

## Under the Magnifying Glass: No.17 Back to Modern Varieties by Malcolm Barton and Kim Stuckey

It is quite a while since our column last looked at modern varieties, so it is high time we gave some challenges for “Modern Man” to get out their sheets and blocks to look for varieties; after all our “Ancient Philatelists” have enough forged South Georgia overprints and Victorian postmarks to look for to keep them busy for long evenings!

To begin, we should give some help illustrating a variety already described in the Heijtz “short section” of later Falkland Islands issues. If you look closely at the 1998 issues on page 77, you see listed SH736v1 17p flaw on second “A”. We think the position stated in the catalogue (Pos. 32) should be revised as it is actually Pos.17 on Plate 1C (the issue was printed in panes of 25, and the variety is on Row 4/2 of Plate 1C).



**Figure 1 – The Centenary of Falkland Islands Fire Service “A” Flaw**

We have had some interesting correspondence from member Stuart Kerstin, who has been examining 1960’s and 1970’s issues for varieties. Stuart has identified a broken first “N” of “CENTENARY” on R10/6 (Position 60) of the ITU 1d Centenary – a useful position as it will be found in the lower right stamp (including the sheet number blocks). Stuart found this on sheet number 469. We have it also on sheet 188, so it implies it could be a constant variety. Can members verify this on both sheet numbered or non-sheet numbered stamps? It seems only to be on the 1d value, not on the 2/-. The variety is illustrated in Figure 2 below.



**Figure 2 – Broken 1<sup>st</sup> “N” of “CENTENARY” ITU 1d R10/6 - Position 60**

Also in 1965, we had the International Co-operation Year issue and Stuart reports a variety at R6/1 (Position 26) on the 1d sheet, a red dot over the “F” of “FALKLAND”.



**Figure 3 – ICY 1d R6/1 - Position 26 – red dot over F of FALKLAND**

We have also seen this on our ICY 1d sheet and would ask members to verify if they have the same on their sheets in this position.

On the Flowers issue 1/2d Stuart has noted a pink flaw on the crown, which nicely adds to the Flowers Crown varieties. It is on R5/5 (Position 53) of the sheet and appears to be constant.



**Figure 4 – White dot in first “L” of “FALKLAND” on the FIGAS 2d – R5/5 - Position 55 Plate 1A**

Moving forward to 1969, Stuart also notes a white dot in the first “L” of “FALKLAND” on the 2d FIGAS Plate 1A, R11/5 (Position 55). We have also noted this on two blocks, so this may well be constant. The variety is illustrated in Figure 4 below.



**Figure 5 – White dot in first “L” of “FALKLAND” on the FIGAS 2d – R11/5 - Position 55 Plate 1A**

Our final variety from Stuart is a nice variety on the Bishop Stirling 6d value, plate 1A, R5/2 (Position 22) in the pane of 30 – remember this was the first Falklands issue in which we can find gutter pairs between the panes. We also have a block with this well named “Johnny Rook on Roof” variety, so we would welcome any reports to confirm if this flaw is constant or not during the printing.



**Figure 6 – “Johnny Rook on Roof” on the FIGAS 6d – R5/2 - Position 22 Plate 1A**

Finally, we return to an old favourite of Under the Magnifying Glass. In UtMG 7 we reported on the discovery of the “Cloud Flaw” on the 1933 Centenary 1½d.

Following some additional correspondence with Stanley Gibbons catalogue editor Hugh Jeffries, this discovery has now made its way into the Stanley Gibbons Falklands catalogue as SG129a, catalogued at £1200 mint!



**Figure 7 – A New Cloud Flaw Piece**

In our original article we speculated that this flaw may be on the second printing; this was based on some correspondence from the late Ronnie Spafford where he indicated that it was on sheets marked “2<sup>nd</sup> Printing”. However, dealer Mark Harvey provided a new South Atlantic list that included the piece illustrated here – a Fox Bay cancel dated JA 2 33, the first day of issue of the set. The 1½d shows the Cloud Flaw.

Assuming that there was no backdating of the Fox Bay cancel later on (and there is no evidence of this known from Stefan Heijtz records), it must be assumed that the flaw was present on the first printing of the Centenary 1½d. It remains to be seen how long the flaw (was it a piece of lint or paper on the plate?) lasted before it was corrected. However we are now approaching 20 known copies since our article originally appeared, including two imprint blocks recently sold by a South African dealer.

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Mark Harvey for his scan of the “Cloud Flaw” piece.