

SOLO USAGES OF CANADA'S ONE CENT SMALL QUEEN STAMP: 1870-1897

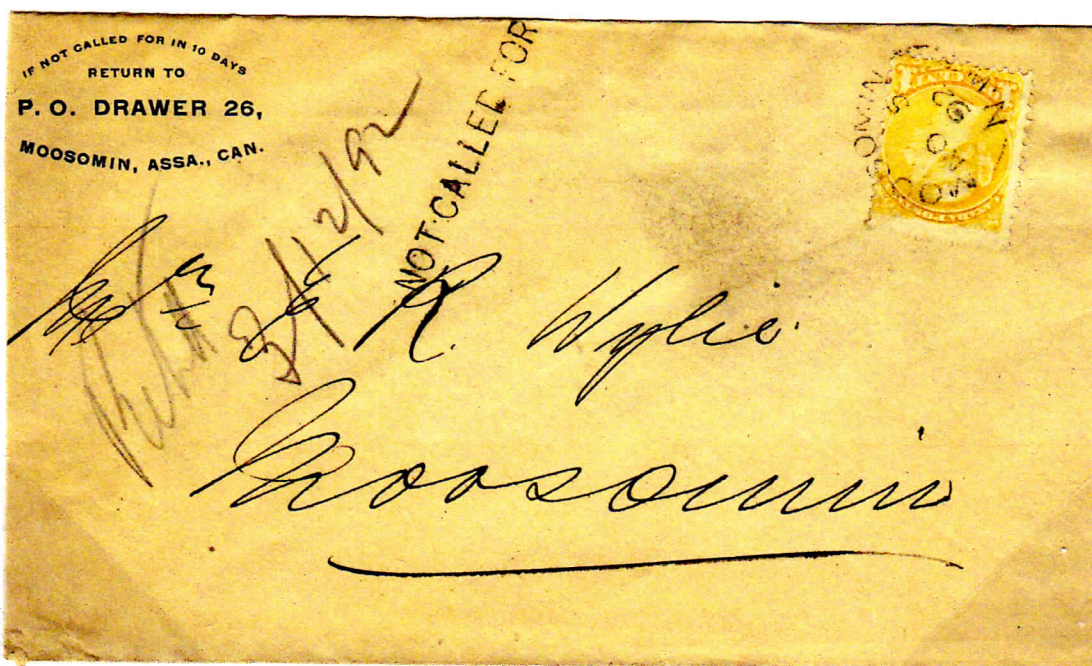
The Small Queen series of Canadian definitive stamps is named to distinguish it from the earlier Large Queen issues. It was followed in turn by the Queen Victoria Diamond Jubilee stamps of 1897. The Small Queens offer a complex study of printing, perforation and color varieties. This exhibit deals only with the solo usages of the one cent definitive, not the stamp itself.

There were five basic rates payable by a single one cent stamp during this period in Canada:

- **Drop letters:** sealed envelopes posted and delivered within the jurisdiction of the same postal facility.
- **Private Post Cards:** non-governmental cards with no advertising or return addresses on their faces.
- **Printed Matter:** unsealed envelopes containing circulars, pricelists and other documents with no handwriting.
- **5th Class:** miscellaneous matter not covered by the previous rate, including books, journals, photographs and part-printed governmental forms.
- **Newspapers** to UPU member nations abroad.

These rates applied to mail to domestic destinations and to the USA during this time.

As this exhibit demonstrates, the rules frequently were ignored or bent by the mailing public.



Drop letter, Moosimin, Assiniboia, North-West Territories (now Saskatchewan), 5 Nov 1892. Mailed just ten years after the opening of the Moosimin post office. Territorial usages of Small Queen stamps are seldom seen.