

BROKEN "Ks"

by Doug Adams #639

One thing about living in SW Ontario in mid January – it's dark, it's cold and there's lousy hockey (Leafs) on TV. That leaves plenty of opportunity to polish some different parts of my collection. This whole exercise started with My CTC 7H's with all the different J's. I can never tell them apart. A few emails and scans back and forth with Louis Fontaine set me straight, and I now feel better about my J varieties. (Thanks for all the help Louis)

This put me in the mood to push onward. Trouble is – people laugh at me. I try to keep up with the Collector, but as you'll see, I am so far behind.

First came some work on my Red Dot variety. That one was in the Collector in 2004 and I'm just now getting my example filed away in my binder. Then came the Face dot Variety. This one was in the Collector in 2006. I have 22 examples of the dots. First came selecting one of each denomination for the binder. That part is easy. Next is trying to figure out the logic. I always hear, just look at the third digit, or the fourth digit, it's always a six, or it's always a seven – this just never seems to work for me.

Alas, now it's on to the CTC 8's with the Broken K variety as outlined by Jerome Fourre in the Collector in July 2004. (Guess it's about time I finally got to this one eh). Roaming through my stash, I managed to come up with quite a few examples, 85 in all. I found them in all the denominations except one. I'm thinking this is a variety that a lot of people may just already have. I made a list of all the serial numbers, and put my best ones in my binder – which is another argument I have with myself all the time. Do I just keep one example of a Broken K, or do I keep one of each denomination. I know I should keep one of each (A, A1, A2, B, B1, B2, C, C1, D, D1, E1, E2) – that's 12 spots in my binder. For this variety, I guess it's ok, but for some of the harder varieties I sometimes think I have more open holes than I do filled in coupons. (like two different serial numbers for CTC 1A's, B's and C's – it's hard enough to find one !)

Enough complaining, I must try, once again, to find the logic in the variety. I've collected coupons for too long – I must try to get my head into the sheet logic. Just when I think I've made some progress with sheets, I come up with a series like this one, that makes my head spin. Here's what I have so far.

In the 8A's, the lower serial numbers have either a 2 or a 6 in the third digit location, however, the higher 8A serial numbers have either a 3 or a 7 in the third location.

The 8A1's and 8A2's were different, but I'll come back to those.

All my 8B's also had either a 3 or a 7 in the third location, just like the higher numbered A's. Does this mean they printed some A's, then at some later time printed some more A's along with some B's?

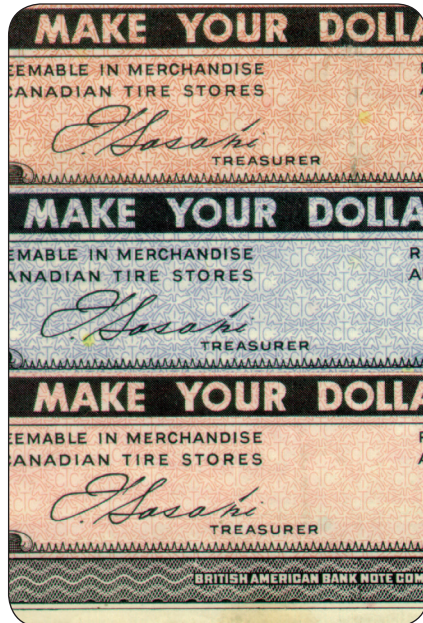
The 8A1's have either a 3 or a 5 in the third digit location. The 8A2's all have either a 5 or a 9. I don't have many B1 or B2 examples, but all my B1's had a 0 and all my B2's had a 6. My head is starting to spin.

Moving to the 8C's, all notes had either a 1 or a 5 in the third position, and this held true for my 8D's as well. Could it be that the \$0.25 C's and \$0.50 D's were printed together on the same sheet or on the same run? Possibly. After doing all this work, I found a few 8D1's that had either a 2 or a 6, so they must have been printed later. This makes sense.

My 8E's and E1's all had either a 2 or an 8 in the third position. That's good too.

Just when I think I have it all figured out, I'll call Jerome or one of the other members to make sure I'm on the right track. Then Jerome says, perhaps there were three plates on the drum, so every third coupons would be different. Perhaps there were nickels and quarters printed on the same sheet (he has examples of sheets with this feature). Perhaps they ran out of dimes, and printed some more – just when they also needed some quarters – so they ran them together. Agggh. So there's my story. If anyone wants my spreadsheets with the serial numbers for the Broken K's, or the Face Dots, just let me know and I'll email them to you. Then you too, can be frustrated just like me.

PS: The next exercise I want to tackle is the M's on the CTC 7J's. This one is really going to drive me nuts. I have so much trouble with this variety. If they've announced my death before this edition of the Collector hits the streets, you'll all know why.



A close-up of the signature 'Sasaki' in cursive. An arrow points to the 'K' in the name. Below the signature, the word 'TREASURER' is printed in a bold, sans-serif font.