

Analytical Study of Canada's 2-Ring Stamp Obliterators of 1869 and Their Spinoffs.



Rates for the Large Queen stamps issued in April 1868

The **purpose of this exhibit** is to study the 2-ring stamp obliterator numbered 1-60 issued by Canada's Post Office Department (POD) in 1869. Digital analysis confirms that 19 numbers had more than one obliterator, some made locally in 1869 and later.

Importance and new research. After Canadian Confederation in 1867, the POD issued the country's first postage stamps in April 1868—the Large Queens. To cancel them, the sixty post offices with largest revenue received obliterator with two rings encircling the numbers 1 to 60. David Berri's company in England hand engraved each one out of brass. POD publications and archival documents show that the busiest post offices had up to 34 clerks to process millions of items a year. They needed more than one obliterator with the same number. A previously overlooked Postmaster General's letter mentions Montreal's "six" officially issued POD 2-ring 1 hammers. Other POD records list payments for making obliterator locally at a few post offices.

Two analytical challenges are finding all the 2-ring numbers with multiple obliterator, and then ensuring the cancels are not distorted, worn, or fake.

Personal study started with 7,500 2-ring cancels and a ruler with tenths of a millimeter. The shapes and sizes of all 60 numbers were noted. Numbers that appeared to have more than one obliterator with constant distinguishing features were identified. Ideally, every different obliterator should have at least three examples, with at least one on cover. The best available strike became the control type.

Digital confirmation. The Foster and Freeman Video Spectral Comparator 6000 (VSC) at the Vincent Graves Greene Philatelic Research Foundation in Toronto was used to evaluate the manual findings. For over eight hundred hours, all viable strikes of several numbers were superimposed over every different control type. Each strike had to *match* with one control and *mismatch* with all other controls. This process conclusively identified multiple obliterator,

but also eliminated a number of distorted, worn, and fake strikes. This work showed that the eye alone cannot be trusted for identification.

Identification. Since 1929, other collectors have identified 22 multiple obliterator used at 8 post offices. However, many other variants have been dismissed as distortions or fakes, especially if on Small Queen stamps. This exhibit presents the first comprehensive analytical study of all 2-ring numbers, not as ad hoc decisions about single strikes, but using large numbers of cancels evaluated in terms of POD and local postal practices. It identifies 75 multiple obliterator used at 19 post offices. **All 53 new obliterator types are labelled in red bold type.** The exhibit thereby involves heritage preservation of material whose value has been underappreciated.

Treatment. Toronto's twelve 2-ring 2 obliterator on Large Queens are studied first and at length, since their complex use set patterns for other offices. Then eighteen other numbers are studied on Large Queen stamps and Small Queens from 1870 on.

Condition. The best available strikes are shown.

Rarity. A few items are found in 1 to 3 copies. Even more important, the exhibit itself is unique.

Uniqueness of the exhibit. The exhibit notably extends knowledge about post office operations in the Large Queen period. It is the first to find so many multiple obliterator with the same 2-ring number, first to use digital techniques for confirmation, and first to offer groundbreaking research explaining why post offices needed or wanted multiple obliterator.

EXHIBIT PLAN

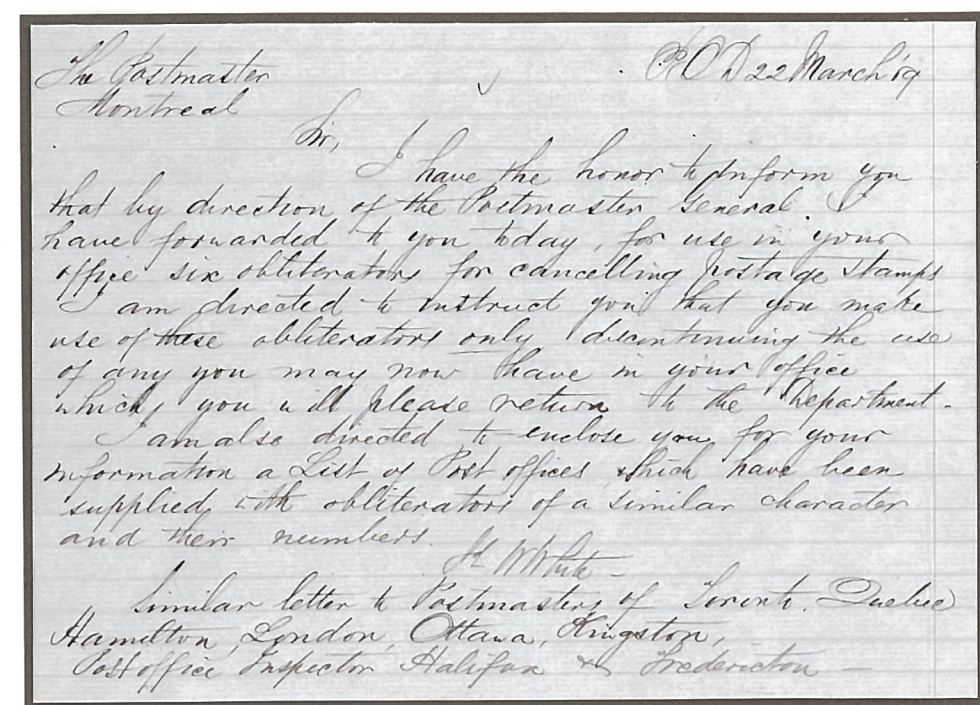
1. Strikes of All Sixty 2-Ring Numbers.
2. The Postmaster General's Letter of March 22, 1869.
3. Manual Identification of Multiple Obliterator.
4. Digital Confirmation by the VSC 6000 System.
5. Toronto's 2-Ring 2s in the Large Queen Period.
6. Other Offices' 2-Rings in the Large Queen Period.
7. New 2-Ring Obliterator in the Small Queen Period.

1. Strikes of all Sixty Two-Ring Numbers and Revenues of the Post Offices.

									
Montreal* \$107,479 RF2 34 clerks	Toronto* \$71,205 RF2 22 clerks	Quebec* \$37,774 RF1 11 clerks	Halifax* \$26,501 RF3 9 clerks	Hamilton* \$28,325 RF1 8 clerks	London* \$17,787 RF1 8 clerks	St John NB* \$23,652 RF1 7 clerks	Ottawa* \$25,438 RF5 10 clerks	Kingston* \$13,872 RF3 5 clerks	Sydney NS* \$1,137 RF3
									
Fredericton \$7,595 RF2	St Catharines \$7,452 RF2	Belleville* \$6,914 RF1	Guelph* \$6,505 RF2	Brantford \$6,255 RF2	Brockville \$4,561 RF8	unknown - RF10	Yarmouth \$3,373 RF3	Peterborough \$5,015 RF10	unknown - RF10
									
Goderich \$3,849 RF3	Galt \$4,120 RF9	Woodstock ON \$4,089 RF5	Stratford \$3,859 RF4	New Glasgow \$2,239 RF3	Windsor ON \$2,707 RF5	Ingersoll \$3,509 RF3	Sarnia \$2,550 RF5	Cobourg \$3,956 RF2	Pictou \$2,581 RF7
									
Oshawa* \$2,980 RF7	Barrie \$2,760 RF5	Sherbrooke \$1,637 RF6	Chatham NB \$2,308 RF8	Lindsay \$2,411 RF2	St Johns QC* \$2,082 RF6	Amherst \$1,772 RF8	Bowmanville \$2,937 RF6	Whitby \$2,446 RF6	Cornwall \$2,456 RF7
									
St Marys ON \$2,959 RF3	Acton Vale QC? \$360 RF9	Windsor NS \$2,340 RF4	Owen Sound* \$2,507 RF4	Perth \$2,154 RF5	Dundas* \$2,151 RF5	Napanee \$2,528 RF4	Simcoe \$2,185 RF6	Prescott* \$2,370 RF5	St Andrews NB \$1,165 RF10
									
Pictou \$2,349 RF4	St Hyacinthe \$1,910 RF4	Three Rivers \$2,344 RF5	Truro* \$2,191 RF3	Berlin \$1,952 RF5	Brampton \$1,997 RF6	Paris* \$1,955 RF6	St Thomas ON \$2,184 RF7	Clinton \$1,959 RF7	Newmarket \$1,833 RF5

*Numbers with more than one obliterator. Revenues from *Report of the Postmaster General for the Year Ending 30th June, 1869*. Rarity factors from *Unitrade Specialized Catalogue of Canadian Stamps*.

2. The Postmaster General's Letter of March 22, 1869.



Reduced 50% from Library and Archives Canada, Ottawa, RG3, vol. 568, p. 146.

Letter in the Postmaster General's Letterbook of Domestic Correspondence.

- Written by Post Office Department (POD) Secretary William White on behalf of Postmaster General and Cabinet Minister Alexander Campbell, and civil service Deputy Postmaster General William Griffin.
- Addressed to the Postmaster of Montreal on March 22, 1869, two days before 2-ring cancellations started appearing on mail.
- Similar form letters were written to other large post offices at Toronto, Quebec, Hamilton, London, Ottawa, Kingston, Halifax, and Fredericton.
- A "List," probably printed and widely distributed, was enclosed, giving "numbers" of the post offices that were sent "obliterations of a similar character," that is, the 2-rings numbered 1 to 60.
- "Six obliterations" with 2-ring 1 were sent to Montreal.
- Each postmaster was directed to use "these obliterations only, discontinuing the use of any you may have in your office" and "please return" them to Ottawa. Not one postmaster complied with that order.

19 POST OFFICES USED 75 MULTIPLE 2-RING OBLITERATORS.

David Garden Berri in London, England, engraved the POD official obliterations out of brass. Others were made locally from cork, wood, or metal.

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| #1. Montreal, 6 (6 by Berri). | #13. Belleville, 2 (1 by Berri). |
| #2. Toronto, 18 (3 by Berri). | #14. Guelph, 2 (1 by Berri). |
| #3. Quebec, 3 (2 by Berri). | #31. Oshawa, 3 (1 by Berri). |
| #4. Halifax, 3 (2 by Berri). | #36. St Johns QC, 2 (1 by Berri). |
| #5. Hamilton, 2 (2 by Berri). | #44. Owen Sound, 2 (1 by Berri). |
| #6. London, 5 (2 by Berri). | #46. Dundas, 3 (1 by Berri). |
| #7. St John NB, 4 (2 by Berri). | #49. Prescott, 2 (2 by Berri). |
| #8. Ottawa, 2 (2 by Berri). | #54. Truro, 2 (1 by Berri). |
| #9. Kingston, 7 (2 by Berri). | #57. Paris, 5 (2 by Berri). |
| #10. Sydney, 2 (1 by Berri). | |

3. Manual Identification of Multiple Hammers.

Study began by searching for different number shapes and sizes among 7,500 2-ring cancels of all 60 numbers.



Angled stem "12."
LQs of 1869.



Sloping stem "12."
LQs of 1869.



Thick "12".
SQs of 1870s.



Crisp "2." Cork.
LQs of 1869.



Thick "2." Cork.
LQs of 1869.



Broken "2." Cork.
LQs of 1869.



"3" as on many
LQs of 1869 &
SQs of 1870s.



Thin, uneven rings.
Only known strike.
On a 5¢ of 1859.



"9" straight back.
"9" 3 mm wide.
"4" 2.7 mm below ring.



"9" curved back.
"9" 4 mm wide.
"4" 3.5 mm below ring.

4. Digital Confirmation by the VSC 6000 System.

Thousands of different looking cancels were superimposed in different colours on the Video Specular Comparator (VSC) 6000 at Toronto's Vincent Graves Greene Philatelic Research Foundation. Unfortunately, psychedelic colours on some scans cannot be toned down without losing details of overlays.

DISTORTED STRIKES always overlap symmetrically, producing a single image, as with angled "12" (green) and sloping "12" (red). They are different *states* of the *same* obliterator.

OBLITERATORS WORE DOWN and produced thicker numbers. Soft cork also broke.

WORN STRIKES always overlap symmetrically. Left: early angled "12" (green) overlaps thick "12" (red). Centre: crisp "2" (green) overlaps thick "2" (red). Right: broken cork (green) overlaps crisp strike (red). They are different *states*, not different *types* of obl iterators.

FAKES are typically not exact (see overlay), often have 20th-century ink (here bluish), often have a cancel removed (here black smudges), and typically use an inexpensive stamp. A genuine 2-ring 3 on an 1859 stamp is rare and would be valuable.

DIFFERENT OBLITERATORS always mismatch, with offset numbers. The 2-ring 49 with straight-back "9" (left scan) and 49 with round-back "9" (middle) were overlaid. Straight-back "9" (tan) sits above and left of curved-back "9" (blue). They are different *types* of variant obl iterators.



5. Toronto's 2-Ring 2 Obliterators in the Large Queen Period.

5.1. Toronto's Three Official POD 2-Ring 2 Brass Obliterators.

The engravers of David Berri in England handcrafted each POD 2-ring with numbers in their own style. Toronto, Canada's third-largest city, had 22 postal clerks who used three POD 2-ring 2s to process over 3 million items annually. Postmaster Joseph Lesslie bought silk to cover obliterators for over 100 strikes per inking. Cloth distortion makes identification very difficult, though the only known bare strikes help.



Type 1, Berri, light & heavy strikes through silk. Mid stem curves up to left ball, pointed foot extends left of ball.

Same worker also cut 27 (Ingersoll).

Type 2, Berri, new. Bare strike. Stem has 2 mm vertical drop to foot under ball.

A second worker also cut 12 (St Catharines).



Type 3, Berri, new. Bare strike. Stem curves down.

A third worker also cut 52 (St Hyacinthe).

Type 1 (green) sits above Type 2 (red).

Type 1 (green) sits below Type 3 (red).

Type 2 (green) sits left of Type 3 (red).



Type 1 on cover.



Top: Type 1 on 6¢ cover to USA, July 6, 1869.

Middle: Type 2 on 3¢ domestic cover, July 14, 1869.

Below: Type 3 on 6¢ cover to USA, July 22, 1869.

5. Toronto's 2-Ring 2 Obliterators in the Large Queen Period.

5.2. Toronto's Locally Made 2-Ring 2 Obliterators.

Types 4 and 5.

Toronto Postmaster Joseph Lesslie followed Ottawa's order to use "only" 2-ring 2s by having nine more made locally in 1869. Toronto District Inspector John Dewé authorized payment for cork ones made by postal clerk Donald Ross, wood ones by engineer Joseph Smith, and metal ones by engraver Joseph Rolph. Overlapping scans identify worn states of the same obliterator, *not* different types of obliterators.



Worn state. Six-cent rate to USA. April 10, 1869.



Early state, LQ 1869.



Early state LQ 1869



Early state (green) overlaps worn (red).

Type 4, new. Thin cork. Made within 14 days of Toronto's first Berri strike on March 27, 1869. Two strikes known.



Left: thick number. One-cent circular, April 15, 1869. Right: worn, five weeks later. One-cent circular, May 27, 1869.



State 1, early.



State 2, thicker.



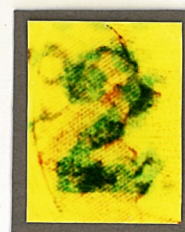
State 3, broken.



3 (green) matches 1.



4, very broken.



4 (red) matches 1.

Type 5, new. Squared off rings, visible grain on some strikes, and five-week use on above covers suggest wood.

5. Toronto's 2-Ring 2 Obliterators in the Large Queen Period.

5.2. Toronto's Locally Made 2-Ring 2 Obliterators.

Types 6 and 7.



Six cents for one ounce domestic letter, two cents registration. \$200 cash enclosed for land transaction. June 26, 1869.



State 1, early, crisp.



State 2, thicker.



State 3, foot broken.

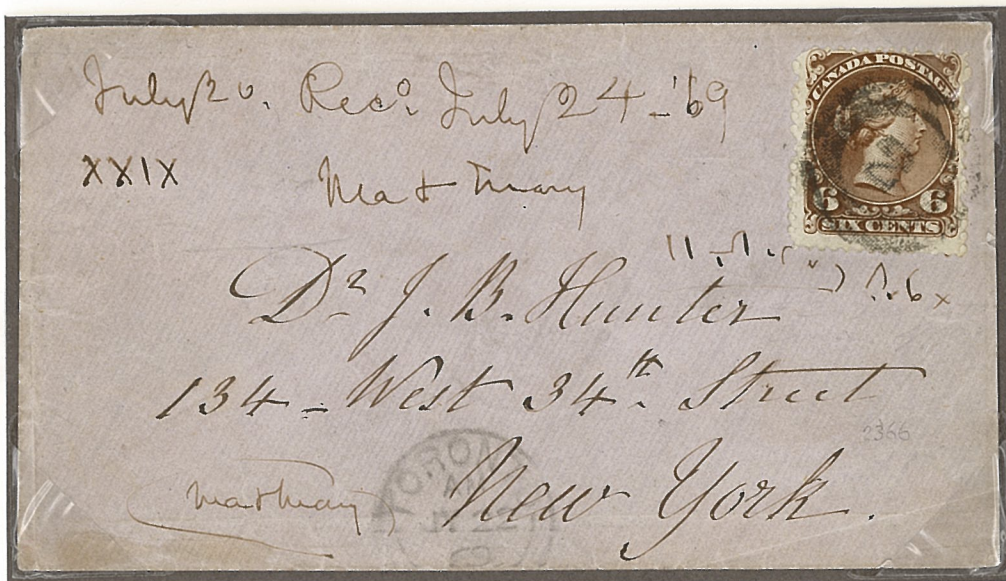


3 (green) over 1.



State 1.

Type 6. Wood grain visible on left stamp. Top slants down from left. Foot slants up from left.



Distorted strike over enclosure. Six cent letter to USA. July 22, 1869.



Clear strike.



Clear strike.

Type 7, new. Metal. Very thin stem and foot (1/2 mm thick). Wide, flat top. Only three strikes known, two on cover.

5. Toronto's 2-Ring 2 Obliterators in the Large Queen Period.

5.2. Toronto's Locally Made 2-Ring 2 Obliterators.

Types 8 to 12.

In mid-August 1869, Postmaster Joseph Lesslie started using locally made obliterators with fancy designs surrounding a "2." By the end of September 1869, 2-ring 2 obliterator types 1-12 were permanently withdrawn from use. During the 1870s, new Small Queen stamps were cancelled with a few Fancy 2s, CDSs, grids, corks without numbers, duplexes, and at least one new 2-ring 2.



State 1, early.



State 2 thicker, granular foot.



State 1 (tan) over 2 (blue)



State 3, cork breaking



State 1 (tan) over 3 (blue).



State 1.

Type 8. Cork, with granular impressions in some states.



State 1, light strike.



State 1, heavy strike.



State 2, worn.



State 1 (red) over 2.



State 1.

Type 9. Wood, which wore less dramatically than cork. The only 2-ring 2 with a curly foot.



State 1, early.



State 2, thicker.



State 3, very worn.



State 1 (green) over 2.



State 1.

Type 10, new. Cork. Only three strikes known, all off cover.



Type 11, new. Cork or wood. Squarish rings. Only one worn strike known, off cover.



Type 12, new. Cork or wood. Straight stem. Only one strike known, off cover.

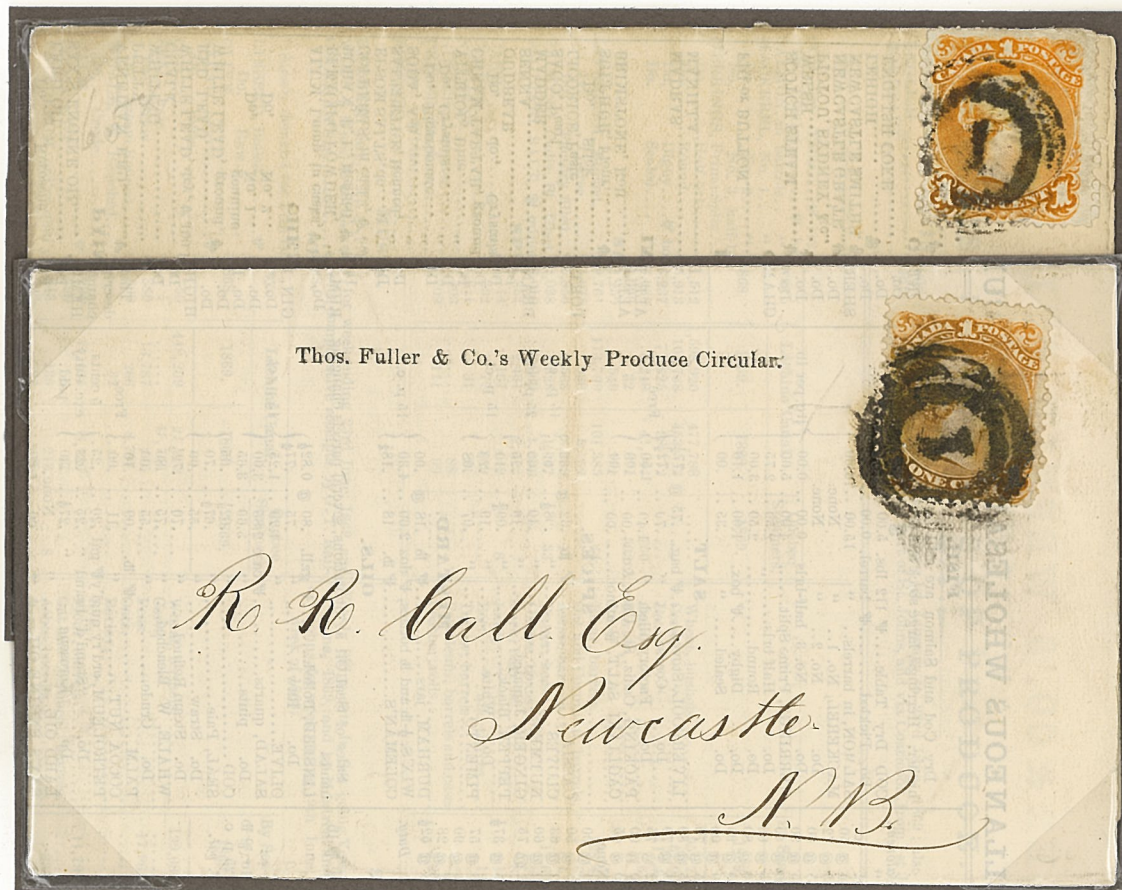
6. Other Offices' 2-Ring Obliterators in the Large Queen Period.

6.1. Montreal's Six Official POD 2-ring 1 Brass Obliterators.

Montreal was Canada's largest city, with 34 postal clerks processing over 4 million items annually. Postmaster Edward Stayner Freer used its six POD 2-ring 1s until September 8, 1870, mostly to cancel circulars, which did not need a second-strike date stamp. He copied Toronto and used silk for 2-ring 1s, thereby obscuring shapes. Freer disobeyed Ottawa by cancelling letters with a one-strike duplex.



- Type 1, Berri, new.** "1" 6 mm high. Block serif slants up to right.
- Type 2, Berri, new.** "1" 6.5 mm high. Block serif slants down to right.
- Type 3, Berri, new.** "1" 6.5 mm high. Serif stops at flat top.
- Type 4, Berri, new.** "1" 6.5 mm high. Serif slants up half way across stem, then finishes flat.
- Type 5, Berri.** "1" 7 mm high. Serif slants up across stem then points down.
- Type 6, Berri, new.** "1" 7 mm high. Serif slants up across entire top.



Each type sits at a different position inside the rings.



Type 3 (green) sits right of Type 4 (red).



Type 5 (green) sits left of Type 6 (red).

Above: heavy strike of Type 6 on an undated circular.
Below: heavy strike of Type 3 on a circular of June 25, 1869.

6. Other Offices' 2-Ring Obliterators in the Large Queen Period.

6.2. Quebec (2-ring 3), Halifax (2-ring 4), Hamilton (2-ring 5), and London (2-ring 6).

Quebec, a major international ocean port, was Canada's second-largest city with 11 postal clerks processing over a million items annually. Postmaster J. Sewell and his successors used two POD 2-ring 3 obliterators constantly until 1897. Strikes after the mid-1870s are often illegible.



Type 1, Berri. "3" prints equally. Bowl closed.
Type 1, worn. SQ 1874.
Type 2, Berri, new. "3" prints lightly. Bowl larger, open.
Type 2, worn. SQ 1874.
 Type 1.
 Type 2.
 Type 1 (red) left of Type 2 (green)

Halifax, a major international ocean port, harboured Canada's navy. Its nine postal clerks processed over a million items annually. Postmaster Arthur Woodgate used two POD 2-ring 4s and one local one until 1872.



Type 1, Berri. Top to crossbar 3.8 mm. Top 3 mm below ring.
Type 2, Berri, new. Top to crossbar 4.5 mm. Top 2 mm below ring.
 Type 1.
 Type 2.
 Type 1 (red) is shorter than Type 2 (green).
Type 3, local, new. Top to crossbar 5 mm.
 Type 3 (white) shorter, wider than 1 (black).

Hamilton was an important manufacturing city and headquarters of three railways. Its 8 clerks processed over a million items annually. Postmaster Frederick E. Ritchie used two POD 2-ring 5s until 1872.



Type 1, Berri. "5" 4 mm to left ring. Stem longer, wider.
Type 2, Berri. "5" 5mm to left ring. Stem shorter, thin.
 Type 1.
 Type 2.
 Type 1 (green) sits left of Type 2 (red).

London was centre of Canada's richest agricultural area, with 3 railways. Its 8 postal clerks processed almost a million items per year. Postmaster Lawrence Lawless used two POD 2-ring 6s and three local ones until 1882.



Type 1, Berri. "6" 7 mm high. Bowl an oval.
Type 2, Berri, new. Confusingly diverse strikes. "6" 6 mm high, bowl circular.
Type 3, local, new. Confusingly diverse strikes as cork wore. "6" 7 mm high.
Type 4, local, new. Thinnest. "6" 6 mm high.
Type 5, local, new. Pointed. as Kingston T 4.

6. Other Offices' 2-Ring Obliterators in the Large Queen Period.

6.3. St John NB (2-ring 7) and Ottawa (2-ring 8).

St John NB, Canada's fourth-largest city, had 7 postal clerks to process over a million items per year. Until 1876, Postmaster John Howe used two POD 2-ring 7s and two made locally by engraver James Venning.



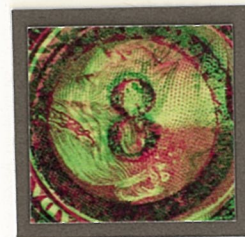
Above: Type 1, 3¢ domestic rate, July 3, 1869.
Below: Type 2, 3¢ domestic rate, June 7, 1869.

Above: Type 3, 3¢ domestic rate, December 12, 1870.
Below: Type 4, 3¢ domestic rate, January 9, 1872.



Type 1, Berri. "7" 6.4 x 4 mm. Left side straight. **Type 2, Berri, new.** "7" 6.5 x 4.7 mm. Both sides curve left. **Type 3, local.** "7" 6.8 x 5 mm. Rounded foot. **Type 4, local.** "7" 7.4 x 5.4 mm. Both sides straight. Type 1 (blue) slants left, Type 2 (tan) slants right. Type 1 (blue) has a shorter top than Type 3 (tan). Type 1 (blue) is much smaller than 4 (tan).

Ottawa, Canada's capital, had 10 clerks to process over a million items per year. For paid mail, Postmaster Godfrey P. Baker used one-strike duplexes and discontinued the two POD 2-ring 8s in April 1870.



Type 1, Berri. Upper circle larger, circular inside. **Type 2, Berri, new.** Upper circle smaller, tilted right, oval inside. Type 1. Type 2. Type 2 (red) sits lower in rings than Type 1 (green).

6. Other Offices' 2-Ring Obliterators in the Large Queen Period.

6.4. Kingston (2-ring 9), Sydney NS (2-ring 10), Prescott (2-ring 49), and Paris (2-ring 57).

Kingston had rail and ship connections with Toronto, Ottawa, and Montreal. Its 5 postal clerks processed over half a million items per year. Postmaster Robert Deacon had four 2-ring 9s made locally. Imitating Toronto, he replaced all the 2-ring 9s in September 1869 with Fancy 9 corks.



Type 1, Berri.
Straight back.
"9" 6.4 x 4 mm.



Type 2, Berri, new.
Curved back.
"9" 6.6 x 4.5 mm.



Type 1 (tan)
sits left of
Type 2 (blue).



Early state.
Cork, segmented rings.



Worn state.
Type 3, local, new.



Type 1 (blue) over 3 (tan):
mismatched rings, thus
different obliterators.



Type 4, local, new.
Cork, pointed ends.
"9" 6.5 x 5 mm.



Type 4.
Very light strike.
"9" 6.5 x 4 mm.



Type 5, local, new.
Uniformly thick.
"9" 6.5 x 5 mm.



Type 6, local, new.
Top very large.
"9" 7.5 x 5.1 mm.

Sydney transited mail from Newfoundland. Postmaster Robert Martin had a 2-ring 10 made locally and dropped 2-rings in 1876.

Prescott ferried almost a million dollars of goods annually to New York. Postmaster Wm. Brouse used two POD 2-ring 49s until 1889.



Type 1, Berri.
"0" narrow.



Type 2, local, new.
"0" wide, never crisp.



Type 1 (green)
right of 2 (red).



Type 1, Berri,
flat back.



Type 2, Berri, new,
curved back.



Type 1 (tan)
left of 2 (blue).

At Paris, Canada's two busiest rail lines crossed. Paris Postmaster George Stanton and nearby Paris Station Postmaster Matthew Carr each had a POD 2-ring 57, then copied Toronto by making two wood "57" hammers locally. Strikes are scarce, with just 200 items cancelled a day.



Type 1, Berri.
Top "5" 3 mm.
Top "7" 4 mm.
5 to 7 = 1 mm.



Type 2, Berri, new,
Top "5" 2 mm.
Top "7" 3.5 mm.
5 to 7 = 2 mm.



Type 2 worn.
Distorted state,
not a different
hammer.



Type 1 (red)
sits inside
Type 2 (green).



Type 3, local.
Hard wood,
slipped badly.
Squarish rings.



Type 4, local.
Wood, seven
segments.

7. New 2-Ring Numbered Obliterators in the Small Queen Period.

7.1. Locally Made Grids with 2-Ring Numbers.

More post offices would have used 2-ring obliterators longer if they had been duplexes with date stamps attached. In March 1870, Hamilton (which used its 2-ring 5s until 1871) and London (which used its 2-ring 6s until 1882) had duplexes made with their 2-ring numbers.



Left: 1¢ post card with Hamilton 5 grid duplex. July 22, 1875. Right: 6¢ letter to USA with London 6 grid duplex. April 13, 1874.

St John NB (which used its 2-ring 7s until 1876) started using a non-duplex grid 7 in July 1874. Fredericton NB (which used its 2-ring 11 until 1880) started using a non-duplex grid 11 in March 1872.



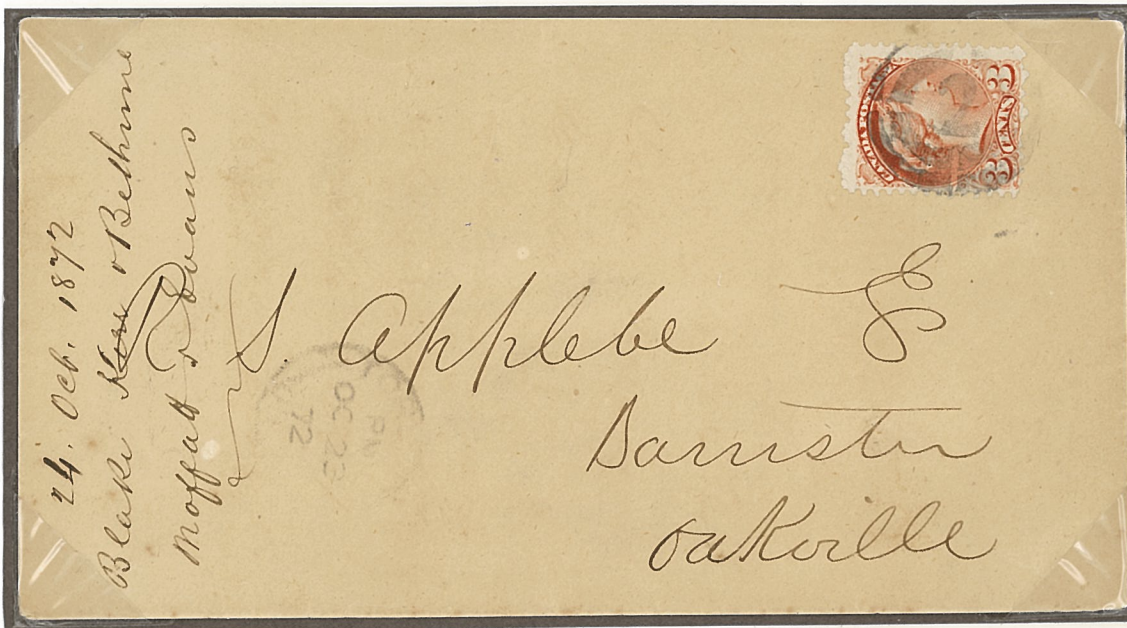
Above: 3¢ domestic letter with St John 7 grid. February 15, 1876.
Below: 18¢ triple rate, ounce and a half letter to USA with Fredericton 11 grid. March 23, 1874.

7. New 2-Ring Numbered Obliterators in the Small Queen Period.

7.2. Toronto 2-Ring 2s.

Locally made Toronto 2-ring 2 Type 13 SQ cork (below) was published in 1929 and was collected. A dozen covers with cancels that wore over time prove it is genuine. Other 2-ring 2s on SQs of 1870-76 have been dismissed as crude fakes and not collected. However, eight pieces of circumstantial evidence suggest at least the possibility that several 2-ring obliterations were made locally in those years:

- Not one stamp has a former cancel removed or is on forgers' preferred inexpensive late Small Queen stamps.
- What forger would produce several fakes of 2-ring 2, a relatively common, inexpensive cancel?
- Toronto constantly experimented with new obliterations, inventing some and reintroducing dropped ones.
- The cancels were not made from later materials and ink, but from cork and wood as at Toronto in 1869.
- The rush to replace worn-out cork or wood obliterations left little time for perfect carving, as in 1869.
- Just as six offices imitated Toronto with locally made 2-rings in 1869, ten offices followed suit in 1870-76.
- For those ten offices, three obliterator types are on cover and two are on piece.
- Once items are dismissed as fakes they are not collected and become scarcer and scarcer.



Early state: rings almost circular. Only copy known.



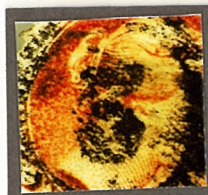
Later state: rings squarish, breaking.

Type 13, local. Cork. Rings cut in 4. 3¢ domestic cover, October 23, 1872. Known on cover, Oct. 21-29. In 1872, Donald Ross, the postal clerk who carved Toronto corks in 1869, was paid for "corks for obliterations."

Caution. Dozens of known so-called 2-ring 2s on SQs are really 2-ring 3s. What looks like the upper left top ball of a "2" is actually a constant spur that prevented some of the "3"s bowl from printing.



Supposed 2-ring 2 on 1876 3¢ SQ.



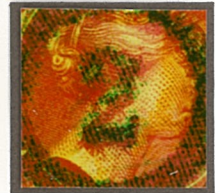
Same stamp turned: big spur on 2-ring 3 bowl at 3 o'clock.



Type 1 in 1869: bowl bulging at 3 o'clock.



Even match: 1869 & 1876 strikes are states of Type 1.



"2"s curved stem (green) mismatches "3"s straight slant.



Type 14, local, new. Wood, SQ size, 1871. Two strikes known.



Type 15, local, new. Wood, SQ size, 1872. Only strike known.



Type 16, local, new. Split wood, 1876. Only strike known.



Type 17, local, new. Cork, 1876. Only strike known.

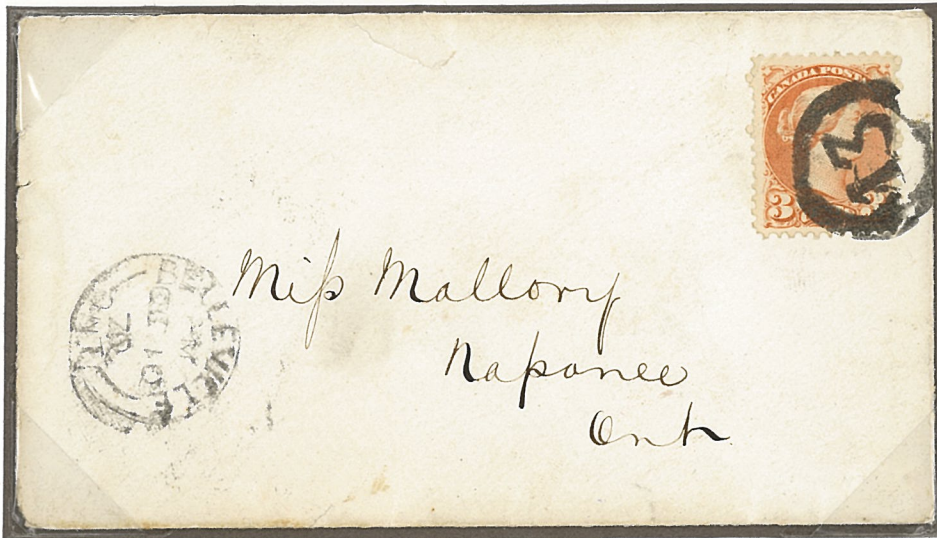


Type 18, local, new. Large cork. 1876. Only strike known.

7. New 2-Ring Numbered Obliterators in the Small Queen Period.

7.3. New 2-Ring Obliterators at Towns within a Few Hours of Toronto by Train.

Innovations sometimes trigger imitation. In 1870, Belleville Postmaster James Meacham, Kingston Postmaster Robert Deacon, and Paris Postmaster George Stanton had local 2-rings made for smaller SQ stamps—as Kingston, Paris, and Toronto had made local 2-rings a few months earlier for LQs.



An unskilled carver could not cut two rings in wood for Belleville, whose POD 2-ring 13 was used till 1876. 3¢ domestic cover. October 10, 1870.



1870 SQ. Kingston 2-ring 9 Type 7, local, new. Type 7 (green): smaller than Type 2 and asymmetrical. Only strike known.



1870 SQ on piece. Paris 2-ring 57 Type 5, local, new. Type 5 (blue) is smaller than Type 1 (tan). Only strike known.



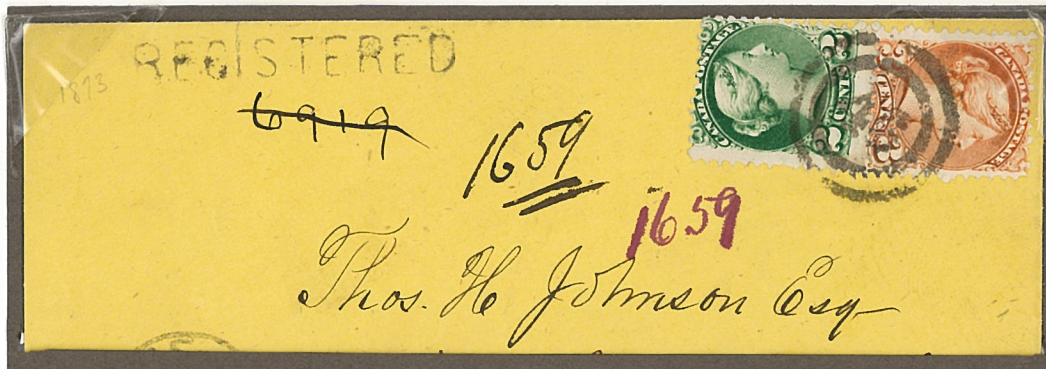
1873 SQ. 2-ring 46 Type 2, local, new (green) mismatches Type 1 (below).



1873 SQ. 2-ring 31 Type 2, local, new (green) is taller than Type 1 (below).



In 1873, Dundas Postmaster J.M. Thornton had a 2-ring 46 made locally of wood. 3 covers, 1 stamp known. In 1873, Oshawa Postmaster David Smith had a 2-ring 31 made locally of wood. Only one strike known.



Dundas's local 2-ring 46. 3¢ domestic rate, 2¢ registration. December 9, 1873.

Around 1876, perhaps responding to new local 2-ring 2s at Toronto and the four towns in chapter 7.4, one carver made new 2-rings with similar style numbers pushed rightward. They were for Guelph (2-ring 14, Postmaster Arthur Wells), Oshawa (2-ring 31, Postmaster David Smith), and Dundas (2-ring 46, Postmaster J.M. Thornton). It is unlikely that a forger would coordinate fakes around just six years at the SQ period's start.



1869 LQ Guelph 14, Type 1, POD, Berri.



1875-76 SQ. Type 2, local, new. Only copy known.



1869 LQ Oshawa 31, Type 1, POD, Berri.



1876 SQ. Type 3, local, new. Only copy known.



1869 LQ Dundas 46, Type 1, POD, Berri.



1875-76 SQ. Type 3, local, new. Only copy known.

7. New 2-Ring Numbered Obliterators in the Small Queen Period.

7.4. Other Towns: Quebec (2-ring 3), St Johns QC (36), Owen Sound (44), and Truro NS (54).

Postmasters were observant. When distant ones saw several Ontario post offices making 2-ring obliterators locally, it is possible that imitation took place. All four new 2-rings on this page come from 1874-75, a coincidence of timing that forgers would not likely create.

Quebec Postmaster Pierre G. Huot had a 2-ring 3 made locally around 1874.



SQ 1874. Early strike. SQ 1878. Worn strike. 1874 strike.

Quebec 2-ring 3 Type 3, local, new.

St Johns QC lay at a rail and boat junction that exported six million dollars of goods annually to New York. St Johns Postmaster William A. Osgoode had a 2-ring 36 made locally around 1874-5.



LQ 1869. Type 1, Berri. SQ 1874-5. Type 2.

Type 2, local, new.

Owen Sound was a port on Georgian Bay. Postmaster John G. Francis had a 2-ring 44 made locally around 1875.



LQ 1869. Type 1, Berri. SQ 1875. Type 2

Type 2, local, new.

Truro NS, on the Bay of Fundy, connected by rail with Halifax. Postmaster Edmund Hamilton had a 2-ring 54 made locally around 1874-5.



LQ 1869. Type 1, Berri. SQ 1874-75. Type 2.

Type 2, local, new.

7.5. Puzzles Remain.

Only some see "2" in the first three cancels. Is "8" from Ottawa, which dropped 2-ring 8s in 1870? The "2"s after 1880 are likely not from Toronto, which was using duplexes and other cancellers. The "18" on an 1880s SQ is also difficult, because Yarmouth discontinued its POD 2-ring 18 in 1875.



SQ 1870 SQ 1870 SQ 1871 SQ 1874 SQ 1880+ SQ 1880+ SQ 1880+