

## THREE CENTS SMALL QUEEN 1870 – 1897

**Background:** In late 1869 after eight printings of large Queens a decision was taken to reduce the size of the three cents stamp from 24 X 20 mm to 20 X 17 mm, that is from large Queen to small Queen. It has been suggested by both the Duckworths and Hillson and Nixon that this was done to obtain more stamps per impression, but the first small Queen plates comprised 100 subjects, same as the large Queen plates, so this could have been the reason. Cost was not the reason either as the printers price for the smaller stamps was the same as for the old. That is 25¢/1,000. This collector is of the opinion that the reason the stamp size was reduced was that the public had become accustomed to stamps the size of the pence and first decimal issues and wanted a return to that size.

**Purpose:** This collection of the three cents small Queen has been prepared to show the evolution of the stamp in terms of changes in: shade, perforation and paper resulting from the many printing orders. An earlier study of these stamps was made by L. D. Shoemaker and published in stamps magazine in March 1941 and later re-published in BNA Topics Vol. 7, No 5, 1950. References are made to Shoemaker's article. Shoemaker listed 39 different classes, this exhibit will show 137 deliveries, orders and classes. This is a stamp collection supported by one proof. You will not find here large multiples or rate covers to exotic locations.

### **Deliveries, Orders and Classes:**

The Duckworths recorded deliveries of large and small Queens from the order of the first printing up to June 30, 1872. Unfortunately the British American Bank Note Company's Journal 'A' which contained the information on quantities and dates of deliveries has



Plate proof  
On India

subsequently been lost.

From July 1, 1872 to June 6, 1892 printing orders were recorded in the Post Office Department letter book, but no record of orders subsequent to June 6, 1892 has been found. For the period June 7, 1892 to June 18, 1897 it has been assumed that the first use of each class occurred on the first day of each quarter.

**Plates:** For the three cents small Queen 24 plates have been recorded. The plates were never hardened, so they could be re-entered when necessary..

**Papers:** For purposes of this study the Duckworth numbered identification system has been used

For paper 10b and extended to include the papers introduced after paper 10b. Papers 16 and 17 are only known used for the 15 cents large Queen. Papers 1 to 10a were used for the large Queens

**Colour:** The colour names for the stamps have been taken from the Stanley Gibbons colour key No. 2530.

**Perforations:** The perforations gauge 11.6, 11.75, 11.9, 12.1, 12.3 and 12.5. Perforations have been measured with a Stanley Gibbons Instanta gauge.

**Paper thickness:** Paper thickness has been measured with a Mitutoyo No. 2804S-10 paper micrometer.

### **SIGNIFICANT ITEMS:**

- Copy of the first delivery perforated 12.5.
- Copy of the "spot on nose" variety.
- Copy of the "vampire bite" variety.
- Stamps perforated 12.1 X 12.3 at Printing Orders 74 and 75.

- Plan of the exhibit
1. Title
  2. Papers
  - 3 – 4. Deliveries
  - 4 – 14. Orders
  - 15 – 16 Classes