

Under the Magnifying Glass: No.6 Double Prints – The Flowers Issue **by Malcolm Barton and Kim Stuckey**

In the previous article we talked about “Double Prints” on modern issues using lithographic printing techniques. In the recess printing world, a true double print is where the paper has received a double impression of the design. In most cases then a double print (as the Michel catalogue states) the two impressions would be displaced from each other on both a horizontal and vertical direction.

In lithographic printing the “double print” is more likely to be a “kiss print” or “chatter print” where incorrect tension in the printing blanket or paper movement has caused the appearance of a doubling of the design or lettering. However, in this case, the occurrence of over inking versus a kiss or chatter print can become a fine line when authenticating such a double print.

One key attribute used by experts such as Stefan Heijtz in certificating such stamps, is the presence of “shadowing” of the design or lettering, where displacement can clearly be seen with the naked eye or under glass.

Here is a certificated 1½d Flowers double print, where under the microscope the shadowing of the letters can be seen



Figure 1 - (Variety F1) Flowers 1½d Double Print – SH 162v1

So it appears that the shadowing is clear on the variety above. But, in the case below we have another close up of an acknowledged double print 1p, where the variety looks more like over inking and a heavy print rather than shadowing of the letters. However, it can be seen that the letters are then far wider than normal, so certainly to the naked eye the stamp design appears “doubled”.



Figure 2 - (Variety F2) Flowers 1p Double Print – SH 206v1

The same phenomenon can be seen in a certificated 3p writing of “Vanilla Daisy” shown under the microscope compared with the same title on a normal stamp. Again it appears that heavy inking rather than shadowing of the lettering has caused the appearance of a “double print”.

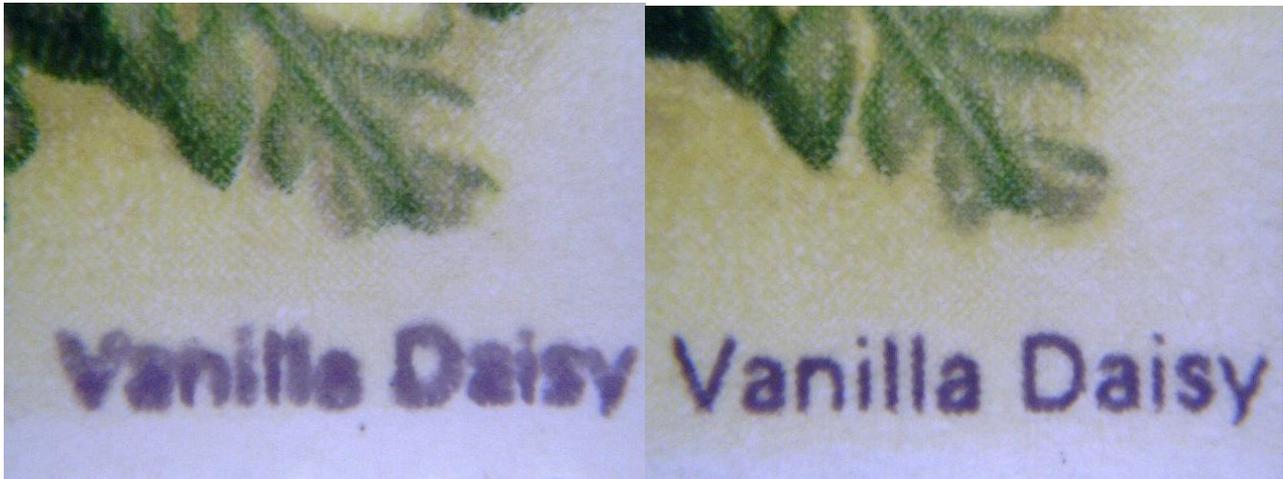


Figure 3 - (Variety F3) Flowers 3p Double Print – SH 210v1– Double Print (left) and normal print (right)

One thing appears to be certain in the uncertain world of double prints, especially on the Flowers issue. It is worth getting copies that you intend to buy or sell certificated by using our own Study Group expert, Stefan Hejtz (details on certification on his website or in the new edition of the SH Catalogue).

Finally, we get away from the world of double prints to a new variety in an often neglected area of the Falkland Islands postal service, franking machine mail. The Falkland Islands Company, Standard Chartered Bank and Cable & Wireless have all used franking machines in lieu of stamping both internal and overseas mail and details of the machine cancels are given on page 203 of the new Stefan Hejtz catalogue.

So, with thanks to Wilf Vevers, it is nice to be able to report a new addition to the Standard Chartered Bank franks. They have used three machines EMD 583950, EMD583951 and EMD590972. Previously the machine EMD583951 has seen cancels with the “PORT” of “PORT STANLEY” removed – this is type FM1c. Now we have seen this (previously unrecorded) “PORT” removed on machine EMD583950 as well.

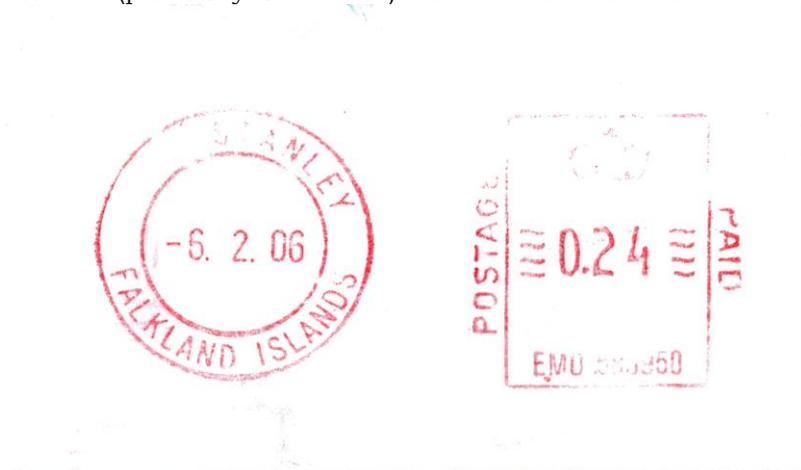


Figure 4 - (Variety F4) SHFM1 Standard Chartered Bank Franking Machine new Variety

The date ranges we have currently for this usage are 3rd February – 29th May 2006. This also extends the last known use date of this machine (previously 2002). Perhaps the machine was used temporarily while the other machine was out of action? There remains a lot of further study needed in this area of the Falklands postal service.