

Under the Magnifying Glass: No.20 Five Years of Varieties by Malcolm Barton and Kim Stuckey

We started this series as an occasional foray into “the varieties of post WWII issues”. Little did we know, thanks to the diligence of our correspondents, that we would be able to keep the articles coming as a complete series for five years. We were also surprised to find that we could extend the research into pre WWII issues, where you may have thought any variety waiting to be discovered had already been found.



In a small piece of self-indulgence the “greatest hit” of the past 5 years of UtMG has been selected here.

This has been the Gibbons listing of the 1933 1½d Centenary “cloud flaw” (Figure 1). This was originally spotted by Nigel Kaye, who had an imprint pair on a Karl Lellman late use cover. This enabled us to position the flaw and locate other examples.

It is excellent that this has made Gibbons catalogue status, however, it does beg the question as to the disparity of the Gibbons catalogue value of this flaw versus the Centenary 1d “thick serif”.

Figure 1 – The Centenary 1½d “cloud flaw”



Now, returning to new varieties, Stefan Hejtz has forwarded on this query from Tim Grant.

The QV 2/6d has already listed in Hejtz a plate scratch at position 10 SH14v1. This is at the right angle of the outer “shield” towards the bottom of the “F”. It is adjoining to the other Hejtz listed variety the “cracked plate and re-entry” at position 9, SH14v2. These are tough varieties to find, especially in a positional marginal pair or block of four.

But in this picture here we have a plate scratch higher on the “F”, starting in the margin and continuing through the vertical bar of the “F”. This is from a single on a registered cover to Hungary.

Have any of our other members seen this variety and from this can we determine if it is constant as a plate scratch? Any assistance on this, especially positioning the variety, would be most welcome.

Figure 2 – QV 2/6d Plate Scratch

When we look at modern varieties, we are extremely grateful to Ray Rabbetts, who has provided both inspiration and reference images from his work on the topic, shown at Faringdon and elsewhere.

Here is a variety that we have not mentioned before in Under the Magnifying Glass, but has been shown in his Faringdon presentations by Ray. In the 1972 QEII Silver Wedding issue 1p, there is a damaged “W” (perhaps as homage to the War Stamp issue!) and “e”, this occurs at Row 5/3 (Pos. 23) on the Plate 1B sheets. It is visible and worth looking for as Silver Wedding sheets are generally plentiful – but make sure you have a 1B sheet.



Figure 3 – 1972 Silver Wedding 1p Damaged “We” Variety



Figure 4 – 1974 Battle of River Plate “Break across Bridge” variety

Some of the Heijtz listed QEII varieties are very difficult to find, both mint or postally used, so keep your eyes peeled for ebay bargains.

In our searching over the past five years, I think one of the most difficult to find is the 1974 Battle of the River Plate “break across bridge” position 6, SH233v2. We have probably seen more copies of the double/triple prints SH233v1 that we covered in UtMG No. 5. These are also catalogued far higher than this elusive “broken bridge” variety. We would welcome any thoughts on the scarcity of other modern varieties from our “Modern Men” variety collectors.

Thanks to:
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Stefan Falkland Heijtz

Ray Rabbetts
Grosvenor Philatelic Auctions

References:
Specialised Stamp Catalogue of the Falkland Islands and Dependencies 6th Edition by Stefan Falkland Heijtz