

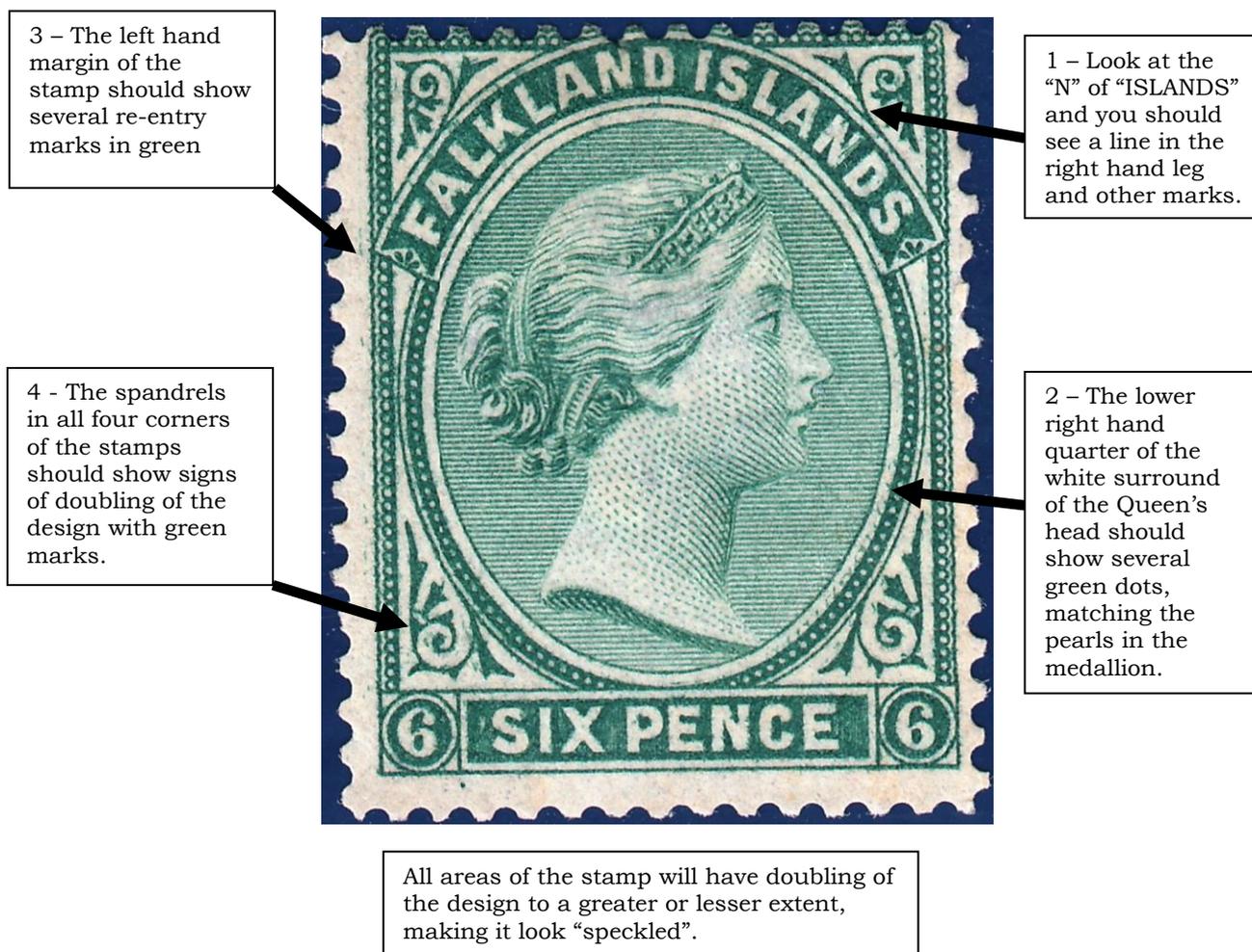
Under the Magnifying Glass: No.29 The QV 6d Blue-green re-entry by Malcolm Barton and Kim Stuckey

Probably one of the most difficult items to illustrate in both Grant and Heijtz is the re-entry on the 1878 6d blue-green, which is the first catalogue listed Falkland Islands stamp variety.

To explain the term “re-entry”, a printing plate of 60 stamps was produced by a single hard metal “transfer roller” with the stamp impression etched on it, being rolled sixty times into a softer metal plate to produce an impression of the design. A re-entry is when the impression on the plate is not perfect and the transfer roller is used again to produce a more satisfactory impression. Grant perhaps confusingly uses the less well known term “fresh entry” for the 6d re-entry. This indicates that it was a complete new impression produced immediately as the stamps in column 7 of the plate were initially placed too far to the right. Once the printer was happy with all the transfers, the printing plate of sixty impressions was hardened and used to produce the stamps.

As stated above, the re-entry affects column 7 of the sheet ie Rn/7 (where n is from 1-6) or Positions 7, 17, 27, 37, 47 and 57. Grant states “No. 27 is the best”, but positions 17 and 37 show good characteristics as well. The re-entries at positions 7, 47 and 57 are quite faint and difficult to identify on a single stamp, so if you have a very good single example it is most likely to be position 27.

To assist you with what to look for, we show a large illustration of the re-entered stamp and four characteristics of the re-entry. The stamp generally looks speckled or ink splattered from the re-entry.



Stefan also lists the re-entry on the 6d orange-yellow and 6d yellow printings (SH10av1 and SH10bv1) for all the column 7 stamps, but probably due to the inking of these printings they are more difficult to see and we are not certain as you go away from Position 27 the variety could be seen at all. It would be interesting to see if any Study Group member has a nice clear example that they could scan.

To give you a closer look, the main characteristics of the re-entry are shown at higher magnification below.

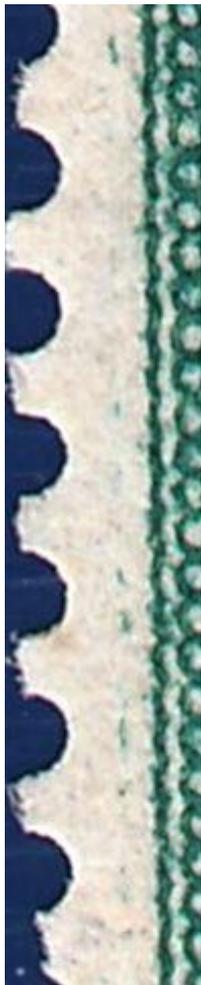
Reference: The Postage Stamps of the Falkland Islands and Dependencies by B.S.H. Grant p30
Specialised Stamp Catalogue of the Falkland Islands and Dependencies 6th Edition by Stefan Falkland Heijtz



Increased magnification of the "N" of "ISLANDS" showing a line in the right hand leg and other marks.



The lower right hand quarter of the white surround of the Queen's head should show several green dots, matching the pearls in the medallion.



The left hand margin of the stamp with several re-entry marks in green

The spandrels in all four corners of the stamps should show signs of doubling of the design with green marks.

