

KING GEORGE VI VARIETIES

Part 36—Kenya, Uganda and Tanganyika

Continued from February GSM

Richard Lockyer OBE concludes his study of the 1938–54 definitives

It is a joy to be able to write that the KUT collection of King George VI varieties formed by the late Frank Saunders, and referred to in Parts 33 and 35, is still in existence. It was purchased at auction some years ago. I had the opportunity to see it recently and examined the plethora of minor plate varieties discovered by Saunders. There are far too many to include in this general series of articles touching on different countries. Those that follow have been selected because of their visual or philatelic appeal. It is good to know though that the results of such dedicated work rest in caring hands and have not been broken up piecemeal, as so often happens.

10 Cents

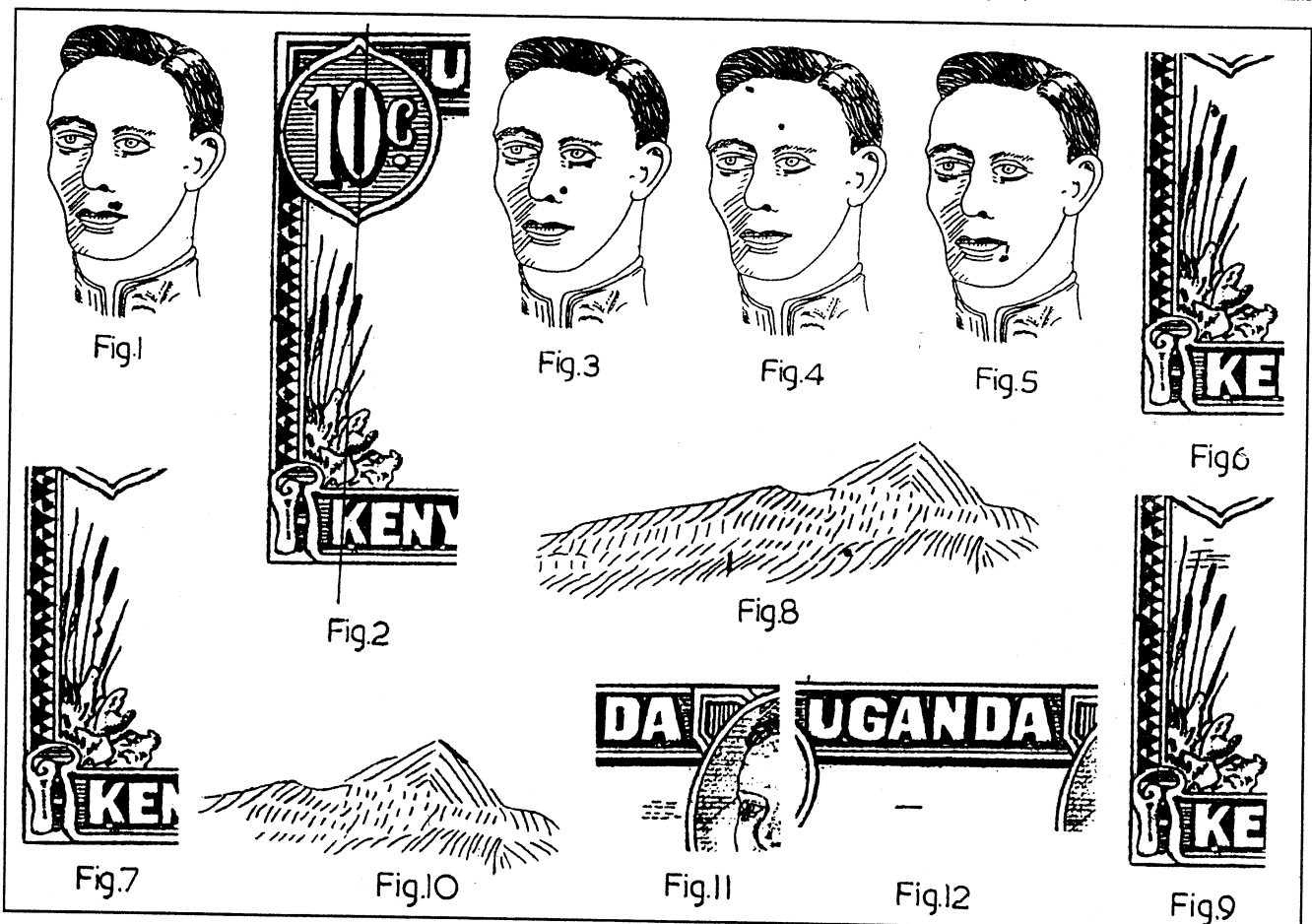
Brown and orange (SG 134). Berrington remarked that many spots and hairlines could be found in the colour of the frame plate (orange). He listed five, but could only plate one—a mole on the upper lip of the King on Row 10/6 Frame Plate 3 (Fig 1). I can add some positional information. On the same FP, with Centre Plate 5B, an almost vertical scratch starts on the right side of R7/9, cuts the left lower corner of R8/10 and continues through the value tablets and bulrushes of R9/10 and 10/10 (Fig 2) before entering the margin. For some of the way it is accompanied by a much weaker scratch mark tracking in parallel to the left side. A tear also shows under the eye of the King on R10/4 together with a spot on his nose (Fig 3). In addition, R7/9 has two spots on the forehead (Fig 4) while a

dribble of saliva flows from the corner of the mouth on R7/10 (Fig 5). Finally, a large insect makes an appearance on the tip of a bulrush on R10/8 (Fig 6). For good measure on FP8CP6A there is an easily seen and most attractive frame plate defect—a fat, orange caterpillar climbs up one of the bulrushes on R10/4 (Fig 7).

Black and green Centre Plate 7A (135). Slight, but distinguishable retouches exist on the June 1949 black and green release printed with FP9. They take the form of horizontal lines redrawn in the sky on R2/2, 3/4, 4/5 and 5/5 and were first reported by Bentley Kettle in *Stamp Collecting* (26 June 1953). Surprisingly, he did not comment on similar work strengthening three horizontal lines, above and to the right of the right hand tree, on R9/9. The plate flaw printing as a thick vertical mark on the mountain

above the large left hand tree on R3/6 (Fig 8) also escaped his notice, as did a nearby black dot. The vertical mark is reminiscent of the Tower Flaw on the Basutoland 1d., but is not so obvious as it appears on the mountain side, rather than the crown of a hill. A better comparison is with the Mountaineer Flaw on some printings of the Ascension 1d., 2d. and 4d. described in Part 1 of this series (*GSM* August 1986). For the record Berrington also noted retouch work in the sky on R1/2 and 4/6 and confirmed 3/4, 3/5 and 4/5. Saunders drew attention to a prominent gash touching the mountain on some sheets at R8/3. An item in *Stamp Collecting* (30 July 1949) noted that sheets from CP7A existed without the flaw. Apparently it was not repaired and became the Beacon Flaw.

Centre Plate 7B (135). The catalogued Mountain Retouch was described in Part 35. Signs of retouching at R6/9 show as three or four strengthened lines in the sky. The lines are usually hidden among the bulrushes on the left side (Fig 9). Very slight retouches to the sky occur on R4/7 and to the right side of the tip of the mountain on R8/2 (Fig 10). Saunders also noted similar



work on R1/2 and 5/6 as well as signs of damage on R6/10 and 8/7. I have not been able to identify these on sheets in my possession. The associated plate is FP9.

Centre Plate 9B (135b/136). This plate was used in both colour combinations—black and green and brown and grey. Ten or so short dashes strengthen the sky in line with the eye of the King on R10/2 (Fig 11). This drew comment from Rang in July 1952. Further along the row at 10/9 an extra line of shading shows under the first 'A' of 'UGANDA', again in line with the eye of the King (Fig 12). This is sometimes absent on the black and green stamp. In addition, on R10/4 slight doubling of the shading lines in the water can be detected on the right side. This indicates re-entry with the transfer roller rather than retouch work. A tiny retouch occurs by the tips of the bulrushes on R1/5 (Fig 13). This is mentioned because of its proximity to the position of a prominent variety called the Extra Island. This occurred on CP10A and will be described in the following paragraph.

Centre Plate 10A. Berrington listed six varieties on the brown and grey stamp. First, on R3/1 a two-line retouch under the 'DA' of 'UGANDA' opposite the eye of the King. Secondly, a retouch under the same letters, but opposite the nose on R3/2. Thirdly, a retouch to the left of the hill on R3/9. Fourthly, an Extra Island shows near the bulrushes on R1/5. Botwright had several examples of this very nice variety (Fig 14). Fifthly, a retouch in the lake under the collar of the King and finally, an Extra Bush under the large tree on R9/7, named by others as the Lion in the Shade.

Centre Plate 10B. A three-line retouch occurs on the centre of the mountain above the island on R7/4.

Frame Plate 11A. In July 1952 Rang noted in *GSM* the absence of the white dot in the bottom left scroll on R7/5 on the black and green and brown and grey stamps. It was similar to the variety occurring on the 50c. (Already described in Part 35). Although constant, he was not able to determine whether it was due to retouching or to accidental damage. Berrington also included the variety on both colour combinations. However, I have to say that on a sheet of the black and green stamp in my possession the defect looks more like an ink-smear. This could be an early state or printed before the plate was affected. Distinct doubling occurs on R4/10. The right hand outer frame is strongly duplicated in the upper right corner (Fig 15). In addition, on R5/6 the right outer frame line is doubled for almost its entire length, being particularly noticeable in the lower right corner.

15 Cents

Black and rose-red (137a). So far as is known this stamp was only printed from FP2 with CP3A and 3B. it was released in London in February 1943. However, an item in *GSM* (March 1955) reported that a Mr J G Stephenson had provided evidence from postmarked copies showing it had been released in the Colony as early as 28 July 1942 for use at an APO. At first glance the stamp appears to be the same size as the others e.g. 5c., 10c., etc. However, a vertical row is 255mm from the top to the bottom perforation, whereas the others measure 271 mm. Measurements across a sheet are 318mm and 333mm respectively. This gives unusually wide margins on sheets of the 15c. Berrington noted that some sheets from FP2CP3B had been seen with

frills in the bottom margin in both colours. It so happens that I have such a sheet. The frill stretches right across the sheet, 4mm below the 3B plate number under R10/10 and 12mm from the horizontal perforation. It is 11mm wide and the intricate design of thin black curved lines reminds me of the duty labels sealing tobacco tins many years ago! The top half is overprinted in red using the same design. Under the normal imprint, but within the frill is a set of reversed figures. The use of a mirror discloses 2915-3. An explanation for all this is eagerly sought.

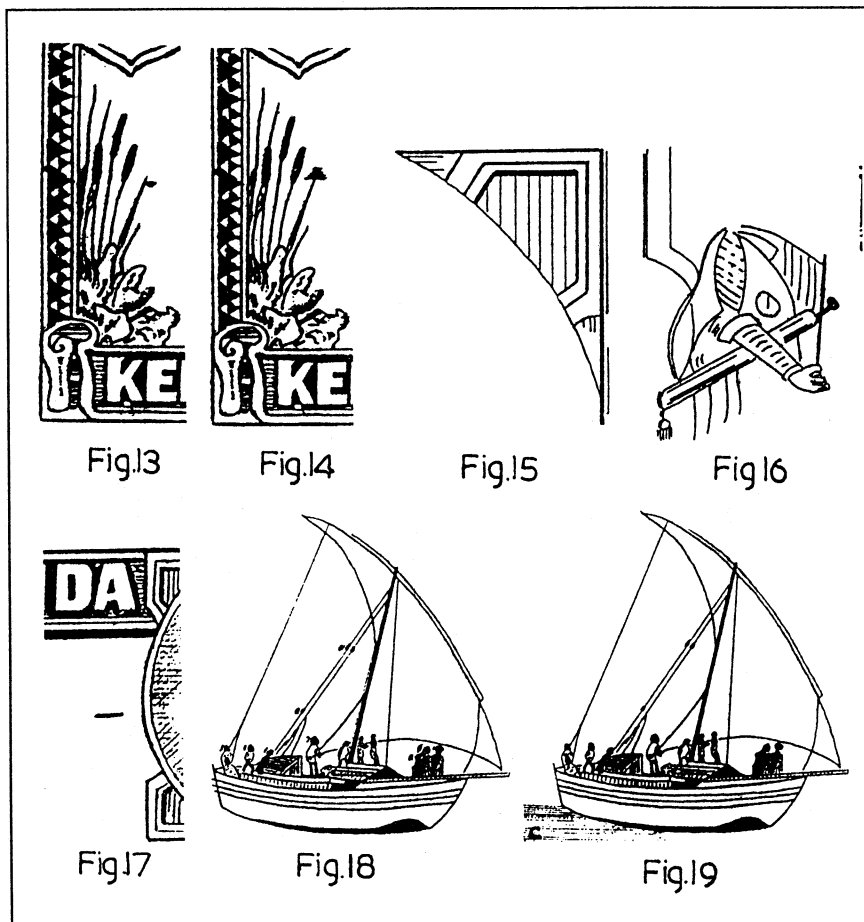
Black and green (138). The change of colour released on 1 April 1952 was printed from a new FP3A in combination with the old CP3A/3B. the lower left corner of R10/10 shows evidence of a double entry as the frame lines are much thicker than normal. However, 21 other impressions show signs of doubling, indicating some carelessness when laying down the new plate. These occur at the left of the design, affecting the left frame line and the figure of the native. The following show these characteristics: R1/8, 3/7-10, 4/5, 5/9, 6/2, 6/6-9, 7/7-10, 8/1, 8/4, 8/6 and 10/9-10. The clearest examples occur at R6/8 and 7/7 where the doubling of the cloak over the right shoulder is readily discernible against the white background (Fig 16). Only one instance of repair work occurred on CP3A. At R7/7 there is a single-line retouch below the second 'A' of 'UGANDA'. It is level with the nose of the King (Fig 17). Although it is very small it is easy to spot on mint copies. Saunders noted that CP3B received much more attention. He described the following: R8/4 a three-line retouch over the mountain, R9/1 a seven-line retouch below the second 'A' of 'UGANDA' level with the nose of the King, R9/5 a four-line retouch in line with the mouth and R10/10 a three-line retouch over and to the left of the mountain top. Kettle added a frame plate re-entry. It affected R10/10 where the bottom frame line rises under the last 'A' of 'TANGANYIKA' and also in the lower end of the 'KENYA' scroll.

25 Cents

Black and Carmine-red (140). The two most distinct varieties were described in Part 35 when considering the use of CP3A with the 5c. value. They are the doubling of the figures, rigging and stern of the dhow on R1/6 (see front cover and Fig 18) and the Crescent below the Stern on R5/1 (Fig 19). the signs of doubling on R1/4-5, 1/7, 1/10, 2/9, 2/10, 3/6 and 4/7 were also described in detail in Part 35.

30 Cents

There is very little to say about the black and dull violet-blue releases. Saunders noted and dated some attractive differences in shade. The colour change, to dull purple and brown released on 1 April 1952, (142) resulted in an entirely different situation. Suffice it to say that Berrington devoted well over two pages of his handbook to the varieties found on FP5 that had continued in use. 44 impressions were affected with up to three states identified. A W Morley and Bentley Kettle contributed an article in *Stamp Collecting* (21 August 1953) listing the many differences between the 1952 and 1953 releases and provided some first-class illustrations. Readers can do no better than refer to these sources. The best



examples showing repair work are to be found on R1/9 (Fig 20), 2/4 (Fig 21), 3/7 (Fig 22), 4/9 (Fig 23), 5/7 (Fig 24), 6/3 (Fig 25), 6/10 (Fig 26), 7/8 (Fig 27), 8/1 (Fig 28), 9/5 (Fig 29), 9/5 (Fig 30), 9/6 (Fig 31), 10/1 (Fig 32) and 10/7 (Fig 33). Morley and Kettle wondered whether all this plate renovation did not indicate that De La Rue had a trainee educational system offering young engravers opportunities to play with plates!

In Part 12 (*GSM* May 1989) the hand crasure of a flaw on the 1946 1½a. Kathiri at R10/6 was mentioned. Any reader who has R10/1 of the KUT 30c. (SG 142) may have an example of this unorthodox procedure. Berrington stated that on certain sheets issued in the United Kingdom an attempt was made to make the curved spot on the hillside, and then the first retouch, less evident by scratching out the marks on the stamp itself. In December 1994 I acquired a corner block of four and can confirm that the surface of R10/1 is disturbed in the area illustrated in Fig 34. Such examples of the 'human touch in philately' are there to find in dealers' stocks, providing one knows what to seek!

40 Cents

Black and blue (143). The life of the 40c. and therefore the plates, was short. Signs of damage on the left side of the left-hand value tablet occur on R6/7 from FP1BCP8A (Fig 35). Fair possessed a used copy dated 30 May 1952. He suggested that the damage therefore occurred very early in the life of the new frame plate, if not when it was out to press. At the time Fair could not position or plate his example. Fortunately, a sheet from 1B came my way in 1988 and the matter was resolved. Collectors with strong magnifying-glasses will detect two small frame plate flaws in the second 'N' of 'TANGANYIKA'. There are also three very small head plate flaws—one in the right outer margin and two in the '0' of '40' in the right value tablet. Fair also noted a flaw over the head of the left crane on R3/4 from FPIA giving the appearance of an extra jewel in the bird's crown, making 17 instead of 16. It was partially corrected in a later printing. Finally, the imprint of FP1BCP8A has an interesting feature because the letters 'TH' from 'THOMAS' show behind the 'DON' of 'LONDON' (Fig 36). Berrington also spotted a faint 'T' under 'LIMITED' on FPIA. Both these faults may have been caused by a false touch-down of the transfer roller.

50 Cents

The two major varieties on the 50c.—Rope not joined to Sail and Dot Removed—were described in Part 35. Retouches and other repair work already described on the 5c. and 25c. can be found on the 50c. when the same centre plates were used, e.g. the rat on the bowsprit on R4/10 CP1A or the doubled figures and rigging on R1/5 CP3A. Three frame plate varieties are worth noting. Rang described them in *GSM* (February 1952). They occur on sheets from FP2 used for the 1949 release (144e) and all exist in the first, or normal state. R8/4 then shows a very strong retouch to the short shading lines below the value tablet (Fig 37). On R8/7 the thin horizontal black shading line below 'GA' weakens in the second state and then shows strengthening with some added dots as the third state (Fig 38). R9/4 develops black marks below the

'N'. This leads to the third state when the dots in the sky and the two horizontal lines show evidence of repair work.

It was noted in the *South African Philatelist* (No 208) published in July 1942 that the Robertson Stamp Company had reported a well-marked variety on the 50c. stamp. It was located somewhere in the first vertical row, the rope being missing where it passed over the sail to the top of the mast (Fig 39). In 1988 a collector in Illova, South Africa, owned an example in a vertical marginal mint pair. Are there any more? Another undated report, probably from *Stamp Collecting*, described a new, though not necessarily constant variety found by Mr C J Metcalf. It was a Broken Sail Rope, not to be confused with the major catalogued variety. The position was R7/1. Botwright had two examples with the break in different positions, this leads to the probable conclusion that faulty inking was the cause.

One Shilling

The Mountain Retouch was described in Part 35 and, at the risk of oversimplifying matters, the other retouches mentioned when considering the 10c. can be found on the 1s. printed from the same centre

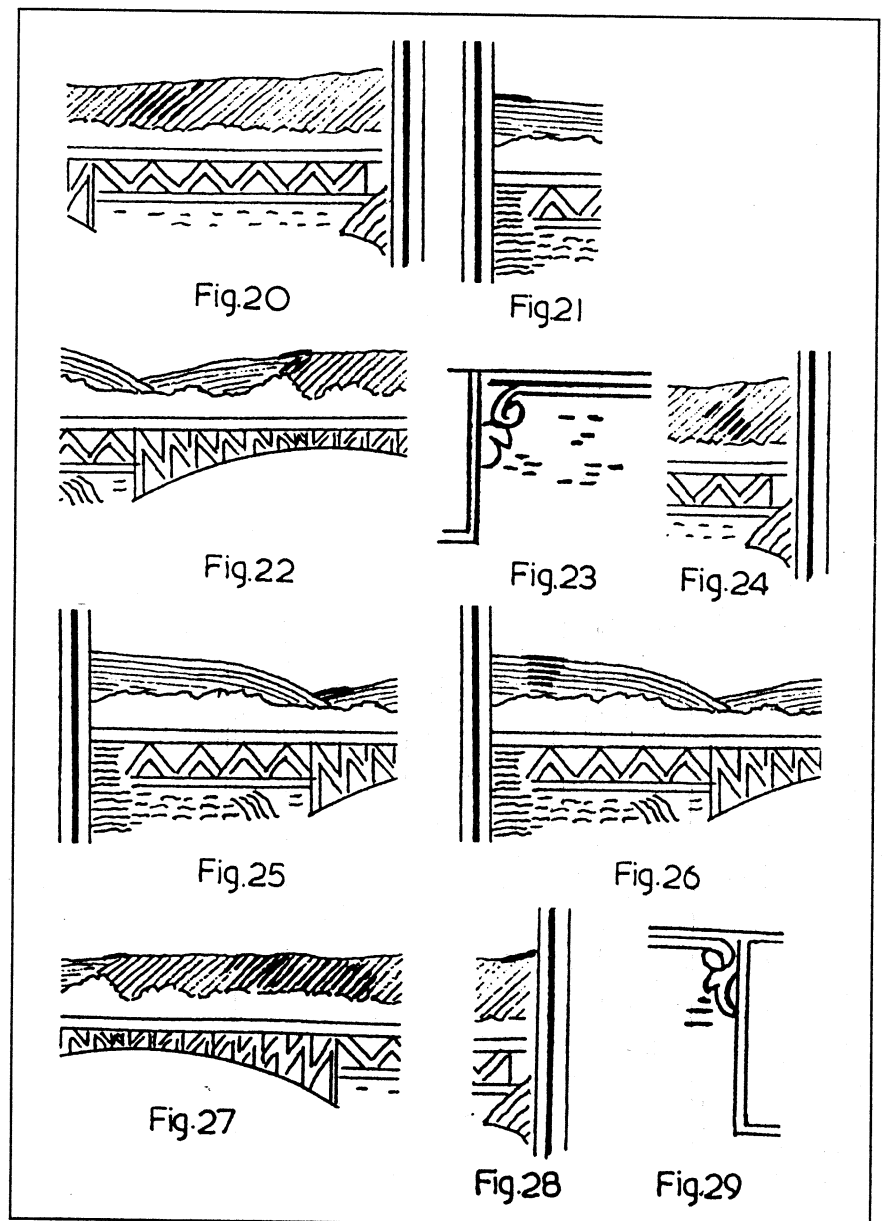
plates. The only frame plate variety of note is a very strong re-entry to the top right corner of R9/9 CP1FP7A/8A. The vertical lines in the two right-hand brackets holding the medallion with the King's head are clearly doubled as well as the nearby frame of the medallion (Fig 40).

The 1952 Royal Visit

New frame plates, numbered 1, came into use for the 10c. and 1s. commemorative stamps (163/4). This is particularly noticeable on the 10c. The doubling at the top left inner frame above the value tablet, that had been a feature of the master frame die for all the Lake Naivasha and Dhow stamps since 1935, was eliminated. However, it persisted on the 1s. CP9A/9B were used for both values and the small retouches, previously mentioned, can be found on R10/2 and 9 on sheets from CP9B, plus the slight doubling on R10/4. CP10A/B were also used to print some sheets of the 10c.

Inverted Watermark

A report in *GSM* (August 1981) reported the discovery of an inverted watermark on a copy of the 1s. (SG 145a). Others must be



waiting to be discovered and, judging by the catalogue prices for KGVI watermark varieties, are worth finding. (Another example of this stamp, suffering from one or two short perfs, sold at Christie's Robson Lowe in September last year for £575 including premium, the auctioneers stating in their description that it was one of only four recorded. Comparison of the illustration in the sale catalogue with that in GSM in 1981 clearly shows that the two stamps came from different sheets since the registration of the frame and vignette plates is clearly not the same. Thus there must have been at least two sheets, or 120 examples, of the stamp—only 116 to go! Ed.)

Scratched Letters in the Margin

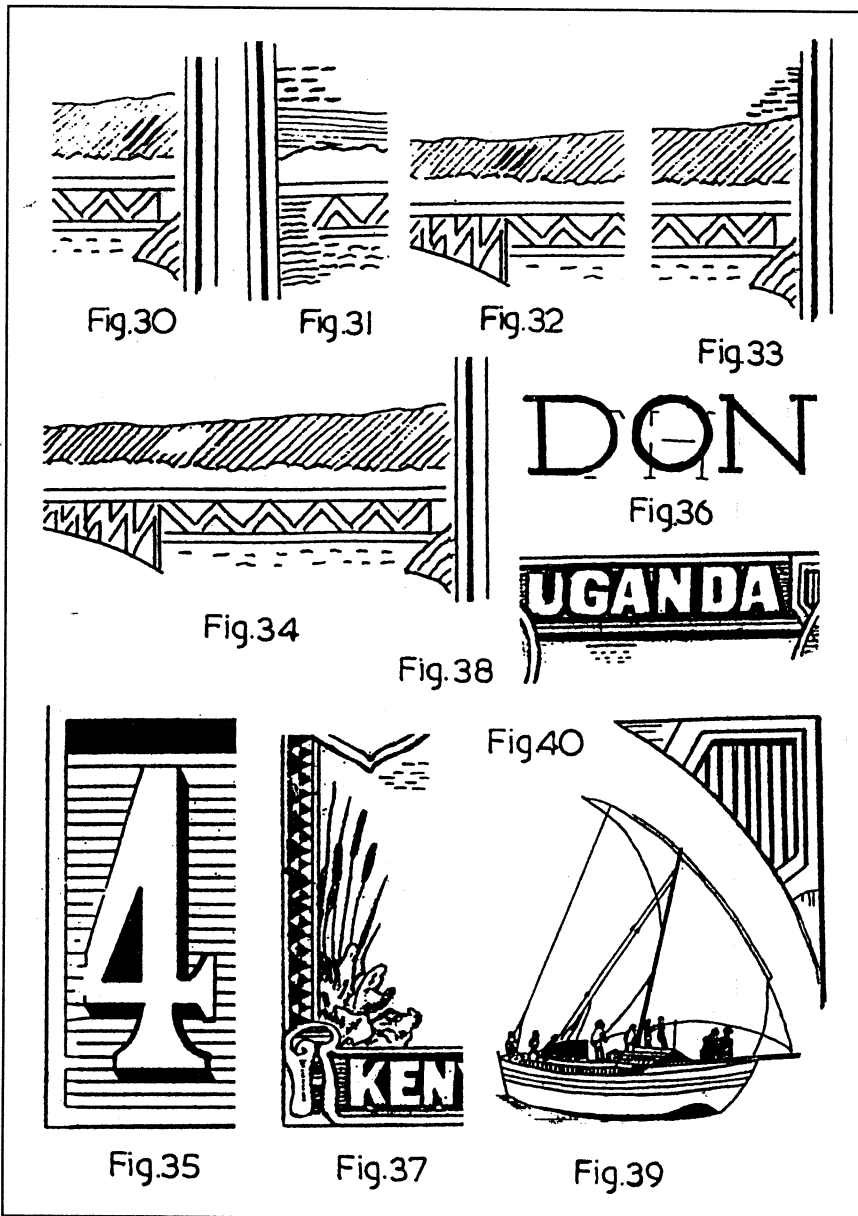
Mention was made in earlier articles in this series of letters and marks scratched on the plates. They then appeared in the margins of sheets. Many examples occur on the 1946 Victory Issue for the Crown Colonies. Similar letters and marks appear in the margins of contemporary issues of KUT. It is a great pity that, all too often, selvedge is removed to make it easier to store stamps in stock books.

This leads to the loss of these marks. Fortunately, it is not always so. Their existence offers a happy hunting ground

for those seeking the unusual and will serve as a reminder of a practice by the staff of De La Rue which was strongly discouraged by the Crown Agents' Inspectors. The following have been reported: 5c.—'F' by R1/1, 'B' over R1/2, 'B' over R1/9 and 'D' over R1/10. 10c.—'D' over R1/5, 'D' over R1/6, 'IPN' over R1/10 and 'BB' in the top right corner. 30c.—'IB' over R1/6, 'PN' over R1/6 and 'PK' over R1/10 and in the right margin 40c.—'PI' over R1/10. 1s.—'B' and crossed double 'O' in the top right corner.

Some of the varieties on the South African War Effort issues will be described in Part 36 (GSM August 1995).

Collectors interested in joining the King George VI Collectors' Society should write to the General Secretary, 98 Albany, Manor Rd, Bournemouth, BH1 3EW.



Following the publication of Part 35 of this series we received the following item from RJ Woolfall who originally discovered the 1s. 'damaged mountain' in Nairobi in 1948!

Kenya, Uganda and Tanganyika

Some further notes on the 'Mountain Retouch'

Richard Lockyer (GSM February 1995) mentions a used 1s. stamp which shows the damage below the mountain peak on r6/7. This particular stamp, which was the one shown to Mr G P Willoughby, is in my collection and was originally found by me as a schoolboy in Nairobi.

When the damaged 3s. was reported, there was the suggestion that the flaw might also show on the 10c. and 1s. stamps. It was soon established that mint stamps on sale locally were free of the flaw, but during the 1948 Christmas holidays there was considerable enthusiasm among schoolboy collectors in Nairobi, who persuaded all possible sources (shops, offices, friends, etc) to collect and hand over for examination their used 10c., 1s. and 3s. stamps, although the 3s. was rarely found on ordinary mail. It was during this activity that I found the one flawed 1s. stamp; unfortunately badly separated from its envelope so that there is some damage to the perforations on the top right edge, and what was left of the postmark was insufficient for it to be identified. To the best of my knowledge, no other flawed 1s. stamp was found.

The flaw (Fig 1) consists of a large mark, made up of three horizontal lines, on the left shoulder of the peak, with two large dots below it, and another mark to the left which is made by two short horizontal lines. The position of the flaws is well covered by the subsequent retouch (Fig 2), but the latter seems to have been unnecessarily extensive.



Fig 1



Fig 2

Our opinion at the time was that damage must have occurred towards the end of a 1s. print run, with only a few sheets being affected, and the damaged plate then being used for a full 3s. run. The damage was then only noticed when a new delivery of 3s. stamps was released, by which time the few damaged 1s. sheets had been sold.