

KING GEORGE VI VARIETIES

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Part 27—Bahamas, The 1942 Landfall Issue

Introduction

Part 26 (*GSM* November 1992), besides giving general background information about the 1942 Bahamas Landfall issue, drew attention to the most probable method used to overprint the small format stamps, the importance of the misaligned lines of overprint in the ninth and tenth rows and the correction of the latter. This article will describe many of the overprint varieties to be found on the small stamps, the majority caused by pollution of the letters and figures. Examples of broken type will also be mentioned. It must be stressed that, because the work was done over a period of time in a local newspaper office in Nassau, the list cannot be definitive. Other stages of the varieties remain to be discovered, as well as some examples of pollution that have not been spotted. However, the following listing should be enough to build up a satisfying assembly of an interesting issue.

To avoid over-complication, the majority of the positions on a pane of ten rows of six stamps will be considered as separate items, without relating too often to the existence of pollution on near-by stamps. It is always important to remember that the differing states of pollution do not necessarily occur on all values and that the illustrations, although accurate, reflect the stage of pollution identified on examples examined.

Varieties

It is reasonable to assume that the overprinting unit began its working life free of pollution or breaks in the figures or letters. The description of the progress of the states on the affected stamps will begin with the first example appearing i.e. State 1 (S1) and so on. Any misalignment of the overprint will be mentioned separately. The pane will be described row by row with stamps numbered 1 to 6. The omission of a position indicates that a variety has not been found affecting the overprint.

Row 1. R1/1—In the early period a dot appeared in the apex of the first 'A' and eventually filled it—S1 (*Figs 1 and 2*). It is worth noting that there are a host of variations as the apex filled in and the two illustrations show the extremes. It was joined by a blob between the horizontal arms of the 'F'—S2 (*Fig 3*). This also grew in size until it almost filled the space and the illustration shows an advanced state. Cleaning was probably the reason why the pollution in the 'A' vanished and the blob became smaller giving S4. The blob then disappeared—S5. Finally, a nick in the right side of the vertical of the first 'L' developed into a

clear break—S6 (*Figs 4 and 5*). R1/2—A blob appeared in the upper angle of the 'N' some time after the first state occurred on R1/1—S1 (*Fig 6*). It existed with all the states on R1/1. At some time after the third state on R1/1 a large dot showed in the '4' of '1492'—S2 (*Fig 7*), but it did not last. A tiny dot appeared between the two 'L's after the correction to the overprints in the tenth row and stayed until the pollution cleared on R1/1—S3 (*Fig 8*). At one point the dot was joined by a very large blob joining the feet of the 'L's—S4 (*Fig 9*), it did not persist for long. R1/3—The cross bar of the first 'A' developed a break on the left side—S1 (*Fig 10*), when R1/1 reached its fourth state. R1/4—At a late stage in the overprinting the left part of the top serif of the first 'L' was damaged—S1 (*Fig 11*). A dot then appeared in the '9' of '1492' and another in the '2' of '1942'—S2 (*Figs 12 and 13*), to be joined by a dot in the '2' of '1492'—S3, it grew in size and varied in shape—S4 (*Fig 14*), the dot in the '2' of '1942' then disappeared—S5. R1/5—Early on a tiny dot appeared in the '2' of '1492', it developed—S1 (*Fig 15*). Another dot then affected the '4'—S2 (*Fig 16*). Both persisted to disappear at a very late stage in the overprinting. R1/6—This stamp escaped pollution for a long time. Eventually very small dots showed, for a short time, in the '4' and '9' of '1492'—S1 (*Figs 17a and 17b*). They disappeared to be replaced by a larger dot in a lower position in the '4', this eventually filled the figure. Dots also appeared in the 'N' and 'F' and with the polluted '4' give S2 (*Figs 18 and 19*). The dot in the 'F' vanished and the polluted '4' and 'N' were joined by a dash joining the 'L' and 'O' of 'COLUMBUS'—S3 (*Fig 20*). The pollution in the 'N' grew to touch the cross leg of the 'N'—S4 (*Fig 21*).

Row 2. R2/3—A tiny dot appeared between the second 'A' and second 'L' some time before the misaligned overprints in the tenth row were corrected—S1 (*Fig 22*). The dot developed into a dash—S2 (*Fig 23*). It has not been seen on panes with the corrected alignments and was probably removed by cleaning. At a late period a dot showed in the top loop of the 'S'—S3 (*Fig 24*). R2/4—'1492' was slightly aligned to the left so that the apex of the second 'A' of 'LANDFALL' did not lie in the normal position exactly under the toe of the '2' of '1492'. After some time the top bar of the 'F' became defective and this led to a clear and large break—S2 (*Fig 25*). A tiny dot also appeared between the 'A' and the 'L'—S3 and by the time the polluted double 'L's existed on R1/2 it was noticeable to the naked eye—S4 (*Fig 26*). At this time the '9' of '1492' showed some damage—S5 (*Fig*

27). R2/5—'1492' was also slightly misaligned to the left. A small dot appeared under the '4' of '1942'—S1 (*Fig 28*) in association with the fifth state on R2/4. R2/6—The alignment of '1492' was similar to R2/5. In the middle period a dot developed below the crossbar in the first 'A'—S1 (*Fig 29*) and as it enlarged a hint of the damage to the top of the 'S' of 'COLUMBUS' began to show. At the time when S6 on R1/1 was first appearing, the dot in the 'A' was joined by a small dot in the '9' of '1492' (*Fig 30*) and a large blob in the top loop of the 'S' (*Fig 31*). These combined with the damage to the top of the 'S' (*Fig 31*) and the right upper verticals of both 'U's' (*Fig 32*) combine to give S2. Saunders also reported pollution affecting the throat of the '2' of '1492' and in the angle behind the toe of the figure at a time after the dot appeared in the 'A'. He also drew attention to major damage to the 'O' and 'F' of 'OF', probably from a very late, if not the last overprinting run.

Row 3. R3/1—A dot developed into a pear-shaped blob in the '2' of '1942', and by the time the fourth state showed on R1/2, it was joined to the toe of the '2' (*Fig 33*). It eventually vanished. However, the lower left serif of the first 'L' was slightly damaged as the dot grew, and it remained (*Fig 34*). Together they form S1. No 2. In the mid to late period a very large dot appeared in the 'U'—S1 (*Fig 35*). It did alter in shape and sometimes expanded to touch the left vertical of the 'U'. The large dot was joined by a very large blob in the 'C'—S2 (*Fig 36*). This state, occurring on the 3d., was illustrated in colour on the front cover of *GSM* (November 1992). R3/3—It remained unpolluted for some time before a small mark developed in the top loop of the 'S'—S1 (*Fig 37*) to be joined by a larger dot in the '4' of '1492'—S2 (*Fig 38*). The mark disappeared leaving the dot—S3. R3/5—A large mark appeared in the top loop of the 'S' at a late stage, coincidentally with the fourth and fifth states on R1/1—S1 (*Fig 39*). A minute spot also showed in the apex of the first 'A'. R3/6—A dot in the '4' of '1492' came into being with the first state on R3/5 giving S1 (*Fig 40*).

Row 4. R4/2—A large dot appeared in the '2' of '1942' with the third state on R1/4—S1 (*Fig 41*). R4/6—A dot polluted the apex of the first 'A' before the realignment of the overprint in the tenth row and lasted for a considerable time—S1 (*Fig 42*). It disappeared before the neck of the '9' of '1492' began to show weakness—S2 (*Fig 43*).

Row 5. R5/5—In the late period two dots appeared in the throat of the '2' of '1942' (*Fig 44*), together with a tiny dot in the top loop of the 'S'—S1. The two dots

A A F L L N 4 L L L L A
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

L 9 2 2 2 4 4 9 N F O L
11 12 13 14 15 16 17a 17b 18 19 20

N A L A L S F A L 9 4 A 9
21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30

S U 2 L U C S 4 S 4 2 A
31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42

9 2 2 S C M 9 4 L O O 4
43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54

B S C A 4 C S S 9 D D 2
55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66

S 4 A A U 2 M 9 2 2 S N
67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78

L O C C O 4 4 A A M 9 N
79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90

9 0 4 A 9 2 2 4 2
91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99

and the dot grew—S2 (Figs 45 and 46). R5/6—It stayed free from pollution until the second stage had developed on R5/5, then a minute speck appeared in the 'C' (Fig 47) and a large dot affected the 'M' (Fig 48)—S1.

Row 6. R6/1—Very early, before the overprint realignment, the '9' of '1942' was partially filled in—S1 (Fig 49). It did not last. One sheet, from the late period, has been seen with a very clear break in the lower loop of the 'S', further confirmation is required. R6/2—Very early, again before the realignments, the '4' of '1492' showed two dots which grew considerably—S1 (Fig 50). R6/4—The left upper serif of the second 'L' had a tail, when the third state occurred on R1/2, it was sometimes accompanied by a mark under the '2' positioned above it—S1 (Fig 51). R6/5—Late in the period a minute streak, rather than a dot, affected the 'O' of 'OF'—S1. (Fig 52). It grew in size—S2 (Fig 53) and expanded further, to be joined by a tiny dot in the '4' of '1492'—S3 (Fig 54). R6/6—A temporary lozenge-shaped mark affected the lower half of the 'B' in the early period—S1 (Fig 55).

Row 7. R7/1—Late in the period the lower loop of the 'S' suffered a break—S1 (Fig 56). On some panes the top loop showed a weak spot. R7/3—Some time before the damaged 'S' on R7/1 a small mark appeared in the 'C'—S1 (Fig 57). It did not last long. R7/4—In the same period as state one on R7/3 the apex of the first 'A' was partially filled in with light pollution and a dot formed in the '4' of '1492'—S1 (Figs 58 and 59).

Row 8. R8/1—The lower right curve of the 'C' was damaged at a very early time, if not from the start—S1. (Fig 60). Towards the end of the issue the upper loop of the 'S' developed a massive break—S2 (Fig 61). R8/2—A bullet-shaped mark appeared in the lower loop of the 'S' before the appearance of the second state on R8/1—S1 (Fig 62). It continued with the second state on R8/1. R8/5—On early panes a dot showed in the '9' of '1942'—S1. (Fig 63). It did not last long. Some time after that, and the corrections to the overprint in the tenth row, two very small dots showed in the 'D'—S2 (Fig 64), eventually developing into a shape rather like wriggling tadpole—S3 (Fig 65). It remained. R8/6—The malformed figure '2' in '1942' was illustrated in Part 26. It is constant throughout and on some panes the shaved frontal area of the figure is so thin that an incipient break appeared. Saunders reported that at an unknown time the '2' of '1492' acquired a large dot in its mouth. During the middle period a large blob formed in the '2' of '1942'—S1 (Fig 66). It had vanished by the time the breaks in the 'S' had developed on R7/1 and 8/1, but was in existence with state one on R8/2.

Row 9. R9/1—It seems to have escaped pollution, but a large break developed in the top loop of the 'S' late in the period—S1 (Fig 67). R9/3—'1492' was positioned fractionally to the left of normal. A dot in the '4' of '1492' has been noted on a single pane (Fig 68). Minute dots appeared in the apexes of the first and second 'A'—

S1 (Fig 69 and 70). They had vanished by the time the broken 'S' appeared on R9/1. R9/4—'LANDFALL' was positioned marginally to the right. Just before the break appeared in the 'S' on R9/1 a dot affected the first 'U'—S1 (Fig 71). R9/5—A fair sized dot filled the neck of the '2' of '1492' (Fig 72) when R9/4 was showing a large dot and the break in the 'S' on R9/1 had yet to appear—S1. A tiny dash also existed in the 'M' (Fig 73). Both had vanished by the time the break in the 'S' was visible. R9/6—Pollution affected the '9' and '2' of '1492' before the break in the 'S' on R9/1—S1 (Figs 74 and 75). The latter disappeared as the break developed—S2, only to reappear—S3, with the break at its maximum.

Row 10. R10/1—For a very brief period, before the realignment in this row, a dot appeared in the '2' of '1942'—S1. (Fig 76). After the correction the 'S' was similarly affected—S2 (Fig 77). It grew in size, to be joined by a bigger mark in the 'N'—S3 (Fig 78). The dot in the 'S' then vanished but the foot of the third 'L' attracted some pollution—S4 (Fig 79). In turn this disappeared leaving the polluted 'N'—S5. R10/2—At the start 'COLUMBUS' was positioned well to the right. Early on, the 'O' of 'OF' picked up a large blob—S1. (Fig 80). The overprint realignment then occurred with 'COLUMBUS' moved to the left. However, '1942' went to the right and stayed out of the normal position. The blob in the 'O' remained for a while and with the realignment gives—S2. It then disappeared—S3. A tiny dot appeared in the 'C'—S4. (Fig 81) and grew (Fig 82). It was joined by a mark in the 'O' of 'COLUMBUS'—S5 (Fig 83). The pollution in the 'C' diminished and eventually vanished leaving only the pollution in the 'O'—S6. R10/3—It started with 'COLUMBUS' to the right, realignment took place, but '1492' was moved a little to the left. After this a tiny dot affected the '4' of '1492'—S1. (Fig 84) to be joined later by pollution in the '4' of '1942'—S2. (Fig 85). At this time both R10/1-2 were clean. Much then happened. The first 'A' had a dot which grew considerably (Fig 86), the second 'A' was damaged (Fig 87), a dot appeared in the 'M' (Fig 88) as well as a semi-circular mark under the '9' of '1942' (Fig 89). They combine to give S3. As yet it has not been possible to establish the order they all appeared. However, they can be found with the third and fourth states on R10/1 and the fifth state on R10/2. The pollution eventually cleared leaving just the broken 'A'—S4. At a late point this was joined by a dot in the 'N'—S5. (Fig 90) at a time when the fifth state affected R10/1 and the sixth on R10/2. R10/4—To start with 'COLUMBUS' was positioned to the right and before it was realigned a dot appeared briefly in the '9' of '1492'—S1 (Fig 91). After the correction to the overprint remains of the dot persisted—S2. It eventually vanished before the arrival of a very large blob in the 'O' of 'OF'—S3. (Fig 92), which, although altering slightly in shape, seems to have remained until the end. This is most surprising as it is most noticeable and in a row which had caused the printers

some trouble. A $\frac{1}{2}$ d. value showing the pollution was illustrated on the cover of *GSM* (November 1992). The 'Dot in the Oval' also shows clearly as a bonus. R10/5—The early misalignment of 'COLUMBUS' to the right was corrected. Some time later a dot appeared in the '4' of '1492' (Fig 93) and the second 'A' was damaged (Fig 94) giving S1 at a time when the third state existed on R10/1 and the fifth on R10/2. The dot vanished leaving the broken 'A'—S2. R10/6—Before the realignments a dot, which did grow in size, showed in the '9' of '1492'—S1 (Fig 95). Shortly after the corrective action a tiny dot appeared in the '2' of '1492'—S2 (Fig 96). Later on, but before the broken 'A' on R10/5, the neck of the '2' became more polluted (Fig 97) and the '4' and '2' of '1942' both had dots—S3 (Figs 98 and 99). They did not last. Saunders reported other signs of temporary pollution—a spur between the upper and lower loops of the '9' of '1492' in the early period and a tiny dot in the '2' and a large blob between the arms of the 'F' of 'OF' in the very late period.

Double Overprints.

Moreton Black reported in the *American Philatelist* in February 1975 that he was 'not at all impressed by the double overprint on the $\frac{1}{2}$ d. value. It appears to be much more like a double offset caused when ink, which was wet, affected a part of one sheet as the stamps were stacked in sheets after application of the overprint. The shadow overprint, found on stamps 59 and 60 (R10/5-6) of the 1s. value in late printing, was undoubtedly caused by a slight shifting of the paper during the overprinting and is not a proper double overprint. Personally, I am convinced that no sheet went through the press twice.' A double overprint on the $\frac{1}{2}$ d. is listed in the *Commonwealth Catalogue*, where it is also noted that the same condition affects the 3d., but this 'is only known on stamps perforated SPECIMEN'.

Conclusion

There can be no doubt that other signs of pollution remain to be added to those described in this article. Nevertheless, the listing should give a good basis for anyone seeking some inexpensive enjoyment. Good hunting...

Part 28 (GSM May 1993) will describe varieties to be found on the 4d., 6d., 8d., 2s. and 3s. values of the Bahamas 1942 Landfall Issue. Part 29 (GSM August 1993) will consider plate varieties on the Newfoundland 1937 Long Coronation set.

The late Frank Saunders founded the King George VI Collectors' Society in 1960. There are now 300 members in 20 countries. Further details can be obtained from: The General Secretary, KGVICS, 24 Stourwood Road, Bournemouth, BH6 3QP.