

The West Africa Study Circle

St. Helena & Ascension Supplement No. 38



The West Africa Study Circle

ST. HELENA AND ASCENSION SUPPLEMENT

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The West Africa Study Circle

St. Helena and Ascension Supplement
Number 38 July 2002

EDITORIAL



ROYAL VISIT 1947

Their Majesties visit St Helena - Shown leaving the Castle, Jamestown.
1999 issue commemorating the Queen Mother's Century.

Both the Queen Mother and Princess Margaret, who was also on the 1947 Royal Visit, died earlier this year.
See article on page 23.

Most editorials are written following compilation - this one is somewhat different. The date is Friday 31st May 2002, time 01.00 hours, and the location somewhere above the North Atlantic aboard RAF Tristar ZE 704 flight RR 3211, the 22.50 hours from Wideawake to Brize Norton.

It seems appropriate to pen this as the five of us return home following almost four weeks of travel in the South Atlantic. No doubt the full story will be told in a future Supplement, so I will just say that we all had a very exciting, interesting and above all enjoyable holiday. Highlights must include the superb weather and views at Cape Town, the relaxing voyage aboard the *RMS*, the participation in the Quincentenary events at St Helena, and swimming in the warm Ocean and seeing the turtles at Ascension Island. But the overriding memory, as always, is of the warmth, friendliness and charm of the people.

Since writing the above I returned home to my mother who had been taken to hospital whilst I was away. Sadly she died on 17th June. I will miss her greatly as she had been a loving mother, my lifelong companion and the best friend I had - but her life was a long, happy one and her passing peaceful. She was gentle, kind and always smiling, and like all good mothers encouraged me in most(!) of my endeavours. Because of this I intend that when written up my St. Helena be called the Dorothy Burns Collection in her memory. In the meantime, I hope you will allow me to dedicate this humble edition of the Supplement to her.

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YOUR LETTERS



Your comments on any letters and articles, or on the style and content of the Supplement are most welcome, as also is correspondence on any philatelic subject which may be of interest to our readership. Please respond via the editor, by letter or e-mail. My addresses are on

Page 2.

Supplement 37

Dear Barry,

Your readers may be interested in the following points in connection with a couple of items from the last Supplement.

Apropos the George Correspondence (page 3 and Supplement 36), I had a fax from the Postmistress a few days ago, in which, *inter alia*, she referred to my enquiry about R. Marven George many moons ago, in which she said:

There is very little to be said for the gentleman you spoke about. My mother in law does remember him living at Sandy Bay but nothing regarding his background.

A letter from Stephen Cullen of Woodcot to Bradford was reproduced on page 5. Woodcot is a Thorpe house, and Stephen Cullen is listed in the Annual Register for 1913:

Registrar of Births, Marriages & Deaths (£5 p.a.)

Asst. Collector, Customs Dept. (£108 p.a.)

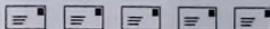
And in the Register of Memorials:

Annie Elizabeth, wife of Stephen Cullen, died 10 June 1940, aged 64.

But did he do anything else, and what brought him to St. Helena?

On page 34, the Rev. Gough, who addressed the Tristan Relief Stamp cover to himself, was, of course, the Roman Catholic priest on the Island, well remembered for driving a 'bubble-car', an Isetta three-wheeler probably (*a Goggomobile, according to the late Jean Johnston, writing in Wirebird No. 13, June 1996 - Ed.*) Reverend Jarlath Gough was the first resident RC priest for many years, since Father Daine left in 1906, in fact. He came in 1957, sent by the RC Archbishop of Cape Town and stayed six years, during which time he restored the Church of the Sacred Heart in Jamestown.

Trevor Hearl
Prestbury
Cheltenham



KING EDWARD VII 'DENTED FRAME' VARIETY

Richard Maisel and James Podger

The original article on which this information is extracted with permission was originally published in The London Philatelist, Volume 109 June 2000. After a brief introduction, I have included only the references to St Helena, but the full article is recommended to those whose interest extends to the other issues.

The Postage-Postage design was used for stamps issued in four British colonies viz. Cayman Islands, Gambia, Saint Helena and Seychelles during the reign of King Edward VII (1902-10). These stamps were printed with great care by Thomas De La Rue and Company, under the scrutiny of inspectors appointed by the Crown Agents. As a result the stamps are of a uniform high quality, with few errors and little variation. However, a fault on the keyplate escaped the surveillance of both De La Rue and the Crown Agents' inspectors. This fault produced the 'Dented-Frame' variety sometimes called a 'Glover Flaw', after L.V.S. Glover who discovered it [1]. The dent consists of a downward semicircular bulge in the frame under the colony name, near the lower left corner of the name tablet (Figure 1).

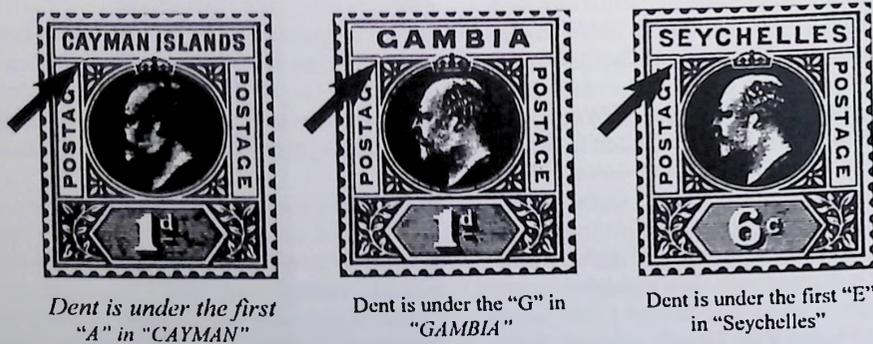


Figure 1: 200% Magnification

Many collectors assume the fault was made when the plate was constructed and therefore assume there was a dented-frame stamp printed on every sheet of King Edward Postage-Postage adhesives. This paper (*as originally published - Ed.*) shows this assumption is in error and identifies a narrow period of time after the plate was constructed, in which the dent first appeared.

design was produced by a two-stage, surface-printing process. In the first stage, a sheet of stamps, lacking the name of the colony and denomination, was printed from a keyplate. The

sheet was divided into two panes, left and right, separated by a thin interpanneau margin. Each pane had ten rows of six stamps and was surrounded by a jubilee line. In the second stage of the printing, a duty plate added the colony name and face value of the stamp. A single keyplate, numbered '1' near each corner of the plate, was used for printing all these issues. A total of 38 printings, defined by the invoices posted in the De La Rue Private Day Books, was made from the keyplate during the period 23 December 1901 to 10 February 1911.

The dented frame was printed on the stamp located on the left pane, first row, position six (L 1/6). The dent is about 0.45 mm wide at its top and about 0.15 mm down at its deepest point. An abbreviated dent, about one-third the usual size, was discovered by Charles Freeland (Figure 3) on a Cayman Islands 1902 1d stamp and a second observation of this abbreviated dent was later seen on a used stamp of this issue. Recently, a Gambia 1909 1d stamp was observed with a faint crack on the right side of the dent (Figure 3).

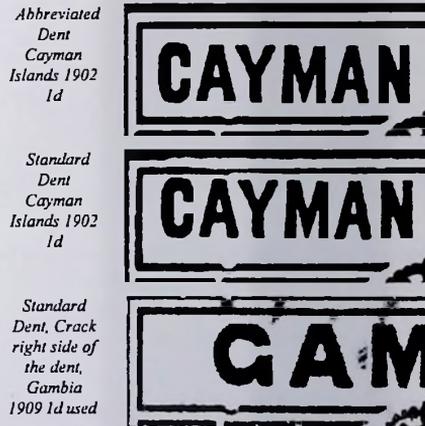


Figure 3: Left half of name tablet. 1000% magnification.

Stanley Gibbons' catalogue lists dented-frame varieties for all these issues except the St Helena 1902 ½d and 1d stamps. These listings incorporate the collective experience of philatelists, none of whom has ever reported seeing a dented frame on a St Helena stamp. Such stamps printed in the L 1/6 position have been identified on the basis of their selvedge markings (jubilee line above and to the right of the stamp and alignment dot above the upper jubilee line) but they did not have a dent (Figure 4). There is no record of any other issue from the other colonies, except the two St Helena stamps, with normal L 1/6 stamps.

The authors then proceed to discuss the genesis and timing of the fault. As there was only one printing for St Helena (The third printing - 9 January 1902; 2022 sheets of each value) it is suggested that the fault was created as a 'single event' sometime after completion of this third

printing but before the completion of the fifth printing (of several values for Gambia) on 9 April 2002.

If any readers have seen or heard of the dented-frame flaw (in either state) on this issue of St Helena, the editor and the authors would like to know as proof of such would necessitate a rethink on the 'single event' theory and timing.

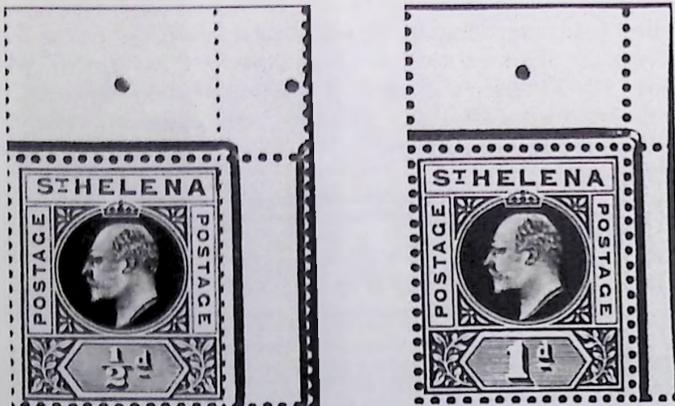


Figure 4: St. Helena 1902 1/2d and 1d stamps with L 1/6 selvage markings but without dented frames. 200% magnification.

Reference

1 Aguilar, E.F. and Saunders, P.T. *The Cayman Islands: Their Postal History, Postage Stamps and Postmarks*. Folkestone, Kent, G.B.: F.J. Parsons (Kent Newspapers) Ltd., 1962. p.40.

CURRENT POSTAL RATES St Helena and Ascension

During our May 2002 visit to the South Atlantic we obtained leaflets from the Post Offices at Jamestown and Georgetown detailing the current postal rates. The cover for St Helena, showing the Post Office (in colour) is reproduced on page 7, followed by sets of rates for both Islands on subsequent pages. The original leaflets gave the rates for each 20g increase in weight which I have condensed to save space, as these increases were incremental

ST HELENA POST OFFICE



OPENING HOURS

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday
08:30am - 3:00pm

Saturdays

08:30am - 12:00 Noon

The Post Office will open on a Wednesday during
the time the RMS is in port.

Telephone - General Enquiries: 0290 2652

Postmistress: 0290 2629

Facsimile: 0290 2242

E-mail Address: PM.PO.@helanta.sh

GET YOUR POSTAGE RATES RIGHT!

St Helena Airmail

Small Packets

	100g	£0.85	
Each additional	20g	£0.15	Maximum 2kg (£15.10)

Printed Papers

	20g	£0.25	
Each additional	20g	£0.15	No maximum quoted

Letters

	10g	£0.30	
	20g	£0.40	
	40g	£0.65	
Each additional	20g	£0.25	Maximum 1kg (£12.65)

Aerogrammes (Air Letter Forms)

Aerogrammes are a comparatively cheap and convenient way of sending a letter by air.

International & Ascension	£0.20
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Postcards

International & Ascension	£0.25
---------------------------	-------

Registration Fee

International & Ascension	£0.50
---------------------------	-------

Insurance Premium

£0.25 per £35 of the insured value or part thereof plus registration fee. Maximum value £1000.

St Helena Surface Mail

Letters, Small Packets, Printed Papers & Parcels can be sent Surface Mail. This is a more economical service than Airmail but delivery time is longer.

Letters	Ascension	International	
First 20g	£0.15	£0.20	
Above 20g - 100g	£0.35	£0.40	
Above 100g - 250g	£0.65	£0.75	
Above 250g - 500g	£1.25	£1.50	
Above 500g - 1kg	£2.00	£2.50	
Above 1 kg - 2 kg	£4.00	£4.50	Maximum 2kg

Postcards	£0.25	£0.25	
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Printed Papers

First 20g	£0.10	£0.15	
Above 20g - 100g	£0.25	£0.35	
Above 100g - 250g	£0.35	£0.50	
Above 250g - 500g	£0.60	£0.75	
Above 500g - 1kg	£0.85	£1.00	
Above 1 kg - 2 kg	£1.25	£2.00	
Each additional 1kg	£0.60	£1.00	

Maximum - Papers 2kg; Books/Pamphlets 5kg

Small Packets

First 100g	£0.25	£0.35	
Above 100g - 250g	£0.35	£0.50	
Above 250g - 500g	£0.60	£0.75	
Above 500g - 1kg	£0.85	£1.00	
Above 1 kg - 2 kg	£1.25	£2.00	Maximum 2kg

Parcels	Ascension	G.B.	S. Africa	
Not Exceeding 1kg	£2.50	£6.00	£5.00	
Above 1kg - 3kg	£3.50	£8.00	£7.00	
Above 3kg - 5kg	£4.50	£10.00	£9.00	
Above 5kg - 10kg	£6.50	£15.00	£12.00	
Above 10kg - 15kg	£8.50	£25.00	£15.00	
Above 15kg - 20kg	£10.50	£35.00	£18.00	
1kg or part thereof	£1.00	£2.00	£1.50	Maximum 30kg

St Helena Internal Rates & Other Charges

Letters, Postcards, Printed Matter and small Packets

For each first 50g or part thereof	£0.10	
Each additional 50g or part thereof	£0.10	Maximum 2kg

Special Charges

Registration fee	£0.50
Recorded Delivery	£0.40
Advice of Delivery	£0.30
Private Bag (to be supplied by user) for collection & delivery by the Postman	
Annual Fee	£25.00
Private Post Box Annual Fee	£5.00

Recorded Delivery Service is provided for Customers who require a record of posting and a signature for receipt of delivery.

Ascension Airmail (to all destinations)

Letters

For the first 10g or part thereof	£0.40	
Above 10g - 20g	£0.50	
For each additional 20g or part thereof	£0.30	Maximum 2kg

Postcards £0.35

Printed Matter

For the first 20g or part thereof	£0.30
For each additional 20g or part thereof	£0.20

Small Packets

For the first 100g or part thereof	£1.00
For each additional 20g or part thereof	£0.20

Aerogrammes £0.25

Ascension Surface mail

	International	St Helena
Letters		
For the first 20g or part thereof	£0.25	£0.15
Above 20g - 100g	£0.50	£0.35
Above 100g - 250g	£1.00	£0.65
Above 250g - 500g	£1.75	£1.25
Above 500g - 1kg	£2.75	£2.00
Above 1kg - 2kg	£4.75	£4.00
Maximum 2kg		
Postcards	£0.20	£0.15
Printed Matter		
For the first 20g or part thereof	£0.20	£0.10
Above 20g - 100g	£0.45	£0.25
Above 100g - 250g	£0.75	£0.35
Above 250g - 500g	£1.00	£0.60
Above 500g - 1kg	£1.25	£0.85
Above 1kg - 2kg	£2.50	£1.25
Each additional 1kg	£1.00	£0.60
Maximum - Papers 2kg; Books/Pamphlets 5kg		
Small Packets		
For the first 100g or part thereof	£0.45	£0.25
Above 100g - 250g	£0.75	£0.35
Above 250g - 500g	£1.00	£0.60
Above 500g - 1kg	£1.25	£0.85
Above 1kg - 2kg	£2.50	£1.25
Maximum 2kg		
Special Charges		
Registration fee	£0.50	£0.50
Insurance premium £0.25 per £35 of the insured value or part thereof plus registration fee. Maximum value £1000.		

Parcels	G. Britain	S. Africa	St Helena
Not exceeding 2kg	£7.00	£6.00	£3.00
Above 2kg - 3kg	£9.00	£8.00	£4.00
Above 3kg - 5kg	£11.00	£10.00	£5.00
Above 5kg - 10kg	£16.00	£13.00	£7.00
Above 10kg - 15kg	£26.00	£16.00	£9.00
Above 15kg - 20kg	£36.00	£19.00	£11.00
Above 20kg, for each additional kg	£2.00	£1.50	£1.20
Maximum 30kg			

To other countries the rate of postage to Great Britain or South Africa (as the case may be) plus the onward postage therefrom to the country of destination.

Insurance (via Great Britain only) £0.25 per £35 of the insured value or part thereof. Maximum insured value £1000.

DISCUSSION WITH THE ST HELENA POSTMISTRESS

Alan Srine

Whilst at St Helena, the opportunity to discuss current Post Office practice with the current Postmistress, Mrs Beverly Francis was too good to miss. The following notes summarise the topics discussed.

Date	Friday 17 May 2002	
Location	Post Office, Jamestown	
Present	Mrs Beverly Francis	Postmistress
	Bernard Mabbett	United Kingdom
	Barry Burns	United Kingdom
	Alan Srine	United Kingdom

Sub Post Offices

The old cancellers are held in the Post Office at Jamestown. A collection of mail will be made on Friday next, 24 May (before the RMS departs on Saturday for Ascension Island), and the sub Post Office circular date stamps (cds) will be applied. Question: What is the intended future

collection arrangements?

Beverly already had in mind that this practice should be followed in future, as it is likely to increase stamp sales to collectors. One problem concerns the present condition of the cancellers, which are showing signs of wear (*Supplement 36, page 33 - Ed.*).

Old Handstamps

The RMS cds may be in the Post Office and a search will be made for it. Similarly a search will be made for the small one-line SPECIMEN handstamp which used to be applied to stamps not used for postal purposes e.g. display material (*Supplement 37, page 29*).

The RMS cds was indeed found, and used on some of our covers! However, the location of the SPECIMEN handstamp remains a mystery.

Mail Posted on Ships

Mail posted on board the *RMS*, which is strictly speaking a sub Post Office, or on other ships, should be dealt with as follows:

A Mail stamped with St Helena stamps. The R.M.S. ST HELENA / POSTED AT SEA cachet may be applied by the sender or purser to the cover, not to the stamps, so that it may be identified at the Post Office when sorting. The 'Paquebot' mark should be applied at the sorting office to the cover and the stamps cancelled with the RMS cds. If the correct postage is not prepaid then a tax of twice the unpaid postage should be levied and Postage Due stamps affixed. When the letter is collected and the charge paid, the Jamestown datestamp should be applied to the cover. It is not the practice to cancel the Postage Due stamp(s).

B Mail stamped with 'Foreign' stamps. The correct postage should be known e.g. (currently) South Africa 2R80; GB 36p; Ascension 15p. The R.M.S cachet may be applied to the cover on the ship. The 'Paquebot' handstamp should be applied to cancel the stamps and the RMS cds applied to the cover. The comments above regarding underpayment also apply.

U.P.U. regulations re. stamping of mail posted on 'board ship abroad' are that the only valid postage stamps are those of the country of departure, country of arrival, and country of registration of the ship, i.e. in the case of the *RMS*, stamps of South Africa, St Helena, Ascension, Great Britain, Spain and very occasionally Tristan da Cunha.

Jamestown Datestamp

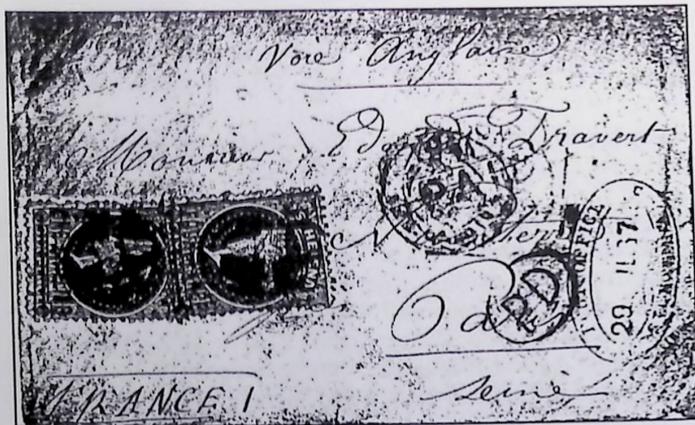
It was noted that the ST. HELENA / JAMESTOWN canceller has been superseded by one with 'POST OFFICE' beneath ST. HELENA. This was to avoid confusion with other Government Offices. The earlier canceller (*Supplement 36, page 33*) was in use for only about a year.

FIVE INTERESTING HANDSTAMPS

Stefan Heijtz

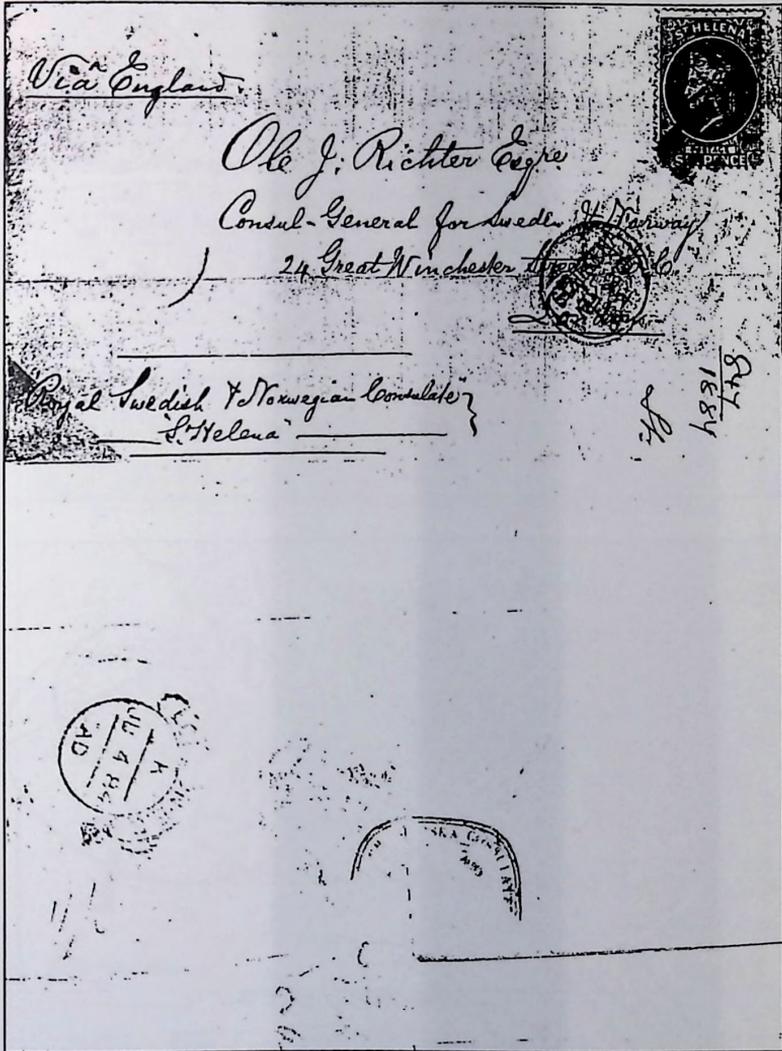
Illustrated here are five interesting covers which have been sent from Stefan Heijtz of Sweden. I apologise for the poor quality of the scanned images, but they portray important handstamps which warrant publication.

The first is a cover to Paris bearing One Shilling and Four Pence adhesives. It bears the POST OFFICE / ST. HELENA handstamp (Hibbert PO1) of 29 JUL 67. This is the latest known date - previously unrecorded.



The second cover (page 15) is to London from the 'Royal Swedish & Norwegian Consulate' bearing a Six Pence adhesive and the first type cds of MY 20 84. Of particular interest is the part strike of the SWEDISH AND NORWEGIAN CONSULATE handstamp on the reverse. The full strike is illustrated below.

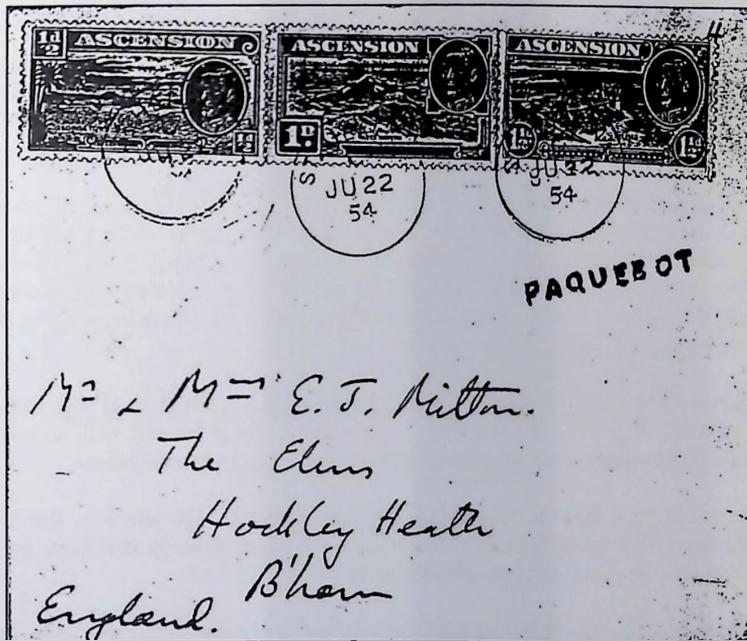




The third cover (illustrated on page 16) is a postcard from Germany to St Helena with arrival cds of MR 22 / 10. There is a superb strike - only the second recorded - of the POST OFFICE / NOT CALLED / FOR / ST. HELENA handstamp.

The fourth cover (also illustrated on page 16) shows the first recorded use (in 1933) of the boxed RETURNED / LETTER handstamp, although this was invoiced as long ago as 1912. It is on an unstamped envelope from Belgium to Jamestown also showing the St Helena arrival date stamp of DE 10 / 33.

The final cover shows a previously unrecorded St Helena PAQUEBOT mark. Bearing KGVI Ascension ½d, 1d and 1½d definitives cancelled with the St Helena JU 22 / 54 cds, the 32 mm straight line PAQUEBOT handstamp struck in purple is believed to be a temporary one until the standard (Hosking 2678) arrived - first recorded later in 1954.



CANON WALCOTT AND THE SCOUT MOVEMENT

Trevor Hearl and Barry Burns

The Quincentenary of Discovery set for St Helena, released on 21 May 2002, portrays Canon Walcott on the 25p value.



The Scouts were founded on St Helena by Canon Lawrence Chase Walcott in 1915, and the Guides by Mrs Winfred Walcott in 1921. On 10 May 1936, the Chief Scout, Lord Baden-Powell, with Lady Baden-Powell, landed at St Helena from *SS Llandoverly Castle* on their way back from inspecting the Scouts and Guides in South Africa - and incidentally trying unsuccessfully to get the authorities to accept non-white Scouts.

Lord and Lady Baden-Powell were greatly heartened and impressed by the size and smartness of the Scout and Guide movement at St Helena. The Chief Scout wrote to Walcott adding that 'the number of badges showing long service and proficiency were good proof of their keenness; and their discipline on parade and their cheery looks tend to prove this. I would like to congratulate you personally on what you have achieved in spite of very many difficulties in bringing about this result of Scouting in the Island'.

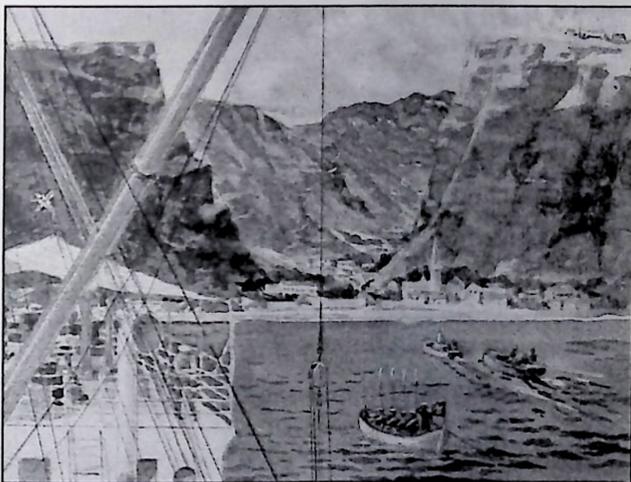
Lady Baden-Powell was no less impressed by the Guides: 'I was very pleased with everything I saw... you have indeed got "the Guide spirit"'. The visitors were presented with an inlaid table, the work of Caleb Broadway, and embroidered mats and hankies 'exquisitely done'.

Canon Walcott had great faith in the efficacy of Scout training. He wrote in the *St Helena Diocesan Magazine* 'While our boys love Scouting and Cricket there is still hope for the old world - the next generation is learning to play the game'.

On a topical note, the new Guide Hall at Half Tree Hollow was named after the Walcotts by the wife of the current Governor, Mrs Hollamby, who is also the President of the Girl Guide Association on St Helena. Bishop John said a prayer and blessed the Hall, following which Mrs Hollamby cut the ribbon and named the Hall. HE Governor Hollamby and Guide Commissioner Mrs Ivy Ellick then unveiled the wooden plaque over the door, which bears the inscription *Walcott Hall, Opened 22 February 2002*. Later, as part of the Quincentenary celebrations on Sunday 19 May, the Canon Walcott Memorial Service was held at St James' Church - which included the unveiling of the Walcott Memorial on Grand Parade.

Illustrated is a coloured Baden-Powell card, published by The Medici Society in 1993. The reverse carries the inscription shown below the card. David Holt, a retired geologist, and member of the Friends of St Helena, came across this card in a shop, and after some correspondence with the firm, bought the entire stock of 'remainders' - a few short of 300, in 1996. The bulk of these were sent to the Island to help raise funds by their sale to tourists.

But there is a mystery about this painting, however, as there were no Sea Scouts at St Helena! But there they are painted in their whaler, flag flying and saluting the Chief Scout on board ship.



SEA SCOUTS, ST HELENA (*detail*)

Lord Baden-Powell (1857-1941)

By kind permission of the Baden-Powell family

Writing to David Holt in January 1996, the present Lord Baden-Powell identified the picture as one of a pair that the Chief Scout painted in 1927 *from the deck of the Union Castle ship taking him to recuperate in South Africa. He was too ill to go ashore and so the Sea Scouts (sic) came out to see him.* So this was not sketched at the time of his inspection in 1936.

COOLIE SHIPS AND THE WHARF DESIGN

Trevor Hearl

Apropos the interesting reference on page 11 of Supplement 37 to the coolie ships *Elbe* and *Erne*, the picture of their arrival was said to have been taken in 1894, but according to Ken Denholm in *South Atlantic Haven, A Maritime History for the Island of St Helena* (Education Dept. typescript 1994) page 35, the voyage when they sailed together was a year later, in 1895.

Apparently by 1890 the coolie ships constituted a good proportion of St Helena's maritime activity and in 1891, for instance, 17 of them visited the Island. In the ten years before 1892, over 100 ships carrying nearly 60,000 coolies called at St Helena en route to the West Indies or Dutch Guiana. Typical destinations included Demerara, Grenada, Guadeloupe, Jamaica, St Lucia, Surinam and Trinidad. Most of these coolies travelled from Calcutta, and two of the most prominent ships involved in the trade were the *Elbe* and the *Erne*. Both ships were built in Britain by Russel and Company, the former in 1886 and the latter in 1887.

They often sailed together, but on one occasion the *Erne* left Calcutta on 27 January 1894, arriving at St Helena on 19 March bound for Surinam with a cargo of rice and 532 coolie emigrants. Meantime the *Elbe*, having left the Indian port a day later, did not arrive at the Island until 30 March, carrying rice for Demerara and 617 coolies. The coolie ships' stay at Jamestown was always very short with just sufficient time to pick up water and the 'usual coolie provisions'. The *St Helena Guardian* usually referred to the human cargo as coolie emigrants, thereby suggesting they were going to stay permanently in the West. In fact for the ten year period mentioned, only one ship called at the Island returning coolies to India - in 1884.

On 31 January 1895 the *Elbe* and *Erne* both sailed together from Calcutta. Both had cargoes of rice and coolies, the *Elbe* bound for Surinam and the *Erne* for Demerara. Keeping company within a few miles of each other they arrived together at St Helena on 31 March 1895. The *Elbe* had 546 coolies of which there had been two deaths, while the *Erne* had 592 coolies of which there had been three deaths and one birth (*two births according to the St Helena Guardian - Ed.*). It was this occasion while they were in port together that a pictorial record was made, and later depicted on a St Helena postage stamp.



THE FIVE-PENNY BADGE ISSUE OF ASCENSION

Ralph Stanton

The badge issue of Ascension is really one of the issues of St Helena; it represents the fourth printing of the St Helena badges. Consequently, an understanding of the Ascension badges can only be properly obtained by noting the evolution of the vignette plate for St Helena (of course, the border plates for St Helena are a separate study).

Study of the badge issue of Ascension without considering its sequence in the St Helena printings can lead to a number of errors. Thus there are a considerable number of inaccuracies in the list that Attwood gives of vignette varieties on the Ascension badge issues. In this note, I wish to point out a printing that does not seem to have survived.

The first printing of the Ascension badge stamps took place by De La Rue on 14 July 1924, but the five-penny stamp was not one of those printed. Rather, it was printed on 23 July 1927, at the same time as the first printing of the five-penny St Helena badge. Attwood states that another printing was made on 26 March 1930, and that this second printing was on whiter paper.

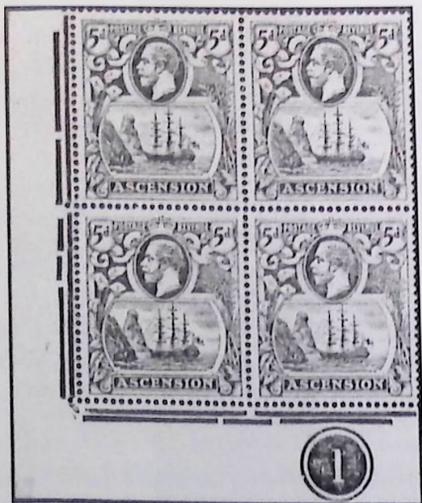
Now there is no doubt that another printing was made by De La Rue on 26 March 1930. That printing produced approximately 1,000 sheets of the five-penny and 1,000 sheets of the two-penny stamps. The latter stamp was in heavy use and copies from this printing are plentiful. However, it seems that the sheets of the five-penny stamp were never used. Since none have turned up in the intervening 70 years, we must presume that (like some other printings that were made but not used) the printing has been destroyed.

First let me deal with the white paper question. There is no evidence of any kind to support the Atwood claim. I have many copies of the five-penny and some of them are undoubtedly on paper that is whiter than other paper - there seem to have been several tints of paper used in the printing. But all the copies I have, whether they are on ordinary paper or on white paper (and there are varying degrees of whiteness), are from the original 1925 printing.

So there is no evidence as to the kind of paper used in 1930, because no one has ever seen a stamp from that printing.

The evidence that I present to support the statement that no copies of the 1930 printing are known is most easily understood by looking at the cleft rock variety. This is a marginal variety (stamp 49) and it frequently has been saved in blocks of four with the margins, including the jubilee lines, attached. I personally have a number of such blocks showing the cleft rock variety, and I have also examined a number of other such blocks in the possession of other collectors or of dealers.

In every case, the jubilee lines show that the stamps come from the 1925 printing. I include a copy of a cleft rock block as well as a copy of the five-penny cleft rock of St Helena, also from the 1925 printing.



Cleft rock - 1925 Ascension printing



Cleft rock - 1925 St Helena printing

Now, if the five-penny stamp was known from the 1930 printing, the cleft rock should appear with the altered 1930 jubilee lines. But I have never seen these on any of the several dozen stamps that I have examined. I include a copy of a 1930 cleft rock block from a two-penny printing; it shows the characteristic shorter jubilee line at the top of the stamp.



Cleft rock - 1930 printing

The only conclusion possible is that the 1930 printing of the five-penny stamp was never distributed to dealers in mint form, and that, consequently, it was never used postally.

This would not be the only example of a printing that was produced and then never distributed or used. In a later article, I will discuss an even more striking example of this situation.

THE 1947 ROYAL VISIT

Barry Burns

The set of stamps issued by St Helena in 1999 to commemorate 'Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother's Century' included a 15p value depicting King George VI and his wife at the Castle, Jamestown (illustrated on page 2). Because of her sad death at the age of 101 on 30 March, in this her daughter's Golden Jubilee year, I have been looking at the details of the Royal Visit. According to the Colonial Annual Report for St Helena 1947 (His Majesty's Stationery Office, 1949):

The year was a memorable and historic one for the Colony owing to the Royal Visit on April 29th when Their Majesties The King and Queen accompanied by Their Royal Highnesses the Princess Elizabeth and the Princess Margaret landed from H.M.S. Vanguard and toured the Island. This was the first occasion on which a reigning Sovereign had ever visited the Colony and it was marked by scenes of the greatest enthusiasm by the loyal Islanders. H.M.S. Vanguard hove to on May 1st at the Island of Ascension whilst the local populace circled the Royal vessel cheering Their Majesties who, with their family, stood waving on the quarter deck.

The Times (London, 30 April 1947) gave a few more details:

ROYAL FAMILY VISIT ST. HELENA / A DRIVE TO LONGWOOD

ST. HELENA, April 29 - The King and Queen and the two Princesses landed here to-day.

The Governor (sic), Lieutenant-Colonel F.E. Gilpin, welcomed them, and took them for a drive round the mountain roads, through wonderful scenery, to Longwood, where Napoleon lived in exile and where he died in 1821.

A collection of lace mats and cloths, a local industry, and woodwork by local craftsmen was presented to the Queen on behalf of all the islanders. The visit ended with the royal party watching boys making the biggest banister slide in the world - down the precipitous side of the

629 (sic) steps from the top of Signal Hill. This slide is the great sport of the island.

The whole population - less than 5,000 - lined the quay when the visitors left. The quay was decorated with signal flags, the only flags on the island. Giant inscriptions carved in the rock of the mountainside saying "Welcome to their Majesties" and "God save the King" remain as a memorial of the royal visit. Reuter

There was no local weekly publication during this period, but the Churches published the monthly *St. Helena Magazine*. The front page of the July 1947 edition carried the following account under the title *Royal Visit Broadcasts*:

In Radio News-Reel of April 29 and 30 we heard:

"Now we turn to the ringing of a church bell which once must have symbolised captivity to one of the most illustrious sons of France.

"This week the same rather cracked and battered church bell was rung to a very different tune, as you may hear it now from the tower of St. James's Church; and should you be wondering what this is all about, Frank Gillard gives the answer from 'Vanguard' in the Atlantic"

"That", said Frank Gillard in his broadcast, "is the bell, the one cracked bell of the tin-roofed Church of St. James, an ancient building on the waterfront of St. Helena, as it rang this morning in commemoration of today's great event in the history of this lonely Island, the visit of the reigning Sovereign and his consort and family.

"Never before has St. Helena been so honoured and as the bell rang out from the steeple, the steeple under the brown 600 ft. block of cliff-face tight behind it, the crowds were pouring down the village street of Jamestown, school children singing as they went. (Here followed a recording of the school children singing and also of the Boy Scouts' bugle band).

"All the other organisations of the town and Island were there, all mustering to give the Royal Family a warm, friendly welcome.

"For all its volcanic origin, and it is just a series of ridges radiating from the central ridge, St. Helena today, as the King and Queen and the Princesses drove over it, was a green, soft looking place, easy on the eyes. The road pulled steeply out of Jamestown, which lies in a ravine, up to a height of 2,000 feet or more, with superb views across the Island over mountain sides thickly covered with flax plantations; flax is the great export product of St. Helena. The road was lined too with plots of aloe and prickly pear and flowering sub-tropical shrubs of brilliant colour; African lilac for instance and flaming poinsettias. Again and again the royal cars stopped for the visitors to talk with Islanders, to admire those wonderful views across the main ridges to the deep blue sea beyond; to see clumps of magnificent wild arum lilies; to see the Ladder of 699 steps, down the handrails of which a couple of local lads obligingly slid.

"The core of the visit, of course, was the half hour spent on a small spot of French territory, the tricolour waving over it at Napoleon's House at Longwood; the house which now is in a bad state of repair through the ravages of white ants. Their Majesties examined all the Napoleonic relics and walked in Napoleon's garden. It is a lovely spot, crown of a beautiful Island. Some day people will really discover St. Helena for the splendidly beautiful place it is. The Island may have broken the heart of Napoleon, but today, in all its loveliness, it certainly charmed the hearts of its Royal Visitors."

An interesting aspect of the Longwood visit was recounted by Johnny Drummond writing in the *St. Helena Herald* of 5 April 2002. In a moving tribute to the Queen Mother he summarises her life, and goes on to say that during the visit, which took place during the return from a Royal Tour of Southern Africa, she mentioned to Deputy Governor Colonel Gilpin the somewhat dilapidated state of Longwood House which she believed should be preserved as a tourist asset. She raised the subject with the President of France during a State Visit to London, and consequently the restoration was started. Following the King's death in 1952 and whilst on a visit to France, one of the diplomats looking after her was a certain Gilbert Martineau - whose next position was to be the French Consul on St Helena where he would be responsible for the upkeep of Longwood House and Napoleon's Tomb. The present French Vice-Consul Michel Martineau, who resides in private apartments at Longwood, confirmed:

Had it not been for the intervention, assistance and support of Queen Elizabeth, The Queen Mother, Longwood House would not be the international monument it is today.

Very little philatelic material exists to commemorate the visit. The editor is not aware of any special covers for the event - how different it would be today! However, some low values of the KGVI definitive set are known overprinted for the occasion, and are noted in the Commonwealth catalogue. Their status is uncertain, but the fullest description of them I can trace is that given by Roger West in Supplement 5, page 23.



SORTING THE 1938 DEFINITIVES The Perforation Gauge and UV Lamp - Part 1

Barry Burns

David Studd in his monograph on the St Helena 1938 set [1] noted that the standard 12½ line perforators used by Waterlow and Son varied from 12.4 to 12.7+, but advised caution in attempting to assign these variations to particular printings. Thanks to fellow member and friend Alan Scrine, I recently had the opportunity to examine a mint study of these definitives in which the perforation differences are highlighted. This collection is believed to have been formed by the late, well-known, Norman and Maurice Williams - and has remained intact and undisturbed since its purchase in the early 1950's.

Figures 1-3 illustrate at 80% the album sheets, but I have numbered the stamps as shown in order to simplify the discussion to follow. You will notice that most of the stamps have a date and perforation written on the sheet, but a few have pencilled notes on the reverse. I have listed all of this information in Tables 1-3, which also gives the horizontal and vertical perforations measured on my SG *Intanta* gauge. Although I have only quoted my measurements to the nearest 0.1, there are quite a number of differences from those on the sheets. I have also attempted to describe the shade, paper and gum of each stamp as these are the recognised characteristics in sorting the printings of this series. I used the SG *Colour Guide* (1966), and all comparisons were done in northern daylight, i.e. without influence from the sun or artificial light.

Undeterred by the discrepancies between the comments on the sheets, the stamps and my own observations, I pressed on. Way back in Supplement 2, page 10, Roger West had commented on the use of the Ultra Violet lamp and the possibility of its use in the identification of printings - particularly mentioning the ½d, 1½d, 3d, 8d and 1/- values of this set. I used an SG *Ultra Violet Lamp* - believed to be long wave (the dark bulb), and set to work on the collection in a darkened room. Roger was right; under UV light there were many differences not readily apparent in daylight. The difficulty was in trying to describe the colours. You had to try to remember the colour of the stamp under UV light, then turn on the artificial light and look quickly at the colour guide. However, by repeating this procedure several times in quick succession, it was just about possible to assess my observations. These are also listed in Tables 1-3, but please note that these comparisons apply within each value only, and not throughout the set. For example, I have listed stamp 12 as Plum, but this is only relative to the shades of stamps 13 and 14, and is not necessarily a match to stamp 17, also listed as Plum. Some of these differences are quite dramatic and should provide a useful and possibly positive identification of particular stamps and printings - these are indicated by *. A general observation was that the brightness of the paper increased with many printings after 1938 although I have not tried to quantify these changes. However, some papers exhibited a definite violet colour under UV light, and these are noted in the tables.

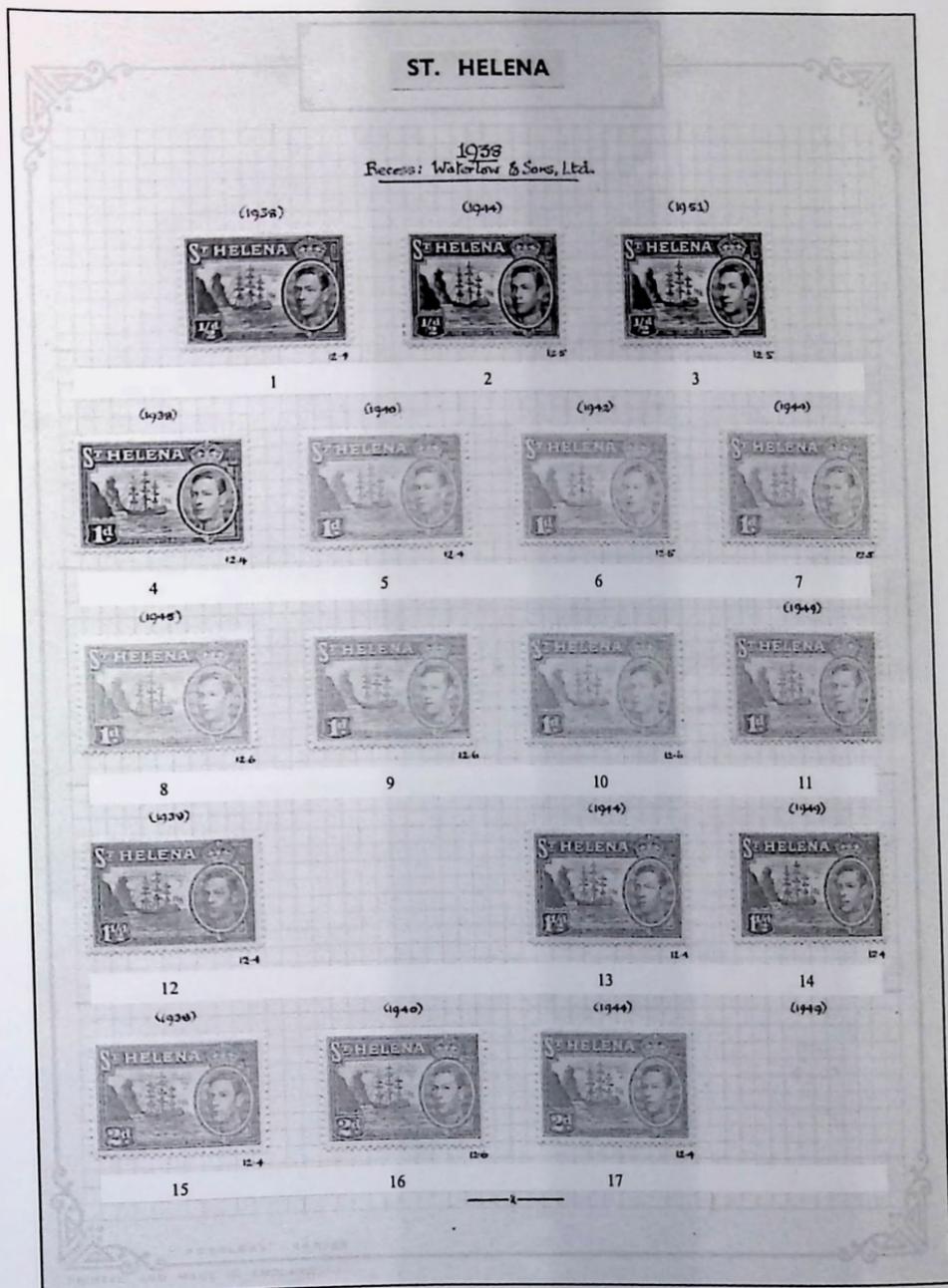


Figure 1

ST. HELENA

1938
(Continued)

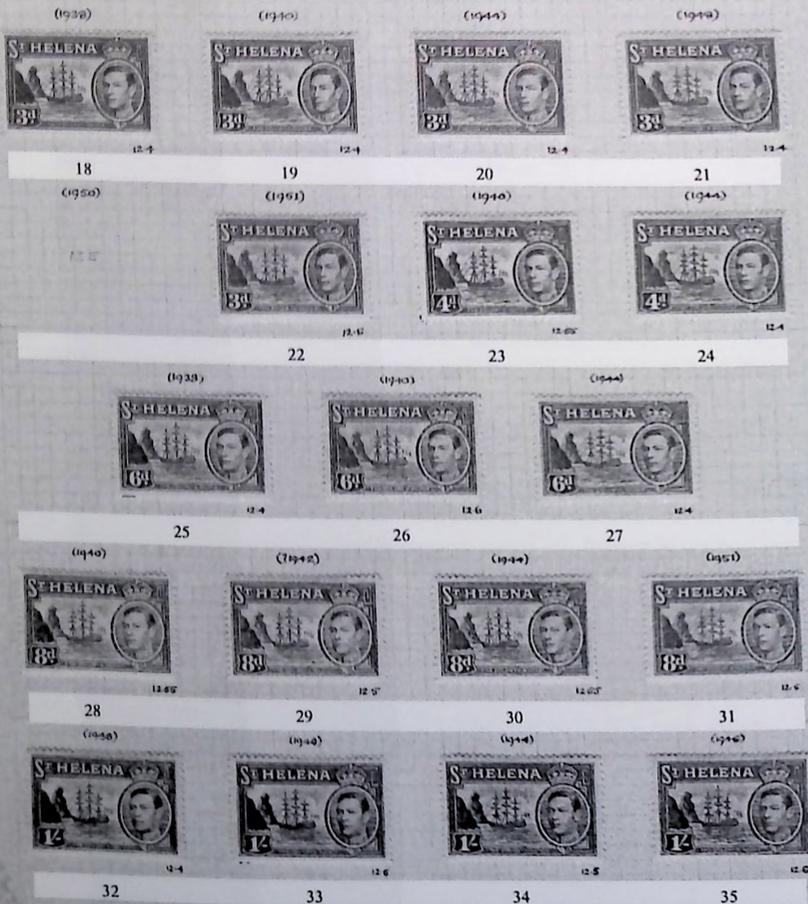


Figure 2

ST. HELENA

1938
(Continued)



36

(1938)

(1940)



37

38

(1938)

(1944)



39

(1944)

40

(1938)

(1940)



41

42

43

Change of Colours



44

45

46

Figure 3

Stamp	Duty	Date	Perf.	Notes	Actual Perf.	Shade	Paper	Gum	UV
1	½d	1938	12.4		12.4 x 12.4	Deep Violet	Off-white	Creamy	Dull Purple
2	½d	1944	12.5		12.5 x 12.4	Bright Violet	White	White	Violet
3	½d	1951	12.5		12.5 x 12.4	Bright Violet	Whiter	White	Bluish-violet (Paper Violet) *
4	1d	1938	12.4		12.4 x 12.4	Deep Green	Off-white	Creamy	Green
5	1d	1940	12.4	740 12.5	12.4 x 12.4	Yellow-orange	White	White	Bistre-brown
6	1d	1942	12.5	744 12.5	12.5 x 12.5	Orange-yellow	White	White	Light Red-brown
7	1d	1944	12.5		12.5 x 12.4	Deeper Orange-yellow	White	White	Red-brown
8	1d	1945	12.6	45	12.6 x 12.5	Bright Yellow-orange	White	White	Brown
9	1d		12.6	44	12.6 x 12.4	Bright Orange-yellow	White	White	Bistre-brown
10	1d		12.6		12.7 x 12.4	Deep Yellow	White	White	Deep Yellow-brown *
11	1d	1949		749 12.4	12.4 x 12.4	Dull Yellow-orange	White	White	Red-brown
12	1½d	1938	12.4		12.4 x 12.4	Deep Scarlet	Off-white	Creamy	Plum
13	1½d	1944	12.4		12.4 x 12.4	Rose-carmine	White	White	Purple
14	1½d	1949	12.4		12.4 x 12.4	Carmine-red	White	White	Deep Purple
15	2d	1938	12.4	12.5x12.4	12.5 x 12.4	Red-orange	Off-white	Creamy	Bistre-brown
16	2d	1940	12.6	38 44	12.5 x 12.4	Red-orange	Off-white	Creamy	Bistre-brown
17	2d	1944	12.4	12.4	12.4 x 12.4	Pale Orange-red	White	White	Plum *

Table 1

Stamp	Duty	Date	Perf.	Notes	Actual Perf.	Shade	Paper	Gum	UV
18	3d	1938	12.4		12.4 x 12.4	Ultramarine	Off White	Creamy	Bluish-grey
19	3d	1940	12.4		12.4 x 12.4	Deep Grey	Off White	Sl. Creamy	Brownish-black
20	3d	1944	12.4		12.4 x 12.4	Slate	White	White	Slate
21	3d	1948	12.4		12.4 x 12.4	Slate	White	White	Black
22	3d	1951	12.5		12.5 x 12.5	Slate	White	White	Slate (Paper Violet) *
23	4d	1940	12.55		12.5 x 12.5	Ultramarine	White	White	Bluish-grey
24	4d	1944	12.4		12.4 x 12.4	Bright Ultramarine	White	White	Grey-blue
25	6d	1938	12.4	12.4	12.4 x 12.4	Bright Turquoise-blue	Off-white	Creamy	Greenish-grey
26	6d	1940	12.6		12.5 x 12.4	Turquoise-blue	Off-white	Creamy	Greenish-grey
27	6d	1944	12.4		12.4 x 12.4	Light Blue	White	White	Bluish-slate *
28	8d	1940	12.55		12.5 x 12.5	Sage-green	White	White	Blackish-olive
29	8d	?1942	12.5		12.5 x 12.5	Sage-green	White	White	Blackish-olive
30	8d	1944	12.55		12.5 x 12.4	Olive-green	White	White	Deep Blackish-brown
31	8d	1951	12.5		12.5 x 12.5	Brown-olive	White (V. White back)	White	Deep Blackish-brown (Paper Violet) *
32	1/-	1938	12.4		12.4 x 12.4	Sepia	Sl. Off-white	Sl. Creamy	Sepia
33	1/-	1940	12.5	12.6	12.5 x 12.4	Deep Sepia	Sl. Off-white	Sl. Creamy	Deep sepia
34	1/-	1944	12.5		12.5 x 12.4	Blackish-brown	White	White	Deep Chocolate-brown
35	1/-	1945	12.6	45	12.6 x 12.4	Blackish-brown	White	White	Deep Chocolate-brown

Table 2

Stamp	Duty	Date	Perf.	Notes	Actual Perf.	Shade	Paper	Gum	UV
36	1/-				12.5 x 12.5	Deep Blackish-brown	White	White	Deep Violet-brown
37	2/6	1938	12.5	12.55	12.5 x 12.4	Deep Claret	Sl. Off-white	Sl. Creamy	Maroon
38	2/6	1940	12.6	12.6	12.5 x 12.4	Deep Bright Claret	White	Sl. Creamy	Brown-purple
39	5/-	1938	12.4	12.4	12.4 x 12.4	Chocolate-brown	Sl. Off-white	Sl. Creamy	Sepia
40	5/-	1944	12.5	44 12.55	12.5 x 12.4	Chocolate-brown	White	Sl. Creamy	Blackish-brown
41	10/-	1938	12.5	12.5	12.5 x 12.4	Deep Purple	Off-white	Sl. Creamy	Deep Dull Violet
42	10/-	1944	12.6	12.5	12.5 x 12.4	Deep Bright Purple	White	White	Bright Violet
43	10/-	1945	12.6	12.6	12.6 x 12.5	Purple	White	White	Dull Violet
44	1d	1949			12.4 x 12.5	Black & Bluish-green	White	White	Black & Blue-green
45	1½d	1949			12.4 x 12.5	Black & Rose-carmine	White	White	Black & Purple
46	2d	1949			12.5 x 12.5	Black & Carmine-red	White	White	Black & Deep Claret

Table 3

The second part of this article will hopefully compare these results with the printing details as described and discussed by Potter & Shelton, Frank Saunders, David Studd and Tom Cusick. In the meantime I will be checking my accumulation of this issue and also taking a look at the printings of the Tristan overprints.

Reference

- 1 Studd, David. *The St Helena George VI Definitives*. Published privately. Bradford 2000.

FROM THE SOUTH ATLANTIC

News and Views

This section has been compiled from information received from Peter Cottis, Bob Deakin, Stefan Heitz, Bernard Mabbett, Jeremy Martin, Richard Payne and Andrew Weir Shipping Ltd.

RMS St Helena - Voyage 54

This voyage was adapted in order to maximise the number of passengers visiting St Helena for the Quincentenary celebrations, and to ensure the RMS would be at Jamestown on 21 May. Three circumnavigations of the Island on 20th, 22nd and 23rd May gave Saints the opportunity of seeing their home from the comfort of the ship. I understand they were fully booked!

Cardiff	depart	Thu	7	March	St Helena	depart	Sat	25	May
Tenerife	call	Tue	12	March	Ascension	arrive	Mon	27	May
Ascension	call	Tue	18	March		depart	Tue	28	May
St Helena	arrive	Thu	21	March	St Helena	arrive	Thu	30	May
	depart	Sat	23	March		depart	Fri	31	May
Cape Town	arrive	Tue	28	March	Cape Town	arrive	Wed	5	June
	depart	Sun	31	March		depart	Fri	7	June
St Helena	arrive	Fri	5	April	St Helena	arrive	Wed	12	June
	depart	Sun	7	April		depart	Fri	14	June
Ascension	arrive	Tue	9	April	Ascension	arrive	Sun	16	June
	depart	Tue	9	April		depart	Mon	17	June
St Helena	arrive	Thu	11	April	St Helena	arrive	Wed	19	June
	depart	Fri	12	April		depart	Thu	20	June
Cape Town	arrive	Wed	17	April	Cape Town	arrive	Tue	25	June
	depart	Fri	19	April		depart	Fri	28	June
St Helena	arrive	Wed	24	April	St Helena	arrive	Wed	3	July
	depart	Fri	26	April		depart	Fri	5	July
Ascension	arrive	Sun	28	April	Ascension	arrive	Sun	7	July
	depart	Sun	28	April		depart	Mon	8	July
St Helena	arrive	Tue	30	April	St Helena	arrive	Wed	10	July
	depart	Wed	1	May		depart	Thu	11	July
Cape Town	arrive	Mon	6	May	Cape Town	arrive	Tue	16	July
	depart	Wed	8	May		depart	Fri	19	July
St Helena	arrive	Mon	13	May	St Helena	arrive	Wed	24	July
	depart	Tue	14	May		depart	Fri	26	July
Ascension	arrive	Thu	16	May	Ascension	call	Sun	28	July
	depart	Fri	17	May	Tenerife	call	Sun	4	August
St Helena	arrive	Sun	19	May	Vigo	call	Wed	7	August
					Cardiff	arrive	Sat	10	August

Autumn Display

The programme for our display at the WASC meeting on Saturday 9 November 2002, to be held at the RPSL premises at 41 Devonshire Place, London, is as follows. We have been allocated the full afternoon session and I hope that many of you will take this rather infrequent opportunity to see such a wide range of excellent South Atlantic material.

		Frames
Bob Deakin	Early Mail	2
	QV Stamps and Covers	4
	Anglo Boer War	4
	Cork Cancels and Covers	2
Stefan Heijtz	Early Mail, Forwarding Agents, Consular Mail, etc.	4
Richard Payne	Early Mail	2
	Anglo Boer War	2
	QE II	1
Bernard Mabbett	QV Plate Varieties	3
Jeremy Martin	Ascension Stamps and Covers	4
Peter Cottis	Ascension & St Helena KG VI Stamps and Covers	4
Barry Burns	KE VII	4

St Helena Postal Markings

I have just received Bernard Mabbett's new book *St Helena - The Postal, Instructional and Censor Markings 1815-2000* published by the WASC. A full review should appear in *Cameo* January 2003, but I will just say now that for any St Helena collector interested in anything other than mint stamps this publication is a *must*. I understand the first print run may have already sold out, and a further printing is planned. If you have not already done so, send a cheque (made payable to 'The West Africa Study Circle') off to Richard Payne as soon as possible. His address is:

Richard Payne
Anso Corner Farm
Hempstead
Saffron Walden
Essex CB10 2NU
U.K.

Price to WASC members is £18.00 plus postage (UK £3.50; Europe £4.50; N. America £9.00).

FROM THE AUCTIONS

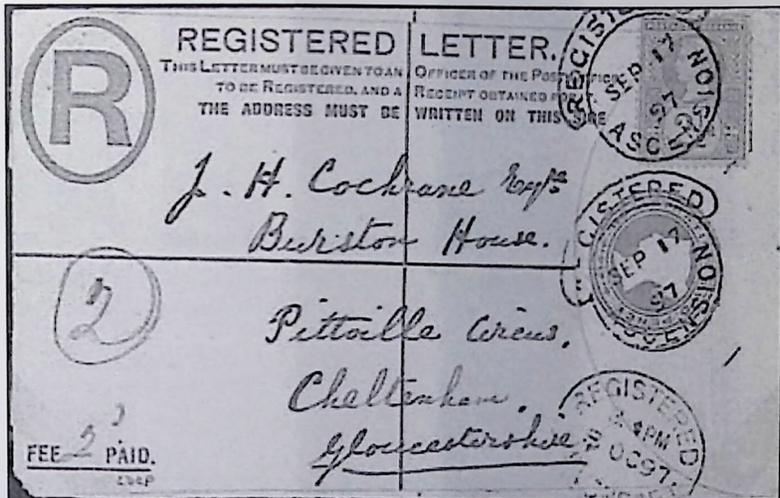
Just enough space for several interesting items from recent auctions. As usual, I give the pre-sale estimate followed by the price realised (including any buyer's premium) in *italics*.

Cavendish - Derby. 6 March 2002

Vivien Sussex 'Valuables by Post'

Lot 284 THE UNIQUE (?) "REGISTERED/ASCENSION" HOODED CIRCLE COVER; Very attractive 17th Sept. 1897 usage of the small G.B. 2d regd. envelope to Cheltenham with GB Jubilee 2½d both cancelled by very fine strikes of this rare mark. It is believed that no other covers and only one other off-cover adhesive has been recorded with this mark. Illustrated in Attwood, p.22; the sole cover to which he refers. Important Ascension Exhibition item. [With RPS April 1977 Certificate.]

£3,000 £7,475



Christie's - London. 21 March 2002

Lot 1552 1856 wmk. Large Star, imperf. 6d. Blue horizontal pair with close to good margins on three sides, cut-into at right, both with pen-cancels and affixed sideways on 1863 envelope to Lowestoft, showing poor oval despatch and red London Paid (23.2) datestamps alongside. A rare and attractive cover. S.G.1.

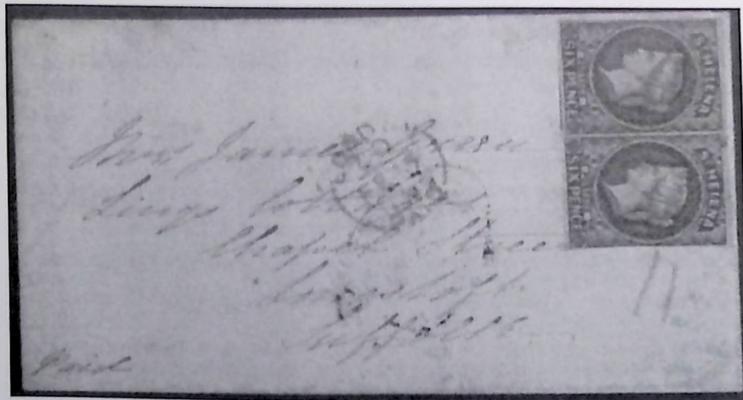
£2,000-2,500 £2,070

Lot 1553 1864-94 used study of the surcharges and shades in an album, including CC 5/- (13 including strip of three) and CA 2d block of eight. A generally fine lot with a good range of cancellations and a few with re-entries. A fine basis for further study and expansion. Catalogued £11,300+.

£1,800-2,200 £1,725

Lot 1554 1864-73 cc, perf. 12½ 1d. Lake (Type B), variety imperforate, fine unused with part original gum. Rare. B.P.A. Certificate (1983). Sc 18a (as a pair); S.G. 7b, £2,250.

£800-1,000 £805



Lot 1552



Lot 1554

And Finally

Acknowledgements for information and help this time go to:- G. Barker, Judith Blake, P. Cottis, R. Deakin, K. Denholm, J. Drummond, Beverly Francis, T. Hearl, S. Heijtz, T. Hills, B. Mabbett, J. Martin, R. Maisel, R. Payne, J. Podger, R. Stanton, A. Scrine, R. West, Andrew Weir Shipping Ltd., Cavendish Auctions, Christie's, Royal Philatelic Society London, St Helena Herald, St Helena Ascension & Tristan da Cunha Philatelic Society Inc., Stanley Gibbons Ltd., and to anyone else I may have inadvertently forgotten.