

Under the Magnifying Glass: No.1 Falkland Islands and Dependencies Victory Issue by Malcolm Barton and Kim Stuckey

This is a new series looking at the varieties of post WWII issues. We would like members to get in touch with us about varieties that may not currently be catalogued and are worthy of further study, so if you have examples either mint, used or on cover let us know.

The Falklands Islands and Falkland Islands Dependencies Victory issues of 1946 offer many opportunities for identifying flaws on an issue which is both of low catalogue value (Gibbons catalogue all the stamps at a maximum 75p each) and where sheets and large blocks are still plentiful to assist in identifying positional flaws. So a lot of enjoyment can be had for a relatively small outlay!

In this article we show some of the flaws that can be seen without a glass and conclude with a complete listing of known positional flaws. We have given each variety a reference number to assist in future discussions.

(Variety A2) 1d Value – 2 Birds to Right of Main Tower - Row 2/6 (Pos. 12) - Illustrated in Figure 1

We have seen this variety mentioned in Larry Goldberg's book as non constant, so list it as such; however all copies that we have seen have the flaw and it is nicely visible!



(Variety A3) 1d Value – Flag on Tower - Row 3/1 (Pos. 13) - Illustrated in Figure 2

This is not mentioned in Larry Goldberg's book on the issue, but is a nice visible variety. Murray Payne does list it as a variety.



(Variety A6) 3d Value – 3 Buoys in the River - Row 3/1 (Pos. 13) Illustrated in Figure 3
 There are also doubled shading lines of “FALKLAND ISLANDS” on this stamp.



(Variety A8) 3d Value – 3 Swimmers in the River - Row 8/1 (Pos. 43) - Illustrated in Figure 4
 There is also a dot to the right of the central tower on this stamp.



(Variety A9) 3d Value – Crown and Re-entry Flaw Row 8/5 (Pos.47)

Shown below in Figure 5 is an example from a positional block of the stamp with just the re-entry (left hand stamp). Note the far darker shading especially on the King’s head and the tower to the left than on the stamp next to it. This re-entry variety is far scarcer than the example shown in the Gibbons and Heijtz catalogues with both the re-entry and flaw to the Crown. A Murray Payne article proposes that the Crown flaw occurred first “.... My theory is that the damage to the crown occurred first, possibly due to someone dropping a hard object onto the plate. Normally, the printer would at this stage make a decision either to leave the damaged cliché in place, creating a plate variety; to replace the cliché (difficult and time-consuming); or to attempt to repair the damage on the plate itself. I suggest that an attempt was made to burnish away the damage, and when this proved unsatisfactory, a decision was made to re-enter the area in order to try to limit the visual impact of the damage. Doubling can be seen quite clearly on the King’s face, but none on the crown.”

We are not certain, but think the stamp illustrated below indicates that the re-entry happened before the Crown flaw, possibly because of some other damage. We think the Crown flaw eventually caused so many problems that Plate 2 for the value was required. Of course what would be interesting to find would be this stamp in a positional block without either the re-entry or Crown flaw!



(Variety A1) and (Variety A5) Margin Initials

Although not a stamp flaw, it is worth looking out for margin initials on marginal copies of the Victory stamps. An example is shown in Figure 6. These appear to be crudely scratched letters in the sheet margin and were found on Victory stamps from other Colonies and also on other post war De la Rue printed stamps. Maybe they were used as some form of quality control after a print run with a plate. Margin initials are reported on the Falkland Islands 1d and 3d and the Dependencies 1d.



(Variety A12) Dependencies 1d value – Body Falling from Westminster Abbey Row 6/4 (Pos. 34) - Illustrated in Figure 7

In general the Dependencies stamps lacked flaws in comparison with the Islands’ issue, however, this is a really nice visible variety.



**Listing of Varieties on 1946 Victory Issues
Falkland Islands**

1d	(Variety A1)	UR Margin	“B” in upper right margin (not constant)
	(A2)	R 2/6 Pos. 12	Two birds to right of main tower (not constant)
	(A3)	R 3/1 Pos.13	Flag on tower
	(A4)	R 5/1 Pos. 25	Spot in sky to right of portrait oval at about 3 o’clock
3d	(A5)	UL Margin	“W” in upper left margin (not constant)
	(A6)	R 3/1 Pos. 13	Doubled shading lines of “FALKLAND ISLANDS” Three buoys in river under launch
	(A7)	R 5/2 Pos.26	Doubled shading lines of “FALKLAND ISLANDS”
	(A8)	R 8/1 Pos. 43	Three swimmers in the river Dot to right of central tower
	(A9)	R 8/5 Pos. 47	Re-entry on King’s face. Crown flaw
	(A10)	R 8/6 Pos. 48	Doubled shading lines of “FALKLAND ISLANDS” Small dot under “46”

Note: all varieties are on the more commonly seen Plate 1. On the far scarcer Plate 2 no varieties are listed.

Falkland Islands Dependencies

1d	(A11)	UR Margin	"B" in upper right margin (not constant)
	(A12)	R 6/4 Pos. 34	Body falling from Abbey (left hand side of stamp)
	(A13)	R 6/6 Pos. 36	Spot in sky between Big Ben and portrait oval
	(A14)	R 7/3 Pos. 39	Dots to right and below "6"

Note: no varieties are listed for the 3d value.

References and Acknowledgements:

The 1946 Commonwealth Victory Issue Parliament Buildings Design - Larry Goldberg
Murray Payne Website : <http://www.murraypayne.com>