

MORE ON NUMBERING EQUIPMENT, AND VARIETIES...

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May 2003

Looking for varieties, errors, freaks etc... can be a lot of fun. Just recently I found a couple of CTC 9-C with a "Curved 2" at the base in the serial number. (See fig. 1). These are in the V5287xxx range. For a closeup of the 2 in the serial number (See fig. 2) I have coupon 5279615 which is normal so it looks like this variety could only occur in ranges of 528xxxx and 628xxxx, I have 6288714. In this group of 20,000 coupons I do not know how many would be of this variety as I do not have enough coupons to bracket it.

Months later I came across the same variety but on CTC 8-A, Curved 2 in the same position, serial # S3294821 (See fig. 3). I have a normal coupon, S3235137 which is the closest I could bracket it. This leaves approximately 65,000 coupons in the 3235xxx to 3299999 to look though to bracket this one. Some other possibilities would be to look in the S229xxxx range. I do not know if this variety would carry through to the coupons with serifs, if so, try looking in the S429xxxx range as well.

Since this variety has been found in 2 series of Gas Bar issues, It looks like this particular print wheel was in use for a lot of years.

Another interesting variety I found, what I call the "Gap 2" or "Broken 2" in the CTC 8-B (no serif) 10¢ value in the range 5690327/8 (See fig. 7). The gap is located on the left side of the 2 at the base on the 6th digit of the serial number. The print wheel may have been damaged or else some foreign matter may have got on the plate during printing. It would be interesting to find where else in the series this variety will pop up.

Another cockeyed number (Flat top 6) that was discovered in the CTC 8-E Gas Bar issue was the \$1.00 value serial number Z1006408 and Z0706419. (See fig. 4 and 5). Since this variety occurs in different ranges it would be recognized as a constant variety. This leads me to believe that you have a good chance of finding one in serial number ranges Z0706xxx, Z0806xxx, Z0906xxx and Z1006xxx. I am not sure if you would find them in ranges before Z0706xxx or after 1006xxx. Only 1000 (Z1006000 to Z1006999) would exist for any one range. Anyone that can find an example in each of the ranges listed above would be helpful in determining how many were issued. Theoretically there are at least 4000 out there waiting to be found but it could be more.

Cockeyed numbers on some coupons is not all that unusual as some of the print wheels get handled carelessly at times and some damage may occur.

On the matter of Blobs, donuts etc... here is one note (CTC 9-A) with a very prominent "large land mass" attached to the coast of Labrador, it has serial # 6547570.(See fig. 6) There are other coupons (too numerous to list here) where some foreign matter of various sizes got on the plate during printing and you will find these on most values especially in the CTC 8 and CTC 9 issues. A good name for these are "Donut" varieties. Some of this foreign matter also got printed in the water portion of the Map and these are often called "Extra Island" varieties, but sometimes they could also be due to insufficient inking.

There are now quite a few varieties, freaks and oddities to look for on Gas Bar issues so have fun and Good luck finding them. Any inquiries or data on the above can be E-mailed to lfontaine@shaw.ca.

