



St. Helena

By
Fred. J. Melville,

President of the Junior
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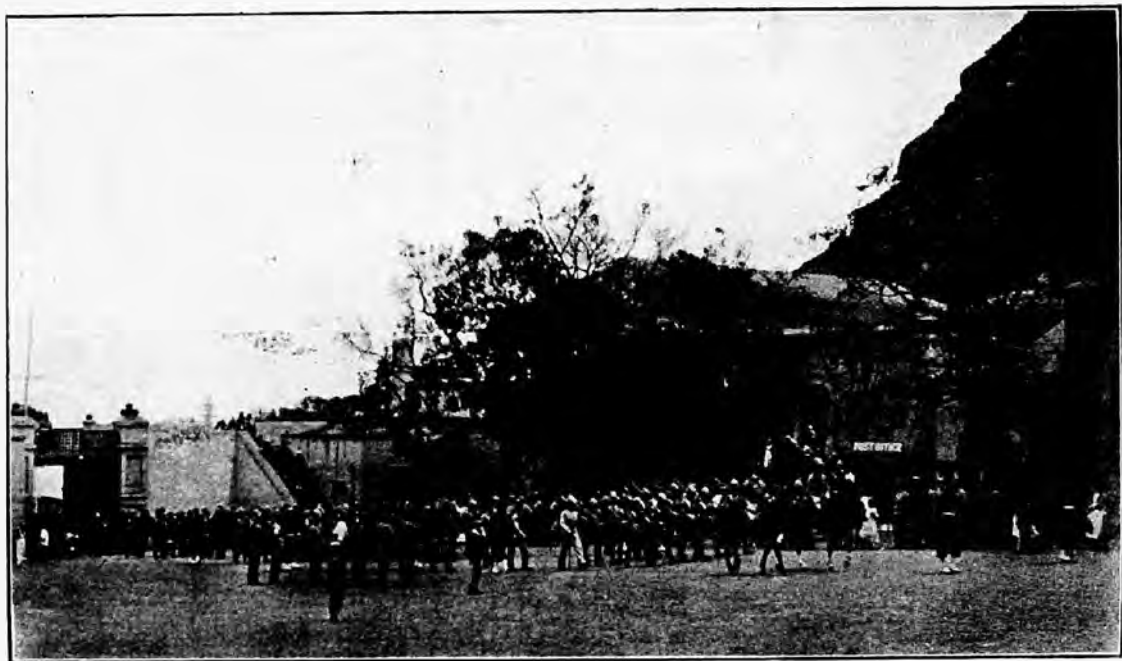
MDECCCXII - PUBLISHED - BY - THE
MELVILLE - STAMP - BOOKS,
47 - STRAND, - LONDON, - W.C.

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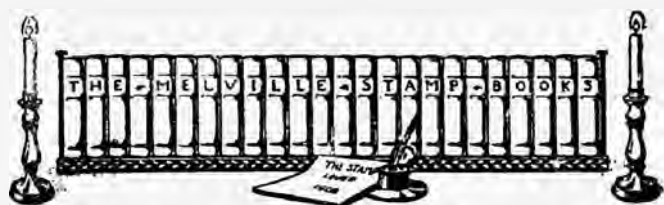
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The Post Office at St. Helena is a room in the Castle ; a board inscribed POST OFFICE may be seen near the entrance to it. The photograph shows the Boer prisoners and their guard on their arrival in the island.

Photo: A. L. Innes, St. Helena.



INTRODUCTORY NOTE.

THE second series of these handbooks is completed with the publication of this, the sixteenth volume. The present work deals with the postal adhesive issues of the historic isle of St. Helena, issues which, until one embarks upon a careful study of them, may appear simple enough to require but little exposition in philatelic monographs. Actually, however, the appearance of simplicity is a delusion; there are few more complicated and few less understood series of stamp issues emanating from the British colonies. In this study of the stamps of St. Helena we have endeavoured to straighten out into a comprehensible narrative the sequence of, and the means of distinguishing, the successive variations in the surcharges, and if it clear at least some of the puzzles from the path of the collector the book will have achieved a good result.

In our work we have had access to several valuable contributions to philatelic literature noted in the Bibliography, particularly to the paper by Messrs. E. D. Bacon and W. Dorning Beckton in the third part of the Royal Philatelic Society's work on Africa. But we are the more especially indebted for the privilege of access to the fine collection, and the courteously rendered personal assistance, of our friend,

Mr. H. H. Harland, who, in addition to contributing the appendix on the "Proofs and Essays," has rendered valuable service in revising the work in its passage through the press. To Mr. Harland and the Philatelic Students' Fellowship our acknowledgments are also due for the use of several of the illustrations.

The photograph on page 6 is reproduced by the kind permission of Mr. T. Jackson, of St. Helena.

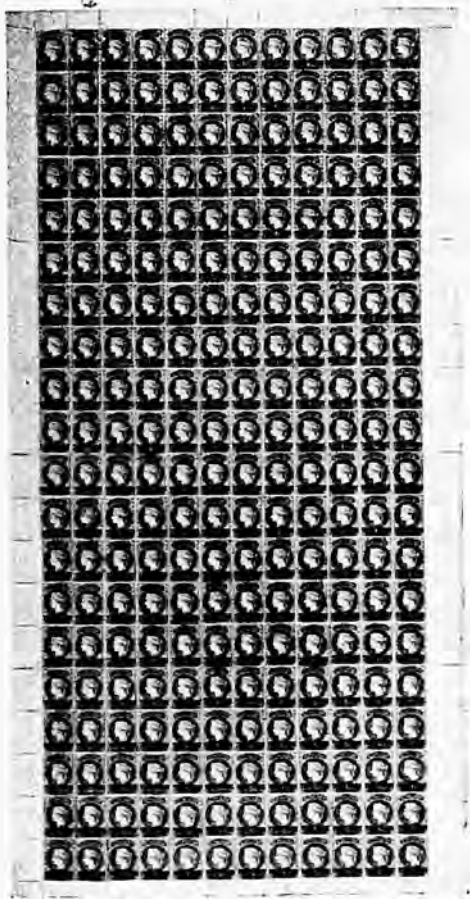


G. N. Driver, Esq.

The Consulate,
St Helena.

To be called for.

There is no Inland Post in St. Helena ; letters from residents to one another may be deposited without payment and are displayed at the post-office until claimed by the addressees.



A complete sheet of St. Helena stamps shewing the arrangement of the recess-plate of 240 stamps.



St. Helena.

CHAPTER I.

The Solitary Six Pence.



THE attraction which the stamps of St. Helena have always had for the philatelist is due in part to the historic associations of the island—associations that have kept green the memory of this mere “guide dot” in the South Atlantic long after it had been deserted as a port of call on an important trade route, long after it had been deserted as a military station ; and philatelic interest grounded upon such imperishable memories is likely to endure so long as there are stamps of St. Helena to collect.

But the stamp collector's interest in the island is substantiated by further claims upon our regard. St. Helena stands alone in philately in its peculiar fidelity not merely to its first stamp design, but to the first die and the first plate constructed for the purpose of manufacturing its stamps. It is scarcely too much to say that the fascination for the student of these stamps begins with the birth of the plate in 1855, and ends with its retirement from the active list of stamp-printing plates in 1894, after a period of nearly forty years. During the period named, the one plate constructed for the initial issue of a sixpence stamp, in the days when Colonial postage still ruled at high prices, and this was the unit ($\frac{1}{2}$ -ounce) letter rate to Great Britain, was used as a basis for eight other denominations from one halfpenny to five shillings, the plate being printed from in distinctive colours for each denomination, and the new denomination being indicated by a surcharge.

The genesis of the St. Helena stamps is traced to an Ordinance of May 1, 1854, prescribing the postal charges on letters from the island, charges which, owing to the absence of any postage stamps, were necessarily to be paid in cash. The extracts from this Ordinance which concern us are :—

“ And be it also enacted, that the postal charge of letters between the United Kingdom and the said Colony, shall, on and from the first day of May next ensuing, be reduced to an uniform rate of sixpence the half ounce. And so on in like proportion.

“ That this postage shall free the letter to its destination, either from this Colony to the United Kingdom, or from the United Kingdom to this Colony, and may be pre-paid or not, at the option of the sender.

“ That the said postage shall be divided in the following proportions, that is to say :—When the letter is conveyed by

Packet, 5d. to the Mother Country (that is 1d. for Inland rate, and 4d. for Sea rate) and 1d. to the Colony. When conveyed by a Private Ship, the postage to be equally divided, 3d. being the share of the Mother Country, and 3d. the share of the Colony, for each letter not exceeding half an ounce, and in like proportion for the higher rates."

From the above it is quite clear that at first the only postal unit was sixpence, and that a supply of that value alone would be sufficient for the Colony's requirements, though it might necessitate the "plastering" of heavy packets with a number of stamps; in fact, this rate continued in force until the 27th April, 1863, when the provisions of a new Ordinance became effective.

It was not until 1855 that steps were taken to provide postage-stamps for St. Helena, and on the 1st September in that year the first supply was forwarded by Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Co., then of Fleet Street, London, E.C.; and, taking into consideration the time occupied by a voyage in the early 'fifties, the 1st January, 1856, is the probably approximate date of issue of the solitary value.

The stamps were printed direct from a steel recess-plate, manufactured by Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Co.'s well-known process from an original steel die and an intermediate "roller" counterpart, which latter produced the actual impressions on the plate.*

The original die, which is believed to have been engraved by Mr. W. Humphrys (of Humphrys Retouch fame), has for design (measuring $19\frac{1}{4}$ mm. by $25\frac{3}{4}$ mm.) a finely-executed diademed profile to left of Her late Majesty Queen Victoria, on an engine-turned ground within a circle, above which is the name of the

*For a full description of this process, the reader is referred to "Great Britain: Line-Engraved Stamps" (Melville Stamp Books, No. 1) Chapter I.

Colony, the word "POSTAGE" with indication of the value in words, being at the foot of the stamp.

There are 240 stamps on the sheet, arranged in one large pane of twenty rows of twelve each : only one plate has ever been made. The stamps were printed direct from the plate, as mentioned above, on white hand-made paper watermarked with Large Stars so disposed that one appears in each stamp : frequently the surface of the paper has a bluish tinge, owing to the difficulty there is in wiping quite clean the plane surface of a recess-plate when printing with certain kinds of blue ink. This sheet, which measures $22\frac{3}{4}$ in. by 11 in., shews the 240 Large Stars within a frame composed of five parallel lines, the outer four of which are discontinued for the insertion of the word "POSTAGE" in outline roman capitals, once at the top and bottom and twice at each side. The colour of the print is blue, varying in shade from pale to full ; and the gum, applied to the paper after it had been through the press, is of a yellowish tinge.

With regard to the perforation, the first four consignments in the following list were imperforate, as were probably those in 1862 and 1863, and possibly a further 3,440 stamps apparently forwarded during 1862-63, under the circumstances detailed below :—

Consignments of the Six Pence Stamp, as entered in Messrs Perkins, Bacon & Co.'s books.

1855.	September	1—	2,000.
1858.	December	6—	500.
1859.	April	1—	2,000.
1860.	July	4—	2,000.
1860.	December	3—	6,000.
1862.	September	4—	10,000.
1863.	September	5—	12,000.
1864.	January	2—	24,000.

All the perforated Six Pence stamps on the Large Star paper were perforated by Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Co. on a hand-worked machine, having a single 23-inch line of punches, the spacing of which varied from 14 to 16 (i.e., with intermediate gauges between the extremes) in the philatelic space of two centimetres. At first, this machine punched very clean-cut holes, the discs of paper being entirely removed; but later on (towards the end of 1860, when the first St. Helena stamps were perforated), as the cutting ends of the punches became more and more worn, and the holes into which the punches descended partly choked with accumulations of paper—difficult to remove without taking the machine to pieces—the discs of paper were not always completely severed from the sheet, though the outline of each small circle was distinctly indented. Subsequently, as the machine—after some repairs, which temporarily restored it to its original efficiency—further deteriorated, the “perforation” became a series of small depressions where the holes should be, the paper being pierced (if at all) in the centre of each depression.

Specimens may be found shewing a perfectly clean-cut line of holes either at the top and bottom or at the two sides, but there is no doubt that all these were executed during the “rough perforation” period, just after the machine had received an occasional partial cleaning, the effects of which soon disappeared.

For this reason we divide the perforations of the Six Pence on Large Star paper into “fairly clean-cut”—with a sub-variety shewing two sides “very clean-cut”—and “rough.”

So far as can be estimated the first Six Pence was printed to the extent of 121,940 stamps, of which

31,940 (September, 1855-1863) were imperforate,

6,000 (December, 1860) had a fairly clean-cut perforation,
and

84,000 (1862-June, 1872) were very roughly perforated.

121,940

A brief account of what happened after the Perkins-Bacon plate was handed over to the Crown Agents for the Colonies, on the 28th January, 1862, on the transfer of the stamp contract to Messrs. De La Rue & Co., may assist in explaining, and perhaps confirming, the above figures. When the plate was handed over, Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Co. had on hand 109,440 stamps, all imperforate : these were taken over by the Crown Agents on the 25th June, 1862, on the understanding that, if used, they were to be paid for.

No doubt a large proportion, and possibly the whole, of these were ultimately despatched to St. Helena—certainly 46,000, being the last three consignments of 10,000, 12,000, and 24,000, all sent *after* June, 1862 ; and of these the last was evidently part of a parcel of 84,000 returned to Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Co. in December, 1863, to be perforated. As that firm's books do not shew any charge for perforating the consignments (10,000 and 12,000) of 1862-63—the 84,000 were charged for in December of the latter year—it would seem that they too were imperforate. This leaves only 3,440 stamps to be accounted for : perhaps they were also despatched (by the Crown Agents) during 1862-63 without being perforated.

These stamps were cancelled with a variety of postmarks, generally with a circular mark composed of triangles, squares or fine dots ; also with heavy serif letter "H". The postmarks are impressed in either red or black, the red being generally found on the imperforate and the first perforated ("clean-cut") stamps.



CHAPTER II.

A Study of the Steel Plate.

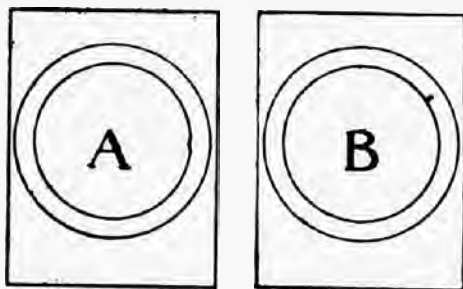
WE have already referred to the fact that the stamps of St. Helena are practically all built up from the one steel plate constructed for the printing of the first Six Pence stamp of 1856. Although the later stamps have been much studied with reference to the settings of the surcharges, it has been left to Mr. H. H. Harland* to make a minute examination of the construction of the plate, an examination which has resulted in the discovery and location of small details which materially assist in the study of the various overprintings.

The plate is known to have been of steel, the impressions upon which were laid down thereon by means of a hardened steel transfer-roller. It is now generally known that the transfer-roller was not merely capable of bearing, but, as an economic measure, generally did bear, several die impressions upon its periphery. With this knowledge Mr. Harland arrives at a *theory* that there were six roller impressions of the St. Helena die used in the construction of the one plate of 240

* *The Record of the Philatelic Students' Fellowship*, 1909, page 31.

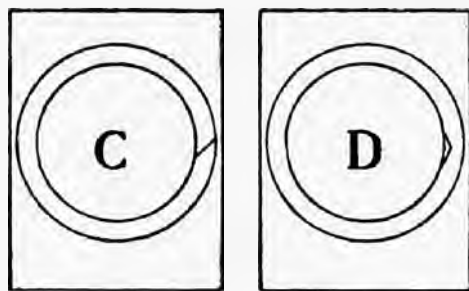
A STUDY OF THE STEEL PLATE. 19

impressions, and the following diagrams and descriptions give the key to the minute, but uniform, traces of the six different impressions.



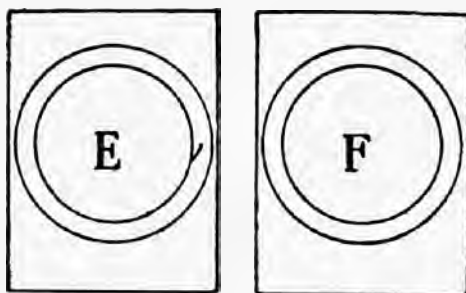
Roller-impression A.—The colourless band is clear but the inner line of colour is weak at the right at the position indicated in the diagram.

Roller-impression B.—There is a slight coloured stroke jutting into the colourless band from the outer line of the medallion level with the top of the "back-hair."



Roller-impression C.—A stroke of colour extends right across the colourless band at the position indicated.

Roller-impression D.—An angular mark ">" is distinguished in approximately the same position as the stroke of colour on "C."



Roller-impression E.—This is similar to "C" but with the coloured stroke extending only midway across the colourless band.

Roller-impression F.—Like "A" the band is quite clear, but the inner line of colour appears to be intact, and does not shew the weakening as in "A."

These six different roller-impressions may have been, and probably were, all on one roller, but this is immaterial in the study of the plate. The examination of a sheet of the stamps has shewn that the sheet presents the above minute varieties in the following order, starting at the top left hand corner, and working vertically down the columns of stamps :

- Column 1.—All "A" impressions.
 " 2.— ditto.
 " 3.—Stamps 1 to 8 are "A," 9 to 12 are "B,"
 and 13 to 20 are "A" impressions.
 " 4.—All "A" impressions.
 " 5.— ditto.
 " 6.— ditto.
 " 7.—Stamps 1 to 12 are "A," and 13 to 20 are
 "C" impressions.
 " 8.—Stamps 1 to 8 are "F," 9 to 13 are "D,"
 and 14 to 20 are "E" impressions.
 " 9.—All "F" impressions.
 " 10.— ditto.
 " 11.— ditto.
 " 12.— ditto.

The sequence of the different impressions, no less than their consistent and marked (though minute) points of distinction, is strongly in support of Mr. Harland's theory, but the student will require to remember that the plate is an intaglio reverse of the printed sheet and consequently the first (left-hand) column on the plate is the last (right-hand) column on the printed sheet, and assuming, as might reasonably be inferred, the laying down of the plate was commenced in its top left-hand corner the *order* in which the different roller dies were used would be F, D, E, A, C, A, B, A; the flawless "F" being used for the first eighty-eight impressions laid down, when it would appear to have been discarded for D and E, the rest of the plate save for twelve stamps being laid down from the comparatively perfect "A."

Thus we get 128 "A," 4 "B," 8 "C," 5 "D," 7 "E" and 88 "F" impressions.

Mr. Harland has also mapped out the plate-maker's guide-dots and guide-lines, all unimportant in themselves, but useful to the specialist in becoming conversant with the construction of the plate, which knowledge has already proved valuable in considering the settings of the later surcharges, and also in revealing matter of importance concerning the *bona fides* of rare surcharge varieties.

The chief *guide-dots* are indicated by the respective numbers of the stamps on the printed sheet counting 1 to 12 along the first row, and so on.

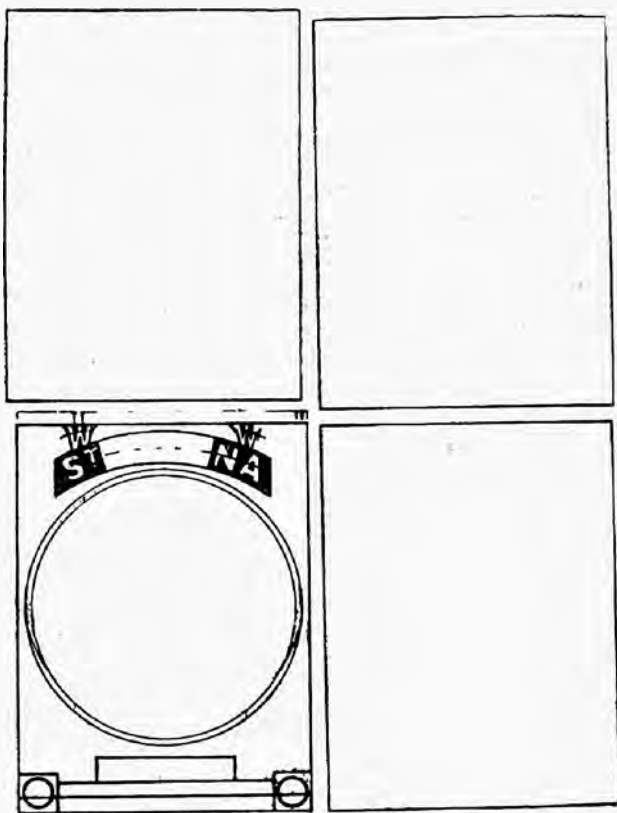
No. 1 : above the upper left-hand corner.

No. 13 : in the left side of the colourless band round the medallion.

Nos. 36, 60, and 228 : on the right side of the colourless band

No. 145 : outside the stamp on the left.

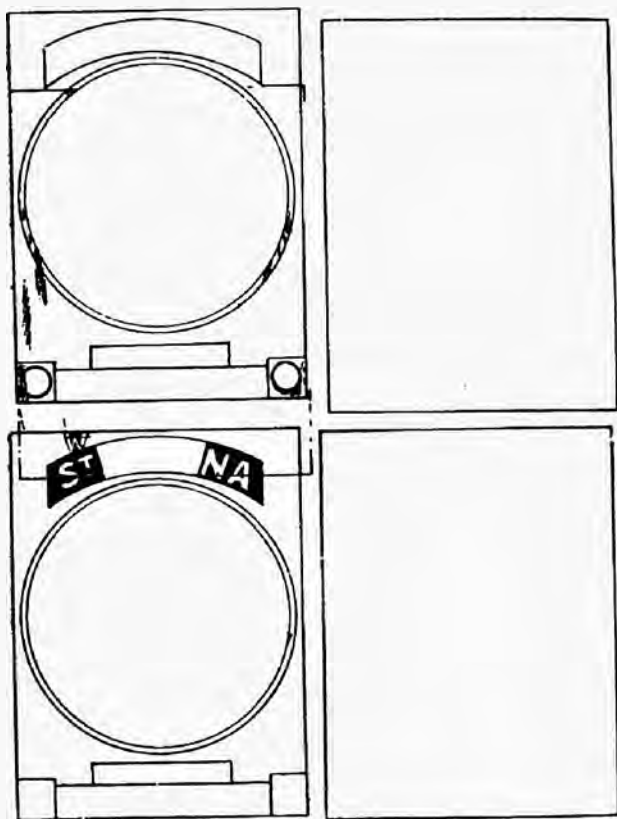
No. 240 : in the lower left-hand corner.



The diagram shews the position of the indications of the misplaced roller-die impression on the plate, stamp No. 11 in column 1.



Enlargement of a block of four stamps including No. 11 in column 1 of the plate with misplaced roller-die impression.



In column 8, stamps 15 and 16 bear traces of a misplaced impression from the roller-die as indicated in the diagram.



Enlarged reproduction of a block of four, including the 15th and 16th stamps in column 8, shewing the traces of the misplaced roller-die impression.

Guide-lines, or traces of them, may be noted as most prominent on the right hand sides of Nos. 16, 29, 46, 47, 48, 65, 71, 80, 81, 82, 83, 88, 89, 137, 149, 186, and 198; and on the left-hand sides of stamps 42, 45, 47, 48, 77, 81, 83, 84, and 231.

To these numerous minutiae there are to be added some plate varieties of more individual interest. In the first column (of the printed sheet) stamp 11 bears traces of a mis-placed roller impression having been laid down and then partly, but not wholly successfully, cleared away; the enlargement and diagram (pp. 22-23) indicate the position of the mis-placed impression better than verbal description, and the diagram shews how far the traces of the first impression are still visible in the printed sheet.

In the eighth column of the sheet, stamps 15 and 16 together bear evidences of another mis-placed impression from the roller on the plate, and here practically the complete *outline* of the first impression may be traced, the top line being visible just below the "St. Helena" label of stamp 15, and the bottom line extending through the "St. Helena" label of stamp 16. The enlargement and diagram are sufficiently clear to require no further description (pp. 24-25).

A defect on the plate about which much noise has been made concerns the 240th stamp on the printed sheet, which we can already recognise by the guide dot on its extreme lower left-hand corner; the defect being a more or less imperfect first "E" in "HELENA," the bottom stroke being generally blurred and the letter presenting the appearance, except on close scrutiny, of a letter F.

Certain other stamps show uniform defects, No. 206 always prints weak, and has the consistent appearance

of the mythical "worn plate" (an almost unheard-of "reality" in the Perkins Mill and Die process, when the plate has been hardened), due probably to insufficient rocking of the roller die, and No. 233 has the outer frame-line shewing broken in the upper right-hand corner.

We have dealt with these minutiae of the plate in a separate chapter that our readers may pass it over, if they do not require to plumb the deepest depths of the mysteries of St. Helena stamps; but to the specialist and student no emphasis is necessary to indicate to them how a working knowledge of these details will aid them in their studies of the complicated surcharged issues, for which this plate was the uniform base.



CHAPTER III.

The De La Rue Imperforate Stamps.

IN 1863 a new Ordinance came into force, affecting the half-ounce letter-rate to the United Kingdom, by raising it to one shilling if by packet, but reducing it to fourpence if by private vessel. Except in the case of those which were to pass through the United Kingdom, the rates for letters, packets, papers and journals were fixed at

Letter, $\frac{1}{2}$ ounce,	-	-	-	4d.
Newspaper or Pamphlet,	-	-	-	1d.
Every Book not exceeding one quarter of a pound,	-	-	-	3d.
Letter, $\frac{1}{2}$ ounce, sent by any non-commissioned officer, seaman, or private in Her Majesty's forces,	-	-	-	1d.

The above alterations necessitated the creation of four new values—One Penny, Three Pence, Four Pence and One Shilling.

There does not seem to be any definite information as to when these new stamps were put on sale, but an examination of contemporary records gives July, 1863, as the approximate date for the two values dealt with in this chapter. The first suggestion of any value other than Six Pence is in *The Stamp Collector's Magazine* for 1st August, 1863—"We have heard of a sixpenny



One Penny,
short surcharge.



One Penny,
long surcharge.



One Penny, strip shewing
the two types of surcharge
se tenant.

*The strip of three was formerly in the
collection of the Earl of Crawford, K.T.*

red of this island, but it may have been an essay." ; and in *Le Timbre-Poste* for 15th October, 1863, we read "Nous avons sous les yeux deux nouvelles valeurs émises dans cette île : le 1 et 4 pence."

These two values were produced by Messrs. De La Rue & Co. of London, the stamps themselves being printed direct from the old Six Pence plate, and the new denominations being added through the medium of the ordinary printing press.

The paper used by the new printers was that watermarked with a Crown and the letters "C C" standing for "Crown Colony": the sheet contains 240 watermarks disposed in four panes of sixty, each arranged in ten horizontal rows of six and surrounded by a single-line frame.

Between the vertical pairs of panes the space is about half an inch, but that between the upper and lower panes is considerably more and is occupied with the words "CROWN COLONIES" in outline capitals, as is also the external side margin of each pane.

Of course, this paper, with its watermarked portion of $19\frac{3}{4}$ in. by $9\frac{1}{8}$ in., did not fit the Perkins-Bacon plate with a printing surface of $21\frac{1}{8}$ in. by $9\frac{9}{16}$ in.; and consequently the stamps were watermarked somewhat irregularly, some shewing parts of the inscription running between the upper and lower pairs of panes.* The colour selected for the One Penny was lake, and for the Four Pence carmine; and the new value in *sans serif* capital letters and a bar cancelling the original "SIXPENCE" were surcharged in black.

* Compare the diagram on p. 43, showing the later "Crown CA" watermark which was identical in the size of the space covered by the watermark in the sheet of paper with the "Crown C C."

The gum, applied to the sheets after the stamps had been printed but before the surcharging took place, is white. The first supply of these two values was sent to the Island, without having been perforated, and is usually considered as constituting a separate issue.

For surcharging these stamps, each new value was set up in a *forme* of sixty, five horizontal rows of twelve, so each entire sheet of 240 had to go four times through the press. One block was made for the Four Pence, but two for the Penny; and these latter differ appreciably in the length of the word and bar, but *not* in the height of the letters: in the one, the two words measure (over all) 17 mm. by $2\frac{3}{4}$ mm., and the bar is $16\frac{1}{2}$ mm. long; in the other, the words are $18\frac{1}{2}$ mm. by $2\frac{3}{4}$ mm., and the bar $18\frac{1}{2}$ mm.—in each of these principal varieties the length of the bar occasionally varies to the extent of $\frac{1}{2}$ mm. Sheets are known shewing all the surcharges of the first or the second variety, and in some cases of both varieties, *se tenant* vertical pairs having been found. In the collection of Baron A. de Worms is a block of six, in three horizontal pairs, the first and second pairs being of the second type, and the lowest pair of the first type.



In the Four Pence, the new value measures $16\frac{3}{4}$ mm. by 3 mm., and the bar, with the $\frac{1}{2}$ mm. variation as before, $16\frac{1}{2}$ mm. in length.

The Four Pence exists with double surcharge; and the lake stamp is known without surcharge, but in that condition is probably a proof, as to which see *infra*.

The plate varieties as described in Chapter II. are necessarily repeated in this and all succeeding issues printed from the Perkins-Bacon plate.

The introduction of the Crown over "CC" paper is also responsible for minor varieties in this and later issues. In feeding the paper into the printing press the operator has not always laid the paper down upon the plate in exactly the same way, that is, with the watermark in the same relative position to the plate. Consequently in some cases the watermark is reversed, this occurring when the wrong side of the paper has been printed upon; in other cases it is inverted, the paper having been inverted when laid down on the plate; also when the paper is both reversed and inverted in the press we get watermarks which are both inverted and reversed. These varieties are unimportant save to the advanced specialist, and are additional to the varieties due to the watermark arrangement not conforming to the plate arrangement.





CHAPTER IV.

The De La Rue Perforated Series on Crown "CC".

As the surcharged and perforated stamps, printed by Messrs. De La Rue & Co. on the Crown "CC" paper, were all in use from about the middle of 1864 until the end of 1883, and some of the values for ten years subsequently, it seems to us that, as the only varieties are in the length of the surcharge and the gauge of the perforation, we shall arrive at a more intelligent description by treating them as one continuous issue, than by breaking them up into periods—as we do in the Check List—dependent on the vagaries of the printer and the purchase of new perforating machines.

There are six values to be dealt with in this chapter, of which two (One Penny and Four Pence) have already been issued in an imperforate condition, and two more (Three Pence and One Shilling) have been foreshadowed in the Ordinance referred to at the beginning of the previous chapter. The Two Pence and the Five Shillings are the complementary values, the former being for a double rate, and the latter for the comparatively heavy packets which would, as the resources of the Island were developed, be despatched by business houses.

Again, there does not appear to be any definite information as to the issue of these perforated stamps, and we have to again fall back on contemporary chronicles for the approximate dates.

The One Shilling was issued in January, 1864; the Penny and Four Pence in the following June; the Three Pence in November, 1867; and the remaining two values probably at the same time as the value last mentioned. We say "probably," because the dates of issue have hitherto been generally given as March, 1868, for the Two Pence, and August, in the same year, for the Five Shillings. *The Stamp Collector's Magazine*, however, for the 1st February, 1868, says:

"We are informed by a trustworthy correspondent that an addition has been made to the provisional (1) series for this island, in the shape of three new values:

Twopence, light-yellow.

Threepence, dark-purple.

Five Shillings, orange.

All these stamps are printed in copper-plate from the old die, the primary value, sixpence, being ruled across, as in the 1d., 4d., and 1s., and the new values printed above in black. . . . A portion of the supply has left England, and we may anticipate being shortly in possession of specimens. . . ."

It might be gathered from this extract that the three values had either just previously been sent out, or that the "trustworthy correspondent" had heard of their due arrival in the Island; but as the Three Pence is said to have been issued in November, 1867, it seems not unreasonable to group the two other values with it.

All these values were, like the two imperforate stamps of July, 1863, manufactured by Messrs. De La Rue & Co., being plate-printed from the original Perkins-Bacon line-engraved plate in various colours, and surcharged

in black with new denomination in *sans serif* capitals and the cancelling bar as before, printed from *formes* containing sixty repetitions set up in five horizontal rows of twelve each.

The paper employed for this issue was that water-marked Crown and "CC", as described in the preceding chapter, but that used for a supply of stamps in 1882 (and perforated 14 by $12\frac{1}{2}$) is thinner than usual, and better finished, giving to the colour of the stamps a sharper and glazed effect.

With regard to the colours, lake and carmine were continued for the One Penny and Four Pence respectively; yellow was chosen for the Two Pence; purple for the Three Pence; a somewhat deep yellow-green for the One Shilling; and deep yellow, ultimately of a decided orange tinge, for the Five Shillings. The gum, applied as in the former issue, is white.

Perforation provides three distinct varieties: at first and up to 1882, the gauge, both horizontal and vertical, was $12\frac{1}{2}$. In 1882, however, we have a new set of pins gauging 14, and this was used for the horizontal lines of perforation, the old set with larger gauge being continued for the vertical lines; but this compound perforation remained in use for a very short time, as in 1883 we find the $12\frac{1}{2}$ gauge was entirely abandoned, all the stamps being then and thereafter perforated 14 all round. These varieties overlap, when considered in conjunction with the different lengths of surcharge which appeared during the years 1864 to 1883 on the Crown "CC" paper; and we shall again refer to them when dealing with the varieties of surcharge.

The chief thing which attracts the attention of the specialist in St. Helena is the differences in the surcharges.

as applied during various periods ; not only does the cancelling bar vary very much—as we might reasonably expect, seeing that it is cut from ordinary printer's rule, cast in long strips—but the spacing of the words of the new value and the size of the letters used also vary.



The above four values occur in the first type of the surcharge on this series.

There are three principal types of surcharge to be considered. In the first, the bar is thin and measures from $16\frac{1}{2}$ mm. to 17mm., nearly as long as the words, the height of which is to $2\frac{3}{4}$ mm. for the Penny surcharge,



[38]



(Short surcharge)

(Long surcharge)

The second type of the surcharges on the "Crown CC" perforated issue.

and 3mm. for the other values ; and this type is found in the "ONE PENNY" (17mm. to $17\frac{1}{2}$ mm.), "THREE PENCE" ($17\frac{1}{2}$ mm. to 18mm.), "FOUR PENCE" ($16\frac{1}{2}$ mm. to 17mm.), and "ONE SHILLING" ($17\frac{1}{2}$ mm. to $18\frac{1}{4}$ mm.), perforated $12\frac{1}{2}$, during the period 1864-67, the earliest approximate dates being—for the One Shilling, January, 1864 ; for the Penny and Four Pence, the following June ; and for the Three Pence, November, 1867. Owing to bad register in printing the surcharge, the Penny and Four Pence are known with the bar at the top of the stamp, and also without the bar.

In 1865, the second type of surcharge was first used, at first on the Penny, Four Pence, and Shilling values, next (March, 1868) on the Two Pence and Three Pence, and finally (August, 1868) on the Five Shillings. This type has a thicker bar, measuring 14mm. to $14\frac{1}{2}$ mm.—to 15mm. on the Penny—much less than the new values, except in the case of the Two Pence, the "shortest" of the six surcharges. The lengths of the surcharged words are—"ONE PENNY", "ONE SHILLING", and "FIVE SHILLINGS" (all of which are in letters $2\frac{3}{4}$ mm. high), $16\frac{1}{2}$ mm. to $17\frac{1}{2}$ mm., $16\frac{1}{2}$ mm. to 17mm. and 18mm. to $18\frac{1}{4}$ mm. respectively ; and for the Two Pence, Three Pence, and Four Pence (on which the letters are all 3mm. in height) 15 mm., $17\frac{1}{2}$ mm. to 18mm., and $17\frac{3}{4}$ mm. to $18\frac{1}{4}$ mm. and $18\frac{3}{4}$ mm. to 19mm. respectively, the last two measurements representing the *two* types of the Four Pence : these stamps also are perforated $12\frac{1}{2}$; the lower four values perforated 14 by $12\frac{1}{2}$, and the Penny, Two Pence, and One Shilling, perforated 14 all round. The Three Pence was chronicled, on the authority of Mr. D. Ostara, in 1901, as existing perforated 14 ; and

the Four Pence is said to have existed with similar perforation. A double impression of the new value is found on the purple, carmine, and yellow-green stamps, that on the Four Pence being known with two similar surcharges, and also with the two extremes in length, this shewing that both the latter existed in the same block of sixty ; the perforation of these errors is $12\frac{1}{2}$.

The yellow-green stamp is also known without surcharge ; but of it and the specimens with double print* it is said† that they "are unused, and come from a sheet which was probably never sent out to the Colony. On this sheet all the stamps in the tenth row from the top were without overprint, while those in the fifth row from the top had double overprint." The following four values are known imperforate :—

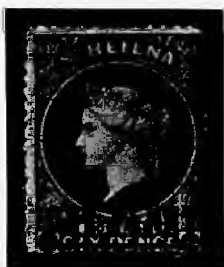
1d., black overprint, on	6d., lake.
2d. " "	6d., yellow.
3d. " "	6d., purple.
4d. " "	6d., rose-carmine (words $17\frac{3}{4}$ mm.).
4d. " "	6d., " (words 19mm.).

The Penny value of this issue, *imperforate*, was chronicled in used condition in *The Philatelic Record* (Vol. XXIII., p. 156) on the authority of Mr. Ed. H. Selby, from a copy formerly in his possession. The same value, perforated 14, is said to have been bisected vertically, and each half used as a halfpenny stamp.

*In the collection of Mr. Vernon Roberts there was a block of twenty-eight One Shilling stamps, in seven horizontal rows of four, on Crown "CC" paper and perforated $12\frac{1}{2}$; the 1st, 3rd, 4th, 5th, and 6th rows had a normal surcharge, the 2nd a double surcharge ; and the 7th row none at all ; this proves the surcharging in blocks of 60, five rows of twelve.

† "Africa," Part III., p. 327.

The third type, still in *sans-serif*, but with the bars of practically the same length as the words, dates from 1871, and affects the three values One Penny, Two Pence and One Shilling. The description of this little group in Messrs. Gibbons's catalogue, *viz.* : "thin taller type" is misleading, as it applies only to the One Penny and not to the two other values ; these two are nevertheless quite distinct from any previous surcharge. It should be carefully noted, therefore, that the three stamps in this group are indentified as follows :



One Penny. The words are in thin taller type than heretofore, the surcharge measuring 17mm. to 17½mm. in length by 3mm. in height ; the bar is 16½mm. to 17mm. in length.



Two Pence. The letters of the surcharge are now spaced to measure 18mm. in length; the height is 3mm.; and the bar is the same length as the words.



One Shilling. The words measure $17\frac{1}{2}$ mm. to $17\frac{3}{4}$ mm. in length; the letters are 3mm. in height; the bar, which is always found to be slightly longer than the words, is 18mm., this latter point marking the prominent difference from the surcharge of 1864.

Each of these three values was perforated $12\frac{1}{2}$ during 1871-73, and the One Shilling 14 by $12\frac{1}{2}$ in 1882.



CHAPTER V.

The Six Pence on Crown "CC".

THE original supplies of the Six Pence, printed by Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Co., on the Large Star paper, lasted until 1873, when Messrs. De La Rue & Co. commenced to print this stamp from the old plate, on the Crown "CC" paper already described, with the white gum, as for the other contemporaneous values.

The only varieties consist in the colours, or rather decided tones of blue, and the perforations, which correspond with those of the other values in use during similar periods.

At first printed in dull blue (1873), and in ultramarine (1874), both perforated $12\frac{1}{2}$; and then in a milky blue, with the compound perforation of $14 \times 12\frac{1}{2}$ (1882) and the 14 all round (1889), the line-engraved Six Pence finished its career in its original colour sometime during the last-mentioned year.

Though dealt with in a separate chapter, we have inserted these Six Pence stamps in their proper places in the Check List, amongst the general issues.

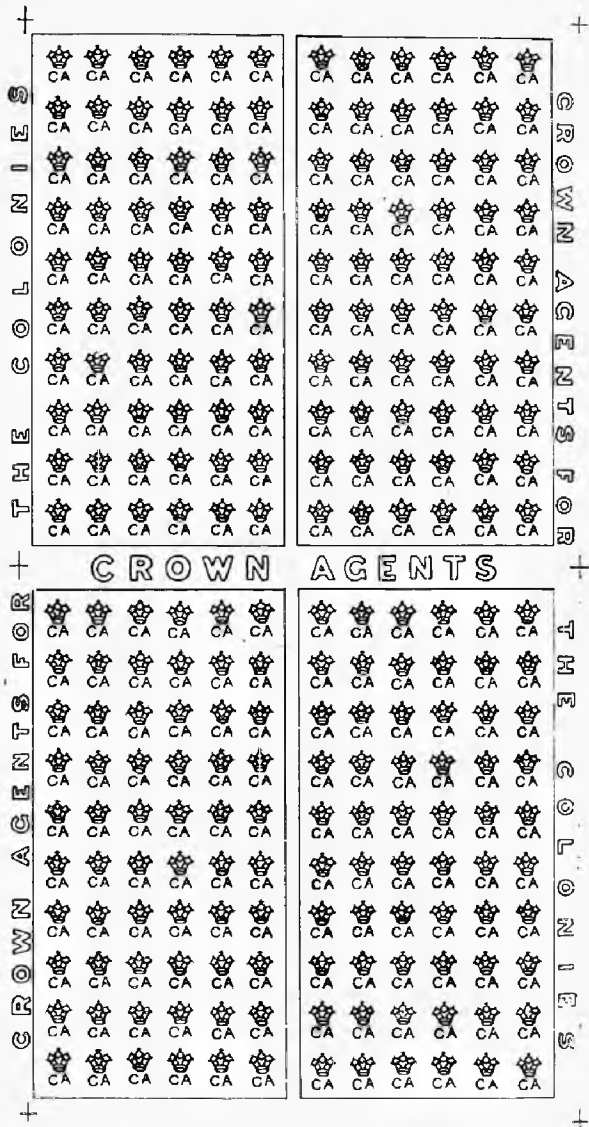


Diagram showing the arrangement of the sheet of the
 "Crown over CA" watermark in four panes of sixty.



CHAPTER VI.

The Old Die on the "CA" Paper.

IN 1884, the use of the then new paper water-marked with Crown "CA" (Crown Agents), instead of the familiar Crown "CC" (Crown Colony), marks the beginning of a new period, which lasted, so far as the printings from the old Perkins-Bacon plate were concerned, until 1896.

There are eight values on this new paper, all printed direct from the original plate by Messrs. De La Rue & Co., and surcharged by them with the new denomination. The Half Penny (a new value) was issued in 1884, to be followed in 1887 by the Three Pence (May) and the One Penny (November); in 1889 appeared the old familiar Six Pence, but in a new colour, and in April of the next year came the Four Pence; another new value, the Two Pence Halfpenny, was on sale in September, 1893; and the last two of the series, the Two Pence and One Shilling, were issued in 1894.

There is nothing to add as to the die or plate, the latter still being the old original of 1856; and as regards some of the surcharges on the "CA" series a general note must suffice, because, although various settings are known, the differences are very slight and of minor

importance, the same letters and bars having evidently been used throughout the final series of the Perkins-Bacon type.

The lowest value is surcharged "HALFPENNY" in one word, and of this there are two distinct varieties, the second of which is to be found in two settings; and of the surcharge on the One Penny, Three Pence and Four Pence—and probably of that on the Two Pence—there are also two settings.

Apart from the variations of the "HALFPENNY" surcharge (which will be fully described), the slight differences between the first and second settings-up in the case of the three or four other values can easily, and far more satisfactorily than by verbal description, be arrived at by comparing corresponding portions of the sheets—readily identified by noting the transfer-varieties as detailed in Chapter II.—and paying special attention to the level of the surcharges, their spacing, the differences in the length of bar, and especially the relative positions of the bar and the words of value.

As already mentioned, there are two principal varieties of the "HALFPENNY" surcharge: in the first the word measures from 17 to 17½ mm. by 3 mm., and the bar (which is thick) 14-14½ mm. Of this, there is a sub-variety, due to shifting of the type used in setting up the surcharge: on the last stamp of the eighteenth row (No. 216 on the sheet) there is a space of about ¼ mm. between the "N" and "Y", but this space varies slightly on different sheets and did not occur at all in the early printings. Mr. Harland's collection contains specimens of this stamp (No. 216) printed in *emerald*, with and without the space between these two letters: so far it has not been chronicled in this



Long surcharge.



Short surcharge.

colour. A similar, though less pronounced, defect is to be found on the last stamp in the first, sixth, eleventh, thirteenth and sixteenth rows.

In the course of this printing, some of the sheets of stamps were so misplaced in the press that they were out of register with the *forme* (which was composed so as to print an entire sheet at one operation) and this produced variations of surcharge, showing the cancelling bar across the top of the stamps instead of at the bottom, this misplacement naturally extending throughout the sheet, the top row of which would be without the bar. A double surcharge is also known, occurring amongst the early printings in emerald.

The second principal variety has the word "HALF-PENNY" appreciably smaller, 14-14½ mm. × 3 mm., with a bar of the same length; and it is of this variety that two different settings are known.

Apparently, this variety was printed from stereotypes taken from *formes* of five horizontal rows of 12 surcharges (60); but in the first setting the upper block differs from the three others, which are consistent in their make-up with this method of duplicating. A



Variety of the long surcharge : spaced
NY of HALFPENNY.



Variety of the long surcharge, shewing
bar at top.

study of the following of the most noticeable varieties in the first setting will enable the reader to follow the reasoning on which this assumption is based :—

1. On 4th stamp in 4th row the space between the word and the bar is very *wide*. On the next stamp—and on no other in the sheet—the interval is much *less* than normal.

The corresponding 4th and 5th stamps in the 9th, 14th and 19th rows are *normal*.

2. On the 2nd stamp in the 7th, 12th, and 17th rows, the "Y" of the surcharge is *malformed*.

The corresponding stamp in the 2nd row is *normal*.

3. The 8th stamp in each of the 5th, 10th, 15th and 20th rows shews the bar *extending to the right* beyond the word of value.

For the second setting of this variety, apparently composed like its predecessor, the following minor differences may be noted :—

1. The entire surcharge on the 2nd and 3rd stamps in the 2nd row is *above* the alignment of

the other surcharges in that row. In the first setting they are all on the same level.

2. The 4th and 5th stamps in the 4th row have the value *close* to the bar.

3. The malformed "Y" found in the first setting is absent.

On the One Penny there is only one type of surcharge, but the *forme* appears to have been twice set up: the letters differ from those used for the other values, being only $2\frac{3}{4}$ mm. high instead of 3mm.

For the Two Pence there were probably two settings, though this is uncertain, and there may have been one only.



The Twopence Halfpenny—or, as surcharged, "2½d"—was provided with a bar from 13mm. to 14mm. long, and there was only one setting, composed of sixty repetitions in printers' type, arranged in ten horizontal rows of six, necessitating four separate impressions to complete the surcharging of each entire sheet. This greatly increased the difficulties of accurate register, and we find this stamp, not only with bar at top, but with bar at top and bottom, and even without

bar ; also with double surcharge, the second impression being caused by the register being one row (of stamps) too high, causing that row to be doubly surcharged, whilst it necessarily left the bottom (half) row of six without. This, however, was noticed, and the uncompleted row received a special impression from the *forme*, so adjusted as to surcharge only the first six stamps in the last row—thus, this particular sheet passed five times through the press.

It should be noted that the surcharges in the 3rd and 10th vertical rows are always larger, or more heavily printed, than elsewhere : the variation is very marked.

The Three Pence appears in two settings, not however affecting the character of the surcharge ; and a double impression is known. For the Four Pence there were likewise two settings, not affecting the general characteristics of the impression. Copies are known without bar, and with the bar at the top ; and, on the fourth stamp in the seventh row there is a long thin additional bar.

The surcharge on the One Shilling is similar, in type and setting to that in use for the 1871 and 1882 series : a double surcharge of this value is known, but it was not issued from the St. Helena post-office.

The surcharges of the values other than the One Shilling are similar in type and bars to the 1865 series.

The new paper was, like that which it superseded, machine-made, the 240 watermarks of Crown "CA" being disposed in four panes, two and two, as in the older paper ; but in the margins the watermarks were altered, and now read, in outline *sans-serif* capitals, between the upper and lower panes, "CROWN AGENTS", and once at each side of the sheet "CROWN

AGENTS FOR THE COLONIES". At each corner of the sheet and at the ends of the centre space is a small cross.

Obviously this paper was, like that watermarked Crown "CC", quite unsuited for printing from the Perkins-Bacon plate, on which the stamps were arranged in one large pane of 240, in twenty rows of 12 each; and, as a consequence, copies are to be found on plain paper, having been printed on the unwatermarked portions of the margins, and also on the divisional spaces between the panes, shewing the dividing lines (vertically) and the letters of the words "CROWN AGENTS" (horizontally). To appreciate the full possibilities of such combinations compare the diagram of the watermark on page 44 with the reduced size photograph of the complete sheet on page 10. In addition, throughout the series of printings on this paper, the



CA

Normal.

CA



Inverted.



AC

Reversed.

CA



Inverted and reversed.

watermark is at times found inverted, reversed, or inverted and reversed, due to causes already explained in Chapter III. The colours, even for the old values, are to a great extent changed—green, varying from emerald—a small early printing—to deep green for the Half Penny, red for the Penny, yellow for the Two Pence, the Postal Union colour of ultramarine for the new value Two Pence Halfpenny, bluer tones in mauve and deep violet for the Three Pence, sepia for the Four Pence, grey for the Six Pence deprived of its original colour in favour of a lower value, and yellow-green for the Shilling.

As before, the gum is usually white, with an occasional variation towards yellowish; and the perforation has settled down to the usual gauge of 14 all round.

In January, 1898, the Crown Agents for the Colonies announced that the following quantities of line-engraved stamps, "the plates from which they were produced having been destroyed," were for sale in lots of not less than £50 and at prices not below face value, all the copies being on Crown "CA" paper, except the Five Shillings :—

$\frac{1}{2}$ d.,	208,320	3d.,	75,840
1d.,	142,560	4d.,	82,800
2d.,	32,080	6d.,	58,400
$2\frac{1}{2}$ d.,	104,400	1s.,	18,120
		5s.,	5,328.

The above represents a total of about £8,500, and it is doubtful if the Crown Agents ever expected to get rid of such a large quantity of stamps at or over "face": anyhow, whatever negotiations there were fell through, and the parcel was ultimately sold to a City firm of

stamp-dealers, the large majority of the stamps having been previously cancelled with a special diamond-shaped postmark in violet ink, impressed at the centre of each block of four. The stamps, of course, have full gum, but, even if deprived of this, the special cancellation is sufficient to distinguish them from postally used copies.



CHAPTER VII.

The Surface-printed "Queen's Heads."



IN 1890, the grand old stamps from the Perkins-Bacon plate began to be superseded, and during it and the seven years following seven values were issued—One Halfpenny, One Penny, Three Halfpence, Two Pence, Twopence Halfpenny, Five Pence and Ten Pence, all manufactured by Messrs. De La Rue & Co., by the surface-printing process. The Three Halfpence was issued in March, 1890, the Halfpenny in January, 1897, and the remaining values on the 1st October, 1896.

All these stamps, even when in one colour only, were printed from two plates, the one shewing practically the

entire design, the other the name of the Colony and the denomination of the particular stamps. The completed stamp, which was designed and engraved by the printers, shews a small diademed profile to left of Queen Victoria in a circle, with "POSTAGE" at each side, "ST. HELENA" at top, and the value below.

The head-plate used for the Three Halfpence (the first of this series to be issued) was not employed for the later values, for which other plates were made: the difference is slight, but if the Queen's diadem be examined, it will be seen that, on the earlier plate, there are three lines of shading in the second compartment (as visible) which contains the diamond-shaped stone. These lines are absent from Plates II. and III. There are 240 stamps on the sheet arranged in four panes, two and two, of sixty, in ten rows of six each.

No change was made in the paper, which is the same as that found in the preceding issue and watermarked Crown "CA"; the gum and perforation also are unaltered.

For the new values the following colours were selected—Three Halfpence, red-brown, the name and value being in green; Five Pence, violet; and brown for the Ten Pence: the other values retained the old colours, green for the Halfpenny, carmine for the Penny, orange and later yellow for the Two Pence, and ultramarine for the Twopence Halfpenny.

The stamps sold in 1898 by the Crown Agents included 72,960 copies of the above Three Halfpence stamp; and the remainders of the other values have subsequently been disposed of: all were cancelled with the violet diamond-shaped obliteration above mentioned.



CHAPTER VIII.
The King's Head.



CONSEQUENT on the death of Queen Victoria in January, 1901, it became necessary to have a new issue shewing the head of King Edward VII. Only two values, Halfpenny and Penny, were at first issued, namely in March, 1902: they were produced by Messrs. De La Rue & Co., and are surface-printed.

The design is similar to that of the preceding issue, save that the King's profile, still to the left, was substituted for that of Queen Victoria, and instead of a diadem there is a small crown above the King's head.

There were two plates used for each value, as before, one for the Colony's name and the value, the other for the principal part of the design. In this issue there are 120 stamps on the sheet, in two panes of 60, side by side.

Crown "CA" paper was used, and the gum and perforation are unaltered.

For the Halfpenny green was selected, and carmine for the One Penny, the stamps, though uni-coloured, being printed from two plates.



CHAPTER IX.
The Pictorial Issue.



IN June, 1903, a series of six large stamps was issued, of the values of Halfpenny, Penny, Two Pence, Eight Pence, One Shilling, and Two Shillings; they were surface-printed by Messrs. De La Rue & Co.

There are two designs; that for the Halfpenny, Two Pence and Shilling shews in the upper part a profile of King Edward, surmounted by a large crown, with the value in words at the sides; below

is a view of Government House, the picture being flanked by the word "POSTAGE," whilst the name of the Colony is at the foot, with the value in figures at each end.

The other design for the remaining values is exactly similar, except that the central portion gives a view of the wharf at St. Helena.

In each case, two plates were used, one for the picture, the other for the rest of the stamp.

The stamps were designed and engraved by the printers, Messrs. De La Rue & Co.

For these large stamps, as for similar ones used in various British Colonies, a special paper had for many years been provided, containing Crown "CC" water-marks, similar to but larger than those in the paper used during 1863-82, for the majority of the Colonial stamps printed in London.

The plates contain sixty repetitions of the die, arranged in five horizontal rows of twelve.

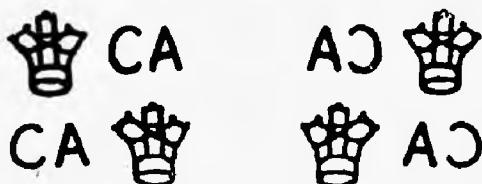
In the following list of colours, the one which is given as the second is that of the picture :—Halfpenny, grey-green and brown ; Penny, carmine and black : Two Pence, sage-green and black ; Eight Pence, brown and black ; Shilling, brown-orange and brown ; Two Shillings, violet and black.

The perforation still gauges 14, and the gum varies from white to slightly yellowish.



CHAPTER X.

The "Multiple" Watermark.



Normal.

Reversed.

IN May 1908, four additional values were issued, the Twopence Halfpenny, Four Pence, Six Pence, and Ten Shillings, all surface-printed by Messrs. De La Rue & Co.

The design is similar to that of the March, 1902, issue, except that the second "POSTAGE" is replaced by "& REVENUE," and that the value-tablet is plain instead of lined. The printers were responsible for the design and engraving.

For the three low values, the new Multiple Crown "CA" paper (introduced in 1904) was used: the sheet of this paper is entirely covered from edge to edge with repetitions of the watermark (which is similar to, but smaller than, that in the older paper, though the distance

between the crown and the letters is actually greater), arranged so that the crown and the "CA" alternate horizontally as well as vertically. The high value, however, was printed on the old "CA" paper.

In 1904, a system of coating paper with a preparation largely composed of chalk or chalk-like substance was introduced, and is now used for those values printed in one or other of the three doubly fugitive colours (black, green and purple), which are susceptible to attempts made to remove the usual pen-and-ink cancellation, applied to a stamp used for fiscal purposes. The chalky coating renders "cleaning" more difficult, as wetting the stamp, especially if accompanied by rubbing, tends to remove the impression and leave a plain piece of paper.

Of these four stamps now under consideration, the Twopence Halfpenny is on the ordinary unsurfaced paper, the others on the "chalky" paper, which is yellow for the Four Pence and green for the Ten Shillings.

The colours of the stamps are, the second being that of the name and value :—Twopence Halfpenny, ultramarine ; Four Pence, black and red ; Six Pence, dull purple and rosy purple ; and Ten Shillings, green and red. The perforation and gum are as in the recent issues. Late in 1911, following upon the post-office notice referred to in the next chapter, the Fourpence and Sixpence were issued on unsurfaced multiple Crown over "CA" paper.



CHAPTER XI.

The "All-Red" Penny.

ON the death of King Edward, it became necessary to provide a new series of stamps bearing the head of King George V., and the requisite instructions were despatched to the Crown Agents, but delays occurred, and at the time of writing (May, 1912) the new stamps have not been issued.

The Postmaster, however, in April, 1911, and probably in reply to numerous enquiries as to when the new series would be on sale, issued the leaflet shewn in facsimile on page 63.

Further delays took place, and in July another notice (shewn in facsimile on page 64) emanated from the Post Office at The Castle.

The two leaflets are of themselves of no great moment, but the sequel to the exhaustion of certain values as mentioned in that of July 17 is of considerable interest. Of the four values, the One Penny was then current in the small King's Head type, and also in the large pictorial design, and a considerable stock of the latter was on hand, though it was not desired to further issue them.

The order for the supply referred to by the Postmaster included "1d. red," but without specifying the

The Castle,
St. Helena,
April 19th, 1911.

Sir,

~~General~~

In case it may be of interest to you, I am instructed by His Excellency the Governor to state that the George V Issue of St. Helena Stamps is on order, and is expected to reach this Colony about ~~November~~ *November*. These stamps will be taken into use two months after receipt, when the entire stock of the Edward VII issues will be destroyed by fire. The only values of these issues remaining are :

PICTORIAL.	SMALL HEAD.
2/-, Purple and Black.	10/-, Light Green.
1/-, Yellow and Brown.	½d., Green.
8d., Dark Drab and Black.	2½d. Blue.
2d., Light Green and Black.	4d. Black + red on yellow
1d., Red and Black.	6d. Dull + very purple.
½d., Green and Dark Drab.	

$3/11\frac{1}{2}$ d.

$11/1$ d.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

T. R. BRUCE,
Postmaster.

Post-office leaflet of
April 1911 (see Chapter XI.).

Post Office,
St. Helena,
July 17th, 1911.

Sir,

~~_____~~

Referring to my Circular Letter of the 19th April last, in which I informed you that the Edward VII issues of St. Helena Stamps would probably be destroyed about August next, I am directed to inform you that owing to some unforeseen delay which has occurred in London in the printing of the George V Issue of Stamps, the Edward VII Issues will in all probability remain in use until the end of the current year. Under the circumstances, this Government has ordered a small stock of those values of the Edward VII Issue which became exhausted early in the current year, viz., the 1d., 2½d., 4d., 6d. These values, together with those given in my letter of the 19th April last, will be in stock from September next until the George V Issue is received.

I am

Your obedient servant,

T. R. BRUCE,
Postmaster.

Post-office leaflet of
July, 1911 (see page 62).

type ; and the order was filled from the "bi-coloured" plates of the pictorial stamp, the two impressions being in red, and the printing on Multiple Crown "CA" paper.

No record apparently exists of the official comment on the London rendering of the requisition, but one can imagine the Postmaster's annoyance at receiving an additional supply of a stamp of which he had already far too many on hand. Whether or not the all-red Penny will ever be issued is doubtful, but at present the stock is intact ; probably it will meet a premature death in the general holocaust to take place on the issue of the Georgian series.



CHAPTER XII.

Bibliography.

Complete Works.

BACON, E. D., and BECKTON, W. D. "The Postage Stamps, Envelopes, Wrappers, Postcards, and Telegraph Stamps of the British Colonies, Possessions and Protectorates in Africa." Part III. London, 1906. The Philatelic Society, London. * * Plates.

Mr. Bacon's "Preliminary Notes" on St. Helena in the above work (p. 319) and Mr. W. Dorning Beckton's "Reference List" (p. 323) constitute the standard authorities on the subject.

_____ and NAPIER, F. H. "The Stamps of Barbados with a history and description of the star-watermarked papers of Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Co." By E. D. B. and F. H. N. London, 1896. S. Gibbons, Limited. * * Plates.

Contains a full account of the watermarked papers used by the printers of the first stamps of St. Helena.

_____ "Grenada : to which is prefixed an account of the perforations of the Perkins-Bacon printed stamps of the British Colonies." By E. D. B. and F. H. N. London, 1896. S. Gibbons, Limited. * * Plates.

The authority on the perforations of the Perkins-Bacon stamps.

INDEX TO THE CHIEF PRINTED ARTICLES AND PAPERS IN PHILATELIC PERIODICALS.

ABBREVIATIONS.

G.S.W.—Gibbons Stamp Weekly.

L.P.—London Philatelist.

M.P.—Metropolitan Philatelist.

P.J.G.B.—Philatelic Journal of Great Britain.

P.R.—Philatelic Record.

S.C.A.—Stamp Collectors' Annual.

S.G.M.J.—Stanley Gibbons Monthly Journal.

S.N.—Stamp News.

GENERAL. [C. Corwin] M.P. II., 78 ; [A. Levy] S.N. IX., 29, 37 ; [H. Ferrier-Kerr] P.R. XVI., 76, 95, 134 ; [W. D. Beckton] P.R. XXIII., 72 ; [Chas. E. Jenney] reprinted from the *Philatelic Californian*. P.J.G.B.—*Review of Reviews* V., 75, December, 1896 ; [W. T. Willett] S.G.M.J. V., 150 ; [H. H. Harland] *The Record of the Philatelic Students' Fellowship* Nos. 1 and 2 ; [A Specialist] S.C.A., 1906.

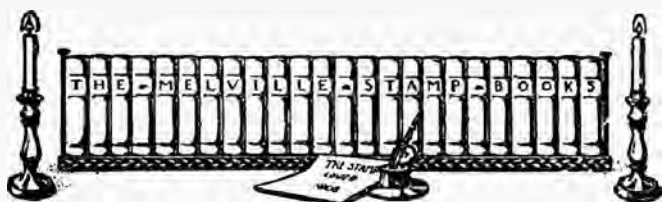
PAPER. "Star," see Complete Books [Bacon, "Barbados"] ; also CC and CA [Melville] G.S.W. XII., 178.

PERFORATIONS. "Perkins-Bacon" printed stamps. See Complete Books [Bacon, "Grenada"].

REMAINDERS. S.G.M.J. VIII., 133 ; L.P. XIII., 181, 289.

SURCHARGED STAMPS. [E. B. Evans] P.R. I., 110. Double Surcharge 1s. CC [W. D. Beckton] P.R. XXIII., 72, reprinted P.J.G.B. XI., 47 ; Varieties [Ed. H. Selby] P.R. XXIII., 156.

TAPLING COLLECTION, St. Helena Stamps in the, S.G.M.J. VI., 160.



CHAPTER XIII.

Check List.

Line-engraved and printed direct by Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Co., on paper watermarked with a Large Star. Jan., 1856.—Imperforate. (With red cancellation). 6d., blue (slight shades).

Plate varieties.

1861.—Perforated 14 to 16, fairly clean-cut holes. 6d. blue (shades).

With red cancellation.

With black cancellation.

Clean-cut on two sides only.

Compound perforations.

Plate varieties.

1863-73.—Perforated 14 to 16, rough-cut holes. 6d., blue (shades).

Compound perforations.

Plate varieties.

Imperforate (with black cancellation).

Line-engraved by Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Co., but printed direct by Messrs. De La Rue & Co. Stamps, other than Six Pence, with surcharge in *sans-serif* capitals and bar cancelling original value surface-printed in black by Messrs. De La Rue & Co., on paper watermarked with Crown and "CC".

July, 1863.—Imperforate.

1d. on 6d., lake.

(a) Value 17mm. \times 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ mm.; bar 16 $\frac{1}{2}$ mm.

(b) Value 18 $\frac{1}{2}$ mm. \times 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ mm.; bar, 18 $\frac{1}{2}$ mm.

Varieties in length of bar.

Plate varieties.

Watermark varieties.

(a) and (b) *se tenant* in a vertical pair.

Without surcharge (see Proofs).

4d. on 6d., bright carmine—value, $16\frac{3}{4}$ mm.

× 3mm.; bar, $16\frac{1}{2}$ mm.

Varieties in length of bar.

Plate varieties.

Watermark varieties.

Double surcharge.

1864-67.—Cancelling bar long and thin, and nearly same length as value. Perforated $12\frac{1}{2}$.

1d. on 6d., lake (shades)—value, $17\frac{1}{2}$ mm. ×

$2\frac{3}{4}$ mm.; bar, $16\frac{1}{2}$ mm.

Varieties in length of bar.

Without bar.

Bar at top.

Plate varieties.

Watermark varieties.

3d. on 6d., purple (shades).

Varieties in length of bar.

Plate varieties.

Watermark varieties.

4d. on 6d., carmine (shades).

Varieties in length of bar.

No bar.

Bar at top.

Plate varieties.

Watermark varieties.

1s. on 6d., deep yellow-green—value, 3mm. high; bar, $1\frac{1}{2}$ mm. shorter than value.

(a) Value, $17\frac{1}{2}$ mm. long.

(b) Value $18\frac{1}{2}$ mm. long.

Varieties in length of bar.

Plate varieties.

Watermark varieties.

Imperforate (see Proofs).

1865-68.—Cancelling bar short and thick, except in Two Pence. Perforated $12\frac{1}{2}$.

1d. on 6d., lake (shades)—value, $17\frac{1}{2}$ mm. \times $2\frac{3}{4}$ mm.; bar, $14\frac{1}{2}$ mm.

Varieties in length of bar.

Plate varieties.

Watermark varieties.

Imperforate (see Proofs).

2d. on 6d., yellow—value $15\frac{1}{2}$ mm. \times 3mm.; bar, 14mm.

Varieties in length of bar.

Plate varieties.

Watermark varieties.

Imperforate (see Proofs).

3d. on 6d., purple (shades).

Varieties in length of bar.

Plate varieties.

Watermark varieties.

Double surcharge.

Imperforate (see Proofs).

4d. on 6d., carmine (shades).

(a) Value 18mm. long.

(b) Value 19mm. long.

Varieties in length of bar.

Plate varieties.

Watermark varieties.

Double surcharge ((a) + (a)).

Double surcharge ((a) + (b)).

Imperforate (a) and (b) (see Proofs).

1s. on 6d., deep yellow-green (shades)—value, 17mm. \times $2\frac{3}{4}$ mm.; bar, $14\frac{1}{2}$ mm.

Varieties in length of bar.

Plate varieties.

Watermark varieties.

Defective surcharge.

Double surcharge.

Without surcharge.

- 5s. on 6d., yellow, orange.
 Varieties in length of bar,
 Plate varieties.
 Watermark varieties.
- 1871.—Value in (as generally described) taller and thinner type. Perforated $12\frac{1}{2}$.
 1d. on 6d., lake (shades)—value $17\frac{1}{2}$ mm. \times 3mm. ; bar, 17mm.
 Varieties in length of bar.
 Plate varieties.
 Watermark varieties.
 Surcharge in deep blue.
- 2d. on 6d., yellow—value 18mm. \times 3mm. ; bar, 18mm.
 Plate varieties.
 Watermark varieties.
- 1s. on 6d., deep green (shades) — value $17\frac{1}{2}$ mm. \times 3mm. ; bar, 18mm.
 Plate varieties.
 Watermark varieties.
 Short-topped "E" in "ONE."
- 1873-4.—Without surcharge. Perforated $12\frac{1}{2}$.
 6d., dull blue, ultramarine.
 Plate varieties.
 Watermark varieties.
- 1882.—Cancelling bar short and thick, and otherwise as in 1865-68. Perforated $14 \times 12\frac{1}{2}$.
 1d. on 6d., lake (shades).
 Varieties in length of bar.
 Plate varieties.
 Watermark varieties.
- 2d. on 6d., yellow.
 Plate varieties.
 Watermark varieties.

- 3d. on 6d., purple (shades).
 Varieties in length of bar.
 Plate varieties.
 Watermark varieties.
- 4d. on 6d., carmine (shades).
 Varieties in length of bar.
 Plate varieties.
 Watermark varieties.
- 1882.—Value, with long bar, as in One Shilling
 of 1871. Perforated $14 \times 12\frac{1}{2}$.
 1s. on 6d., deep green (shades).
 Plate varieties.
 Watermark varieties.
 Short-topped "E" in "ONE."
- 1882.—Without surcharge. Perforated $14 \times 12\frac{1}{2}$.
 6d., milky blue (shades).
 Plate varieties.
 Watermark varieties.
- 1883.—Value and bar similar to those of 1865.
 Perforated 14.
 1d. on 6d., lake (shades).
 Varieties in length of bar.
 Plate varieties.
 Watermark varieties.
 Imperforate at top or bottom.
 Bisected vertically, and each half used as $\frac{1}{2}$ d.
- 2d. on 6d., yellow.
 Varieties in length of bar.
 Plate varieties.
 Watermark varieties.
 Imperforate at top or bottom.
- 1s. on 6d., yellow-green (shades).
 Varieties in length of bar.
 Plate varieties.
 Watermark varieties.
 Imperforate top or bottom.
 Imperforate (see Proofs).

1889.—Without surcharge. Perforated 14.
6d., milky blue (shades).

Plate varieties.

Watermark varieties.

[Note.—For stamps perforated 12, see Proofs.]

Line-engraved, and printed and surcharged as before,
but on paper watermarked with Crown and "CA".
Perforated 14.

1884-94.—Value (except for 2½d. in which it is
in figures) and bar, as in previous issue.

½d., emerald-green (shades)—value, 17mm.
long; bar, 14mm.

Varieties in length of bar.

No bar.

Bar at top.

Plate varieties.

Watermark varieties.

No watermark.

Space (1¼mm.) between "N" and "Y" (No. 216).

No. 216 normal ("N" and "Y" not spaced).

Double surcharge.

½d., green (shades)—value, 17mm, long;
bar, 14mm.

Varieties in length of bar.

Plate varieties.

Watermark varieties.

No watermark.

Space (1¼mm.) between "N" and "Y" (No. 216).

No. 216 normal.

½d., deep green, deep olive-green (shades)—
value, 14½mm. long; bar, 14mm.

Varieties in length of bar.

Plate varieties.

Watermark varieties.

No watermark.

Bar extending to right (Nos. 56, 116, 176, 236).

Bar and value close together (No. 53).

Bar and value wide apart (No. 52).

Defective "Y" (Nos. 74, 134, 194).

Cap on "Y" (No. 158).

"N N Y" spaced.

- 1d. on 6d., lake-red, red, pale-red—bar, short and thick.
 Varieties in length of bar.
 Plate varieties.
 Watermark varieties.
 No watermark.
 "Y" of "PENNY" dropped.
- 2d. on 6d., yellow (shades)—surcharge as in 1865.
 Varieties in length of bar.
 Plate varieties.
 Watermark varieties.
 No watermark.
 Imperforate vertically?
 Imperforate horizontally?
- 2½d. on 6d., ultramarine (shades —surcharge "2½d").
 Figures larger or heavier (columns 3 and 9).
 Varieties in length of bar.
 Plate varieties.
 Watermark varieties.
 No watermark.
 No bar.
 Bar at top.
 Bar at top and bottom.
 Double surcharge.
 Double print of stamp.
- 3d. on 6d., deep violet, dull violet, mauve—bar, short and thick.
 Varieties in length of bar.
 Plate varieties.
 Watermark varieties.
 No watermark.
 Double surcharge (on 6d., deep violet).

4d. on 6d., sepia, pale sepia—bar, short and thick.

Varieties in length of bar.

Plate varieties.

Watermark varieties.

No watermark.

No bar.

Bar at top.

Bar at top and bottom.

With a long thin additional bar (No. 76).

6d., grey, pale grey—without surcharge.

Plate varieties.

Watermark varieties.

No watermark.

1s. on 6d., yellow-green (shades)—bar, long and thin as in 1871 and 1882.

Plate varieties.

Watermark varieties.

No watermark.

Short-topped "E" in "ONE" (No. 78).

Double surcharge

Engraved and surface-printed by Messrs. De La Rue & Co. Perforated 14.

1890.—Watermark Crown and "CA". From Plate I.

1½d., red-brown and green (shades).

1896-97.—Watermark Crown and "CA". From Plate II. and, for the ½d. and 1d., also from Plate III.

½d., green (shades).

1d., carmine (shades).

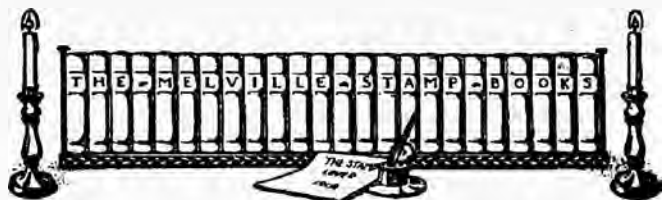
2d., orange, yellow (shades of both).

2½d., ultramarine (shades).

5d., violet (shades).

10d., brown (shades).

- 1902.—Watermark Crown and "CA".
 $\frac{1}{2}$ d., green (shades).
 Yellowish gum.
 1d., carmine (shades).
- 1903.—Picture in second colour. Watermark
 Large Crown and "CC."
 $\frac{1}{2}$ d., grey-green and brown.
 1d., carmine and black.
 2d., sage-green and black.
 8d., brown and black.
 1s., brown-orange and brown.
 2s., violet and black.
- 1908.—Watermark Multiple Crown and "CA".
 $2\frac{1}{2}$ d., ultramarine (ordinary paper).
 4d., black and red on *yellow* (chalk-surfaced
 paper).
 6d., dull and rosy purple (chalk-surfaced
 paper).
- 1908.—Watermark Crown and "CA".
 10s., green and red on *green* (chalk-surfaced
 paper).
- 1911.—Watermark Multiple Crown and "CA".
 4d., black and red on *yellow* (ordinary paper).
 6d., dull and rosy purple (ordinary paper).



APPENDIX.

Proofs and Essays of St. Helena.

By H. H. HARLAND.

OF the Perkins-Bacon printings of the stamps of St. Helena, no record seems to exist of anything that one could place with certainty under this heading. The printers, no doubt, have their die-proofs, but beyond that everything seems to have been printed on the watermarked paper and in the colour as issued.

In 1863, changes in the postal rates led to the necessity of issuing stamps of one penny and fourpence denominations, the contract for supply in the meanwhile having been given to new printers (Messrs. De La Rue & Co.); and it is evident that, with the idea of saving both time and expense, they prepared certain essays by overprinting with a new value sixpence stamps printed by Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Co.

Mr. E. D. Bacon, in his preliminary notes to the Postal issues of St. Helena in the Royal Philatelic Society's work, "Africa," Part III., gives a list of fourteen varieties which were part of a collection presented to the "Tapling" Collection by the Crown Agents.

Unfortunately, the exhibit at the British Museum does not show these, and outside one or two items no one seems to have specimens. They are, however, far

too interesting to pass, and I therefore take the liberty of giving a condensed description of them in the order laid down by Mr. Bacon, and refer the reader to the work mentioned for the fuller details.

Six Pence (blue). Imperf. Watermarked with a Large Star.

1. Surcharged in black in small *sans-serif* capitals "FOUR PENCE", 16½mm. long, 1½mm. high.
2. do. in vermilion, do. do.
3. do. do. do. do.
3. { and with a thick black bar through "FOUR PENCE" and "ONE PENNY", 19mm. long and 2½mm. high, added above.
4. do. in black "ONE PENNY", 19mm. long and 2½mm. high, with a thick bar below.
5. do. in black "ONE", 6mm. long and 2½mm. high, above and to the left of a thick bar obliterating the original value "SIX PENCE".
6. do. in black "FOUR PENCE" 18½ mm. long, 2½ mm. high.
7. do. in vermilion do. do.
8. do. in black as No. 1, and with a bar 19 mm. long below.
9. do. in vermilion do. do.
10. do. in vermilion "ONE PENNY" 17 mm. long, 3 mm. high.
11. With original value struck through with pen and red ink and "one penny" written in above the line.
12. No. 1 with the "FOUR PENCE" struck through with pen and red ink and the numeral "1" written above the lower left corner star of the stamp.
13. No. 1 with a single line frame drawn by hand in black, round the original surcharge, thus
" FOUR PENCE ", and "FOUR-PENCE" written above in tall *sans-serif* capitals.
14. No. 1 with the alterations made by hand in red ink.

Mr. Bacon also mentions a proof or colour-trial of the Six Pence, in dark blue on unwatermarked paper or thin white card. I have a specimen of this, and quite agree with the note that follows, *viz.*, that it is a printing by Messrs. De La Rue & Co., the colour being far too bright for Perkins, Bacon & Co. At the same time, I am quite unable to compare it in colour to any stamp, either of this or any other colony, that was printed by the first-named firm.

Our next item, "the Six Pence printed in lake without surcharge", is one of very great interest and has been the cause of much controversy. No copy is known postally used, Messrs. Stanley Gibbons in their catalogue stating in a footnote that "we believe it to be a proof", and the Royal Philatelic Society's work says positively it was never issued. To the collector, its particular claim to be either a stamp or a proof has little interest, for it will always be sought after, and if found cherished for its rarity alone. It should be noted that, unlike most proofs, it is found fully gummed.

Of the 1864-1883 issue the following are known imperforate, and so far as I have been able to learn are only known unused.* Messrs. Stanley Gibbons give as an issued stamp the one penny with short bar (No. 18.d. in Catalogue): personally I see no justification for this particular value being in their list, as all the values given in the list below are known exactly in the same state (imperforate and with full gum) and it may be noted at the same time that the most easily obtainable of these is the Three Pence value.

* As noted on page 40 the Penny was chronicled used, in the *Philatelic Record*, vol. xxiii., p. 156.

Watermark Crown and "C C". Imperforate.

1s. Deep yellow-green, value 3 mm. high, and bar slightly shorter than the words of value.		
1d. Lake with short bar.	..	Words of value 15 mm. long.
2d. Yellow	..	
3d. Purple	..	
4d. Carmine	..	Words of value 18 mm. long.
	..	19 mm. long.
1s. Yellow-green	..	2½ mm. high.

This latter stamp without doubt belongs to the 1883 period, both colour and paper (the variations of which will be found fully described in the earlier portions of this work) fixing it down to that date.

Of proofs or essays on the Crown and "C C" paper, I know of no other varieties than those mentioned above, excepting that Mr. Dorning Beckton, in the Royal Philatelic Society's work already mentioned, states that he had news of an original envelope, with the Two Pence and Four Pence values with "C C" watermark together with the Halfpenny and Penny with "C A" watermark affixed to it, all perforated 12 and postmarked St. Helena, August 2nd, 1886. As most collectors know, the 12 perforation was purely a trial one, the four values in question, so far as I am aware, otherwise than on this particular envelope, are quite unknown: therefore, until substantial proof of their existence is obtained, they should not be recognized.

The following, however, are known with this trial perforation 12: all are proofs on Crown & "C A" paper, without overprint.

Watermark Crown and "C A". Perforated 12.

6d. violet	colour of 3d. of 1887.
6d. sepia 4d. of 1890.
6d. grey 6d. of 1889.

6d. slate grey	colour of 6d. of 1889.
6d. ultramarine 2½d. of 1893.
6d. amber	
6d. dull red	

On this same paper (Crown & "C A") the following are also known :—

Without surcharge, imperforate.

6d. yellow	colour of 2d. of 1894.
6d. ultramarine 2½d. of 1893.
6d. sepia 4d. of 1890.
6d. grey 6d. of 1889.
6d. yellow-green 1s. of 1894.

It is probable that they also exist in the colour of the Halfpenny, Penny and Three Pence of the same series, but I have not been able to obtain and up to the present have not heard of them.

With surcharge, imperforate.

6d. green surcharged in black	Halfpenny (short surcharge)
6d. red	One Penny.
6d. yellow	Two Pence.
6d. ultramarine	2½d.
6d. violet	Three Pence.
6d. sepia	Four Pence.
6d. yellow-green	One Shilling.

Key type, imperforate.

1½d. red-brown and green.

I have not seen proofs of any other values of the 1890-97, or of the 1902 issues, but, as in the previous set, they probably exist; and if any reader knows that such is the case, I trust he will acquaint Mr. Melville with the fact so that it may be recorded.

Early in 1903, a new semi-pictorial issue came into existence shewing, in addition to the King's Head, views of Government House and The Wharf at St. Helena. The stamps were finally issued in the colours given in the catalogues, but the printers originally

produced a number of colour-trials, evidently with the object of helping them in their decision in what particular combination of colour the stamps should be issued.

The following colour-trials, printed on Crown & "CA" paper, which I have seen, are all of the one penny value, imperforate, and the view is in the second colour given.

Bright violet and grey-black.
 Deep brown and grey-black.
 Carmine and pale blue-green.
 Bright blue and grey-black.
 Deep brown and violet.
 Dull purple and bright green.
 Bright blue and brown.
 Indian red and brown.
 Grey and grey-black.
 Indian red and grey-black.

Carmine and pale brown.
 Sage-green and grey-black.
 Orange and pale blue-green.
 Grey-brown and violet.
 Grey-green and bright violet.
 Sage-green and dull purple.
 Brown-orange and brown.
 Blue-green and grey-black.
 Green and dull violet.

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