

A NARRATION OF THE POWERPOINT PRESENTATION OF

Shades of Canada's 8 Cents Small Queens

- Slide #1 This is a presentation aimed at exploring the rather dramatic range of colours and shades that marked the relatively short life of Canada's 8 Cents Small Queens.
- Slide #2 Released August 1, 1893, this denomination was created to provide a single stamp to pay the combined standard letter rate and Registration fee.
- Unlike the other stamps of the Small Queen issue, the Queen's head on the 8 cents faced to the left, and there were no Imprints or Counters in the selvage on the panes.
- The shades/colours are presented and discussed pretty much in line with the findings of Richard Morris as shown in his Colour Guide for the Large and Small Queens issues.
- Slide #3 This cover displays cancels indicating that it was used on August 6, 1893, that being the first week of availability for this stamp. Closer examination of the shade of the stamp, together with transit marks on the reverse, identify it as having been an 1895 usage. Why the mistake in the Point St. Charles cancel occurred is anyone's guess, but it adds emphasis to the point that more than one test should be factored into determining the date of use of an item.
- Slide #4 The first shade of this issue is the *Light Grey Blue*. The earliest dated copy in this segment is September 18, 1893, with examples showing use of this shade over a one year period.
- Slide #5 Examples of this shade in multiples are very scarce! The block of 4 on the left is the *Dull Grey Blue*, and the one to the right, the *Light Grey Blue*. The cover shows cross border use for what appears to be a newspaper subscription. Dated May 15, 1894, it was sent from Harrow, Ontario to Utica New York.
- Slide #6 Darker shades followed quickly! Almost in conjunction with the light shade came *Medium Blue Grey* printings. In this instance the earliest example shown here pre-dates the lighter shade by 7 days.
- Slide #7 Again, multiples are scarce, particularly used examples. However, on the right we have a used block of 4 of the *Medium Blue Grey* with an 8 bar killer cancel. To the left is a mint block of 6 in *Rich Medium Blue Grey*. The cover is another cross border item, this time originating in Halifax, Nova Scotia on November 27, 1893, heading for Boston Massachusetts.
- Slide #8 Still in 1893, we see the progression to the *Deep Blue Grey* shades. The earliest cancel shown here is November 3, 1893, with a six month period of use displayed.
- Slide #9 Even used pairs are not common for this issue. On the left is a pair on piece with Bracebridge, Ontario C.D.S. cancels, dated November 3, 1893, while two singles sporting Barrie Ontario cancels are on another piece. Peculiarly, the cancel on the stamp on the left is dated November 30, 1893, while the right hand cancel is December 1, 1893. The deep intensity of this shade is illustrated in the block of 4 shown here.
- Slide #10 Here we have one of the controversial colours of this issue...the so-called *Robin's Egg Blue*. Are these changelings or legitimate printings? The examples shown cover a 2+ year period and vary greatly in intensity. Many exhibit a shade used for the 20 cents Bill Stamps of the same period; might there have been a mix-up in the ink used for these two separate issues?
- Slide #11 This cover features a rather pure looking rendition of this shade, used on May 28, 1894 from Cornwall Ontario to Wales, Ontario, forwarded to Dk. Landing.

- Slide #12 The *Greenish Grey Blue* shade constitutes another mystery. As with the previous colour, there is no mention of this shade in catalogues but they carry a distinctively greenish tinge. They too, appear over a long time frame.
- Slide #13 A pair cancelled in Liverpool, Nova Scotia on June 6, 1894, along with the April 22, 1895 cover from Earville, Ontario to Floral Park, New York confirm the significant difference in dates of use.
- Slide #14 Interjected at this point are examples of *Grey* shades, without the hint of blue. For some reason, examples of these are hard to come by.
- Slide #15 These pieces show the *Light Grey* shades with the top center piece bearing a Perth, Ontario Type II Squared Circle cancel dated October 1, 1894. The colourful return envelope to Halifax, Nova Scotia was mailed from Canso, Nova Scotia showing a December 15, 1894 Split Ring Cancel.
- Slide #16 *Dark Grey* shades are featured here...and are highlighted by an envelope portion sent from Eganville, Ontario on July 19, 1895, indicating a triple rate, registered item. The pair of 3 cents pay for the additional 2 ounces.
The examples of this shade fall in the mid to late 1895 period.
- Slide #17 Here we leave those greys and move back toward the blue greys – in this case, to *Bright Blue Grey* and *Very Dark Blue Grey*. As with most shades and colours in this denomination, usage occurs over a broad time frame. Possibly this phenomenon is exacerbated by the limited and specific-use feature of the 8 cents. It's quite likely that many of the stamps were held in part sheets in smaller post offices and even office desk drawers.
- Slide #18 An exquisite example of this class is the block of 4 with a Type I London Squared Circle cancel dated December 30, 1895.
- Slide #19 In this image showing the *Very Dark Blue Grey* shade, we have another situation where one of two possibilities exist. Robson Lowe indicates that red counting sheets were positioned at various intervals between sheets of paper in the stacks waiting for printing. They speculate that dampness in the paper caused the red dye to migrate into adjacent sheets giving rise to the red shade. However, the exactness of the impressions on the examples shown appears to indicate the use of an aniline ink in the printing.
- Slide #20 These are the final renderings of the *Very Dark Blue Greys* – this time minus the red backs. Again, dated copies illustrate the long service period which ranges from mid 1895 through the first quarter of 1896.
- Slide #21 The Block of 4 illustrates the richness of this colour.
- Slide #22 Colours begin a shift to slates, this page showing the *Pale Bluish Slate* which appeared in late 1895.
- Slide #23 Shown are two very scarce examples of this shade, in used blocks of 4; the left one with a June 26, 1896 C.D.S. and the other with an "R in Oval" Registration mark.
- Slide #24 It's time to recognize the immense role played in Canadian Postal History by the William Rennie Seed Company. The foresight exhibited by someone in that organization has resulted in a vast array of information being gleaned from the study of the large number of this company's letters that exist in many collections today. This example is dated February 3, 1896 and was mailed from Dunchurch, Ontario.
- Slide #25 Continuing the trend set by other colours in this issue we see here the darkening into *Grey Blue Slate* exhibited by these stamps which first appeared in early 1896.
- Slide #26 Illustrated is a fine example of this shade in a block of 4.
- Slide #27 The deepening of the shades is evident in these *Medium Bluish Grey Slate* items. The usages are somewhat more compact, ranging within the first half of 1896.
- Slide #28 Another mint block of 4 shows this darker shade.

- Slide #29 Here we have the final two stages of the blue-toned slates...the *Bright Bluish Grey Slate* and the *Dark Bluish Grey Slate* shades. Appearing in very late 1895, used copies dated in 1897 may be found.
- Slide #30 A brilliant used block of 4 with segmented washer cancels.
- Slide #31 A very scarce upper margin block further emphasizes this shade, as does the single copy shown on the August 21, 1896 cover from Parks Creek, Nova Scotia, to the Star Card & Novelty Company in Knowlton, Quebec, another significant source of Canadian Postal History material.
- Slide #32 As we move towards the late stages of this issue, *Blackish Grey Slate* and *Blackish Slate* shades appear, featuring a period of use spanning 1896 and 1897.
- Slide #33 The mint block of 4 on the left and the unusual used block of 6 on the right, with Ottawa Type I Squared Circle cancels, dated December 29, 97, are excellent examples of the lighter shade.
- Slide #34 This mint block of 4 ably shows the blacker shade.
- Slide #35 *Violet Black* shades were very much in evidence through much of 1897 and 1898. There is a distinct tone to the ink used in these printings which distinguishes these from the later blacks.
- Slide #36 This Block of 12 is said to be the largest used multiple reported for any of the 8 cents printings. The cancels are Montreal, Quebec Rollers, so the date of use is unknown. The mint block of 4 is typical of the mid-range of this colour.
- Slide #37 A paper variation is illustrated here. This deep yellowed paper is also evident in some printings of the half-cent value, and to a lesser extent, in some late 5 cents examples. The consistency of this paper results in very intense blacks.
- Slide #38 The final printings of the 8 cents were in a *Blackish Purple* colour. Their use overlaps the previous shades, appearing first in mid 1897, continuing through to the last stage of the Small Queens issue.
- Slide #39 These blocks illustrate the variances in the shades, with the Block of 9 in the center a true *Blackish Purple*, the left block of 4, the *Lighter Blackish Purple* and the right block of 4, the *Medium Blackish Purple*.
- Slide #40 Thank you for watching!
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