

# PRINTING IMPERFECTIONS ON EVERY THIRD COUPON: WHAT'S GOING ON?

by Don Roebuck #848



Serial # 0337019136

Sandy Lipin came to the June 2009 CTCCC meeting in Toronto with 41 new CTC S28-B08 5¢ coupons, numbered from 0337019100 to 0337019140, that had two printing imperfections, both on the front. One was an unprinted area in the translucent maple leaf, on all 41 coupons. The other consisted of two pale green marks, 3 or 4 mm long, one below the first A and the other above the second A in the large CANADIAN TIRE. And these two marks were on every third coupon, starting with 0337019100.

This last point rang a bell for me, because of some recent discoveries in the Bank of Canada "multicoloured" issues of 1969 to 1979.

It was during the production of these "multicoloured" issues that the changeover was made from plate numbers (tiny numbers on the face and back that identify the printing plate) to position numbers (tiny numbers on the face and back that indicate the position of the note on the sheet). But it was a complicated changeover, and one of the complications is that, in each denomination, there are "hybrid" notes that have a plate number (which is not underlined) on one side and a position number (which is underlined) on the other.<sup>1</sup>

Michael Zigler has been looking through dealers' stocks of the "multicoloured" issues, and has found the following sequences of \$1 notes:<sup>2</sup>

ACL 3668904 (64/256)	EAJ 3005706 (30/46)
ACL 3668905 (64/235)	EAJ 3005707 (29/46)
ACL 3668906 (64/256)	EAJ 3005708 (30/46)
ACL 3668907 (64/235)	EAJ 3005709 (29/46)
ACL 3668908 (64/256)	EAJ 3005710 (30/46)
ACL 3668909 (64/235)	EAJ 3005711 (29/46)
	EAJ 3005712 (30/46)
	EAJ 3005713 (29/46)
	EAJ 3005714 (30/46)
	EAJ 3005715 (29/46)

The numbers in parentheses are the face and back plate or position numbers. In the first sequence, for example, the backs of the notes were printed, alternately, by back plates 256 and 235, but we can't say anything about the faces because the face numbers, being underlined, are position numbers, so of course they are all the same. (Both of these sequences are in ranges in which both sides of the notes were printed by intaglio plates.)

It has been suggested that, in such cases, there were two intaglio plates (in the first sequence, back plates 256 and 235) on the plate cylinder, printing alternate sheets.<sup>3</sup>

So when Sandy Lipin showed us those CTC coupons with the two green marks on every third coupon, it occurred to me that there might have been, in this case, three intaglio plates on the cylinder, and that there was something wrong with one of them. (for example, it may have been dented.) In that case, the defect on the plate would play a role similar to that of a plate number in identifying the plate.

But in the Canadian Tire case it is not just the intaglio printing that appears to have been done in this way. I started asking around, and Jerome Fourre told me that he had seen some CTC S24-D 25¢ coupons with an area of purple ink missing on the back of every third coupon. (the backs of these coupons are lithographed.) And Roger Fox told me that he had seen some CTC S20 coupons, in all five denominations, with certain signature varieties on every third coupon.

Does anyone know anything about this?

## Notes

1. See my article in the Canadian Paper Money Newsletter, vol. 12, no. 3 (Sept. 2004). (Note that underlines were used in a totally different way on the Birds of Canada issues, and are not used at all on the Canadian Journey issues.)
2. Michael Zigler, "Registry of Hybrid Notes" (unpublished).
3. Brent Mackie has told me that this suggestion appeared on the Canadian Paper Money Forum, and almost certainly originated with Paul Wallis.