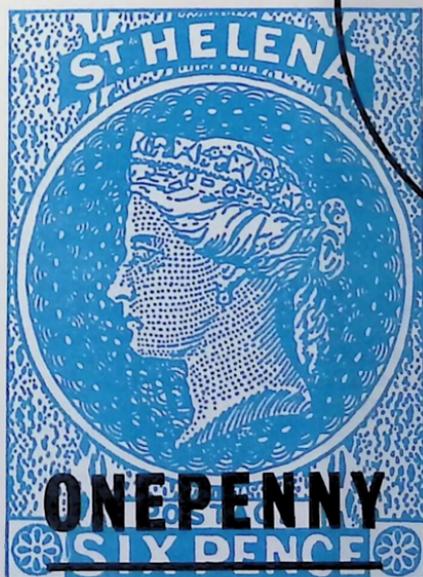


The West Africa Study Circle

Saint Helena Supplement No. 4

Edited by Roger D West

DISTRIBUTED WITH CAMEO - JANUARY 1985



SURCHARGES & DATE STAMPS

SAINT HELENA SUPPLEMENT NO 4

Edited by Roger B West

Distributed with CAMEO January 1985

EDITORIAL

I am pleased to say that material for this Supplement started piling up virtually before the last one was completed. I had made a discovery regarding the surcharging of the Perkins Bacon 6d Plate and was tempted to include my findings in Supplement 3. However, the study still required further research so I decided to save it for this issue.

Also in this Supplement are some new circular date stamps previously unrecorded. These will probably inspire some comment, albeit if only to show displeasure at having to rewrite one's collection.

In recent months some important items have been offered at auction, and these have been recorded and illustrated. I would like to thank the Auctioneers concerned for permission to reproduce the photographs.

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THE CIRCULAR DATE STAMPS

The news of a new type of cds - first reported in the St Helena and Dependencies Newsletter - prompted me to look at date stamps with renewed interest. I had noted this new type along with several other varieties not recorded in Edward Hibbert's book. These variations are complicated by the dates etc quoted by Hibbert, and are often difficult to relate with his illustrations. It seems a good time therefore to try and sort the matter out once and for all. My listings are prefixed with the word 'type' and Hibbert's with 'cds'.

TYPE 1 The first cds was introduced in 1870 to replace the oval date stamp. The words St Helena are in a straight line contained within a 20 mm dia circle. Early examples (1870-71) are in red, thereafter black was used. Type 1 was replaced in 1897 although dates as late as 1912 have been recorded but unfortunately, not on covers.



TYPE 2 In 1897, the straight line cancel was replaced by one with St Helena in an arc, the circle having been increased to 22 mm dia. During 1900 and the early part of 1901, the year was inserted in full, where previously, just the last two digits were used. There is a short line under the 't' and a dot between the 't' and 'H' of St Helena.



TYPE 3 Hibbert's note after cds 3 reads "much later, and probably around 1930, the letter 'A' appears in the date stamp instead of 'C', the two types then being in use concurrently." This note was probably intended to refer to cds 4. Type 3 is basically a type 2 except a 'C' slug has been added. Signs of wear have been noted on examples of 1908-1911, where the lower left leg of the letter 'A' is virtually missing. A replacement was apparently introduced in 1911 showing the 'A' in full. Confirmation will establish this replacement as type 3a.



TYPE 4 Similar to type 3 except there is a definite hyphen between the 't' and 'H' as opposed to a dot. An overlay will show slight variations in the positions of the letters of these two types.



TYPE 5 This is the 'new' type referred to above which can be easily identified by its odd size (23 mm dia) and a high bar on the letter 'H'. The position of this bar seems to vary slightly (from high to very high) and it is possible that there were in fact two cancellers with these distinctive features. In use between 1913 and 1937.



TYPES 6 & 7 These two types are identical except type 6 has a 'C' slug and type 7 has an 'A' slug. The 'C' slug is particularly high, identifying it from type 5. Types 6 and 7 have a slightly larger diameter (24 mm) These three types (5, 6 and 7) were described (and illustrated) as 'currently in use' in an interesting letter from the Postmaster of St Helena dated 9th April 1938. The letter reads "...the third postmark (type 5) is rarely used, but was in use on the 19th May 1937, the first



Type 6

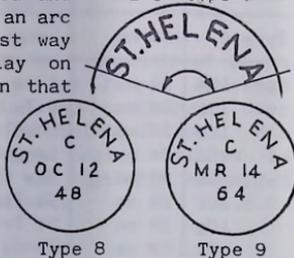


Type 7

day of issue of the St Helena Coronation stamps, owing to the extraordinary number of letters posted on that day." The letter was addressed to J.D. Harris of Birmingham, the same dealer who was involved in the Coronation First Day Cover forgery referred to in Supplement 2 page 9. Mr Harris's motives for requesting such details in the first place must be left to the imagination of the reader.

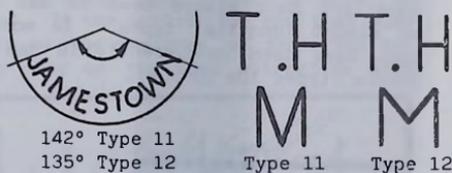
TYPES 8 & 9 Hibbert's cds 5 comes in two settings and actually covers three cancellers. Types 8a and 8b have the words 'St Helena contained within an arc of 165° while type 9 measures 175°. The best way to identify these types is to use an overlay on tracing paper. In this way, it will be seen that type 9 is longer by about a full letter. The difference between types 8a and 8b is not so significant being only really noticeable in the position of the letters 'HE'. I have only illustrated one type 8 as collectors will probably choose to ignore such minor differences.

165° Type 8
175° Type 9

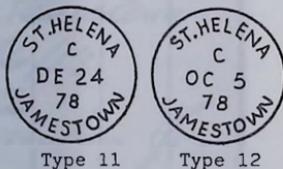


TYPES 10a to 10h I have included the Local Post cancels as types 10a to 10h purely to complete the sequence. The status of these 'local' cancels has often been in doubt as from what I can understand of it, they are all kept at the post office in Jamestown. The illustration shows a typical local cancel for Longwood (type 10d).

TYPES 11 & 12 Hibbert's cds 6 also comes in two settings designated as types 11 and 12. Type 11 has the word JAMESTOWN contained within an arc of 142°, while type 12 is slightly shorter at 135°. These types can also be identified by the letter 'M' and the position of the dot which is closer to the 'H' on type 11.



142° Type 11
135° Type 12



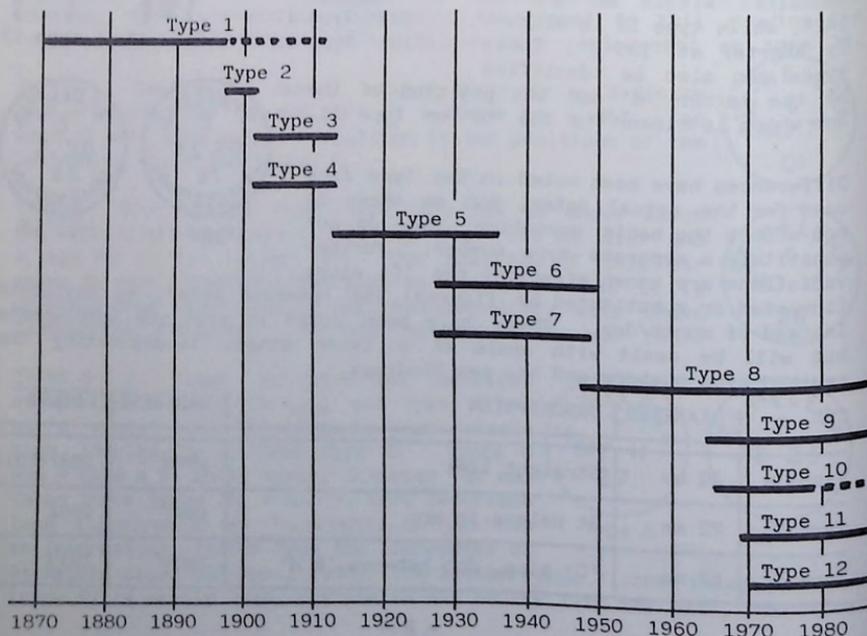
Type 11 Type 12

Differences have been noted in the type face used for the actual dates, but as these do not affect the basic canceller, they do not constitute a separate type number. Further variations are known affecting the 'C' slugs (inverted or substituted by figures) and reversed dates, eg day/month instead of month/day. These have been noted in previous Supplements but will be dealt with again at a later stage, incorporating the revised type numbers and any new findings.

CDS	DIAMETER	DESCRIPTION	EARLIEST	LATEST
Type 1	20 mm	Straight line	1870	1897-1912
Type 2	22 mm	St Helena in arc	1897	1901
Type 3	22 mm	'C' slug, dot between 't H'	1901	1913

CDS	DIAMETER	DESCRIPTION	EARLIEST	LATEST
Type 4	22 mm	'C' slug, hyphen between 't H'	1901	1913
Type 5	23 mm	High bar to letter 'H'	1913	1937
Type 6	24 mm	High 'C' slug, line under 'T'	1927	1950
Type 7	24 mm	'A' slug, line under 'T'	1927	1949
Type 8	24 mm	Large letter 'T', 165° arc	1948	current
Type 9	24 mm	Large letter 'T', 175° arc	1964	current
Type 10a	24 mm	Blue Hill	1965	1979
10b	24 mm	H.T. Hollow		
10c	24 mm	Levelwood		
10d	24 mm	Longwood		
10e	24 mm	New Ground		
10f	24 mm	St Pauls 1		
10g	24 mm	St Pauls 2		
10h	24 mm	Sandy Bay		
Type 11	24 mm	Jamestown in 142° arc	1969	current
Type 12	24 mm	Jamestown in 135° arc	1970	current

It may be seen from the diagram below that since 1927, at least two cancellers have always been in use - type 8 being represented by two almost identical types. In more recent years, as many as five types have been concurrently in use, not counting the Local Post cancels (types 10a to 10h).



I must extend my thanks to Christopher Riding for his assistance and comments on the rough draft of this article. I would also welcome comments from anybody else, particularly with regard to any varieties on date stamps or new discoveries. This may help to identify other known types believed to be forgeries.

R.B.W.

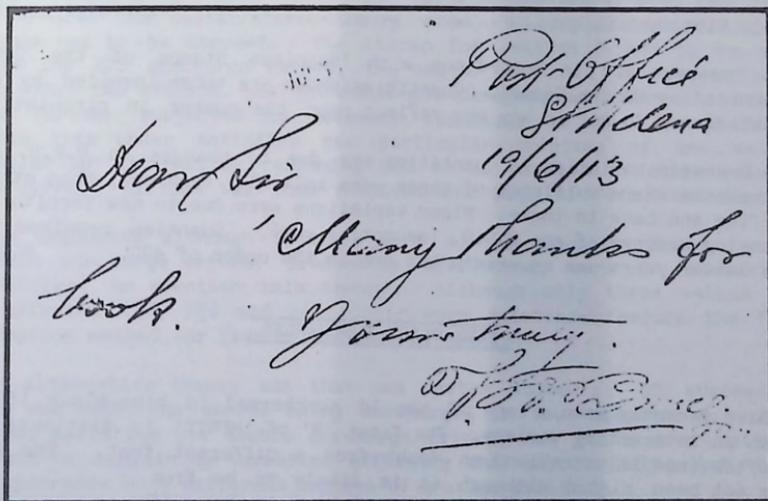
OBITUARY - JOHN BURCHELL CORNISH

I was saddened to learn of the tragic death of John Cornish of South Africa, who was killed in a motoring accident last July. John was a very keen student of St Helena and Ascension and contributed much useful information to the various societies he belonged to. His interest in St Helena covered all spheres from postal history to stamps to forgeries, and with common interests, we regularly exchanged information and opinions. John will be sadly missed.

R.B.W.

AN INTERESTING FIND

Readers may be amused by the story of the pre-paid card illustrated below, which has been in my collection for a number of years. It wasn't until researching for the 'circular date stamp' article, that I noticed the signature on the card. It was written by the post master Mr T.R. Bruce, better known perhaps as the designer of the 1922 Badge of the Colony Issue - acclaimed by many as the most attractive stamp.



I don't know if there's a moral to this story, but if there is, I'd be more interested to know of other 'interesting finds'. There must be countless gems of unknown or unrecorded varieties just waiting to be discovered. Anything that interests YOU might interest someone else, and I strongly appeal to all readers to share such knowledge.

R.B.W.

U.P.U. SPECIMEN STAMPS

It seems strange that despite catalogue status and a general renewed interest in Specimen stamps, a list of quantities produced has never been published. Just for the record details as known are shown under.

YEAR	ISSUE	QTY	SPECIMEN	TYPE
1884	CA 3d, 4d, 6d	345	Overprinted	D12x
1890	QV Key 1½d	400	Overprinted	D12
1893	CA 2½d	730	Overprinted	D12x
1896	QV Key ½d, 1d, 2d, 2½d, 5d, 10d	750	Overprinted	D12
1902	Ed Key ½d, 1d	722	Overprinted	D12
1903	Ed Pictorials	727	Overprinted	D12a
1908	Ed Key ½d - 10s	449	Overprinted	D12
1911	Ed Unissued 1d error.	404	Overprinted	D12a
1912	GV Pictorials	404	Overprinted	D12a
1912	GV Key Postage & Revenue	404	Overprinted	D12
1913	GV Key Postage & Postage	404	Overprinted	D12
1916	War Tax One Penny.	382	Overprinted	D12a
1919	War Tax 1d	378	Overprinted	D12a
1922	GV Monochrome	399	Overprinted	D12a
1922	May 17 Badge 1d - 1s.	404	Overprinted	D12a
1922	Dec 22 Badge 1½d, 3d, 8d	416	Overprinted	D16
1922	Dec 30 Badge ½d, 2d, 4d.	416	Overprinted	D16
1926	Badge 1/6, 2/6, 5s	421	Overprinted	D16
1927	Badge 5d, 2s	422	Overprinted	D16
1934	Centenary ½d - 10s	?	Perforated	B9
1935	Silver Jubilee.	421	Perforated	D19
1937	Coronation	415	Perforated	D20
1938	GV1 Defs ½d - 10s.	?	Perforated	W8a
1940	GV1 Defs 1d yellow, 3d grey, 4d, 8d.	?	Perforated	W8
1946	Victory	?	Perforated	D21

Type numbers are in accordance with 'Specimen Stamps of the Crown Colonies' by Marcus Samuel. Quantities shown are those invoiced by the printers and do not in any way reflect upon the number in circulation.

The dramatic variation in quantities was due to changes in U.P.U. requirements where multiples of three were initially required, then strips of five and back to three. Minor variations were due to new Territories becoming members of the U.P.U. (or opting out). Quantities required for the latter years are uncertain but are in the order of 420. R.B.W.

BLUE-BLACK SURCHARGES

I have recently seen a copy of the 1d surcharged in blue-black (SG8a) with an interesting variety. The first 'N' of 'PENNY' is distinctively shorter (see illustration) no doubt from a different font. The item has not been plated although it is likely to be from column 12. It would be very interesting to know if this variety exists on the normal stamp or whether such a flaw could differentiate the blue-blacks as proofs. The item is currently receiving an expert opinion, but I will report again if anything of consequence turns up. R.R.W.

PENNY

THE SHORT N

SURCHARGING THE PERKINS BACON 6d PLATE

In Supplement 3, I put forward some of the arguments to determine how the surcharging was carried out on the CA issues of the Perkins Bacon 6d Plate. Early students were in favour of accepting a master forme of 60 surcharges used in conjunction with three stereotypes - the sheets thus being surcharged in one operation. Harland, Mann and Professor Mounfield each referred to such a method in their respective articles. Dorning Beckton also believed one operation was involved, but his study suggested the use of one forme of "240 overprints set up in ordinary type."

The Dorning Beckton theory can quickly be dismissed as there are too many varieties and similarities which regularly repeat every fifth row. In the case of the CA 1s which incorporated a forme of 48 surcharges, this repetition is seen every fourth row.

The master/stereo technique would produce a composite sheet made up of four sections (A, B, C & D) all with characteristic similarities. To oppose this theory however, characteristic differences also occurred, in some cases only affecting one section. The capped 'Y' and spaced 'NY' on the $\frac{1}{2}$ d being typical examples. These anomalies were generally put down to the fact that the master forme was not always used in the same position. On one printing, a variety such as the spaced 'NY' would appear due to loose type in the master. On another printing, the master forme might be responsible for another variety on a different section. A permanent complication to this theory was the raised surcharge on stamp 225 (section D). Here every value in the CA series has the surcharge raised above normal alignment to compensate for that stamp being set particularly high.

To endorse the master/stereo theory then, a complicated string of events has to be assumed. The stereo for section D had to be made with the 225 surcharge raised, the master was then re-adjusted for the other two stereotypes, one of which got damaged, and then the master was further subjected to movement resulting in the spaced 'NY'. While this order satisfies one particular printing of one value, similar or alternative reasoning had to be applied to other values. The overall picture was thus involved and full of 'ifs' and 'buts'.

Such arguments although feasible were always open to doubt. The double surcharge errors, frequently overlooked, were in themselves sufficient to question this theory. Although only three values are so affected ($\frac{1}{2}$ d, 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d and 1s), their very existence favours the four operation method (or five in the case of the 1s).

The alternative theory was that one master forme of 60 surcharges only was used, the sheets being surcharged in four operations. This method satisfies the double surcharge errors, but falls down to some extent in explaining varieties affecting one section only, and their reappearance on a different section of another printing.

While I felt that this was in fact the method adopted, I could not find the logical reason for these 'odd' varieties. One of the problems in retrospect was being confined to a particular line of thought, possibly biased by the earlier articles, which imply the sheets were surcharged individually.

In trying to study a complete sheet of the ½d green, I decided to split it into four panes (the sheet being virtually quartered anyway). The four panes safely protected in clear envelopes, it was easy to lay one pane over the next and make visual comparisons.

Although it is fair to say the surcharges on each section are similar, they are in an important way totally different. By comparing the alignment of the bars on say row 1 with row 11, this difference becomes very apparent. The other two corresponding rows (6 and 16) also show variations in alignment. The illustration below shows typically the bar alignment for rows 1, 6, 11 and 16.

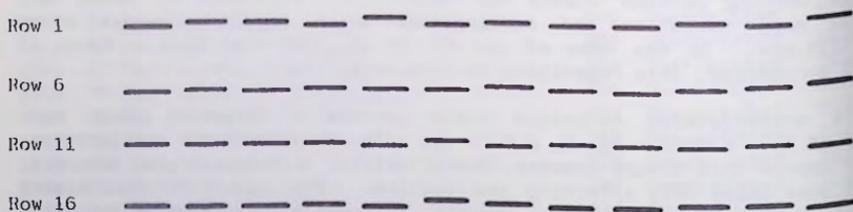


Illustration showing typical bar alignment

While it is certain that the surcharges are the same for each section, it is equally clear that each surcharge was aligned to suit that particular stamp. In other words, all 60 surcharges were aligned individually for the top (A) section - the position of the bars corresponding roughly with the level of the word 'SIXPENCE'. The top five rows of all sheets would then be surcharged before re-aligning for the B section (rows 6 to 10).

In this way, each sheet was surcharged in four separate operations, the master forme being re-aligned between each stage to suit the alignment of the next section. During each re-adjustment stage, any worn or damaged type would be replaced, explaining the disappearance of one flaw, while another (perhaps not noticed) would be maintained. As a result, the capped 'Y' only occurred in one position, as did certain other flaws.

In reviewing the constant and non-constant surcharge varieties on the ½d green as documented by Prof Mounfield, all peculiarities now become acceptable. In addition, an alternative sequence could be derived based upon the appearance, disappearance or development of certain flaws.

To put this theory to as many tests as possible, the top row of one sheet was compared with that from another printing, and once again minor differences were noted. The surcharges are virtually identical in relative terms, but not position wise. This to some extent is understandable, particularly through the eyes of a printer. After producing one batch of sheets in the manner described, the forme would be stored away until required again. Assuming the forme was set for the D section when last used, the printer would probably surcharge that section first on the new batch. Whichever section

he does next will now require some slight re-alignment, and with so many combinations of position, the chances of duplicating a previous section are very remote. Similarly, the final section printed on the second batch would probably be the first section on the third, thus involving the minimum amount of re-alignment. From this it may be deduced that a common link would exist between the first and second printings, and another between the second and third.

To establish this link, the three sheets representing each printing were carefully examined. Each row was compared with its counterpart on the other sheets until a difference in alignment was found. Several methods were employed in this important aspect with varying degrees of success.

A rule measuring to one tenth of a millimetre was made and the relative distances from the surcharge bar to the perf holes was compared. In theory, this would give a plus or minus numerical value to each bar in relation to the ones on either side. The problem encountered here was that the line of perforations, assumed to be straight, was in itself up and down. In some cases, this fluctuation was greater than the distances being measured. Another method was to carefully mark the position of the bars on an acetate overlay, and simply place it on the other sheets. The main problem here was getting the sheets to lay perfectly flat, and ensuring that any split perfs did not cause movement.

The most successful method was once again using the naked eye and viewing the sheets obliquely. In this way, the high/low positions of adjoining bars could be gauged. Unfortunately, this device could not produce a string of numerical data, but was sufficient to establish differences (and similarities) between corresponding sections. The results showed that settings 1 and 2 are completely different, 1 and 3 are similar in the D section, and 2 and 3 are similar in section A. Setting 3 had thus been established as the common link, see below.

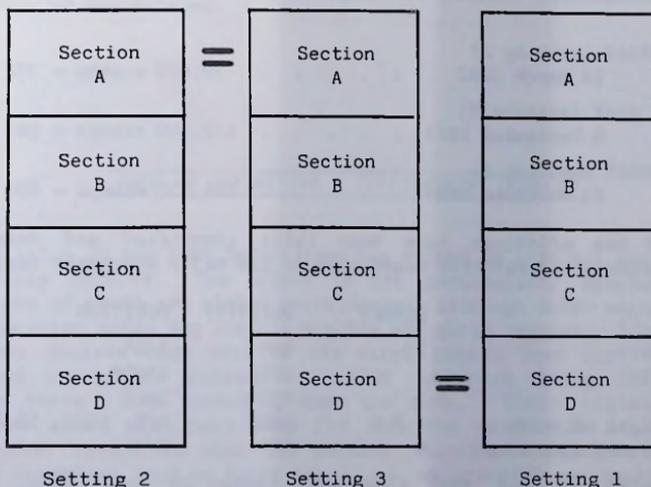


Diagram showing link between the three settings

From this common link, the sequence of printing can now be narrowed down to either 2-3-1 or 1-3-2. The next step then was to establish the exact sequence.

At first sight the solution looked to be very complex and would involve tracking down used (dated) copies of the few varieties which only appear on particular printings. These varieties are relatively scarce as only 302 sheets were produced for the 1890 printing. Happily an alternative solution was found based on a tiny but very significant plate variety.

The 'HFL' flaw (or to be more precise, the flaw on 'E' variety) is well known to collectors as it appears on all printings of all values. The variety occurs on the last stamp on the sheet (20/12) but also on this stamp is another flaw, previously unrecorded, but very worthy noting. It appears as a thin vertical line crossing the white circle between 4 and 5 o'clock. This flaw only occurs on later printings and is only apparent on one of the halfpenny sheets. The sheet affected is the one with the capped 'Y' variety on 14/2, otherwise referred to as setting 1 (ref Prof Mounfield).



Plate varieties on 20/12

FIRST FORMAT (setting 2)	14 March 1890	72,480 stamps = 302 sheets
SECOND FORMAT (setting 3)	5 September 1893	142,800 stamps = 595 sheets
THIRD FORMAT (setting 1)	23 November 1894	144,000 stamps = 600 sheets

Now that the printings have been fully identified and dated, we can now record the relative scarcities of the major surcharge varieties.

VARIETY	FORMAT	QUANTITY	POSITION
Spaced NNY*	2	595	5/9*
Spaced NY*	1	302	15/9*
Capped Y	3	600	14/2
Bar to right of words	1,2,3	5988	5/9, 10/9, 15/9, 20/9
Value and bar wide apart	3	600	4/4

* The spaced 'NY' and 'NNY' flaws were caused by loose type, and as one would expect, are not always constant. The sheet of the second format in my possession actually shows the spaced 'NY' in the 5/9 position, and not 15/9. Furthermore, it should be recognised that

such flaws may appear and disappear several times during one printing batch. The exact quantities that exist therefore, must remain uncertain, although I have yet to hear of such a flaw appearing more than once on any sheet.

The final mystery so far unexplained is the intermittent occurrence of the malformed 'Y' variety recorded by Prof Mounfield. In his paper, he refers to the variety as not occurring on the first format (setting 2), appearing twice on the second format (setting 3 - 7/2 and 12/2) and three times on the third format (setting 1 - 7/2, 12/2 and 17/2). The variety had not been recorded at that time in the 2/2 position at all, although I did mention its existence in Cameo of July 1982. Having the flaw on two blocks, each from different printings, it was a reasonable assumption to suggest that there were four or even five settings of the $\frac{1}{2}$ d value with narrow surcharge. In the light of current research however, this is not the case. With access to three sheets, it would seem that the malformed 'Y' appears in some state four times on each sheet, and as such on all three formats. A closer study shows that the flaw is progressive and bears out the revised sequence of the printings. The state of the flaw on the initial printing (setting 2) is virtually as normal although there is some sign of damage. It is surprising however, that the flaw had not been recorded in the 2/2 position on the third format (setting 1) as it is quite pronounced. Section A on this format represents the final usage of the master forme.

The results of this study depend very heavily on minor differences and otherwise insignificant varieties. In this respect, the study can be used to illustrate the potential importance of such minor flaws. At the same time, I hope I have not let the situation run away with itself by only seeing what I wanted to see or expected to see. Verification or comments on any aspect of this work would therefore be appreciated.

R.B.W.

1968 4d DEFINITIVE - PERFORATIONS DOUBLED

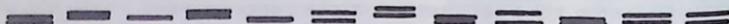
The 4d value of the 1968 Definitives has turned up with all perforations completely doubled. The effect is not particularly spectacular as both sets of perfs are almost coincidental, although under magnification the elongated holes are clearly visible and quite regular. I understand from two dealers that this is the first time a comb perf sheet has appeared completely doubled - previous instances being confined to one or three lines depending upon the comb. Their explanation is that the sheet must have been fed into the perforator twice. The more usual reason is when the machine 'hiccups' causing a doubling of one operation (one or three rows). I am grateful to Derek Worboys (36 Beaford Grove, London SW20 9LB) for bringing my attention to this error, from whom further details may be obtained.

R.B.W.

DOUBLE SURCHARGES

With the knowledge that each individual surcharge was adjusted to suit the alignment of its assigned stamp, a clearer understanding of double surcharges can be obtained. Basically, there are two types of double surcharges known on the Perkins Bacon plate. The first and most common involves one row being surcharged twice due to the forme being applied one row too high or too low. The second type occurs when the entire section is doubled resulting in each stamp in that section receiving two identical surcharges.

Dealing with the first type, some interesting points come to mind. With a normal forme of 60 surcharges, a doubling occurs when the first row of 12 is superimposed onto the fifth row. This would happen on rows 5, 10 or 15 if the second operation is one row too high, or rows 6, 11 or 16 if too low. In either case, due to the fluctuation of the bar positions, certain stamps are likely to show the two surcharges virtually coincidental, while others would be more obvious. At the same time the minor differences in bar lengths or variations in type would be particularly apparent from which the items might be plated. The illustration below shows typical bar alignments for



Typical bar alignment for a row with double surcharges

a doubled situation. It should be noted that the upper bars would not necessarily represent the second operation. Variation in bar lengths affect most values and these might be represented as shown below. The lengths (in mm) are the first and fifth rows of the $\frac{1}{2}$ d

Column	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Row 1	14 $\frac{1}{4}$	14 $\frac{1}{2}$	14	14	14	14 $\frac{1}{4}$	14	14	14	13 $\frac{3}{4}$	14	14 $\frac{1}{2}$
Row 5	14	13 $\frac{3}{4}$	14 $\frac{1}{2}$	14	14	14	14	14	14 $\frac{1}{4}$	14	14 $\frac{1}{2}$	14

Typical bar lengths

value with narrow surcharge. Although this stamp is not known doubled, it does illustrate quite well that most stamps would have two bars of different lengths.

In the case of one row being doubled, it usually follows that another row on the same sheet would have the surcharge omitted.

The second type involving a complete doubling of one section is believed to have only occurred on the CA 1s. A reference to this is made in John Marriott's article in the London Philatelist of January 1974. In it he states "the large block of the 1s in the (Royal) collection showing most of the first four rows doubly surcharged (part of a once larger block) is difficult to explain and may have come from some sort of trial." This statement is somewhat ambiguous as it is not clear whether

the block had most stamps doubled (but not all) or that all the stamps were doubled and the block represented most of the first four rows. If the latter is the case, then clearly the entire 'A' section had been surcharged twice. The surcharge forme for the 1s was made up of only 48 surcharges (4 rows of 12).

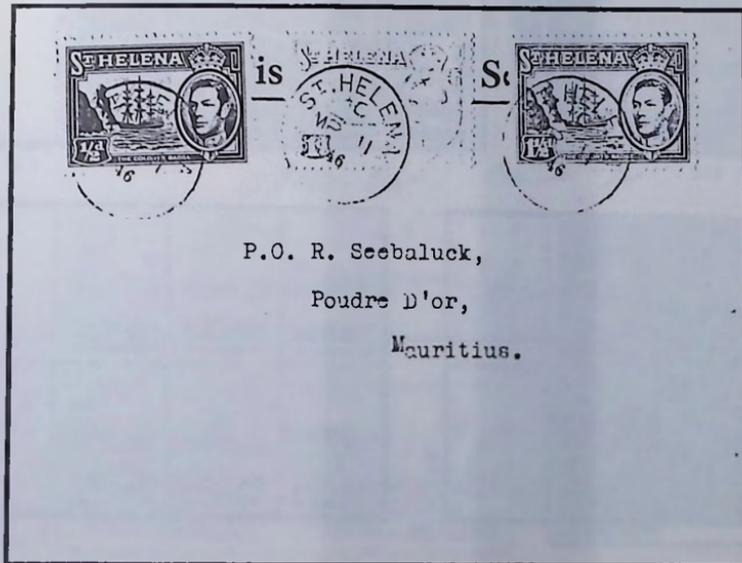
In such a situation, each stamp would receive two identical impressions; bar lengths, alignment and damaged type being faithfully doubled. If the second impression was not coincidental, the misplacement would be seen to be progressively uniform if not equal.

There is a possibility that a third type of doubling may exist, and this affects the ½d with broad surcharge. A recent auction included the ½d with double surcharge - one showing the spaced 'NY' and one normal. Because of the position of this flaw (18/12 on the sheet, 3/12 on the forme), the variety represents a combination of the two types already discussed. The sheet would have been surcharged in the normal manner and the D section (rows 15 to 20) applied a second time but raised or lowered by one row. Stamp 18/12 consequently received the spaced 'NY' plus an additional 'normal'. It follows that the stamp immediately above or below would have received the second impression with the 'NY' variety.

It would be interesting if all plated copies of this and other double surcharges could be recorded and analysed in order to get the full picture and establish relative scarcities. R.B.W.

CIRCULAR DATE STAMP WITH SERIF FIGURES

Reference was made on page 3 to circular date stamps incorporating a different type face in the date. The cover illustrated below shows such a variety - type 6 with the year ('46) in serif figures. R.B.W.



AUCTION RESULTS - PHILLIPS 19th JULY 1984

20 lots of St Helena came under the hammer at Phillips including an original find of 11 lots of Specimen handstamps in multiples. Bidding was fiercely contested from a room of less than a dozen people.

	Est -	Realised
175 14 values inc 5s orange in strip of 4.	100/150	- 195
176 P12½ 5s orange blk 4	80/100	- 160
177 P12½ 5s orange marginal strip of 5.	80/100	- 280
178 P14 x 12½ 4d marginal blk 6	100/150	- 500
179 CC P14 2d marginal blk 6	100/150	- 340
180 CC P14 1s marginal blk 4	80/90	- 290
181 CA ½d (17mm) marginal blk 6	80/100	- 340
182 CA 1d marginal blk 8	100/120	- 300
183 CA 4d (17mm) marginal blk 6	100/120	- 260
184 CA 4d (17mm) marginal blk 4	60/80	- 210
185 CA 4d (17mm) blk 4	60/80	- 230

All prices realised subject to +10% + VAT



Lot 177



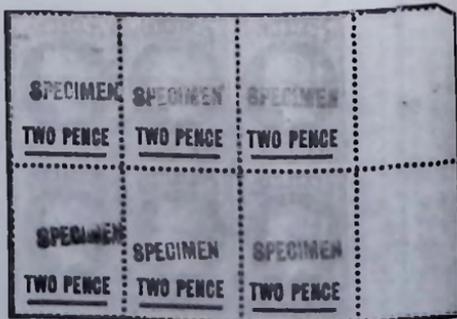
Lot 176



Lot 182



Lot 180



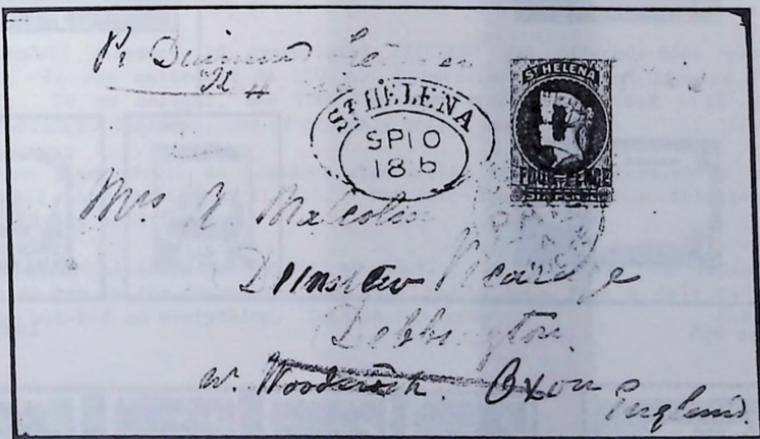
Lot 179

AUCTION RESULTS - SOTHEBY'S 7th SEPTEMBER 1984

For those rich enough to afford the magnificent catalogue for this sale, 40 interesting lots of St Helena were just a second mortgage away. E = Estimate, R = Realised. Hammer prices subject to +10%

- 925 6d blue SG1 in horiz mint pair E 500-600 R 650
- 930 1866 cover to England with 1864 4d P12½ E 600-800 R 575
- 932 Range of Specimens including 3d and 6d in vert strips of 3 as issued. 14 items 1884-94 period . . E 150-200 R 320
- 934 CA 1s marginal with double surcharge mint but creased with split perfs E 1500-2000 R 525
- 935 1894 two artist's essays of the Badge of Colony 2d and 3d on card. E 2000-3000 R 1600
- 936 1890-97 5 imperf 1½d proofs in the colours of 1d, 2d, 2½d, 5d and 10d. Ex De La Rue E 1800-2000 R 1700
- 943 1903 Appendix sheet of 6 imperf 1d proofs in various colours. Ex De La Rue. E 2000-3000 R 2000
- 946 1922 Badge Issue 6 imperf 1d colour trials in various issued colours. Ex De La Rue E 1800-2000 R 2100
- 947 Two colour trials as above. E 600-800 R 650
- 953 ½d Badge with wmk inv mint pair E 30-40 R 110
- 955 1935 Silver Jubilee Die proofs of the four frames in black. Ex De La Rue. E 1000-1200 R 1600
- 956 1937 Coronation imperf proofs perf Specimen . . . E 300-400 R 360
- 958 1947 6 items opt Royal Visit
29th April 1947. Status unknown E 80-100 R 220
- 959 1962 Tristan Relief set used E 300-400 R 550
- 960 1968 3d Def imperf horiz pair. E 100-120 R 110

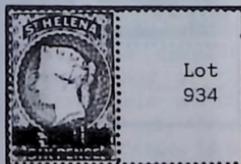
Lot
930

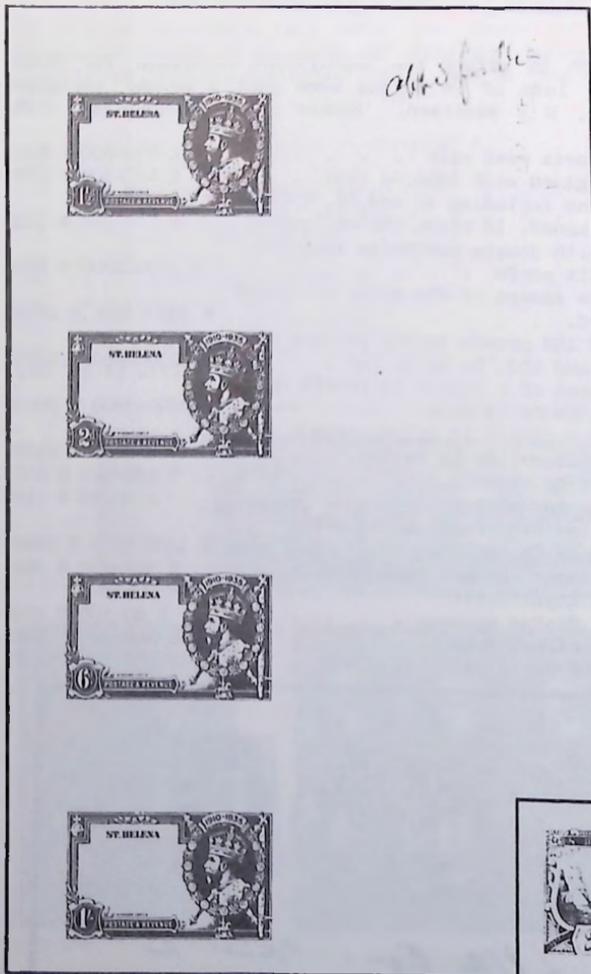


Lot
960



Lot
934





Lot 955



Lot 956



Lot 925



Lot 935



Lot 958



Lot 959

BUYING AT AUCTION

I was very surprised by the result of a survey carried out at my local Philatelic Society, to find out how many people had ever bid at a major auction house (Harmers, Phillips, R Lowe, Gibbons and the like). The result was a staggering four people out of over forty. It seems that the majority of members were under the impression that £100 was the minimum lot value, with £1,000 being more of an average. Auction results probably don't do much to dispel such ideas, although they usually only record the more outstanding items (and realisations).

While it makes interesting reading (and good publicity) to say that a certain item fetched so many thousands, it is also nice to know of items at the other end of the scale. Despite limited capital and all too frequent competitive bidding, the following items proved satisfying to me in more ways than one.

Badge MCA set to £1 overprinted SPECIMEN. Est £40 - sold at £34. I bought this item at Robson Lowes in 1978 when prices were sky high. Apart from the good value, the set turned out to be ex De La Rue and the 5s value was uniquely handstamped with type D18.

1890/97 QV Key set opt SPECIMEN. Est £50 - £52 paid. At the time, this set was catalogued £300 so I was happy to be the successful bidder. I was more pleased however, to discover that four of the seven values showed the broken 'M' variety - only thirteen copies exist of each value.

A collection of QV inc ½d block of 24. Est £40. I bid £85 for this as I particularly wanted the block and got it for £46. The block was nice and so too was the ½d and 4d with inverted watermarks.

The 1911 unissued 1d overprinted SPECIMEN was offered some years ago. It was estimated at £50 and I received it and an invoice for £48. To my delight, the item had been wrongly described - it was HANDSTAMPED Specimen, one of probably only a dozen copies.

I can also recall an instance when a lot failed to receive a bid at all when estimated at £15. The lot, four De La Rue Specimens, eventually sold for £10.

The sheer pleasure of buying at auction is difficult to explain, but so too is the depression one gets coming home from a sale having been out-bid on everything. Such is our hobby. R.B.W.

PRINTS OF FORGERIES

Following the publication of Supplement 2, a lot of interest was shown in the illustrations of the various types of forgery. These are accurate drawings made from enlarged photographs. The complete series consists of 16 types, one genuine plus a reduced copy of the 17th facsimile. Prints (4" x 3" on card) are now available at 25p each or £4 the complete series (postage extra). Available only from: R.B. West, The Corner Shop, Binfield, Bracknell, Berks. (0344) 54060

PHOTOGRAPHING STAMPS

With my 'forgery' activities and producing drawings of stamps from photographs, I seem to spend quite a lot of time behind the camera. While I am in no way an expert on such matters, it occurred to me that with a minimum of know-how and at very little cost, some very fine photographs of stamps can be taken. Readers who illustrate their collections with drawings or photographs of varieties might be interested in the method I use.

The basic requirement is a SLR camera (or one that otherwise enables you to view through the lens). To compliment virtually any lens, a set (or two) of extension tubes is required. The tubes cost a matter of a few pounds, and simply enable you to extend the lens further away from the camera body thus giving a greater degree of magnification. A tripod is also required, the smaller the better, and with it, a cable release (about £1) which prevents camera shake.

By experimenting with the tubes, distances of about two inches can be achieved. It is possible to get closer, but light, or the lack of it, becomes a problem. I overcome this by setting up close to a window making full use of natural light.

Stamps can be held flat by covering with a small piece of non-reflecting glass. The stamp, or area of interest, should be positioned dead centre of the lens to minimise distortion. I like to half fill the frame with the subject - to be more ambitious usually results in fuzzy edges. For reference I like to enclose a millimetre rule just outside of the subject, which can later be read off directly.

If colour is to be matched, then shots are best bracketed. That is taking three shots of each subject, going up and down one stop. Different makes of colour film are known to have a particular colour bias, and bracketing helps to compensate.

To ensure the same setting up on future occasions, I simply mark a piece of paper showing the extremities of view through the lens. This helps to maintain a standard enlargement ratio.

The general tendency among processing labs these days is to produce extra large prints - these enable relatively small areas of the design to be cut down to stamp size. If your work is good enough, straight forward enlargements of up to 12" x 10" can be obtained for about £1.50 each.

R.B.W.

LIFE ON St HELENA

I understand that the recent Salvation Army Issue caused some concern to the St Helena Stamp Committee. The proofs submitted by the Crown Agents showed grass growing in the middle of one of the main streets.

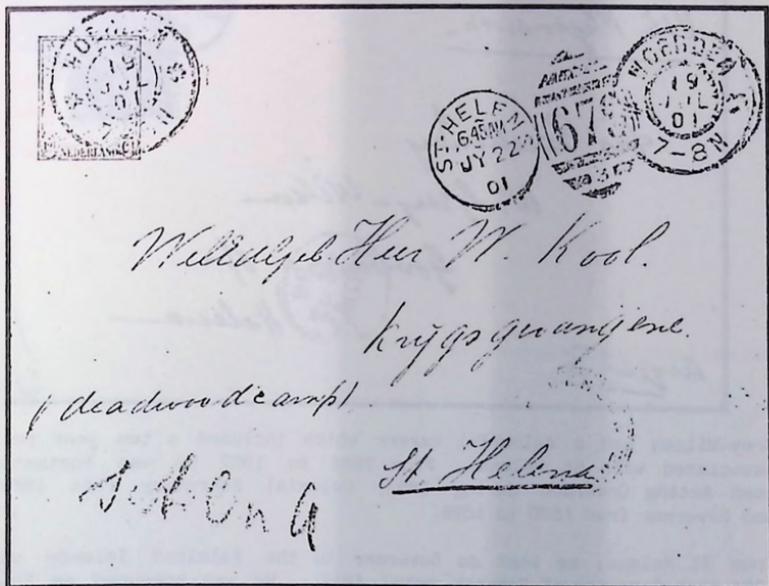
My reliable source informs me that this same attitude was displayed recently when a Canadian T.V. crew visited the Island to film a documentary. The 'tell it like it is' Producer got all the school children to take off their shoes.

R.B.W.

MISSENT COVER

I recently came across a photocopy of the cover illustrated below and thought I'd found the first example of the St Helena cds with the time slug. My glory was short lived of course, as the cancel is that of St Helens. The cover is of interest however, as it was no doubt sent to St Helens in error.

R.B.W.



WANTED

I have been asked by a collector who wishes to remain anonymous, to offer cash for the following:

- 1967 New Constitution 2/6 Red omitted (SG 213a cat £250) . . £300 paid
- 1968 Defs 1½d Black printed double (SG 228Ea) unpriced
but ½d value cat £50. £100 paid
- 1970 Dickens 4d Yellow printed double (SG 249Eaa cat £28) . . . £30 paid
- 1970 Dickens 4d Yellow omitted (SG 249Eab cat £150) £200 paid

Paying these prices, no wonder he wishes to remain anonymous. For my sins, I still require forgeries and can ensure a good deal.

R.B.W.

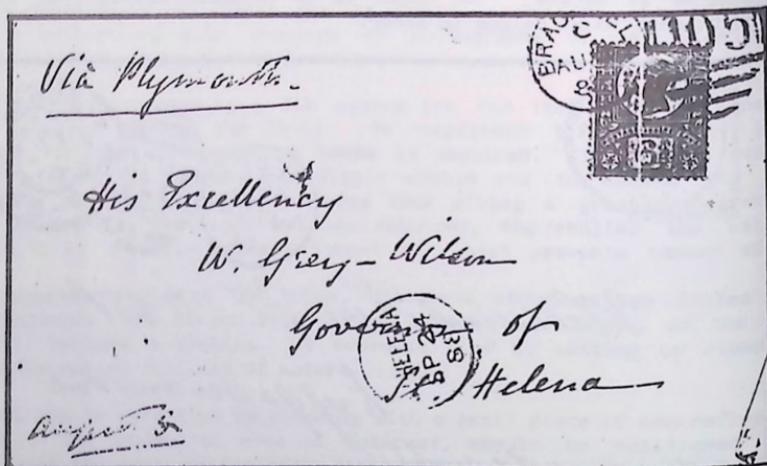
DEFINITION - A SPECIALIST

A specialist is one who knows more and more about less and less, until eventually he knows everything about nothing.

Varro E. Tyler

WILLIAM GREY-WILSON COVER

I was talked into buying the cover illustrated below mainly on the strength of it being addressed to W. Grey-Wilson, Governor of St Helena. Of equal significance to me however, was the Binfield back stamp (the villiage I live in) and of course the Bracknell duplex.



Grey-Wilson had a colourful career which included a ten year period associated with St Helena. From 1886 to 1887 he was Postmaster, then Acting Governor during 1887, Colonial Secretary from 1888-89 and Governor from 1890 to 1896.

From St Helena, he went as Governor to the Falkland Islands until 1904 then Governor of Bahamas until 1912. He was honoured as Knight Commander of St Michael and St George in 1904 and as Knight Commander of the Order of the British Empire in 1918. He died in 1926.

Other covers variously addressed to him during his office in St Helena are available from: Mr Byron Dean, 27 King Street, Covent Garden, London WC2. Tel (01) 836 2341. R.B.W.

THE LAST WORD

I have several complete sheets of the George VI Definitives (low values) and once again I appeal to anyone who knows of any varieties to contact me with a view to doing a joint study. This issue offers so much scope for an original article. To my knowledge, no one has recorded the quantities printed, and even Gibbons have yet to include the all purpose '(shades)' into their Part 1 listings.

Correspondence on this and other matters to:
Roger B West, The Corner Shop, Binfield, Bracknell, Berkshire
Tel Bracknell (0344) 54060