination (see page 23), which was placed on sale on November 19th, 1908, after the supply of the old blue stamps first issued in 1893 was finally used up. In design, sheet arrangement, etc., it conforms with the others of the series. One plate—numbered 1—was used.



50¢ purple top margin "Ottawa-No-1 PO 72" Imprint block of eight

No 1/2¢ value was issued in the King Edward design although the Queen's head stamp of that denomination continued in use until 1909. This value was primarily intended for use in prepaying the postage on transient newspapers, but for many years the number sold to the public was out of all proportion to those which could have been required for its legitimate use. There is no doubt that large quantities were purchased by stamp dealers for wholesaling to packet makers and dealers in the cheap approval sheet business and, undoubtedly, stamp collectors in Canada usually preferred to use four 1/2¢ stamps on their letters rather than an ordinary 2¢ one. This excessive demand for the 1/2¢ resulted in the Post Office Department issuing the following circular to Postmasters in 1902:—

"The attention of postmasters is drawn to the fact that the postal necessity for the 1/2¢ stamp, as such, is now confined to one purpose—prepayment of newspapers and periodicals posted singly, and weighing not more than one ounce each. As publications of the kind referred to must, in the nature of things, be few, and as in the case of their being



A 1902 use of the 1/2¢ Numeral issue, Sc. 74, in a pair tied by "22 NO '02 Halifax & Campbellton West R.P.O." cancels to a 1¢ green stationery envelope, paying the 2¢ rate.

mailed to subscribers by the office of publication, the bulk rate of postage would be far cheaper and more convenient for the publisher, the demand for the 1/2¢ stamp throughout the Dominion must be appreciably diminished as a result of this restriction of its use. While, of course, any number of 1/2¢ stamps on an article of correspondence will be recognized to the full extent of their aggregate face value, it is not the wish of the Department to supply them except for the sole specific purpose above mentioned, and an intimation to that effect should be given by postmasters to patrons of their office who are in the habit of buying 1/2¢ stamps for other postal purposes."

This circular had quite an effect on the use of 1/2¢ stamps, for only about one-third as many were used in the year following the publication of the circular. Finally, on May 19th, 1909, the Post Office Act was amended so that the special rate on newspapers was repealed and the minimum postage on any single piece of mail became 1¢. This did away for the necessity of 1/2¢ stamps and, of course, discounted any further possibility of the value being included in the King's head series.

To be Continued

The Stamps of Canada: Chapter 64

The King Edward VII Issue, Part 4

Based on a Mekeel's Weekly Publication by B. W. H. Poole, with images added

The 2¢ value of this series is known entirely imperforate and the history of the variety, which is now quite common, is of considerable interest. The imperforate stamps were first mentioned in the *Weekly* for October 10th, 1908, in the following editorial:—

“We are enabled to report the existence of the two-cent Canada, current issue, imperforate, a reader having shown us a sheet of one hundred of these varieties bearing the plate number 18. This is a discovery of momentous interest which must attract much attention not alone from specialists but from collectors, as we may say for the sake of distinction, as well. The fact that the pane bears so early a plate number removes it from any inclusion in the theory that the Canadian authorities propose to issue stamps in imperforate sheets in the manner that has been employed by the United States. Without doubt, the sheet under notice was regularly prepared for issue in the accepted way, and it is the belief from information at hand that a sheet of four hundred of the stamps was printed and reached the public.”

This announcement excited much interest among collectors of Canadian stamps and enquiry regarding the seeming irregularity was made of the postal authorities at Ottawa. The Post Office Department were convinced that no irregularity could have occurred, but finally made an enquiry, and were, of course, compelled to believe the evidence of the existence of imperforate specimens. In the issue of the *Weekly* for February 20th, 1909, a more complete story of the find is related, viz.:—

“The sheet as found was not of 400 stamps, but of over 200 stamps, as the right-hand half of the sheet on which our report was based and which was not before us when we wrote, contained a pane of 100 stamps, plate number 14 and an irregularly torn part of plate number 13, showing about fifteen whole stamps and parts of others. Assuming that the lower pane in the left half was torn approximately in the manner of the right lower pane, or plate number 13, the find consisted originally of 230 stamps, more or less. This reckoning agrees, we believe, with the recollection of the person who rescued the imperforates from oblivion, in a philatelic sense. The plate numbers on the sheet that gave authority for the chronicling of the stamps by the *Weekly* are 13 and 14, and not 18, as first printed.”

A. N. Lemieux of Chicago is the man who found the stamps. While in Ottawa five years ago or so (this was later corrected to June, 1906), when he was in business in that city, he saw the stamps just within the iron fence that has been described as surrounding the establishment of the bank note company that prints the Canadian stamps. The day was a rainy one and the sheet had evidently been blown out of the window. Mr. Lemieux apparently attached no value to the sheet of over 200 stamps, which was in a wet, crumpled condition, and without gum. Mr. Lemieux was under the impression, no doubt, that gum had been on the sheet but had been washed off by the rain.

Mr. Severn ultimately acquired what was left of this imperforate sheet, and later submitted the stamps to the officials at Ottawa, who pronounced them but “printer’s waste”. Mr. Severn, in adding to the history of these imperforates, says:—“They seemingly had been trampled upon and subjected to the usage that would be given such castoff material. Further, it was said that they had been blown or thrown out of a window, no doubt. It was suggested that the stamps be returned to Ottawa and that there were moral grounds for such a course on the part of the holders.” The description of “printer’s waste” seems to be correct and the inference is that the stamps never had been gummed. They belong to that class of curiosities that appeal strongly to the specialist, but which the ordinary collector regards as something apart from his collecting policy.

The stamps did not go back to Ottawa, and the postal authorities there annoyed, doubtless righteously, that such things should escape from their well regulated printing establishment went to considerable trouble to make the imperforates of small monetary value. The following paragraph, written by a correspondent of the *Weekly*, was the first inking collectors had that the department had thought any more of the matter:—



The production of Edward VII imperfs for all of the values stem from the Canadian post office's becoming alarmed after some imperforate proofs of the 2¢ Edward VII issue flew out the window at the printer's office and ended up in collectors' hands. Post Office officials decided to print a large number of new imperforate copies and succeeded in devaluing the original copies. This block of Sc. 90a is from the original find, from Plate No. 13 with a portion of stamps from Plate No. 14 showing across the gutter.

2¢ carmine Type I Imperf Pair from Plate 1, without gum as issued. Scott lists imperf pairs of the 1¢, 2¢, 5¢, 7¢ and 10¢ as minor varieties and states in a separate footnote, “From 1859 through 1943 (Nos. 14a/262a),



imperforate stamps were printed. The earliest imperforates through perhaps 1917, most likely were imprimatur sheets (i.e. the first sheets from the approved plates, normally kept in government files) or proof sheets on stamp paper that once were in the post office archives.” This 2¢ pair, Sc. 90c, therefore, is not to be confused with the imperfs discussed by Poole. Also under imperfs, Scott lists 2¢ carmine Imperforate Tete-Beche Booklet Panes of six (shown), Sc. 90d, with a value of \$17,500.



“It may be of interest to know that the last supplement to the Canadian Post Office Guide contains the following: ‘In view of representations which have been made to the Department, it has been decided to permit the sale of the 2-cent denomination of Canadian postage stamps of the current issue, in sheets of 100, without the usual perforation.’”

I at once asked for a sheet of the 2-cent, and incidentally said I would take a sheet of the other denominations if available. A reply came today informing me that only the 2-cent would be available, and then not for some time, as the department intends to make a separate printing of these stamps, to supply

whatever demand may occur.

It was stipulated that applications for these imperforate stamps should be made to the Postmaster at Ottawa. When the sheets of these stamps came into collectors' hands it was found they had been printed from plates 13 and 14—the same as those from which the originally chronicled “errors” were printed. It is obvious that the Department issued these stamps simply to “get back” at the holder of the sheet so unfortunately blown or thrown out of the printing-office window in 1906. That they were not intended for use in mailing machines seems amply proved from the fact that none of the 2¢ stamps of the present issue have been issued in imperforate sheets.

Reference List.

- 1903-8. Die engraved by Perkins, Bacon & Co., London. Plates prepared and stamps printed by the American Bank Note Co., Ottawa. No wmk. Perf. 12.
78. 1¢ green, Scott's No. 89.
79. 2¢ carmine, Scott's No. 90.
80. 5¢ blue on blue, Scott's No. 91.
81. 7¢ olive-bistre, Scott's No. 92.
82. 10¢ brown lilac. Scott's No. 93.
83. 20¢ olive-green. No. 94.
84. 50¢ purple. No. 95.