

## **Under the Magnifying Glass: No.5 Double Prints** **by Malcolm Barton and Kim Stuckey**

Perhaps this article should be renamed “Under the Microscope” as we have used this tool to capture some of the illustrations in the article.

“Double Prints” on modern issues using lithographic printing techniques is a subject that is fraught with danger, akin to the “Prussian Blues” of the King George V issue. There is especially a fine line (literally!) between heavy inking and a print which is doubled through incorrect tension of the printing blanket. A useful technical explanation is given in the latest Gibbons Falkland Islands catalogue (5<sup>th</sup> Edition) for the Dependencies Maps Stamps “... are known with the map apparently printed double. These are not true “double prints”, in that they were not the result of two impressions of the inked printing plate, but were caused by incorrect tension in the rubber ‘blanket’ which transferred ink from the cylinder to the paper.”

Some “double prints” are easy to see, for example the 1979 Kelp and Seaweed 11p issue.



**Figure 1 - (Variety E1) Kelp and Seaweed 11p Double Print – SH 281v1**

In general Double Prints stand out in a group of stamps of the same value, as the writing or design appears “heavier” or “darker”. This is true of the 1974 Battle of the River Plate issue, but under the microscope it is easier to see the doubling (or in one case tripling).

Let us start with SH233v1 the 6p value with the black printed triple and red double.



**Figure 2 - (Variety E2) SH233v1 Battle of the River Plate 6p Black Printed Triple, Red Printed Double**

Here the stamp is shown with the apparently heavy printing, also shown is a microscope close up of the black writing. If you look at the serifs of the “L” for example, a clear tripling of the printing can be seen, with one “shadow” shifted a long way to the left of the darker print and another “shadow” just to the left.

In the case of the red printing, doubling is less easy to describe. Under the microscope, there is a definite “shadow” to the left of the main printing (see illustration on the left), but you could contend there is also some shadowing to the right! A normal red printing is shown for comparison as the illustration on the right



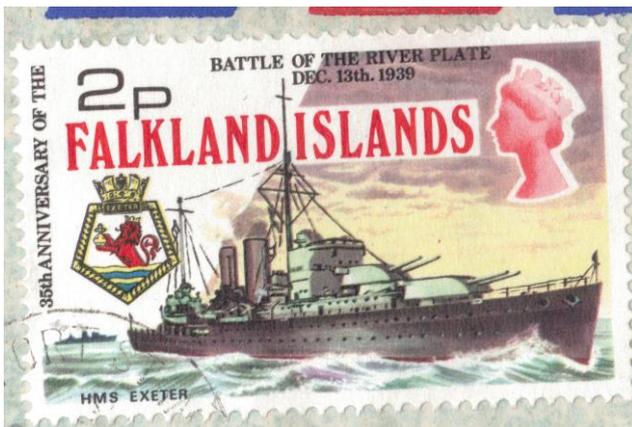
**Figure 3 - (Variety E2) SH233v1 Battle of the River Plate 6p - Red Double Print (left) and normal print (right)**

So far so good for this variety. But here is a stamp on cover, described when purchased as a SH233v1 black printed triple, red double, but it certainly did not look like it under the magnifying glass. Indeed, when put under the microscope the following image was captured. Here we have the red just single printed as normal, but the black printing is doubled. However this time the shadowing is to the right and downwards, compared to the triple printing above. This is a candidate for catalogue inclusion in the seventh edition!



**Figure 4 - (Variety E3) SH233 unlisted Battle of the River Plate 6p - Black Printed Double**

Now we turn to the 2p value in the same Battle of the River Plate issue but this time with just the black printing doubled as in the unlisted 6p variety above. This 2p Double Print is catalogued as SH232 v1.



**Figure 5 - (Variety E4) SH232 v1 Battle of the River Plate 2p – Black Printed Double**

The shadowing is to the right on the doubled print.

As we finish this article, another Double Print with a large shadow separation is illustrated, the 1970 Falkland Islands Defence Force 2d SH183 v1



**Figure 6 - (Variety E5) SH183 v1 FIDF 2d – Black Printed Double**

As usual any thoughts and contributions to this "Double Print" debate would be welcome. Next time we turn our attention to what might be a contentious issue, the Double Prints on the Flowers definitives.