

Under the Magnifying Glass: No.3 Two Older Varieties **by Malcolm Barton and Kim Stuckey**

We go back to the early 1950s for this article in the Under the Magnifying Glass series; but as always we try and give you some varieties to look out for while searching through dealer's stock with a naked eye.

The first is a variety we hope is listed in the new Heijtz catalogue; a flaw on the KGVI 1952 1/- value. If you have imprint blocks of four of the 1/- that is where to look for the variety, on the top left of the block of four – but with a caveat. The 1952 issue was printed in two panes of 60 from an “A” plate and “B” plate and the flaw only occurs on one of the plates. If any reader has the flaw in a large enough block or sheet with the plate number in the bottom right corner (if your block has a large enough margin to show the plate letter) we would welcome this further information.

(Variety C1 1952 KGVI 1/- - Scar on King's Nose – Row (5/5) Position 45

Thanks to Wilf Vevers for pointing out this nice variety. A prominent scar is seen on the bridge of the King's nose. It is easily visible just looking at a single or the imprint block.



Figure 1 – KGVI 1/- Scar on King's Nose – Imprint Block (variety top left)



Figure 2 – KGVI 1/- Scar on King’s Nose – shown with normal for comparison

(Variety C2) 1952 KGVI 9d Nail on King’s Face - Illustrated in Figure 3 & 4

While we are disfiguring the face of King George VI, here is a most likely one off that was a purchase from ebay many years ago. The stamp certainly is a spectacular error on the KGVI 1952 9d definitive.

It appears that a pin in the printing press became detached and was imprinted by the press into the face of King George VI. On the reverse of the stamp an impression can be seen in the gum where the stamp was pressed onto the pin.

It seems amazing that this flaw evaded the quality control checks and we wonder if any other sheets were printed with the same flaw before it was discovered. Or is it one of a kind?



Figure 3 – KGVI 9d Nail on King’s Face – stamp and close up of the flaw

(Variety C3) 1953 QEII Coronation 1d – Shift in vignette - Illustrated in Figure 4

Shifts on Falkland Islands stamps are known – in Monograph 6 The Birds Definitives, Hugh Osborne shows misplaced vignettes on the Birds set. Heijtz lists the shift on the vignette of the 1954 Dependencies Ships issue 2/-. Here is a previously unreported major shift on the Coronation 1d, where the black vignette is shifted upwards and to the right, out of the imprint design white oval that should contain the vignette.

Interestingly two examples of the variety turned up with a few days of each other, a marginal single in a Sandafayre auction and a larger block on ebay.



Figure 4 – 1953 Coronation Vignette Shift Upwards and to Right