

# Canada 3¢ Small Queen Perforations & Position Dots

**Introduction:** Identification of printings (Ottawa or Montreal) of the Small Queens depends upon the denomination, perforations, position dots, paper, cancellations, dated copies, and color or shade. This exhibit considers perforations (perfs) and position dots (PD) for the 3¢ denomination.

**Analysis:** About 2,400 3¢ Small Queens were examined using a Kiusalas Canada Gauge and a magnifier. The Kiusalas Gauge measures the distance between the centre of the perforation holes in thousandths of an inch. (The metric equivalent shown in brackets measures the number of perfs in a span of 2 cm.)



→ | ←

65 = 0.065 inches  
between perf holes

**Findings:** 85% of the stamps measured 65 x 65 (12.11 x 12.11) and 5% measured 68 x 65 (11.58 x 12.11); the other 10% varied slightly from these predominant measurements. Regarding position dots, 83% contained no discernable PD, 15% a lower left PD, and the remaining 2% PDs in other locations.

**Conclusions:** First Ottawa Printing (1870-73) perfs typically measure 66 x 66 (just under perf 12); Second Ottawa (1889-97) 65 x 65 (perf 12). Early Montreal Printing (1873-79) perfs measure 68 x 65 (perf 11 ½-¾ x 12) and Later Montreal (1880-89) 66 x 66 (perf 12) & then 66 x 64 or 64 x 66 (perf 12 x 12 ¼ or 12 ¼ x 12).

Lower left PDs are found in First Ottawa Printings and Early Montreal Printings. Later Montreal Printings (after 1880) have PDs at 3 or 9 o'clock just outside the vignette oval. Second Ottawa Printings have no PDs.

**Reference:** G. Demke, "Perforations & Position Dots Found on Canada 3¢ Small Queen Stamps." *Calgary Philatelist*, Issues 172-3, Oct. & Nov. 2020.