

by Robert Lighthouse

A Presentation for the Western Monroe Stamp Club and the Rochester Philatelic Association

CANAD XMAS 1898. A VASTER EMPIRE THAN HAS BEEN"



CANADA MAP STAMP OF 1898

Canada SC#85 and SC#86 were issued December 7, 1898, to commemorate a letter rate of 2 (two) pennies between all portions of the British Empire. An unofficial first Christmas stamp, it was issued December 25th. However, the larger post offices received supplies December 7th and began to disseminate stamps immediately. The stamp was printed in 3 (three) colors---red, blue green and lavender---by the electrotype process and 5 (five) steel engraved plates. Plate 4 (four) was never put into use, but imperf copies (proofs) are available in black and white and with light blue and deep blue color seas. The plates were each 100 stamps in a 10x10 format. Twenty million stamps were ordered. The manufacturer, American Bank Note Company of Ottawa, delivered 19,927,500.

Virtually all positions on the 5 (five) plates are plateable due to differences in re-touches, reentries, flawed transfers from transfer rolls to paper, guide dots and arcs, all manifested in different areas of each position making them unique.

Research for this Exhibit is based on examining thousands of stamps for the last 35 (thirty five) years and comparing findings with those of philatelists writing in publications such as *Map Stamp Newsletter*, *Canadian Philatelist* (Journal of the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada) and, to a lesser extent, *The Journal of the Canadian Philatelic Society of Great Britain*.

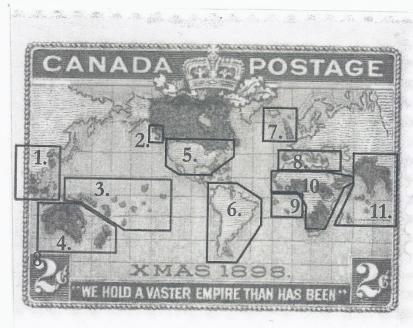
This exhibit attempts to plate these positions with used and unused single copies, blocks and covers with magnification of the unique areas.

*References:

1)British North America Philatelic Society, August 2009---Reprint of Definitive Plating Study by Kenneth A. Kershaw and Roger Boisclair.

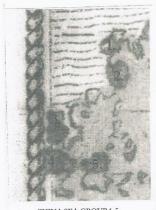
2)Frederick Tomlinson, the Canadian Map Stamp of 1898, First Edition, June 1960, Canadian Philatelic Society of Great Britain.

One feature this exhibit uses as a criteria is the Red Plate features which are divided into eleven key areas. The enhancements in this exhibit are numbered to correspond to each of these areas.

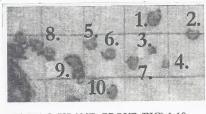


- 1. CHINA SEA GROUP.
- 2. VANCOUVER & QUEEN CHARLOTTE ISLANDS.
 - 3. PACIFIC ISLAND GROUP (P.I.G.).
 - 4. AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND.
 - 5. UNITED STATES.
 - 6. SOUTH AMERICA.
 - 7. UNITED KINGDOM.
 - 8. MEDITERRANEAN.
 - 9. ASCENSION & ST. HELENA. 10. AFRICA.
 - 11. INDIA & INDIAN OCEAN (I.O.G.)

Of particular interest are the anomalies of the Red Plate Island groups captioned below and evidenced throughout the plating process.

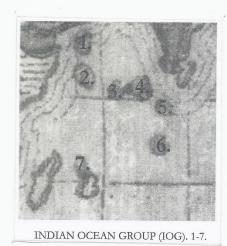


CHINA SEA GROUP 1-5.

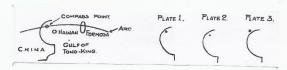


PACIFIC ISLAND GROUP (PIG) 1-10.





Also germaine to the plating process in the China Sea are compass points and arcs and their size and reference to Hainan Island and the coastline.



The final criteria are the retouches and re-entries of the engraved Black Plates and the color of the seas.



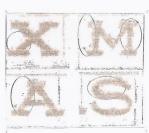
This position is a re-entry. Left hand value tablet is strongly re-entered. The horizontal hatch lines extend through the left hand neat line of the left tablet as well as the outline of the "2". The right hand tablet is re-entered and the hatch lines extend through the left hand neat line. There are a line of spurs outside the left hand cable which are the remains of the incompletely erased primary engraving. On the outside of the right cable are similar equivalent spurs. At the top right there are three spurs outside the cable and several strong marks between the cable and the hatch line. Canada and postage show strong re-entry marks, both from the remnants of the horizontal hatch marks and the old outlines of the letters themselves. The entire "XMAS 1898" is doubled. An island due North of Ascension just below the coast of Africa (9), DOT East of Island 9 in the P.I.G. and Island 7 is "Lozenge-shaped (3). Vancouver-Q. Charlotte Islands are linear-oblong with projections to the West (2). The Tonkin Dot is N.W. of Hainan Island on the coastline.

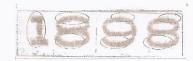


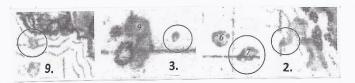


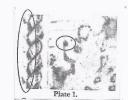






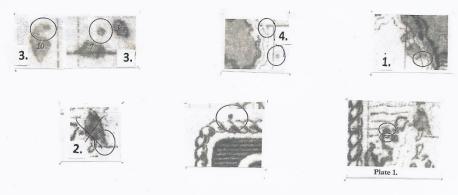








(3) Curved hook on Island #10. Also an extra Island between Island #3 and Island #7. (4) There are two Dots to the East of Australia. (1) In the China Sea Island #2 has a broad tail to the SE. (2) There is a tail to the South on Vancouver Island. Tonkin Dot is strong and just inside the coastline to the NW of Hainan Island. In addition, there is a tool mark below the Tonkin Dot.



December 7, 1898, 10% of stamps issued Lavender Sea. Hammer cancel Plate

1



Position 95

(3) P.I.G. Dot E of Is. #9 (4) Curled top to NZ (5) Dot in South U.S. West of Florida. Long tool mark from the left tablet NE through the corner of the value tablet into the Pacific Ocean and in the top center of the value tablet is a strong oblique additional tool mark. Tonkin Dot is N.W. of Hainan Island inside the coastline.











Position

16

(5) U.S.A. Peninsula South from Canada along the seaboard of the U.S.A. (11) I.O.G. Small Dot East of Island #1. (10) Africa. Dot East of Nigeria. Tonkin Dot N.W. of Hainan Island just inside the coastline.





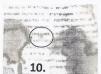




Plate 1

December 7, 1898. 10% of Stamps Issued. Used. Lavender Sea. Cork Cancel.

Plate

1



Position

64

(11) I.O.G. Long projection N.W. of India. (3) P.I.G. Island #6 has a Dot to the S.W. (8) Mediterranean tail N.E. of Cyprus. Tonkin Dot is large. Close to Hainan Island outside the coastline.









December 16, 1898 8% of Stamps Issued Blue Green Sea Mint Block of 4 Plate 1
Position 41

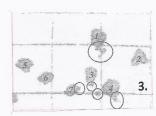
Plate 1 Position 42

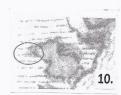




Plate 1 Position 52

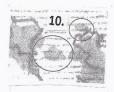
Upper left stamp position Position 41. (3) P.I.G. Is. #5, 1, 2, 3 and 7 all with tails or Dots to the North and East respectively. (10) A projection West from Kenya. No Tonkin Dot. Cable engraving in lower left corner is faint.







Upper right hand stamp Position 42. (10) Extra colony between East and West Africa. Also a large Dot. above Kenya. (4) A bold slash just above NZ. North Island. Tonkin Dot just inside coastline North West of Hainan Is.







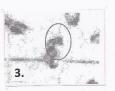
December 16, 1898 8% of Stamps Issued Pale Blue Green Sea Mint Block of 4 Continued....

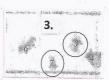
Lower left stamp Position 51. (8) Strong tail to the West on Malta. (11) Strong Dot to the N.W. of a triangulate Mauritius. (11) Island #2 in the I.O.G. has a tail to the South. (3) P.I.G. Island #9 has a projection above. Islands #3 and #7 are small. No Tonkin Dot. There is a vertical guide line top right of the cable.











Lower right stamp Position 52. (1) Oblong dash due South of Island #2 in the China Sea group. (9) Ascension Island obliquely thin and oblong with a Dot to the N.E. (10) Kenya has a broad triangulate projection to the N.W. (2) Vancouver Island is elongated and projects S.W. Strong Tonkin Dot inside coastline to the North West of Hainan Island. There is a small mark in the left margin.



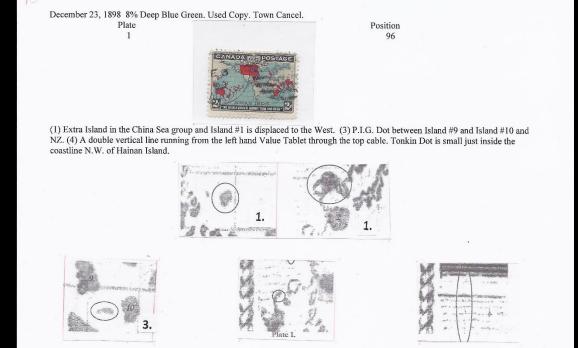












December 7, 1898 10% of stamps issued Lavender Mint. Copy.
Plate



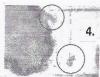
Position

(3) P.I.G. Island #3 is tailed, and Island #4 slants obliquely toward it. Small Dot. S.E. of Island #1. (1) Small oblong Island in the China Sea with a small Dot below almost as an exclamation mark. (4) A projection S.E. from Australia opposite the break in the coastline with a Dot between Australia and NZ. Two Dots outside the Cable East of India. A Tool mark at the top of "S" of Vaster. Tonkin Dot is to the N.W. of Hainan Island and on the coastline.









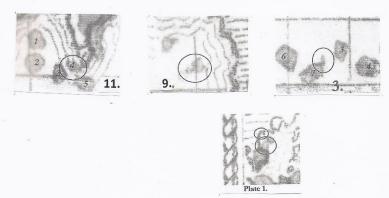
Position

13

CANADA POSTAGE
CANADA CE POSTAGE

Position 14

Pos. 13 (11) I.O.G. Island #4 is too far North above the adjacent Islands, a completely unique characteristic. (9) Ascension and St. Helena. St. Helena is triangular in shape. (3) P.I.G. Island #7 has a thin projection North. (1) China Sea Group. Island #1 is half the size of Island #2. Tonkin Dot is North of Hainan Island on the coastline.



Pos. 14 (3) P.I.G. Island #3 and Island #4 are linked together in a very characteristic shape in more or less diamond shape. Similarly Islands #5, #6 and #7 are also linked by their lower edge. This position is unique with these islands linked together as described. (4) Australia and NZ. There is a round island between NZ and P.I.G. Island #9 and #10. (10) Africa. There is an irregular slash mark North of Kenya. (9) Ascension and St. Helena. There is a hook stretching to the East on St. Helena. The Tonkin Dot is embedded in the coastline North West of Hainan Island.

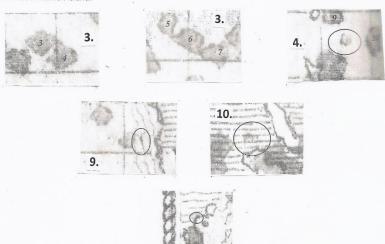


Plate 1.

2



Position

20

(3) P.I.G. Island between Island #1 and Island #3. (4) Australia and NZ. A Dot between Island #9 and Australia. (11) I.O.G. Island #4 is noticeably larger than the adjacent Islands. Tonkin Dot is large, just on an erased coastline N.W. of Hainan Island. There is also a second Dot to the North which is the remains of the erased coastline.









Plate 2.

February 11, 1899. 10% of Stamps Issued. Lavender Sea. Used Copy. Town Cancel Toronto, October 5, 1899.

Plate

2

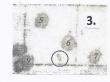


Position

64

(11) I.O.G. A long projection N.W. of India. (3) P.I.G. Island #6 has a Dot to the S.W. There is a Dot just outside the lower right Cable. Tonkin Dot is a small slash just above Hainan Island outside the coastline.





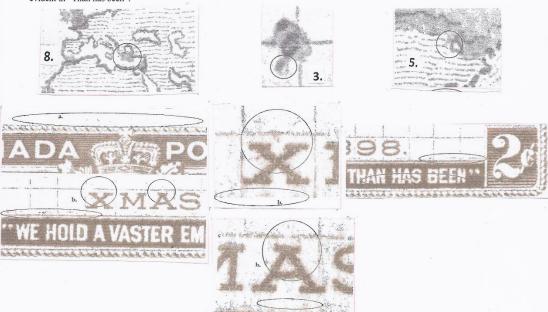




2



(8) Unique position of Malta well North of a line joining Gibraltar and Cyprus. (3) P.I.G. Strong projection S.W. of Island #9 (5) Small projection S. from Canada to the West of the Great Lakes. There is no Tonkin Dot. Plate 2 is a re-entry. At the top of the stamp in the margin are numberous marks presumably left from the heavy shading in the original links. Doubling of the "X" and "A" in XMAS. There is a line above the upper neat line of the lower caption box. A second line runs through the caption itself most clearly evident in "Than has been".



A second copy of Plate 2, Position 7, is an anomolie. Lavender copies were reported as issued February 11, 1899, 10% of Stamps issued. Below is a town dated Woodstock dated January 23, 1899.



Plate 2 Position 7 Continued....

A Third Mint Copy of Plate 2 Position 7

January 1, 1899 21% of Stamps issued in a Paler Shade of Blue Green Sea.



February 11, 1899 10% of Stamps issued Lavender Sea Smudge Cancel Plate

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Position 29

(3) P.I.G. Island #3 is markedly smaller than Island #1, Island #2, Island #4. (7) There is a single large Island representing the Shetlands well to the N.E. This position is strongly re-entered. A mostly continuous line running through the lower legend mid way through the letters. In the right hand Value Tablet. There are strong re-entry marks with 2 or 3 spurs outside the Cable. The "2" has faint remants of hatch lines above and below. There are projections of hatch lines in Canada particularly evident in "N" and "C". There is no Tonkin Dot.





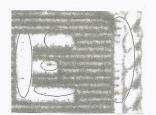
















January 1, 1899 21% of Stamps issued. Very Deep Blue Green Sea Used. Grid Cancel.

2

Position

7



(3) P.I.G. There is an extra Island between and just below Island #5 and Island #6. (11) I.O.G. Island #3 is missing and there is a Dot South of Island #2. (10) There is an extra Island off the coast of South Africa. (5) There are Dots in the Eastern U.S. This position is a re-entry. Slightly irregular outline to the "2" in the left Value Tablet; also a Tool mark in the corner inside the Cable. A re-entry in the right hand Value Tablet with strong re-entry inside the right hand Cable next to the Tablet. A discontinuous line running through the lower legend toward the bottom of the letters. Doubling of the "X" and "M" of XMAS. At the top right the horizontal hatch lines project through the right hand neat line. There are faint marks throughout postage outside the right hand cable. This is a series of dots, remnants of the original cable. There is no Tonkin Dot.

























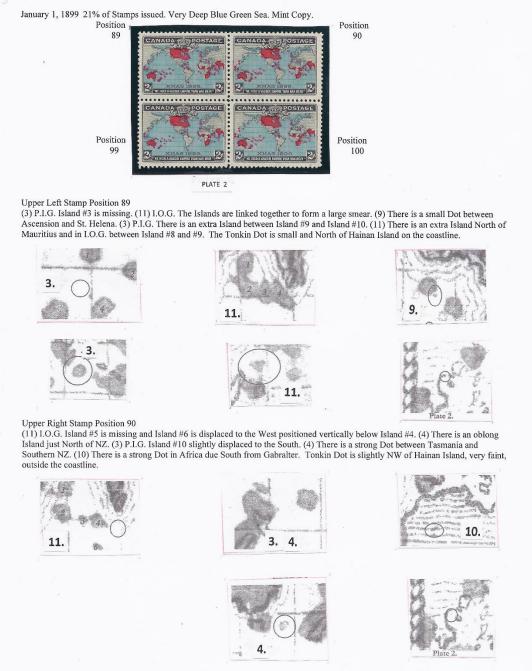
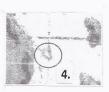


Plate Block Position 89, 90, 99 and 100 continued....

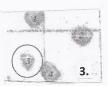
Lower Left Stamp Position 99

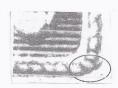
(4) There is a strong Dot East of Australia. (8) Malta projects to the SW with a Dot to the North in Greece. (10) There is a strong Dot in Africa just below Gibralter. (3) P.I.G. Island #3 is small. There is a retouch in the lower right corner evidenced upwardly outside the cable. Tonkin Dot is West of Hainan Island on the coastline and very faint.









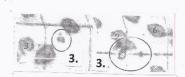




Lower Right Stamp Position 100
(5) Large rounded Dot immediately North of Bermuda. (8) There is a Dot or slash immediately South of Cyprus. (3) P.I.G. There is a strong Dot between Island #2 and Island #4 and a Dot to the SE and projection to the SW of Island #9. There is a large Dot beneath "HAS". The Tonkin Dot is just NW of Hainan Island and inside the coastline.











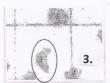
February 11, 1899 10% of Stamps issued. Lavender Sea. Registration Cover from Marks Stamp, Toronto. November 24, 2004 to NW Butcher back stamped November 25, Peterboro, Ontario.

Plate 2 Position 87



One Identifiable Stamp top right corner.

(3) P.I.G. Small Island just North of Island #3 gives it a unique shape. (3) Dot between Island #9 and Island #10. (11) I.O.G. Dot North of Island #1. (10) Kenya has a pronounced projection to the West. (8) There are a group of faint Dots South of Malta. Tonkin Dot is very faint. Lies on the coastline North West of Hainan Island.









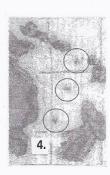


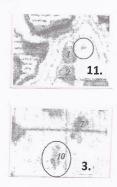


Position 43



(4) Three Dots to the East of Australia. (11) I.O.G. A small Dot to the East of Island #1. (3) P.I.G. Skinny shape to Island #10. Tonkin Dot NW of Hainan Island just inside the coastline.







February 11, 1899 10% of Stamps Issued. Lavender Sea. Used Copy.
Plate



Position

(3) P.I.G. A very distinct position with Island #6 uniquely "fish" shaped. Also an additional Island between Island #7 and Island #10. (11) I.O.G. Island #1 is attached by an isthmus to Somalia. Tonkin Dot is NW of Hainan Island just inside the coastline.







February 11, 1899 10% of Stamps Issued. Lavender Sea. Mint Copy.

2

Position

19



(3) P.I.G. shape of Island #7 with two attached Islands which together with the proximity of Island #3 produces a winged bird effect. Also, there is an additional Island East of Island #9 and South of Island #4. (4) There is an Island between Tasmania and NZ. (9) There is a small Dot NE of St. Helena. Plate 2 is a major re-entry. In the left Value Tablet, the horizontal Hatch Lines project slightly into the body of the "2". There is a discontinuous line running throughout the lower legend toward the top of the letters. There is a faintly doubled "M" of XMAS and "9" of 1898. In the right hand Value Tablet there are a few projecting remnant Hatch Lines into the "2" with a spur projecting on the corner of the Cable. In the "E" of postage are strong remnants of Hatch Lines and the "S" and "O" show their original outline.

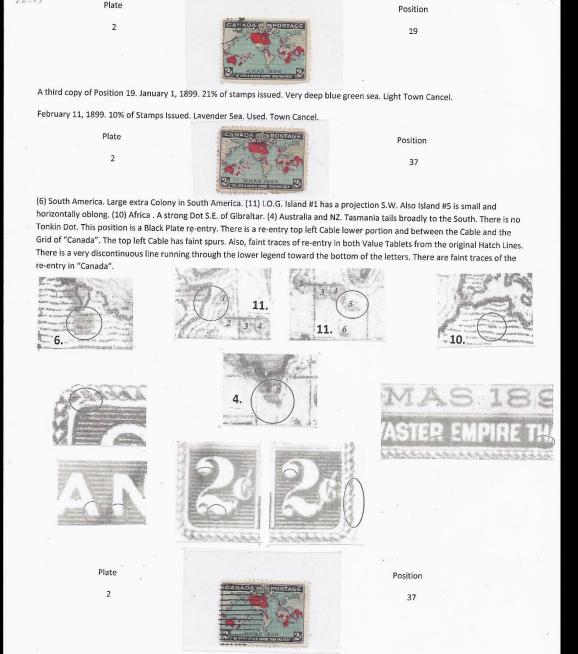


February 11, 1899 10% of Stamps Issued. Lavender Sea. A Second Copy. Used. Grid Cancel.

Plat

Position 19





A second copy of Position 37. January 1, 1899. 21% of Stamps Issued. Very Deep Blue Sea. Grid Cancel.

February 11, 1899. 10% of Stamps Issued. Lavender Sea. Town Cancel. Montreal January 10, 1899.

Plate

2



Position

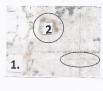
98

(3) P.I.G. Island #3 is always small. Also the unusual shape of Island #9. (10) Africa. The absence or small size of Colony 4 in West Africa. (1) China Sea Group. Island #2 is more or less square. Strong central Guideline visible to the East of the Tonkin Gulf. Tonkin Dot is well inside Hainan Island to the North West.









January 1, 1899. 21% of Stamps Issued. Deep Blue Green Sea. Town Cancel. Montreal September 1, 1899.

Plate

2



Position

24

(8) Mediterranean. Malta is of oblong-vertical shape. (3) P.I.G. Island #7 is hooked to the North East and often joined to Island #3. There is a Dot in the left hand margin. The Tonkin Dot is faint and outside the coastline, slightly North West of Hainan Island.





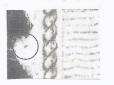




Plate 2.

January 1, 1899. 21% of Stamps Issued. Very Deep Blue Green Sea. Town Cancel. Montreal January 13, 1899.

Plate

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Position

34

(3) P.I.G. Island #7 is small. Also Island #6 has a Dot or projection both East and West. Island #9 has a projection or Dot to the S.E. and there is a smaller Dot to the N.W. of Island #10 and often a min. a Island further N.W. again. The Tonkin Dot is covered by the cancellation in this stamp. By process of elimination it is identifiable and positioned slightly W. of Hainan Island outside the coastline.







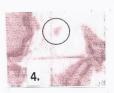
Plate 2

Position 11



(9) Strong Dot North East of Ascension. (4) Dot between Australia and North Island N.Z. (3) P.I.G. Island #8 and Island #9 are joined by an extra Island. Black Plate criteria three (3) Dots and a faint guide line lower left. There are no Tonkin Dots.









March 7, 1899. 24% of Stamps Issued. Lavender Sea. Used. Town Cancel. Brantford January 7, 1899 an Anomolie. The Town Cancel pre-dates the documented March 7, 1899 Issue Date.

Plate 3

Position 82



(10) Projection to the N.W. from Nigeria. (4) Two projections East of South Australia and a slash North of N.Z. (3) P.I.G. Island #9 two small Islands. (8) Mediterranean. Cyprus a Dot to the West with a curled projection North. Tonkin Dot North of Hainan Island on the coastline.













March 7, 1899. 24% of Stamps Issued. Lavender Sea Color Changed Due to Oxidation. "Muddy Waters" Variety. Commercial Cover from the M. Brennen and Sons Mfg. Co. Hamilton Stamped October 20, 1899. Back Stamped Montreal October 21, 1899.

3



(1)Small Island due South of Island #2 in the China Sea Group. (3) P.I.G. Island #7 is strongly hooked to the North East and often joined to Island #3. Also a Dot or projection North East of Island #9. There is a strong Dot and horizontal guide line, lower right. The Tonkin Dot is outside the coastline just North East of Hainan Island.

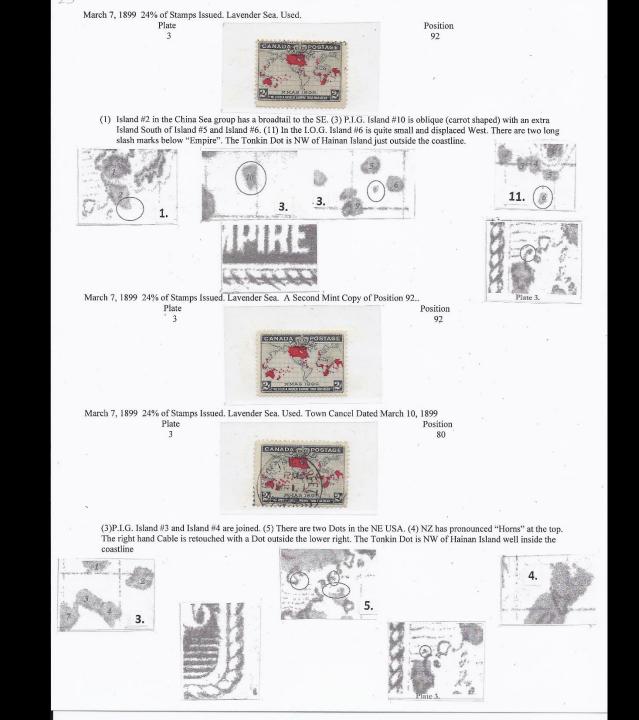






March 7, 1899. 24% of Stamps Issued. Lavender Sea. A Second Example of Plate 3, Position 24. Used Flag Cancel.

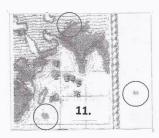


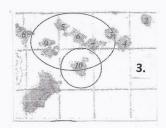


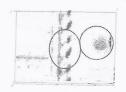
Position



(11) There is an extra Colony South of Mauritius. (3) P.I.G. Islands #5, #6 and #7 almost join. There is a Red Dot in the right hand margin. There are Black Dots outside the lower left. There is no Tonkin Dot.







March 7, 1899 24% of Stamps Issued. Lavender Sea. Used Copy. Grid Cancel.

Plate



Position 33

(11) I.O.G. Island #3 is missing and Island #6 is small and offset to the West. (3) P.I.G. Island #2 is missing. (10) There is a small projection East of Nigeria. Left Cable has a smudge one third from the top. Tonkin Dot is faint and inside the coastline to the NW of Hainan Island.



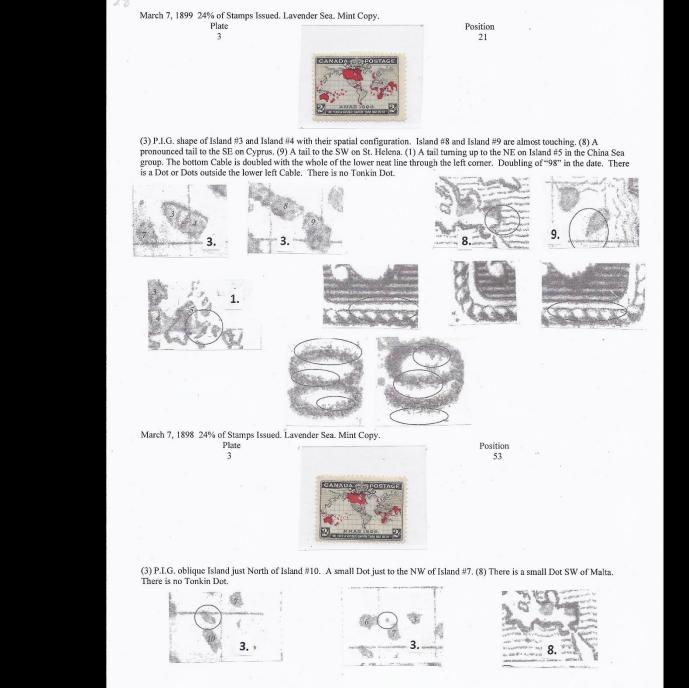












Position Plate 72 (6) South America. In the Falklands a Dot to the N.E. (11) I.O.G. Island #3 is small. Black Plate criteria four strong spurs below left hand Value Tablet. Top left cable and title box are doubled. March 27, 1899. 6% of Stamps Issued. Used. Lavender Sea. Grid and Town Cancel (Quebec). Position Plate 12 (4) Australia and NZ. A small projection near the tip of NZ. Two Dots N.E. of Australia. (3) P.I.G. Island #5 is a double Island. Black Plate. Top left Cable is clearly doubled. Jet black surround to the "C" of Canada. Tonkin Dot and arc North of Hainan Island well inside the coastline.

March 27, 1899 13% of Stamps Issued. Lavender Sea. Another Example of A Changling Due to Oxidation. "Muddy Waters" Variety. An Advertising Cover "Rennie's Seeds". From Falding, Ontario. April 10, 1899. Back Stamped Toronto. April 10, 1899.

RENNIE'S SEEDS.

WILLIAM RENNIE,
TORONTO,
CANADA.

(5) A small Dot West of Bermuda. Also a projection East from Labrador usually with a small Dot South. (3) P.I.G. Island #10 is doubled. (1) A projection North from Island #3 in the China Sea group. (7) Orkneys and Shetlands are fused as a single broad oblique Island. Three spurs are present lower left on the Cable corner. This is a third State example of this position. The "C" of Canada is doubled and the background of "Canada Postago" is extremely doubled to an almost solid black State.



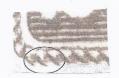
5













5



Position

91

The most famous re-entry of the map stamp plates. (10) A Dot East of Colony #1 in West Africa. (8) A strong Dot South of Malta. (3) P.I.G. There is an extra Island between Island #3 and Island #7. There is extensive doubling throughout the entire image particularly in "CANA" of Canada. The lower Cable is retouched with spurs under "HOLD". There is doubling of "XMAS" and the line of latitude above. This re-entry was done along with Positions 73, 92 and 95 immediately following the inspection of the first Plate proofs but before the lower Cable was retouched.



Plate

Parties Position

Position

91

This is a second used copy of the major re-entry. A three-ring circle cancel London, Ontario, September 28, 1899.

5



Position

96

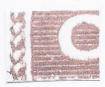
(5) Bermuda is two large Islands. (10) There is a Dot in North Africa. (3) P.I.G. There is a slash between Island #6 and Island #9. (7) The Orkneys and Shetlands are large and nearly joined. There is extensive doubling throughout the Plate evidenced especially in the black background of "Canada Postage". In the retouched lower Cable, there is a spur in the left hand corner with an additional spur below "THAN HAS".

















March 27, 1899. 6% of Stamps Issued. Lavender Sea. Used Copy. Town Cancel Sherbrooke.

Plate

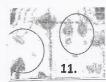
5



Position

11

(11) I.O.G. An extra Island West of Island #1 with symmetrical Dots North and South of Island #3 and Island #4. (7) The North of Scotland has broad "shoulders" with the Orkneys attached and the Shetland Islands displaced North and enlarged. (4) NZ has a strong reverse hook or tail to the N.E. (3) P.I.G. Island #9 is a single Island with a Dot S.W. of Island #5 and Island #3 is two small Islands. This is a first State example and not re-entered.











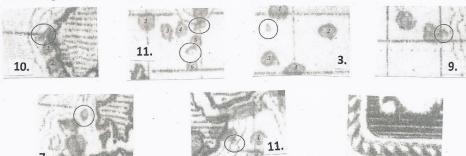
5



Position

87

(10) Africa. There is a slash just N. of Colony 1 in W. Africa and also in W. Africa Colony 3 has a projection SW and a Dot below. (11) I.O.G. An extra Island just N. and S. of Island 5. (3) P.I.G. There is a Dot just S. of Island 1. (9) Ascension and St. Helena. St. Helena tails to the East. (7) United Kingdom. The Shetland Islands are small. (11) I.O.G. There is a tail S.E. from Somalia. Black Plate. There is very clear doubling in the lower left-hand corner.



March 27, 1899. 6% of Stamps Issued. Lavender Sea. Grid Cancel. Second, Third and Fourth States.

Plate



Position

99

(3) P.I.G. There is a slash E. of Island 9 with an additional slash between Island 5 and 6. (11) I.O.G. Island 3 is more or less triangular. (7) United Kingdom. The pattern of the Shetlands and Orkneys shows 2 large, more or less combined, Islands. Black Plate. The lower Cable is re-touched and doubling is clearly visible in the lower left and lower right. The re-touch will be present in the first commercial printing, (3rd state) and it is probable in the final commercial printing that the additional re-entries occurred, forming the final 4th state.













THANKS



For Watching