

## **Under the Magnifying Glass: No.4 A Hidden Gem** **by Malcolm Barton and Kim Stuckey**

It is amazing when you think of the hours spent by philatelists plating values of the KGV definitives, a popular pastime for many decades of the last century, that a visible plate flaw might escape them. And yet via the doyen of the Halfpennies John Baverstock through Stefan Heijtz we can report a new discovery on the King George V halpenny. This apparently lasted all the way through from the CA stamps of 1912 to the last printing of the CA Script in 1928. In addition it is a variety to look out for on the War Stamp overprints.

### **(Variety D1) KGV ½d – Damaged Value Circle to Right - Row (10/7) Position 57**

If you look to the 9 o'clock position of the right hand green circle of the “½”, a clear indentation is seen . It is visible to the naked eye, but a close up is also shown when scanned at 4800dpi.



**Figure 1 – KGV ½d with damaged “½” circle on right plus close up of the variety**

It does seem incredible that this variety has not previously been reported, especially as it appears to be constant throughout the printings. Please let us have your reports on your positional blocks which should contain the variety.

While looking at the stamps of KGV, the new Heijtz catalogue will list a previously researched variety on the 6d value at Position 46; “SIX PENCE “ tablet has a piece missing at the right-hand end. This is illustrated in John Bunt’s book on page 62, with the orange right hand end of the value tablet gently curving.

Here is a similar variety at Position 34 of the 6d value. The position can be plated as there are two adjacent flaws on this stamp.

### **(Variety D2) KGV 6d – Damaged Value Tablet and Damaged 6d Circle - Row (6/4) Position 34**

This position has a similar flaw to the right hand end of the “SIX PENCE” value tablet, though perhaps not as prominent as that on Position 46. However right next to the value tablet flaw, the right hand “6” circle has an indentation at the 9 o'clock position (again very similar to the ½d flaw discussed above!). The combination of the two flaws on a single stamp makes this an attractive variety to look out for.



**Figure 2 - KGV 6d with damaged value tablet and "6" circle on right plus close up of the variety**

We would welcome any scans of the Position 46 flaw from positional blocks to illustrate in a future article.