

*This short article was first published in Dots and Scratches, the Newsletter of the BNAPS Re-entries and Constant Plate Varieties Study Group in their issue no 25 of January 2021. We thought the subject may be of more general interest amongst our members so it is reproduced here with the kind permission of the author.*

## VARIETIES ON THE HALF CENT LARGE QUEEN NEW DISCOVERIES AND IMAGERY

**Brian Hargreaves**

The Half Cent Large Queen is in many ways a confusing value for variety hunters. The more obvious varieties are actually not one-offs, but are quite common. Three varieties, in particular, are progressive flaws that can be found to a greater or lesser extent in several plate positions.; the ‘Chignon’ variety in six positions in column 3, the ‘line above P in POSTAGE’ in eight positions in column 2 and, of course, the ‘Spur’ variety which is found in no less than 33 different plate positions.

It is therefore a pleasure to be able to report three new examples of one-off constant plate varieties which, with the aid of scans below, readers can now search for with some interest and enthusiasm! One is a completely new unreported discovery, the other two have been written about in the literature, but never properly illustrated.

### Scratch through ‘HALF’ (see fig 1)

Mention of this variety was first made by Horace Harrison in 1976 (1) and Hans Reiche in 1977 (2), but with no illustrations or images. *Maple Leaves* later published an article by Dr. Z. M. Gordon in 1984 (3) which included a rough hand-drawn illustration of the variety. Gordon was able to plate this flaw to position 26 since it was located just below the well-known ‘Dot in E’ variety from position 16 in a block of eight.



*Fig 1.*

Harrison thought that this flaw was ‘a late occurrence in the life of the plate’ perhaps leading to its replacement by the Small Queen Half Cent issue in 1882. Gordon, however, had three examples of the variety, all perforated 11½ x 12, which he dated to between 1873 and 1878 and therefore did not agree!

**Two Dots in ‘T’ (see fig 2)**

This variety was also reported by Reiche in 1977, but again without illustration. Reiche suggested that it came from plate position 100. This seems to be a strong possibility given the large bottom and right margins and the lower right margin position dot visible on my copy in fig 2.

I had previously featured this variety in a BNAPS Study Group newsletter (4) with no response. Perhaps with this extra information, readers may be able to find a matching copy to definitely prove the plate position.



*Fig 2.*

**Scratch or Relief Break in Left Margin (see fig 3 overleaf)**

This variety is unreported to my knowledge. I have two examples to prove constancy (see fig 3 overleaf). They somewhat resemble the ‘Line above P’ variety in the upper margin or the ‘Spur’ variety that occurs in a similar location on the 2 cents value.

I look forward to hearing from readers with information or matching copies for any of these rarely seen varieties.

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Fig 3.

References:-

1. Notes on the Half Cent Large Queen; Horace Harrison; BNA Topics July – August 1976 pp 17-18
2. A Large Queen's Report; Hans Reiche; Canadian Wholesale Supply 1977
3. Half Cent Large Queens Flaw; Dr Z.M. Gordon; Maple Leaves August 1984, Vol 19 no 7, pp186 -187
4. More Solitary Varieties Seek Matching Partners for a Constant Relationship; Brian Hargreaves; Dots and Scratches, January 2018

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