

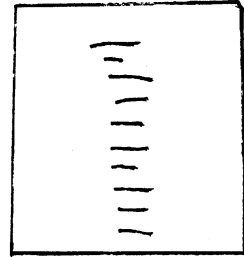


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Stitch Watermarks

by Hans Reiche

Amongst the so called quasi watermarks is one that is termed the "stitch watermark". Some US and Canadian stamps show this kind of watermark. A stitch watermark looks like a thinning of the paper but is done unintentionally by the paper manufacturer. A finely woven wire cloth is used to make the paper. To produce an endless wire cloth, the ends are stitched together by fine wires, similar to a staple. These stitches show up as short almost parallel fine lines, like a watermark. The paper that was formed over these stitches was usually slightly thinner than on the rest of the wire cloth. A repair of the cloth may also have required stitching.



A sketch of a stitch watermark

A good watermark detector is needed to see them. The last Canadian issue reported with such a watermark is the Admiral series. Because the paper of Admirals stamps is thicker than many of the previous issues, this watermark is hard to see. It often shows up just as fine paper indents rather than a clear watermark. None of the stitch watermarks are common because to find them needs a lot of patience and good light.