

## Admiral Plate Flaws ~ Scratching the Surface

### Purpose of Exhibit:

There are a great many Plate Flaws to be found on Canada's 1911 Admiral stamps and only a very small number have been reported. This exhibit will present 56 previously unreported Plate Flaws.

### Exhibit Plan:

The title page attempts to educate the viewer about the three different groups of Constant Plate Varieties found on steel engraved stamps. After explaining that while re-entries and retouches are rather typical to the production of engraved stamps, plate flaws are the result of damage to the plate. By this time, the viewer should have some appreciation of the pun in the site's title.

*It is made very clear that re-entries and retouches are NOT part of this discussion; the focus is entirely on Plate Flaws.*

Following 14 pages of newly reported Plate Flaws, the final page offers a look at some excellent prospects for future additions to the study.

### Observations:

Many aspects of Canada's "Admiral" issue have been well studied over the last century and there is an impressive list of reference material available. Marler's 1982 work provides detailed descriptions of many of the re-entries and retouches he located on the printer's proof sheets, but he was able to notate only a very few constant Plate Flaws. REASON???

Other students, especially Matte (for the 2¢ Carmine) and Reiche, have identified only a few hundred CPVs. "A few hundred" may sound like a lot, but given the hundreds of thousands of different Admiral plate positions, this is but the very beginning; this is an almost uncharted area for further study.

The exhibitor has found two or more examples of many previously unreported CPVs. **This research focused exhibit will show examples, with illustration, for some his more interesting CPV discoveries.**

While some of the Plate Flaws shown are minor in nature, others are spectacular and surely deserve 'Catalogue' status. Red borders indicate the most impressive items.

All of the stamps on pages 2 to 15 should be considered 'rare', as none are readily available in even the largest "Dealer Stocks". Consider the 1¢ Green Major Re-entry from position 35 of the lower right pane of Plate 12 (SC # 104vii). This highly desirable stamp occurred once on each sheet printed from Plate 12. However, there were 170 different plates for the 1¢ Green sheet format alone, thus well over 65,000 different positions to examine.

The math of a Plate Flaw study can be daunting. Each flaw will occur on only one plate position of one printing plate for at most, the useful life of the printing plate. Many of the Plate Flaws shown here will not be found on the proof sheets as the damage to the plate happened sometime after the plate was put into production. It is reasonable to assume that several of the Plate Flaws shown on the 1¢ Green are less common than the 1¢ Major. The other values shown would have comparable rarities.

To understate the obvious: Finding two examples of any individual plate flaw is a challenge.

Admiral reference materials which are helpful to a CPV study include:

Marler, George C. *The Admiral Issue of Canada*. State College PA: American Philatelic Society, 1982. 567 pp.

Marler, George C. *Canada - The Admiral Issue 1911-1925*. Toronto: Unitrade Press, 1980. 75 pp.

Matte, Raymond. Study Relating to the George V 1912 Stamp, Self-published (in 3 parts), 1975-77.

Morris, Richard M. *The Admiral Issue of Canada*. British North America Philatelic Society, Ltd., 2008. 167 pp. (Volume 48 of BNAPS Exhibit Series)

Reiche, Hans. *Canada: The Admiral Flaws*. Self-published, 1987. 22 pp.

Reiche, Hans. *Canada: The Admiral Stamps of 1911 to 1925*. (printer: ?); 1965. 136 pp.

Reiche, Hans. *Canada: The Admiral Stamps of 1911 to 1925, Part 2*. (printer: ?); 1971(?). 49 pp.