

Under the Magnifying Glass: No.8 The “Baverstock Notch”

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This Under the Magnifying Glass demonstrates how the internet, especially through auction sites such as ebay, has opened up the ability to view many thousands of items. Gone are the days of your range of viewed material being just from visiting a few dealers and the occasional stamp fair. Through this increased wealth of material, new flaws become easier to discover or confirm.

Such was the case of this new discovery. Listed in the Heijtz catalogue for the 1965 I.T.U. Centenary is SH149v1, a notched “I” of “ITU” on the 1d stamp. This is from Position 20 of the left hand pane sheet of 60 stamps.



Figure 1 – The 1d I.T.U. Stamp with Notch in “I” SH149v1

It is likely looking at the design of the stamps that the same litho plate would be used for both values, but the notch on the 2/- has not previously been reported. However, John Baverstock came across this image in an ebay lot recently.



Figure 2 – A screen capture of the 2/- ITU for auction on ebay

With the ability to zoom in on the image, the notch in the “I” of “ITU” can clearly be seen. It has all the characteristics of the notch previously seen on the 1d value.



Figure 3 - (Variety H1) I.T.U. 2/- “Baverstock Notch” - Notch in “I” of “ITU”

One of the authors then found the mint single example above, a scan of which is shown in Figure 3 above.

Finally to confirm that indeed we do have a new variety, Hugh Osborne then produced a recent purchase from Stanley Gibbons (proving as they say “Knowledge is Power”, even dealing with SG!).



Figure 4 – A used block of 4 of the I.T.U. 2/- with bottom right stamp showing the flaw

This bottom right stamp of this superb used block clearly shows the flaw. Of course, in the quest for perfection, it would have been even nicer as a left hand marginal copy, as we might have proved Position 20 (or row 4/2) for the flaw as well!

As always, we now throw it open to Study Group members to report any other examples of this new discovery. If anyone has a sheet or a marginal block, that can help us confirm Position 20, it would be most helpful. Remember that the sheets were probably produced as two panes and then guillotined, so the variety might not be on every sheet.

A big thanks to John Baverstock for finding this new discovery and proving that diligent searching of the internet can turn up new varieties and build up the excitement for the Heijtz Seventh Edition (only seven years to wait!).

Thanks to:
John Baverstock
Hugh Osborne