

KING GEORGE VI VARIETIES

Part 14

The 1946 Victory Issue for the Crown Colonies

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(Continued from August)

Part 12 described some of the background to the Crown Agents Victory Issue and the varieties to be found printed for Hong Kong, the two Aden States and Zanzibar. Part 13 dealt with the use of plates and the differing shades and varieties to be found on stamps produced for Aden to Fiji.

Unfortunately some words disappeared from lines 11–14 in the first paragraph of Part 13. The sentence should have read, 'The curtain finally came down on 1 October when the overprinting plate for the Zanzibar 10c. was returned only the day after it was issued; the stamps were on sale forty-one days later.' Later in Part 13 mention was made of the slight doubling in the sky on the 3d. Fiji—it occurs on R1/5 and not R1/55. In Part 12 brief reference was made to a transfer flaw on the Nigeria 3d., this should have been the 1½d. value. The flaw is described in this article.

This article will conclude with a description of the remaining varieties occurring on issues for Gibraltar to the Turks and Caicos Islands, touching on the unreleased issues for the Malayan Union and Singapore. describe the marginal printer's marks to be found on a significant number of the values and finish with a listing of the Plate and Current Numbers and the number of sheets despatched for each colony from De La Rue.

Varieties (continued)

Gibraltar. The *Stamp Mirror* coined some more names for three varieties on the 3d. Plate A1 (the only one). Two large dots of colour, resembling 'buoys', occur just under the launch on R1/6 (Fig 1a). 'A Flight of Steps' or 'Log on the Riverbank' can be found on R4/5 (Fig 1b) and another 'Flying Kite' shows to the right of the central tower on R7/3 (Fig 1c).

Gilbert and Ellice Islands. Although there do not appear to be any varieties on this Victory pair I cannot resist including a most unusual news item concerning the release of the stamps on these remote islands. In March 1947 *GSM* reported that, 'We are reliably informed that the date originally selected for placing the Victory issue on sale was 15 December. Later, when this date was found to be a Sunday, it was altered to the 16th and all islands advised of the change except Abaiang, with which no contact was possible because it was in quarantine for measles.'

Grenada. Some sheets of the 1½d. have a scratched 'B' in the margin in the top right corner, others have a 'P'. These letters occur in slightly different positions on sheets in differing shades of carmine. On sheets with the 'P' a plate scratch on R8/4 gives an 'Additional Boom' to the mast at the rear of the launch (Fig

2a). A trace of the scratch also shows in the river below the launch and can be detected on R6/4 and 7/4. On R10/4 another scratch crosses the second barge from the left (Fig 1d) and shows faintly on R9/4 under '8TH'. On the 3½d. a vertical line of spots appear below the '8' of '8TH' on R8/2 (Fig 1e).

Jamaica. Two minor varieties have been recorded on the 1½d. value from Plate 1A. On R5/1 an extra dotted line of brown shading, about 10mm long, runs from the main tower under 8TH JUNE (Fig 1f) and there is a dot to the right of the main tower at roof level on R7/3 (Fig 1g). R4/4 from Plate 1B has a line of dots across the sky (Fig 1b). In December 1946 *GSM* noted that sheets from 1B were in a 'warmer shade of brown'—a very fair description. The 3d. from Plate 1A (the only one) has four small constant flaws: R5/3 has a large dash to the left of the main tower (Fig 1i), R6/5, a dot to the right of the spire of Big Ben (Fig 1j), on R7/1 a 'Buoy' floats in the river above and to the left of the small rowing boat and lastly on R7/4 another 'Buoy' appears below and to the right of the launch (Fig 1k).

Kenya, Uganda and Tanganyika. The 20c. from Plate 1A has two small varieties—a dot under '8TH' of R4/3 (Fig 3a) and two dots to the left of '8TH' on R6/1 (Fig 3b). The 30c. from Plate 1a has been reported with a flaw on R9/5 showing as a 'Flag at the bow of the launch', while *Stamp Mirror* noted a 'vertical line of scratches in the sky to the right of the main tower' on R2/3 from Plate 1B. The accepted issue date in the Colony and London is 11 November 1946. However, R B Berrington in his *Handbook on King George VI Issues of Kenya, Uganda and Tanga-*

nyika did record that 'through an official mistake stamps were released at Lindi a few days earlier' (15 October is known). The stamps were withdrawn from sale on 15 February 1947, nevertheless, during June 1949 the Southern Highlands post office in Central Tanganyika was temporarily out of stock of the 20c. KGV definitive and sold 20c. Victory stamps for a while. Covers with the relevant dates from either place add interest to a collection. The Victory pair was invalidated on 30 June 1952.

Mauritius. R5/3 on the 20c. has a dotted oblique line in the sky below 'MAU' (Fig 3c) and a dotted line in the sky extends across R9/2 (Fig 3d). 'T' marks were mentioned earlier in this series. I have a plate block of the 20c. with an inverted 'T' in the margin below R10/5, it is absent from others. I can only surmise that it was a mark made by a member of the staff as it is the only 'T' I have seen associated with a De La Rue issue in contrast to the many from Waterlow.

Montserrat. The 1½d. at R2/3 has a vertical line of spots in the sky below 'J' of 'JUNE' (Fig 3e).

Nigeria. In December 1946 *GSM* commented that sheets of the 1½d. from Plate B1 were 'a warmer shade of brown'. *Commonwealth* lists two shades for the value. The 1½d. has a progressive transfer flaw on Plate 1A. On R3/1 the flaw appears as a large 'Tadpole' shaped dot near the centre of the outer frame line of the left side of the frame around the head of the King. There is also a group of small dots just to the left of the 'tadpole' (Fig 3f). The 'tadpole' becomes smaller along the third row until on the sixth stamp it is only a tiny dot. (Another

Corner block of the 2d. Northern Rhodesia stamp showing inverted plate number



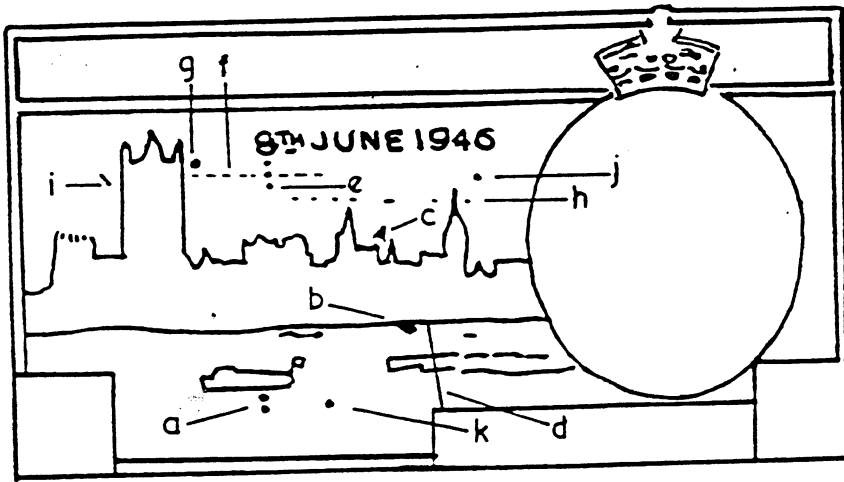


Fig. 1

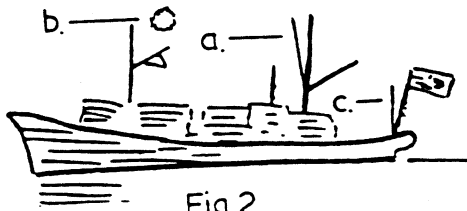


Fig. 2

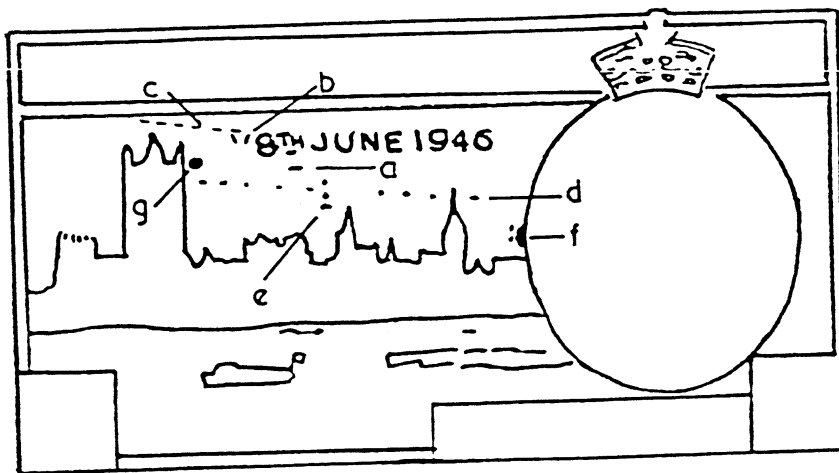


Fig. 3

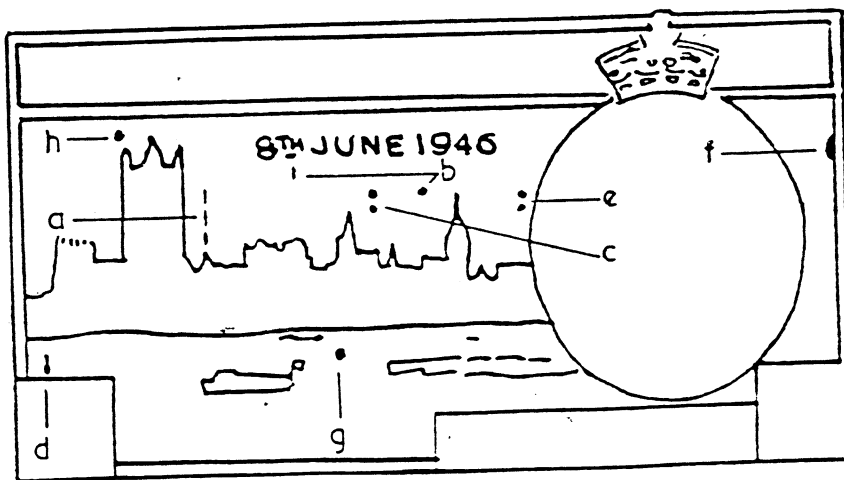


Fig. 4

transfer flaw occurs on the Barbados 2½d. definitive described in Part 2 (*GSM* November 1986).

Nyasaland. On R10/5 of the 2d. from Plate 1A a 'man' is falling from the main tower (*Fig 3g*). **Pitcairn Islands.** The 'Flagstaff Flaw' on the 3d. at R8/2 is now listed as SG 10a (*Fig 4a*). Another less conspicuous flaw occurs on R3/6 where there is a smear under 'TH' and a dot in the sky under '1' of '1946' (*Fig 4b*). (Faux recalls that deliveries addressed to the Pitcairn Islands were sent to Cape Town to await a vessel calling at Pitcairn.)

St Lucia. A distinctive 'colon' can be found in the sky below 'N' of 'JUNE' on R2/3 of the 3½d. (*Fig 4c*). On R1/2 of the same value a dot and smudge appears in the river over the left hand value tablet (*Fig 4d*) and at R9/6 dots occur outside the medallion level with the spire of Big Ben (*Fig 4e*). Both these smaller varieties occur on sheets with a horizontal dash or 'W' in the top right margin.

Seychelles. On the 9c. at R9/6 a large spot shows against the inner vertical frame line to the right of the frame around the King's head. It exists in three states: no flaw, flaw and partial flaw with slight damage to the frame line (*Fig 4f*). The 'Lamp on the Foremast' occurs on the 30c. at R1/5 (*Fig 2b*) and is more noticeable than the 'Double Flag' on the Barbados 1½d. described in Part 13.

Sierra Leone. *GSM* noted that sheets of the 1½d. from Plate 1B were a slightly paler shade of lilac. Another 'buoy' floats in the river above and to the right of the flag on the launch at R6/6 on Plate 1A (*Fig 4g*).

Trinidad and Tobago. The 3c. drew comment in *GSM*—sheets from Plate A1 being deeper brown than those from B1. On R3/3, Plate B1, a spot occurs above the left hand pinnacle of the main tower on most of the sheets I have seen (*Fig 4b*). *GSM* also reported a most unusual occurrence, some of the sheets of the 6c. had an inverted 30 (Current Number) below R10/1, others did not. The 3c. should have 29A and 29B, if the sequence was followed, but as yet their existence has not been recorded.

Turks and Caicos Islands. A light scratch on the plate shows as doubling of the flag staff at the stern of the launch on the 3d. at R10/1 or most, but not all, of the sheets (*Fig 2c*).

Malayan Union and Singapore. The political uncertainties leading to the decision not to release the Victory issue for the Malaya, Union and Singapore were described by Hackney in *Stamp Collecting* on 11 November 1982. It is believed that just over six million stamps were destroyed. Indeed, the Plate Issue Register shows that De La Rue despatched the following number of sheets: Malayan Union—8c. 32,190 and 15c. 17,060. Singapore—8c. 35,000 and 15c. 18,750. However, it is known that a few of the Malayan Union 8c. carmine stamps escaped destruction. H Dagnall, writing in *Stamp Collecting* a little later explained that a three-man board of survey had been appointed to oversee the destruction of 1,541,400 copies of the 8c. in Kuala Lumpur. His account continues, 'In due course, they reported that this had been done, but what they did not know at the time was that Manu Pillay, in charge of the Kuala Lumpur municipal incinerator into which the stamps had been placed, had rescued the odd four hundred stamps from the flames. Many of these stamps were burnt and charred, but the good ones he sold, and by the time Pillay was charged and convicted the stamps had passed into the hands of dealers and collectors.' The final epitaph is the laconic comment 'All taken but later destroyed' in the specimen column of the Register.

Marginal Marks

various roughly scratched marks can be found in the margins of some sheets of some values. They are usually single letters or symbols, similar letters occurring on sheets of the Aden States and Zanzibar were described in Part 12. Sheets with the Houses of Parliament design can be found with the letters B, P or W and PP. The symbols are a pair of crosses with an additional line, or a vertical or a horizontal dash. As the letters were crudely fashioned on individual plates they differ in size and shape, even when the same letter—a small selection were illustrated in the May 1987 edition of *GSM*. Thirty-seven marks have been identified and it is most probable that others exist. Unfortunately, the search for them is made more difficult as all too often the marginal selvage has been removed to aid easy storage in stock books. Furthermore, the marks do not occur on every sheet for the listed value. This is possibly because the top margin, where they normally occur, is sometimes narrower than usual. On the other hand, Faux has confirmed that the plates were inspected periodically during a printing run and it is possible that whoever did this marked the plate on completing the inspection, but only when minor work had been done.

Plate numbers will only be quoted for '120 set' plates in the following list of marginal marks. The letter B occurs in the top right corner on the Antigua 1½d. and 3d., Falkland Islands 1d., Grenada 1½d. and 3½d., Leeward Islands 1½d., Montserrat 1½d. and 3d., St Vincent 1½d., Seychelles 30c., Trinidad and Tobago 6c. and Virgin Islands 1½d. A 'P' also occurs in the top right corner on: Ascension 2d., British Guiana 3c. (B1), Fiji 2½d. (A1), Grenada 1½d., Pitcairn Islands 2d., St Kitts-Nevis 3d. and Virgin Islands 3d. Some sheets of the Seychelles 9c. show a 'P' in the same position and, when present, it is accompanied by a long horizontal scratch on the right side of the central marginal guide cross between R1/3-4. A faint and easily missed PP occurs in the top right hand corner of the Cayman Islands 3d. (B1). On the St Helena 2d. a 'P' shows in the top left corner. The letter 'W' appears in the same corner on the Dominica 1d. and 3½d., Falkland Islands 3d. and is underlined on the Gibraltar ½d. (B1). The St Lucia 3½d. also shows a 'W', but in the top right corner, while in the same position, the Barbados 3d. has a symbol in the form of a pair of crosses and a line, there is a vertical dash on the 4d., Cyprus 3p. and Gambia 3d. and a horizontal dash on the St Lucia 3½d. In the top left corner a horizontal dash occurs on the Dominica 1d. and 3½d. and Seychelles 9c., but a vertical dash on the KUT 30c. (Plate unknown). Finally a vertical scratch through two dots can be found in the margin of the Northern Rhodesia 1½d. (A1) astride R1/1 and 2/1. It is most intriguing to find that different marks can exist on the same value, e.g. Dominica 1d. and 3½d.

Kenya, Uganda and Tanganyika Definitives

At this point I will digress for a moment. The marks already described are not easy to find, but anyone seeking a real challenge should seek out the letters B, D, P, MV, PK, PN and IPN, that occur, in the colour of the vignette plate, in the margins of the KUT definitives of the same period. These were all noted by Berrington in his handbook, where he also recorded his appreciation for the help he had been given by the staff of De La Rue. He expressed the view that the initials had been

scratched in the margins by the engraver or others working on the plates, 'who may have been staff returning from the war who were unfamiliar with the correct procedures'. This opinion has since received support from Faux who has suggested to me that, 'It seems likely that the letters were made by staff whose duty was to go over the plates to see whether any repair was needed before going forward to the printing room. A book should have been signed, but so soon after the end of the war irregularities did occur.' It is opportune to recall the 'JG' initials above R1/3-4 of the 1946 printing of the Ascension 2d. definitive described in Part 1 of this series (*GSM* August 1986). Since then examples of the 'JG' erased have been found; the surface of the paper being disturbed with only tiny flecks of colour indicating where the letters were located. Faux has recently told me that, the Crown Agents staff at the various works endeavoured to keep the firm's employees 'on the rails' and when an Inspector came across an obvious infringement of Security Regulations, such as the 'JG' initials he would have had them removed—in this instance not before some sheets had been despatched with the initials in clear view. The last piece of evidence I can offer to account for marginal marks is to be found in the British Library, where records show that plates for the Ascension 2d., 3d., and

6d. were released by the Crown Agents representative to a member of the staff of De La Rue on 11 January 1946—the initials of the recipient were 'JFG'....

Plate and Current Numbers and Sheets Despatched

Details of Plate Numbers reflect notes in the Plate Issue Register and all but a very few have been physically confirmed. Information about sheets despatched has been drawn from the relevant Requisition Book. So far as is known Current Numbers were not 'officially listed', those quoted have either been reported or seen. Additional comments, where relevant, are shown as footnotes.

Conclusion

Little did I think when I first broached the topic of the Victory Issue with the Editor that this 'cheap and cheerful set' would occupy three parts in this series. I hope that the account will have whet some philatelic appetites—much enjoyment, at little expense, is there for everyone.

The next article in this series (February 1990) will describe some of the varieties to be found on the Brunei definitives issued between 1947 and 1951.

Colony	Duty	Current Number	Plate Number	Sheets Despatched
Aden	1½as.	69	A1	14,448
	2½as.	70	A1	11,280
Antigua	1½d.	37	1	12,710
	3d.		1	12,337
Ascension	2d.		1	11,395
	4d.		1	11,810
Bahamas	1½d.	A55	1A	15,999
	1½d.	B55	1B	
Barbados	3d.	56	1	13,287
	1½d.	63	A1	11,787
Bermuda	3d.	64	A1	10,440
	1½d.	59A	1A	22,700
1½d.	59B	1B	17,500	
British Guiana	3d.	60A		1A
	3d.	60B	1B	
British Honduras	3c.		A1	13,950
	3c.		B1	
British Solomon Is	6c.		1	13,253
	5c.		1	12,708
Cayman Is.	1½d.		1	12,975
	3d.		1	12,804
Ceylon	1½d.		1A	19,145
	1½d.		B1	
Cyprus	3d.		A1	18,844
	3d.		B1	
Dominica	6c.		A1	129,410
	6c.		B1	
Falkland Is	6c.	10A (Note 1)	IIA	21,430
	6c.	10B (1)	IIB	
Kenya	15c.		A1	25,607
	15c.		B1	
Uganda	1½p.		A1	15,500
	1½p.		B1	
Tanganyika	3p.		1	11,250
	1d.	53	1	10,285
Tanzania	3½d.	54	1	14,718
	1d.		1	13,405
3d.		1 (2)	14,342	
3d.		2 (3)		13,850
Fiji	1d.		1	
	3d.		1	
Tonga	2½d.		A1 (4)	13,157
	2½d.		B1 (4)	
Vanuatu	3d.		1	
	3d.		1	

Gambia	1½d.	31	1	11,495
	3d.		1	11,232
Gibraltar	½d.	65A	A1	} 21,617
	½d.	65B	B1	
	3d.	66	A1	13,010
Gilbert & Ellice Is.	1d.		1	12,620
	3d.		1	12,277
Gold Coast	2d.	85A	1A	} 32,248
	2d.	85B	1B	
	4d.	86	1	12,448
Grenada	1½d.	43	1	17,286
	3½d.	44	1	14,781
Jamaica	1½d.	71A	1A	} 51,854
	1½d.	71B	1B	
	3d.	72	A1	13,448
KUT	20c.	79A	1A	} 50,849
	20c.	79B	1B	
	30c.	80A	1A	} 19,738
	30c.	80B	1B	
Leeward Is	1½d.	35	1	13,475
	3d.	36	1	12,875
Malayan Union	8c.		A1	} 32,190
	8c.		B1	
	15c.		1	17,060
Malta	1d.	67A	A1	} 40,962
	1d.	67B	B1	
	3d.	68A	A1	} 18,371
	3d.	68B	B1	
Mauritius	5c.		A1	} 21,199
	5c.		B1	
	20c.		1	15,460
Montserrat	1½d.	49	1	11,750
	3d.	50	1	10,700
Nigeria	1½d.	83A	1A	} 34,260
	1½d.	83B	1B	
	4d.	84	1	12,877
N Rhodesia	1½d.	75A	1A	} 29,687
	1½d.	75B	1B	
	2d.	76A	1A	} 16,920
	2d.	76B	1B	
Nyasaland	1d.	77A	1A	} 22,044
	1d.	77B	1B	
	2d.	78A	1A	} 15,350
	2d.	78B	1B	
Pitcairn Is	2d.		1	12,916
	3d.		1	12,630
St Helena	2d.	61	1	11,200
	4d.	62	1	11,955
St Kitts Nevis	1½d.	33	1	12,467
	Ad.	34	1	12,190
St Lucia	1d.	51	1	12,006
	3½d.	52	1	10,230
St Vincent	1½d.	45	1	14,403
	3½d.	46	1	13,178
Seychelles	9c.		1	11,889
	30c.		1	11,621
Sierra Leone	1½d.	81A	1A	} 20,440
	1½d.	81B	1B	
	3d.	82	1	9,800
Singapore	8c.		A1	} 35,000
	8c.		B1	
	15c.		1	18,750
Somaliland Prot	1a	73	1	9,700
	3a.	74	A1	8,900
Trinidad & Tobago	3c.		A1	} 37,231
	3c.		B1	
	6c.	30(6)	1	16,730
Turks & Caicos Is	2d.	57	1	14,124
	3d.	58	1	9,500
Virgin Is	1½d.	47	1	11,350
	3d.	48	1	11,680

Notes

- (1) Recorded by R. Botwright
- (2) Not included in the Plate Issue Register, but exists in quantity.
- (3) Recorded in the Register and reported in GSM.
- (4) Noted as 1A and 1B in the Register.
- (5) Recorded as B1 and B2 in the Register, but A1 and B1 seen.
- (6) GSM reported the existence of sheets with and without 30.