

STAMPS OF ANTIGUA PRINTED BY PERKINS BACON & CO.

By E. D. BACON.

(The stamps, which form the subject of these notes, consist of only two values of uniform design, but inasmuch as they continued to be printed by Messrs. Perkins Bacon & Co. for a period of nine years, it is not surprising that varieties of colour, paper and perforation are found among them. The numbers of the various supplies of stamps sent to the island of Antigua by Messrs. Perkins Bacon & Co. have not previously been published. I append a list of the consignments to the present notes, and add a few remarks on the further history of the stamps.)

Design and Plates.—The design is so well known that no detailed description is necessary. I shall only point out that the design, like all the work of Messrs. Perkins Bacon & Co., is a fine specimen of line-engraving, and that it was used by them exclusively for the stamps of Antigua.

The two plates employed for printing the stamps were of steel, and each contained 120 stamps arranged in ten horizontal rows of twelve. Die proofs in black on white card are known of both values, and plate proofs of the 6d exist in black and also in yellow-green on stout white wove unwatermarked paper, in each instance imperforate.

The last stamps sent out to the island by Messrs. Perkins Bacon & Co. left London on July 6, 1871, and the two plates used for printing the stamps were handed over to the Crown Agents for the Colonies on November 23 of that year. These plates were afterwards given to Messrs. De La Rue and Co., and this firm has since then printed all the stamps of Antigua.

Colour and Paper.—The first supply of stamps sent to the island on July 1, 1862, consisted of 8,000 of the 6d value. These were printed on watermarked paper and were deep blue-green in colour. All the subsequent printings were made on Messrs. Perkins Bacon & Co.'s small star watermarked paper. The latter paper was designed for plates containing 240 stamps in twenty rows of twelve, and as the Antigua plates were just half this size the paper was consequently also divided in half. The half sheets of paper were practically square and the result of this was that the printer sometimes passed the paper through the press with the star watermarks sideways instead of upright. When this was done the stamps naturally show two points of the star pointing upwards instead of the normal one point. I have called attention to this, as a good deal of correspondence took place in the *Stamp Collector's Magazine* in the year of 1874 about Antigua stamps with two points of the star upwards. Besides this pseudo variety of watermark a collector, writing in the number of the same journal for June, 1874, page 95, claims to have shown at a meeting of the Philatelic Society, London, a 1d Antigua, "first issue with inverted watermark," but what this curiosity could have been altogether passes comprehension, and it will probably remain as much a puzzle to my readers as it is to myself. Before leaving the subject of the star watermarked paper, I should add that it varies greatly in thickness, and specimens of Antigua stamps are found on paper almost as thin as that known as peline.



The 1d was not issued until some months after the 6d, as the first supply of this value only left London on December 12, 1862. The colour of this

supply and of the second lot of the same value, which was forwarded on April 27, 1864, was lilac-rose. This colour, like every other compounded with lilac, alters very rapidly, and accounts for the number of shades found of it in Antigua stamps. For the third supply of the 1d, that of September 7, 1864, the colour was changed to rose without any trace of lilac. The alteration was noted in *Le Timbre Poste* for December, 1864:—"Antigua. The 1d lilac-rose is actually bright carmine." Looking at the stamps to-day this cannot, I think, be called a very accurate designation. It is probable that four supplies were printed in rose; the three others being those despatched by the printers on June 10, 1865; May 14, 1866, and July 8, 1867. It is not, therefore, to be wondered at that with a colour so subject to change as rose, a large number of shades are found among the stamps, but those I have examined are more correctly described, by my idea of colour, under the term "dull rose." In October, 1867, the colour of the 1d was once more changed by the printers, this time to orange-vermilion, and the new colour was duly noted in *Le Timbre Poste* for December of that year:—"Antigua. The 1d, watermarked with star, is vermilion to-day." The first lot of the orange-vermilion stamps left London on October 7, 1867, and all the future supplies of the 1d forwarded to the island by Messrs. Perkins Bacon & Co. correspond more or less to this colour. As in the case of the lilac-rose and dull rose stamps a good many shades are found, some of which to my way of thinking are best described as "dull orange-red." For the 6d, with star watermark, there are but two distinct colours: deep blue-green and yellow-green, with numerous shades of each.

Perforation.—All the supplies of stamps sent out to the island were roughly perforated 14 to 16, with the exception of a small number of specimens, which were through inadvertance either left entirely imperforate or partly so. I have myself seen imperforate specimens of the 1d lilac-rose and the 6d yellow-green, star water-marked stamps, which certainly appeared to have satisfactory margins, and a note in Messrs. Collin & Calman's *Catalogue for Advanced Collectors*, p. 11, says:—"Both the 1 and 6p unperforated exist in unsevered pairs in collections in this country" (i.e., in the United States). I have not been enabled to trace an imperforate pair of the 6d, with star watermark, but a post-marked, imperforate pair of the 1d lilac-rose was at any rate formerly in the possession of the late Robert C. H. Brock, of Philadelphia and was sold with Part II. of his collection by public auction in New York on March 3rd, 1890, for \$16.00. This pair of stamps passed into the hands of F. de Coppet, and was again sold by public auction in New York on April 3rd, 1893, on the dispersal of his collection, this time for \$91.50! There is also a description of an imperforate pair of the 1d lilac-rose in *Le Timbre Poste* for September, 1889, but it is quite likely that this is the same pair as that owned by Mr. Brock and afterwards by Mr. de Coppet. The only reference I have found in the magazines to an imperforate specimen of the 6d is that in the *Philatelic Record* for August, 1887:—"Antigua. We have seen the 6d green, on paper watermarked with star, imperforate. As it seems satisfactory, we suppose it has been taken from a sheet which escaped, or partially escaped, the former clumsy perforation of Messrs. Bacon & Co." These imperforate specimens must, as

the writer in the *Philatelic Record* says, have come from sheets, which had either entirely or partly escaped the perforation. Quite possibly the latter, as the "Taping Collection" contains a post-marked, horizontal strip of three of the 1d orange-vermilion, without any vertical perforation.

Besides the ordinary rough perforation gauging 14 to 16 found on the stamps, specimens are sometimes met with which have a perforation measuring from 11 to 12, and others with this perforation in combination with the rough perforation 14 to 16. All such specimens, a list of which I give in the Synopsis, come from trial sheets which were used for experimental purposes in order to see which perforating machine was the most suitable for perforating the sheets of Antigua stamps. None of the stamps with these trial perforations were ever sent out to the colony for postal use.

Synopsis.

AUGUST (?), 1862.

Printed on greyish white, wove, unwatermarked paper. Roughly perforated 14 to 16. 6d, deep blue-green, slight shades.

Trial Perforations.

- Perforated 11 to 12. 6d, deep blue-green.
- Perforated 11 to 12 by 14 to 16. 6d, deep blue-green.
- Perforated 14 to 16 by 11 to 12. 6d, deep blue-green.

Die Proof on white card, Imperforate. 6d, black.

Plate proofs on stout, white, wove paper, Imperforate.

6d, black.
6d, yellow-green.

JANUARY (?), 1863.

Printed on white, wove paper watermarked with small six-rayed stars. Roughly perforated 14 to 16.

- 1d, lilac-rose, many shades.
- 1d, dull rose, many shades.
- 1d, dull orange-red, shades.
- 1d, orange-vermilion, shades.
- 6d, deep blue-green, shades.
- 6d, yellow-green, shades.

Varieties.

- Imperforate. 1d, lilac-rose. 1d, orange-vermilion. 6d, yellow-green.
- Imperforate vertically. 1d, orange-vermilion.

Trial Perforation.

Perforated 11 to 12 by 14 to 16. 1d, lilac-rose.

Die Proof on white card. Imperforate. 1d, black.

STAMPS FROM PERKINS BACON & CO.

July 1, 1862—8,000, 6d green.
Nov. 14, 1862—8,000, 6d green.
Dec. 12, 1862—96,000, 1d red.
June 12, 1863—8,000, 6d green.
Aug. 26, 1863—20,000, 6d green.
April 27, 1864—24,000, 1d red.
Sept. 7, 1864—36,000, 1d red.
Sept. 7, 1864—10,000, 6d green.
June 10, 1865—60,000, 1d red.
June 10, 1865—20,000, 6d green.
May 14, 1866—16,000, 6d green.
May 14, 1866—24,000, 1d red.
July 8, 1867—24,000, 1d red.
July 8, 1867—8,000, 6d green.
Oct. 7, 1867—14,400, 1d red.
Oct. 7, 1867—6,480, 6d green.
Dec. 12, 1867—14,400, 1d red.
Dec. 12, 1867—6,400, 6d green.
Mar. 10, 1868—14,400, 1d red.
Mar. 10, 1868—6,400, 6d green.
June 25, 1868—14,000, 1d red.
June 25, 1868—6,400, 6d green.
Oct. 1, 1868—14,400, 1d red.
Oct. 1, 1868—6,400, 6d green.
April 12, 1869—14,400, 1d red.
April 12, 1869—6,400, 6d green.
June 15, 1869—14,400, 1d red.
June 15, 1869—6,400, 6d green.
Oct. 11, 1869—14,400, 1d red.
Oct. 11, 1869—6,400, 6d green.
Jan. 4, 1870—14,400, 1d red.
Jan. 4, 1870—6,400, 6d green.
April 5, 1870—14,400, 1d red.
April 5, 1870—6,400, 6d green.
June 30, 1870—14,400, 1d red.
June 30, 1870—6,400, 6d green.
Oct. 6, 1870—14,400, 1d red.
Oct. 6, 1870—6,400, 6d green.
Jan. 5, 1871—14,400, 1d red.
Jan. 5, 1871—6,400, 6d green.
April 6, 1871—14,400, 1d red.
April 6, 1871—6,400, 6d green.
July 6, 1871—14,400, 1d red.
July 6, 1871—6,400, 6d green.

—Hertz Monthly Report.