

Under the Magnifying Glass: No.14 More KGV Excitement by Malcolm Barton and Kim Stuckey (with guest contributor Stefan Heijtz)

It was fortuitous that the last UtMG discussed the various printings of the King George V shilling Crown CA, as our first new discovery is on the War Stamp 1/-.



Stefan's catalogue shows an entry for SH37bv4, the pale yellow-brown with the WAR STAMP overprint partially omitted, in pair with normal.

The pair shown below is being offered in the Bryant Rose sale at Grosvenor in September 2015 (ex North and Strakosch sales).

This appears to be worthy of a new listing, as the stamps are from the 1920 pale to deep brown printing, with the thick greyish paper on the reverse that does not show the watermark very well. The partial overprint comes from a paper fold, giving a spectacular appearance to the pair. It could be that the pair is stamps 1 and 2 of the sheet, as the "R" on stamp 2 shows the characteristics of the thick "R" of the second setting. So this is a potential new variety for the next edition of the catalogue.

Figure 1 – The pair of KGV 1/- War Stamp with overprint partially omitted



Just when you think we have had a surfeit of new War Stamp varieties, here comes an even more spectacular one! The Philangles sale of June 22nd offered several lots from a Cheshire based Falklands collection. In it was a new example of the most well-known overprint error, the "- for P". This has previously only been recorded on the 4th overprinting of the 1d vermilion, with only a few copies known (one on cover). Yet here is a block of four of the 1/2d value with the variety on the bottom right stamp!

Our first look at the block drew the conclusion that this looked a genuine example – the obvious signs were there – it was on stamp 60, the broken "M" that accompanies the "-" was present and the shape of the "-" looks very similar to that on the 1d variety.

As Stefan Heijtz writes: "The variety that immediately precedes the "- for "P" variety in position 60, is the broken "M" and normal "P", and this variety is not known on the 1d. value. However, it exists on both the 1/2d. and 1/- values.

Therefore it makes more sense that the "P" broke into the "-" during the overprinting of the 1/2d rather than breaking exactly between the overprintings of the 1/2d and the 1d. values.

Figure 2 – The 1/2d "- for P" Variety Block

The order of the overprinting therefore must have been as follows:

- 1) 1/- (some with broken M and normal P)
- 2) ½d (all with broken M and normal P until the end of the overprinting when the "P" broke into "-", possibly the last sheet only)
- 3) 1d. (the first sheets, around 8, with "-" for "P" until discovered and replaced with the wide P)".

This ties in with John Bunt's book, which states "Further damage was done to the type during the overprinting of the later sheets of the ½d value...the first damage was to the letter "M".. Further damage occurred when the "P" was broken leaving only the top portion looking like a "-". This occurred on a few sheets of 1d stamps, possibly as few as 8. Following this the damaged "P" was replaced".

This piece by Bunt works well with Stefan's hypothesis, especially considering Bunt was unaware of this ½d variety. These KGV "ancients" of Falkland Islands philately continue to throw up surprises and new additions to keep our interest in dealer's stockbooks high!

Acknowledgements: Grosvenor Auctions (www.grosvenorauctions.com) for the image of the KGV War Stamp 1/- variety

Philangles (www.philangles.co.uk) for the image of the KGV War Stamp ½d variety.