

CYPRUS 1880 - 1881
THE VICTORIA OVERPRINTED ISSUE
Errors - Varieties - Proofs & Postal Usage

The strategic positioning of Cyprus in the Eastern Mediterranean, proved to be a major source of attraction for numerous conquerors and rulers throughout its turbulent history. This influence can be seen if one examines the postal history of the island. The Lusignians (1192-1489) followed by the Venetians (1489-1571) which were in turn succeeded by the Ottoman Empire for a span of just over 300 years (1571-1878) during which the Austrian post office played a key role. The English took over Cyprus from the Ottomans in 1878 and a more organized postal system came into effect which was similar to the ones of the other colonies at the time. British stamps were used widely with numerical barrel cancellations to distinguish the various geographical areas.

The major change in Cyprus' postal history occurred under British rule when the decision was taken to pass the postal administration to the local government in 1879, something which did not materialized however until April 1st, 1880. Initially a selection of the plates of the stamps (six in total) that were in use at the time were overprinted with the word "CYPRUS" thus giving birth to Cyprus' first issue. Being a colony, the Island followed suit along with the rest of the British Empire in the production of the subsequent issues replacing the monarchs head in the key plate with the one who was at the throne at the time. The denominations of the stamps however, was the one that most suited the needs of the local administration.

This collection aims to present the stamps and their usage beginning at the starting point being the transfer of the postal service to the local administration, covering the Queen Victoria issues. It will thus cover a chronological span from 1880 - 1881. The single overprint set as well as its varieties and surcharges with both common and uncommon usage, will be examined in detail.

Where applicable references to sources of information will be given but the major source has been the WTF Castle's 3rd edition book "Cyprus stamps and postal history 1351 - 1986" as well as numerous auction catalogues and other collections. A second publication with useful information regarding the overprinted issue has been "Stanley Gibbons Great Britain Volume 1 Queen Victoria - Specialised stamp catalogue 13th Edition." Useful information was also found in studying the Royal Collection at ST. James's Palace, the Taplin Collection as well as the Crown Agencies and Crown Colonies record books located at the British Library in London. Information regarding the De La Rue issues was studied at the British Postal Museum in London at the Mount Pleasant post office depot.

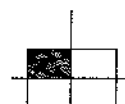
The study for the 1penny missing overprint appeared at the "London Philatelist - March Issue 2006".

The exhibit initially covered the whole Victorian era from 1880-1896 but this exhibit covers only the overprinted series that is the first and most important issue of Cyprus' philatelic history.

The exhibit is presented in chronological order, with the issue displayed as per increasing denomination and then the surcharges in chronological order. Thus the frames are allocated as follows:

| | |
|---------------|---|
| Frame 1 | Overprinted Issue ½d |
| Frames 2 - 4b | Overprinted Issue 1d |
| Frame 4c - 5b | Overprinted issue 2½d |
| Frame 5c - 6b | Overprinted Issue 4d, 6, & 1 shilling |
| Frame 6b - 8b | HALF-PENNY surcharges |
| Frame 8c - 8d | 30 PARAS |

Convention used: Dark area indicates the position of the variety



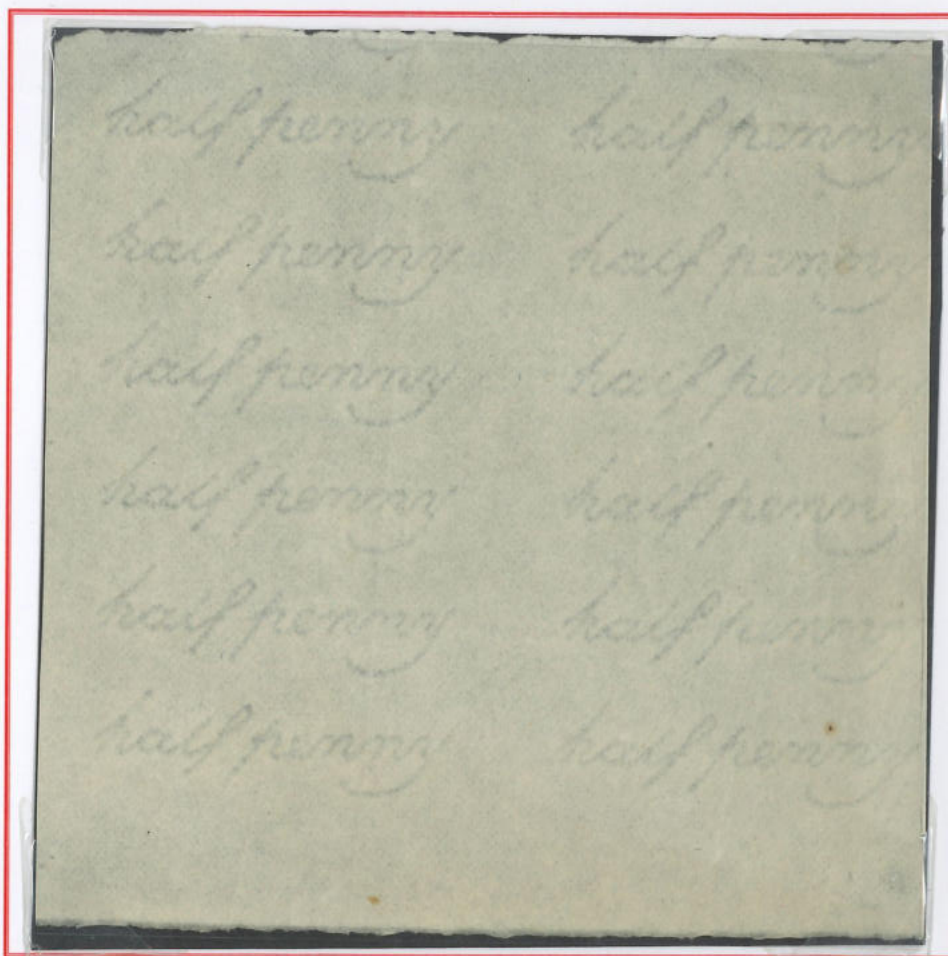
Die proofs of the ½d stamp

An 1871 Ormond Hill die proof on thin yellowish white paper in dull lilac rose, close to the final colour of the actual stamp.



The line engraved ½d postage stamp of 1870 is the predecessors of the first Cyprus stamp which was part of the 1880 overprinted issue. The stamp was chosen for the fact that it was useful in order to make up the various rates as well as by itself it could be used as either a postcard rate locally or for soldiers letters. The die proof, printed in black on India paper, after strengthening and hardening.

Watermarked paper



½d Trial watermark paper with three impressions of the "half penny" as used in the Great Britain stamps that were eventually overprinted "CYPRUS". It can clearly be understood from its size that the watermark was spread over three stamps horizontally.

The development of the Cyprus stamps

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Great Britain imprimaturs for plates 12, 15



Great Britain issued stamps for plates 12, 15 & 19



Plate 12



Plate 15



Plate 19

Cyprus overprint on the Great Britain stamps

The ½ penny overprint stamp originates from the line-engraved halfpenny issue of 1870. From the fifteen plates that were produced for the Great Britain issue, a substantial number was used in Cyprus during the 1878-1880 period when the Island was initially taken over by the British Government. When the decision was taken to use stamps with the word "Cyprus" on them and there was no time to print ones, the six values comprising the overprinted issue were used and thus overprinted. For the ½ penny, plates 12, 15 and 19 were used, the later of which being the rarest with only two sheets having been overprinted.

Specimen imperforate at "X" column variety

The part plate number in circle appears on the top right hand corner. As only one sheet existed, only four plate numbers showing are possible at the four corners of the sheet but only two imperforated.



| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| A | V | A | W | A | X |
| B | V | B | W | B | X |
| C | V | C | W | C | X |
| D | V | D | W | D | X |
| E | V | E | W | E | X |
| F | V | F | W | F | X |
| G | V | G | W | G | X |
| H | V | H | W | H | X |
| I | V | I | W | I | X |
| J | V | J | W | J | X |
| K | V | K | W | K | X |
| L | V | L | W | L | X |
| M | V | M | W | M | X |
| N | V | N | W | N | X |
| O | V | O | W | O | X |
| P | V | P | W | P | X |
| Q | V | Q | W | Q | X |
| R | V | R | W | R | X |
| S | V | S | W | S | X |
| T | V | T | W | T | X |

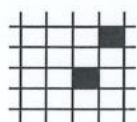
Inherited from the British stamps, the right margin shows the imperforate variety at column "X" due to restrictions of the perforator machine used at the time. There are a maximum of twenty examples of this with the specimen overprint and the attempt here is to gradually reconstruct the right hand side of the specimen sheet.

Specimen varieties

A vertical pair KJ-LJ overprinted "SPECIMEN" with a clear double overprint on the top stamp.



A vertical pair IS-JS overprinted "SPECIMEN" with an unusual clear double overprint on the bottom stamp 20 x 2½mm in sans-serif type. No other example of this unusual overprint has been recorded so far.



Elongated "U" at DP



Filled "S" at FO

480 copies of the 1/2d were overprinted "SPECIMEN" from plate 12. A block of 16 1/2d stamps with check letters DM - GP. DP position shows the elongated "U" and FO the top left part of "S" filled with ink variety.

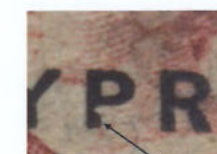
151

Place the Labels above in

Price 4th Per Label, 1st Per Row of 24, 21st Per Sheet.

12

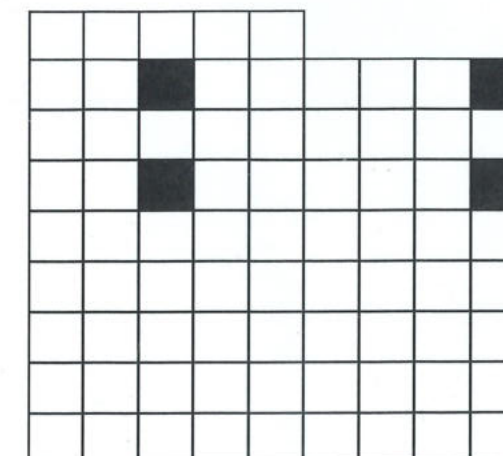
Price 4th Per Label, 1st Per Row of 24, 21st Per Sheet.



Blob on P at MC
& MI



Blob on U at OC
& IC



Furthermore the errors on the "CYPRUS" overprint that have been illustrated on the previous pages can also be seen here at positions MC and MI as far as the blob on the right side of "P" is concerned and at positions OC and OI for the blob on the inner upper right arm of "U". The errors here being two each of the possible four that exist in combination with the specimen overprint. Thus 50% of the possible varieties in existence are present on this block.

Printing operation and local usage

The "CYPRUS" overprint was applied in four separate operations each of 120 subjects in 6 rows x 20 columns. Thus the first operation was applied to rows A to F, the second G to L, the third M to R and the last one between rows S and X. The diagram on the left shows the split on the sheet for the four different printing operations as these were performed.

The top plate 12 (three pairs recorded), first and second operations "CF-CG" and the bottom plate 15, third and fourth operations "NR-NS". The difference in height between the overprints, proves the theory of the four distinct operations during the overprinting of the stamps.



Cover franked with a pair of provisional 1/2d (plate 15) of Great Britain for the 1d inland letter rate, overprinted "CYPRUS". The letter franked at Larnaca on January 29th, 1881 with an arrival back stamp at Nicosia, the final destination on the following day.

Constant varieties

(3) The constant blob on "P" at positions MC, MI, MO & MU.



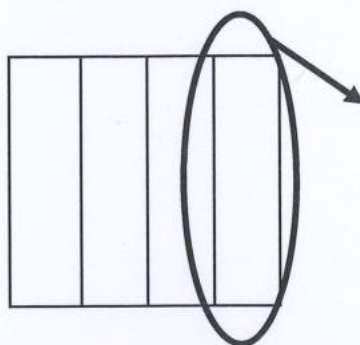
(2) As illustrated on page 2, at positions OC, OI, OO and OU, the constant variety of the blob on the right hand upright of "U" exists as shown above on the plate 15 sample.



(4) The constant filled "S" at positions FC, FI, FO and FU.



(1) A 17 May 1880 piece from an OHMS cover postmarked Kyrenia bearing two 1d stamps from plate 208 with the AB stamp showing the blind perforation variety at the bottom right and a plate 15 stamp of the ½d value showing the elongated "U" variety. The variety exists at positions DD, DJ, DP & DV. All three stamps bear the Kyrenia "974" barred cancellation. Very few pieces or covers are known to exist from the Kyrenia office.



The 1/2d rose-red was overprinted with "CYPRUS" (13mm X 2mm) in black sans-serif capitals, using the typography method, on three plates, namely 12, 15 and 19. The sheet layout was a single pane of 480 stamps in 20 rows by 24 columns. 68,640 stamps were printed i.e. 143 sheets of which only 2 from plate 19. 13,573 stamps were sold as remainders.

The overprinting was made from a plate of 120 subjects, necessitating four separate operations as illustrated below. Thus the varieties that occur on the sheet are constant. There are two general types of varieties that occur on the stamp. The first type is the one that originated from the Great Britain first half penny stamp of 1 October 1870 and it has to do with the right hand side of the sheet being imperforate as there was a mish-match between the size of the sheet and the perforator used.

The second type are the varieties that have to do with the actual "CYPRUS" overprint and are obviously related only to the provisional issue. At positions DD, DJ, DP & DV the right hand upright is elongated (1). OC, OI, OO and OU there is a blob on the insight of the right hand upright (2). The foot of "P" appears bulged at positions MC, MI, MO & MU and finally the top loop of "S" is filled with ink on the left side. This occurs at positions FC, FI, FO and FU.

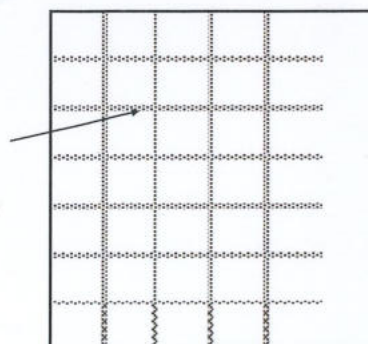
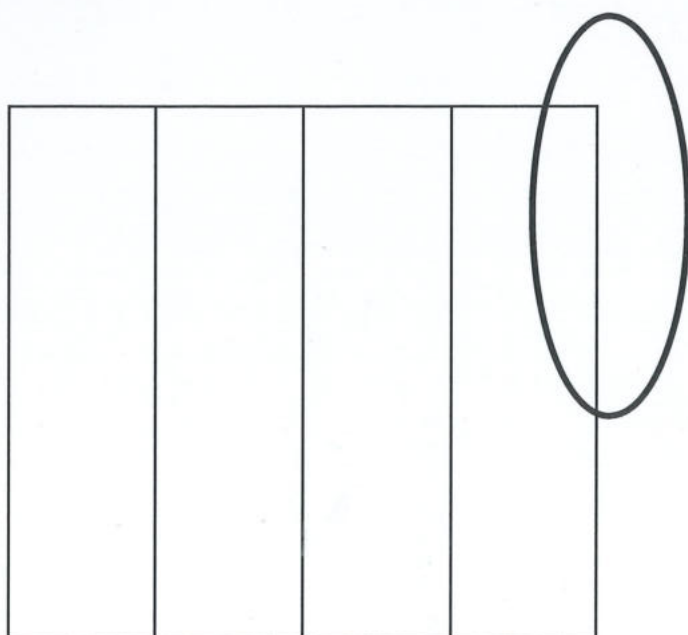
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
|----|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | | | | | | |
| 2 | | | | | | |
| 3 | | | | | | |
| 4 | | | | 1 | | |
| 5 | | | | | | |
| 6 | | | 4 | | | |
| 7 | | | | | | |
| 8 | | | | | | |
| 9 | | | | | | |
| 10 | | | | | | |
| 11 | | | | | | |
| 12 | | | | | | |
| 13 | | | 3 | | | |
| 14 | | | | | | |
| 15 | | | 2 | | | |
| 16 | | | | | | |
| 17 | | | | | | |
| 18 | | | | | | |
| 19 | | | | | | |
| 20 | | | | | | |

Imperforate at position "X" variety

A block of fourteen plate 15 of the ½d stamp, on the left, with check letters AW-GX, and the second of three recorded pairs of plate 12 above, showing the imperforate at left variety, occurring at all stamps with check letter "X". The plate 12 pair is the only recorded pair with the variety.



The plate 12 and 15 stamps, lettered LX and BX respectively, which have been re-perforated. The re-perforation process can be seen not only in the stamps of Cyprus that were overprinted but on the corresponding Great Britain stamps.



The 1/2d value's right margin, generically was imperforated as there was a discrepancy between the size of the sheet and the perforator machine. This resulted in all stamps with the right check letter "X" not to have perforations at the right side.

Non-constant varieties

Plate 15 with the filled "S" constant variety at position "FO" and an additional line to the bottom left hand side of "U".



Plate 15 with a dent on the left side of the leg of "P".



Plate 15 with deformed "S"



Plate 15 with thick "C" variety.



Plate 15 with thin "C" variety.



Plate 12 with the left side of "U" being flat.

A number of varieties can be found on the ½d stamps that are non constant. It is not known at which time of the overprint these occurred but from their nature it seems that they were caused either by excessive inking of the printing plate or lack of it.

Two examples of this are shown here with the ink causing the "C" of "CYPRUS" to appear both thinner and thicker than normal as well as the left side of "U" being flat.

Plate 15, Double and Shifted Overprint Errors

The plate 15 overprints "PRUS CY" showing above are two of a possible 100 in theory and is found from column two to six. However, the above examples are two of the four that have been recorded this far.



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The double overprint, plate 15, with the partial "PRUS" on the left is the only example recorded. In theory there must be twenty examples with this variety. It is believed that only one sheet of these stamps, of which only one column was overprinted double, the seventh.

A B C D E F G

| | | | | | | | |
|---|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| A | CYPRUS | CYPRUS | CYPRUS | CYPRUS | CYPRUS | CYPRUS | CYPRUS |
| B | CYPRUS | CYPRUS | CYPRUS | CYPRUS | CYPRUS | CYPRUS | CYPRUS |
| C | CYPRUS | CYPRUS | CYPRUS | CYPRUS | CYPRUS | CYPRUS | CYPRUS |
| D | CYPRUS | CYPRUS | CYPRUS | CYPRUS | CYPRUS | CYPRUS | CYPRUS |
| E | CYPRUS | CYPRUS | CYPRUS | CYPRUS | CYPRUS | CYPRUS | CYPRUS |
| F | CYPRUS | CYPRUS | CYPRUS | CYPRUS | CYPRUS | CYPRUS | CYPRUS |
| G | CYPRUS | CYPRUS | CYPRUS | CYPRUS | CYPRUS | CYPRUS | CYPRUS |
| H | CYPRUS | CYPRUS | CYPRUS | CYPRUS | CYPRUS | CYPRUS | CYPRUS |
| I | CYPRUS | CYPRUS | CYPRUS | CYPRUS | CYPRUS | CYPRUS | CYPRUS |
| J | CYPRUS | CYPRUS | CYPRUS | CYPRUS | CYPRUS | CYPRUS | CYPRUS |
| K | CYPRUS | CYPRUS | CYPRUS | CYPRUS | CYPRUS | CYPRUS | CYPRUS |
| L | CYPRUS | CYPRUS | CYPRUS | CYPRUS | CYPRUS | CYPRUS | CYPRUS |
| M | CYPRUS | CYPRUS | CYPRUS | CYPRUS | CYPRUS | CYPRUS | CYPRUS |
| N | CYPRUS | CYPRUS | CYPRUS | CYPRUS | CYPRUS | CYPRUS | CYPRUS |
| O | CYPRUS | CYPRUS | CYPRUS | CYPRUS | CYPRUS | CYPRUS | CYPRUS |
| P | CYPRUS | CYPRUS | CYPRUS | CYPRUS | CYPRUS | CYPRUS | CYPRUS |
| Q | CYPRUS | CYPRUS | CYPRUS | CYPRUS | CYPRUS | CYPRUS | CYPRUS |
| R | CYPRUS | CYPRUS | CYPRUS | CYPRUS | CYPRUS | CYPRUS | CYPRUS |
| S | CYPRUS | CYPRUS | CYPRUS | CYPRUS | CYPRUS | CYPRUS | CYPRUS |
| T | CYPRUS | CYPRUS | CYPRUS | CYPRUS | CYPRUS | CYPRUS | CYPRUS |

The overprint process as explained earlier on the second sheet, was performed in four distinct operations. On one sheet the first strike was misaligned, causing the overprint to be shifted to the right, thus causing three varieties.

The first on the first column with the letters "CY" only (a maximum of twenty copies - one recorded so far), the second with the overprint reading "PRUS CY" (a theoretical maximum of one hundred copies) and the third being the one caused on the seventh column which has the partial double overprint as well as the normal overprint from the second operation of the four. In this later instance, a maximum of twenty copies are possible.

A closer inspection of the two stamps indicates that the angle of the overprint, relative to the bottom of the stamp, is the same on both stamps. If the overprint of the stamp with the "PRUS CY" overprint is extrapolated to the right, it falls exactly on the one with the double overprint, thus indicating that these stamps were from the same sheet.

The highlighted areas in the diagram show the positions of the two varieties on the sheet.

Plate 19

Only two sheets of this plate were printed thus making it the rarest of the three overprinted for Cyprus. Only 960 stamps were thus overprinted from plate 19, the majority of which were used.



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Imperforate with margin variety at position "X".



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Re-perforated at position "X".



The blob at "U" variety at position "OO".



One ½d plate 19 and two 1d plate 208 stamps, paying the normal 2½d overseas letter rate on a cover postmarked Larnaca, 21 September 1880 to Germany. An arrival stamp on the back dated 30 September exists. This is one of the three known covers with a single plate 19 stamp.

The unique cover with two plate 19 stamps



Two ½d plate 19, one 1d plate 208 and one 2½d plate 14 stamps on a registered cover postmarked Limassol September 1 1880 to Alexandria. The stamps paying the foreign letter rate of 2½d and the registration fee of 2d. This is the only cover with a pair of plate 19 ½d stamps that has been recorded so far.

Non-constant varieties

Plate 15 with a line break
in the "R" of "CYPRUS"



Plate 15 with a break in "U"



Plate 12 with over inking on
the top loop of "S"



Plate 15 with break
in "U"



Plate 15 break in
"C" and think top
loop of "C"



Plate 15 with a break in
"Y"

A further number of non constant varieties. These were being produced because of little faults of the plate that were probably due to dust and other small particles, causing the misprint of letters.

Essay

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A number of late proofs were issued in Great Britain for the "Plate Number Issue". In April of 1867, the "Paris Exhibition Proofs" were taken from plate 103 on soft white card. These were imperforates and specially printed for the exhibition in blocks of twenty.

These are items that were produced after the stamps themselves but for a specific purpose. A pair of these is the adjacent piece.

Great Britain stamps and their proofs

Plate 174



Plate 181



Plate 184



Plate 193



Plate 196



Plate 201



The Great Britain stamps in their imprimatur form as well as the issued British stamp before the "CYPRUS" overprint was applied. The plate numbers shown are only those of the stamps that were eventually overprinted. A larger number was used in Cyprus between 1878 and 1880 with an even larger printed for the needs of Great Britain.

Great Britain stamps and their proofs



Plate 205



Plate 215



Plate 215



Plate 216



Plate 217



Plate 218



Plate 220

Reconstruction of specimen stamps from the 2nd sheet

| | | | | |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|--|
| | | | | |
| A C | A D | A E | A F | |
| B C | B D | | B F | |
| C C | C D | C E | | |
| D C | D D | D E | D F | |
| | E D | E E | | |
| | | | F F | |
| | | G E | G F | |
| | | H E | H F | |
| | | I E | I F | |

The adjacent reconstruction of the specimen upper sheet is from one of the two halves that were overprinted. The other half is on the next pages.

On this reconstruction at positions CC and DC the thick "C" variety can be seen.

Furthermore on the upper right margin of the stamps on the top row the word postage in reverse can be seen. As the other half shows the watermark the right way around it is clear that one each of the two types of the straight and the reverse watermark variety were overprinted specimen.



Specimen study

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| AA | AB | AC | AD | AE | AF | AG | AH | AI | AJ | AK | AL |
| BA | BB | BC | BD | BE | BF | BG | BH | BI | BJ | BK | BL |
| CA | CB | CC | CD | CE | CF | CG | CH | CI | CJ | CK | CL |
| DA | DB | DC | DD | DE | DF | DG | DH | DI | DJ | DK | DL |
| EA | EB | EC | ED | EE | EF | EG | EH | EI | EJ | EK | EL |
| FA | FB | FC | FD | FE | FF | FG | FH | FI | FJ | FK | FL |
| GA | GB | GC | GD | GE | GF | GG | GH | GI | GJ | GK | GL |
| HA | HB | HC | HD | HE | HF | HG | HH | HI | HJ | HK | HL |
| IA | IB | IC | ID | IE | IF | IG | IH | II | IJ | IK | IL |
| JA | JB | JC | JD | JE | JF | JG | JH | JI | JJ | JK | JL |

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| AA | AB | AC | AD | AE | AF | AG | AH | AI | AJ | AK | AL |
| BA | BB | BC | BD | BE | BF | BG | BH | BI | BJ | BK | BL |
| CA | CB | CC | CD | CE | CF | CG | CH | CI | CJ | CK | CL |
| DA | DB | DC | DD | DE | DF | DG | DH | DI | DJ | DK | DL |
| EA | EB | EC | ED | EE | EF | EG | EH | EI | EJ | EK | EL |
| FA | FB | FC | FD | FE | FF | FG | FH | FI | FJ | FK | FL |
| GA | GB | GC | GD | GE | GF | GG | GH | GI | GJ | GK | GL |
| HA | HB | HC | HD | HE | HF | HG | HH | HI | HJ | HK | HL |
| IA | IB | IC | ID | IE | IF | IG | IH | II | IJ | IK | IL |
| JA | JB | JC | JD | JE | JF | JG | JH | JI | JJ | JK | JL |

The 1d specimen was issued only on plate 216 on two upper halves of two sheets. The above diagrams were constructed from studying various collections and auction catalogues in order to establish that the block on the left is the largest one possible.

Constant varieties occur in various positions:

- A broken "U" in CYPRUS at position FA
- An abnormally thick "C" at positions CC, DC and FK and
- A defective "S" appearing as an at positions BL, HL, IL & JL.

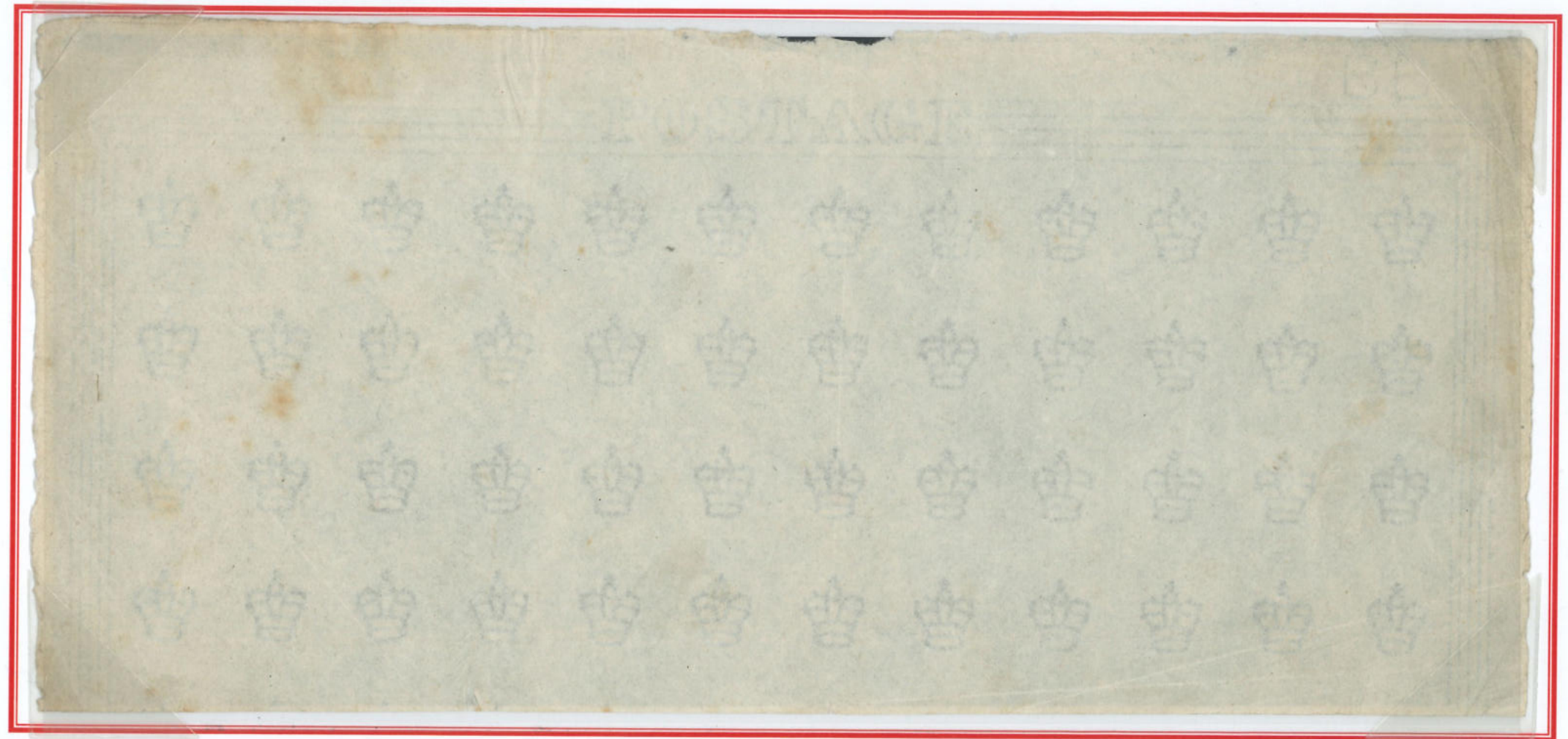
Furthermore the two sheets came one with straight and one with reversed watermark. The one on the left has the reversed and the one above the straight. This was a common feature in the Great Britain sheets. As the watermark of the actual stamps is a crown, the reversed watermark can only be detected if part of the margin is present.

The word "POSTAGE" appears twice on each side and once at the top and bottom margins of each sheet. In the Great Britain stamps, the frequency in which the variety occurs is 5:1 with the reversed watermark being the most common of the two.

Largest specimen block possible

The sheet above is the largest block possible as studies that have taken place from the examination of other collections and auction catalogues have pin-pointed all the major pieces and single samples. These are shown on the diagrams on the adjacent sheet.

Watermarked paper



1861-1870. Part sheet of the large watermarked crown paper, being the top four rows (48 impressions) together with border design and the word "POSTAGE". This was the paper used initially for the British stamps that subsequently were used in Cyprus for the provisional overprinted issue.

The 1 Pence story

The 1d stamp was printed using the One Penny "G1" type of Great Britain. Out of the 152 GB plates, 13 were overprinted with the word "CYPRUS" in the provisional issue of 1880. A number of varieties have subsequently carried through and some others are still to be found, if indeed they carried through.



Plate 201 stamps with the reversed watermark variety.



Plate 218 marginal block of nine showing the blind perforation variety between rows "B" and "C" as well as the thick "C" variety at positions "CC" and "DC".

The two located thus far, is that of the reversed watermark and broken pin, both of which are illustrated in detail in subsequent pages. The later occurring in large numbers with the variety being between columns B and C of the sheet. The reversed watermark is distinguishable on the margins

Another variety that has not yet been detected on the Cyprus stamps, is the inverted watermark variety. This occurs once in every 700 sheets, thus statistically with the number of stamps overprinted Cyprus, only two are probable.

The varieties on the overprinted stamps, can thus be classified in two categories. The once having carried over from the Great Britain stamps and the ones occurring on the overprint "CYPRUS".

Reversed watermark

The second inherited variety from the Great Britain stamps was the reversed watermark variety.

A common feature in the Great Britain sheets. As the watermark is a crown, the reversed watermark can only be detected if a part of its margin is present. The word "POSTAGE" appears twice on each side and once at the top and bottom margins of each sheet. In the GB stamps, the frequency in which the variety occurs is 5:1.

The reverse watermark being more common than the broken pin variety illustrated in detail later.



Plate 193 show part watermark reversed.



Plate 217 block of twelve with current number 259 and top marginal part inscription. Furthermore, above stamps AE-AF the first three and part of the fourth letter of "POSTAGE" can be read. This sheet bears the watermark in the correct fashion as viewed from the front.



A block of 12 Great Britain stamps, plate 205, with the reversed watermark shown on the margin.



A strip of five from plate 215, on the right, left-marginal stamps with part inscription. The word "POSTAGE" can be seen, which is part of the watermark, reversed.



Broken Pin Variety

| | A | B | C | D | E | F | G | H | I | J | K | L |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| A | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| B | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| C | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| D | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| E | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| F | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| G | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| H | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| I | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| J | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| K | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| L | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| M | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| N | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| O | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| P | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Q | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| R | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| S | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| T | | | | | | | | | | | | |



Plate 181



Plate 208



Plate 193



Plate 196



An illustration of the sheet showing the positions where the broken pin variety occurs between columns "B" & "C".



Plate 215



Plate 217



Plate 218

Broken "U" variety

| | A | B | C | D | E | F | G | H | I | J | K | L |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| A | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| B | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| C | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| D | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| E | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| F | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| G | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| H | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| I | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| J | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| K | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| L | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| M | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| N | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| O | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| P | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Q | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| R | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| S | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| T | | | | | | | | | | | | |



The broken "U" variety in "CYPRUS" which is located at positions "FA" and "PA" at the top and bottom part of the sheets respectively.



Plate 216 featuring the normal "U" from the initial stages of the printing before the development of the variety from position FA.



Plate 215 with broken "U" at FA and blind perforation on the bottom of the two stamps on the right FB & FG.



Plate 216 at the later stages of the printing featuring the broken "U" variety at position FA which is more prominent.



Plate 201



Plate 208



Plate 217



Plate 218

Thick "C" variety



Plate 220 block of four showing the abnormal thick "C" variety in "CYPRUS" that can be found at position "CC", "DC" & "FK" on the top half and on "MC", "NC" & "PK" on the bottom half of the sheets.



Half cover front bearing seven one penny stamps for a total rate covering a registered, 2 pence and double weight 2x2½d, rate posted a Larnaca, "942" and a "LARNACA / CYPRUS" cancellation, further receiving a London oval registered hand stamp in 1881. The first five stamps are plate 201 and the later two plate 220. The sixth stamp, NC, has the constant thick "C" variety as explained above.



Thick "C" variety

| | A | B | C | D | E | F | G | H | I | J | K | L |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| A | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| B | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| C | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| D | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| E | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| F | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| G | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| H | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| I | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| J | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| K | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| L | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| M | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| N | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| O | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| P | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Q | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| R | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| S | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| T | | | | | | | | | | | | |



Plate 181



Plate 205



Plate 208



Plate 215



Plate 216



Plate 217



Plate 218



An illustration of the sheet showing the positions where the thick "C" in "CYPRUS" variety occurs.

CC, DC & FK on upper half
and MC, NC & PK on lower half.



Plate 201

Plate 174

Only a small number of plate 174 sheets were overprinted. Although the exact number is not known it is thought that not more than 2-3 probably undertook the overprint. The above is the only recorded multiple with plate number.



A registered cover postmarked Lanaca 14 September 1880 (one circular type 2 and one oval registration cancellations) with two 1d plate 174 stamps and one 2½d plate 14 stamp to Florence - Italy. 2½d paying for the foreign letter UPU rate and 2d for the registration fee. Two arrival back stamps one at the port of Brindisi 28 SET 80 and one at Firenze (Florence) 21.9.80 prove its arrival. Plate 174 stamps are only known with Larnaca or Limassol cancellations indicating that the few sheets from this plate were only distributed there.

Plate 184 MINT

Considered to be one of the rarest stamps in Cyprus philately, plate 184 is known to exist in thirteen recorded specimens and three mint ones, one of which is shown above. The plate which was one of the thirteen to be overprinted with the word "CYPRUS", had only one sheet and this was issued at the Limassol post office.

The fact that no duplicate letters have been recorded for the known stamps supports the former theory and the fact that on all but one of the stamps the Limassol "975" barrel cancellation can be seen supports the second fact.

Only one stamp bears the Paphos cancellation. This was probably purchased in Limassol and the owner posted the letter at the Paphos post-office, thus receiving the local cancellation "981".

The above stamp also shows the "broken pin" variety which is distinguishable at the top left corner of the stamp. As with the other examples of this variety, the perforation seems to be missing thus resulting in the paper looking as if the stamp has a straight edge where the two top perforations should have been.

Plate 193 & 196

One sheet each of 193 and 196 were also printed but never used, thus the stamps from these sheets exist in the unused form only. The above blocks are identical one each from these sheets.

These stamps were on the wall of the Collector's Club in New York until they ended up in the J. C. North collection. On the 2nd of May 1956, these two sheets came up for auction in London at Robson Lowe Ltd. They were initially offered as thirty-five separate lots in identical blocks as illustrated below.

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| AA | AB | AC | AD | AE | AF | AG | AH | AI | AJ | AK | AL |
| BA | BB | BC | BD | BE | BF | BG | BH | BI | BJ | BK | BL |
| CA | CB | CC | CD | CE | CF | CG | CH | CI | CJ | CK | CL |
| DA | DB | DC | DD | DE | DF | DG | DH | DI | DJ | DK | DL |
| EA | EB | EC | ED | EE | EF | EG | EH | EI | EJ | EK | EL |
| FA | FB | FC | FD | FE | FF | FG | FH | FI | FJ | FK | FL |
| GA | GB | GC | GD | GE | GF | GG | GH | GI | GJ | GK | GL |
| HA | HB | HC | HD | HE | HF | HG | HH | HI | HJ | HK | HL |
| IA | IB | IC | ID | IE | IF | IG | IH | II | IJ | IK | IL |
| JA | JB | JC | JD | JE | JF | JG | JH | JI | JJ | JK | JL |
| KA | KB | KC | KD | KE | KF | KG | KH | KI | KJ | KK | KL |
| LA | LB | LC | LD | LE | LF | LG | LH | LI | LJ | LK | LL |
| MA | MB | MC | MD | ME | MF | MG | MH | MI | MJ | MK | ML |
| NA | NB | NC | ND | NE | NF | NG | NH | NI | NJ | NK | NL |
| OA | OB | OC | OD | OE | OF | OG | OH | OI | OJ | OK | OL |
| PA | PB | PC | PD | PE | PF | PG | PH | PI | PJ | PK | PL |
| QA | QB | QC | QD | QE | QF | QG | QH | QI | QJ | QK | QL |
| RA | RB | RC | RD | RE | RF | RG | RH | RI | RJ | RK | RL |
| SA | SB | SC | SD | SE | SF | SG | SH | SI | SJ | SK | SL |
| TA | TB | TC | TD | TE | TF | TG | TH | TI | TJ | TK | TL |

Plate 201



| | | | | |
|--|----|----|--|----|
| | | QI | | |
| | RH | | | RL |
| | | | | SL |
| | | | | TL |



Red line over
"l" at "QI".



Short leg of
"H" at "RH".



Closed loop
"S" at "RL-TL"



Snake like head of
"S" at "TL"

Plate 201

Broken "R" on entire bottom row (J) of block above and entire bottom row (T) of block below. Both rows the bottom ones of the two overprint operation.

| | | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| JA | JB | JC | JD | JE | JF |



Thick "U" at "JB"



Loop "S" at "JE"



Deformed "P" at
"JC" & "JE"

Plate 205

The stamp with check letters EF shows an almost closed top loop of "S" in CYPRUS.



A pair from the South west corner of the sheet with plate number. This must come from the initial batch of overprinting the sheets, as the "R" of CYPRUS on stamp TB, is intact. Furthermore, the sheet must have been initially been perforated early as the broken pin variety is also absent.



A locally posted cover bearing a 1 penny, plate 205, stamp for the inland mail, cancelled with the 981 Paphos barred numeral and the circular date stamp from Paphos 5 August 1880 addressed to Nicosia. The cover travelled to Nicosia via Larnaca as it was the common practice at the time following the "diligence" route as explained before, as the intermediary postmark at Larnaca of 6 August 1880 on the back suggests.

Plate 208 Missing Overprint



| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | A | A | A | B | A | C | A | D | A | E | A | F | A | G | A | H | A | I | A | J | A | K | A | L |
| | B | A | B | B | B | C | B | D | B | E | B | F | B | G | B | H | B | I | B | J | B | K | B | L |

The "CYPRUS" overprint was performed in two separate operations per sheet, each one covering 120 subjects, i.e. one for the bottom half and one for the top half of the sheet.

On one sheet of plate 208, the first operation for the bottom part of the sheet was performed correctly. The second operation however, for the top part was misplaced, probably by the sheet not being positioned correctly. This resulted in the overprint missing completely the top row, thus producing the missing overprint error on the top part of the sheet.

There is a maximum of twelve possible copies of the variety. It is possible to position each and everyone of them precisely on the sheet by the use of the check letters. The diagram above shows the result of the overprinting operations of the sheet, with the pink shade showing the position of the missing over prints.

Of the twelve examples of the variety, ten with the missing overprint have been recorded so far. The errors have been traced with the aid of various auction catalogues, the book "The Royal Philatelic Collection" by Sir John Wilson, published by "The Dropmore Press Ltd" page 67 and the personal viewing of private collections. The recorded examples of the error are highlighted on the above diagrams.

Plate 208 Double Overprint



| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | K | A | K | B | K | C | K | D | K | E | K | F | K | G | K | H | K | I | K | J | K | K | K | L |
| | L | A | L | B | L | C | L | D | L | E | L | F | L | G | L | H | L | I | L | J | L | K | L | L |

The "CYPRUS" overprint was performed in two separate operations per sheet, each one covering 120 subjects, i.e. one for the bottom half and one for the top half of the sheet.

On one sheet of plate 208, the first operation for the bottom part of the sheet was performed correctly. The second operation however, for the top part was misplaced, probably by the sheet not being positioned correctly. This resulted in the overprint missing completely the top row, thus producing the missing overprint error on the top part of the sheet. As the initial operation for the bottom part was done correctly, the first row of the bottom part of the sheet, with check letters KA-KL, received the overprint twice. This resulted in the double overprint.

There is a maximum of twelve possible copies of the variety. It is possible to position each and everyone of them precisely on the sheet by the use of the check letters. The diagram above shows the result of the overprinting operations of the sheet, with the green stripe showing the double overprint.

Of the twelve examples of the variety, seven are of the double overprint variety. The errors have been traced with the aid of various auction catalogues, the book "The Royal Philatelic Collection" by Sir John Wilson, published by "The Dropmore Press Ltd" page 67 and the personal viewing of private collections. The recorded examples of the errors are highlighted on the above diagrams.

Plate 215

Plate 215 with part of "S"
filled on the right stamp.



Plate 215 with bottom
part of "S" filled.

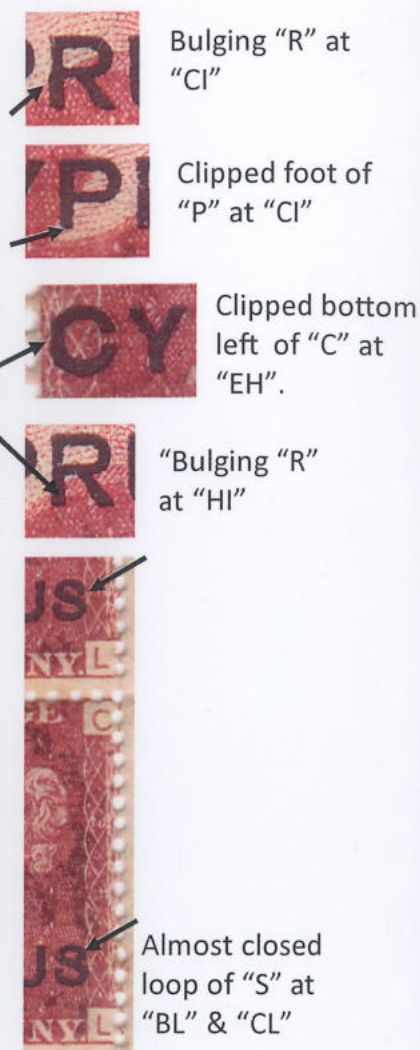


Plate 215 with top
part of "S" filled.



Plate 215 block of fifteen showing the closed upper loop of "S" variety which is located at positions "BL" and "HL-JL" at the top half and "LL" and "RL-TL" at the bottom part of the sheet.

Plate 215



| | | | | | |
|--|----|----|--|----|----|
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | BL |
| | | CI | | | CL |
| | | | | | |
| | EH | | | | |
| | | | | FK | |
| | | | | | GL |
| | | HI | | | HL |

A block of 48 stamps from plate 215 (AG-HL) with part inscriptions both on the top and right margin. The block has the "reverse watermark" variety, something visible on the right of the sheet between stamps EL-GL. On the right side of the sheet, the constant varieties as well as some constant varieties are illustrated as they appear on the block. At positions "FK" and "GL-HL" the thick "C" and closed "S" varieties are present as described on the previous pages.

Plate 216



Plate 216 with the bottom curve of "S" on the first stamp EG, cut off.



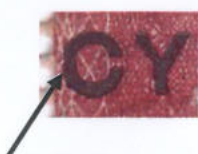
A registered cover postmarked Larnaca 20 April 1880 (one circular type 2 and one oval registration cancellations) with two 1d plate 216 stamps and one 2½d plate 14 stamp to Munich in Germany. 2½d paying for the foreign letter UPU rate and 2d for the registration fee. An arrival hand stamp is at the back but cannot be deciphered.

Plate 216



| | | | | | |
|----|----|----|--|----|----|
| | OH | OI | | | |
| | | | | PK | |
| QG | | QI | | | |
| | | | | | RL |
| | | | | | SL |
| | | | | | TL |

One penny plate 216 block of 36 stamps from the bottom right of the sheet with check letters "OG-TL" with plate number and current number 258. The bottom showing part of the imprint and next to check letters "OL-PL" the straight watermark can be seen "...STAGE". Apart from the constant varieties of the thick "C" at position "PK" and the closed upper loop of "S" at "RL-TL" further minor varieties exist as can be seen above.



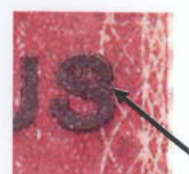
Straight back of
"C" at "OH".



Thick left foot
of "R" at QG.



Thick "C" at "QI".



Almost filled in "S"
by shifting at "OI".

Plate 217 varieties

Plate 217 with the "S" of the top right stamp showing signs of doubling.



The adjacent bottom plated number block of plate 217 and current number 259 and partial imprint, shows the almost closed upper loop of "S" variety at positions "RL-TL". TI has a break in "R"

Plate 217 varieties



Block of four with the stamp "JE"
showing a break on "R".



A left marginal block of twenty-four stamps from plate 217, showing the reversed watermark variety on the margin next to stamps "EA-GA". The broken pin variety between rows "B" & "C" as well as a partial break of the "U" in "CYPRUS" at position "FA", probably at the initial stages of the break in the printing plate which initiated the flaw. Position "ED" has a spot next to "S" of CYPRUS.

Plate 217



Plate 218



During the overprint process which was performed in two stages for the 1d stamp, first the top part of 120 stamps and then the bottom part of the sheet, for the rest of the 120 stamps, there was a shift in the plate during the printing of the bottom half of one of the sheets of plate 218. This resulted in the double printing of the word "CYPRUS" at the bottom part of the specific sheet.

The strip of six stamps above shows the error on the bottom stamp only. It should be noted that this is stamp KA which is the leftmost top stamp on the bottom half of the sheet. Thus the overprinting process for this stamp was the first for this sheet and the top five stamps were overprinted in the second operation. This shows that only the bottom part of the sheet was overprinted double. This along with the fact that no stamps with the same check letters have been recorded with this error, leads us to the conclusion that the error occurred only on one sheet.

It should also be noted that the top stamp with the check letters FA shows the constant break in the letter "U" of CYPRUS, variety, which occurred sometime during the printing process and certainly not at the beginning, as some stamps at this position have the letter "U" intact.

A third variety on this strip is the reversed watermark that can be seen on the left margin on the stamp with the letters "...STAGE" being reversed.

Plate 218



Plate 218 with "R" on the top right stamp showing thinning.



| | | | |
|--|----|----|----|
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | BH | BI | BJ |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | EH | | |



A block of twenty, plate 218 stamps from the upper part of the sheet, check letters "AG-EJ", showing the reversed watermark variety above stamps "AG-AH" as well as non-constant varieties as described below.



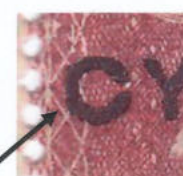
Damaged "C" at "BJ"



Clipped "R" at "BI"



Damaged "R" at "BH"



Thick "C" at "EH"

Block of Plate 220 and Plate 218 cover

Plate 220

Plate 220 stamps are considered to be moderately rare. The above block with plate number is the only one that has been recorded so far.



Cover franked with a 1d plate 208 stamp postmarked with the barred "981" type I stamp, and the type II date stamp, dated 22 July 1880 to Nicosia. Two back stamps of Limassol and Larnaca of 24 July 1880 indicate the route that the cover travelled to reach its final destination, Nicosia.

Defective "R" & "U" varieties

At some stage during the printing process a plate break occurred on the second stamp of the bottom row of the sheet. The result is on letter "R" as illustrated. So far this has been recorded five times. Two of these examples from plates 217 and 218 are recorded here. In order to support the theory that this occurred at some stage during the production of the stamps, two more examples from this position are illustrated. One from plate 205 and one from the rare plate 220.



Bottom marginal block of four with plate number 217 and a pair of plate 218. both with part inscription showing the broken pin variety at the bottom of the two stamps on the right as well as a effective "R" in "CYPRUS" on the bottom right stamp.



Cover franked with two plate 181 penny red and one plate 15 half-penny, overprinted "CYPRUS" on a cover postmarked Larnaca, 6 April 1880 to Florence, Italy. All stamps have been cancelled with the "942" barred type cancellation of Larnaca. At the back there is an arrival hand stamp a Firenze (Florence) of 13 April 1880, 2½d being the normal foreign letter rate. In addition the "U" of "CYPRUS" on the top penny stamp, SD, is damaged but this is not consistent with the constant variety known.



Varieties on letter "P" & "R" of "CYPRUS"



Plate 218
Broken "P"



Plate 201
Part of "P" missing



Plate 216
Bulging "P"



Plate 218
Damaged "R"



Plate 217
Extra spot on "R"



Plate 215
Break in "R"

Varieties on letter "S" of "CYPRUS"



Plate 217
Closed upper loop of "S"
on right stamp



Plate 216
Breaks in "P" and "S"



Plate 201
Break in "R" and
almost closed "S"



Plate 218
Almost closed
upper loop of "S"



Plate 201
Blob on "P" and
elongated "S"



Plate 181
Almost closed upper
loop of "S"

Varieties on letter "S" of "CYPRUS"



Plate 215
Broken "S"



Plate 181
Almost closed upper
loop of "S"



Plate 216
Spot in upper
loop of "S"



Plate 217
Closed upper
loop of "S"



Plate 201
Line in upper
loop of "S"



Plate 181
Almost closed upper loop
and break on bottom of "S"

Overseas usage of the 1d stamp



Plate 205 with an Egyptian cancellation.



Cover franked with a provisional 1d (plate 217), postmarked Aner... S.E. on 19 October 1899 to Cyprus with several back stamps at Limassol, Larnaca and Paphos. One of the covers that used the surpluses of stamps sold in England after they stopped circulating in Cyprus.

Overseas usage of the 1d stamp

A block of four of Plate 215 with a UK square circle registered cancellation.

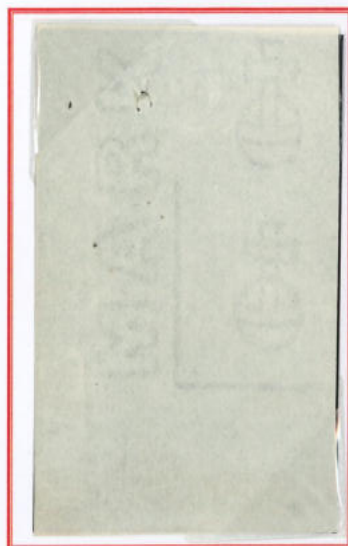


Cover franked with a provisional 1d (plate 217), postmarked Camberwell S.E. on May 1893 paying the local inland letter within Great Britain. These stamps upon withdrawal by The Cyprus post office, were sent as remainders to the UK and were bought by Stanley Gibbons. Some of these went into circulation and were subsequently used in Britain. Such is the above example, of which not many are recorded.

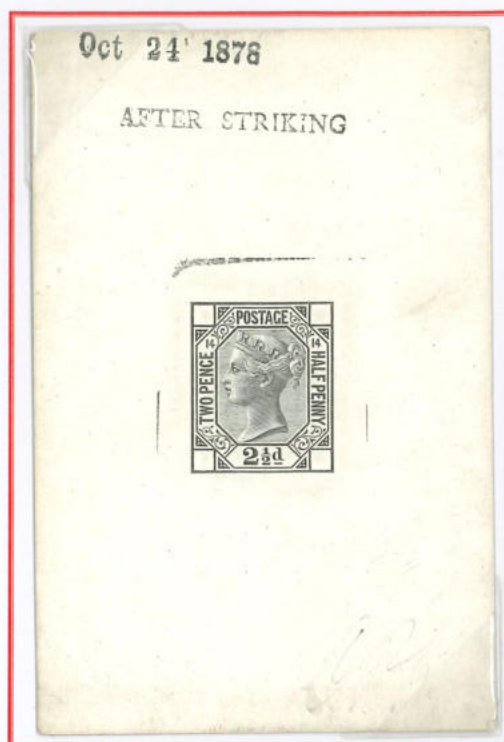
Watermark



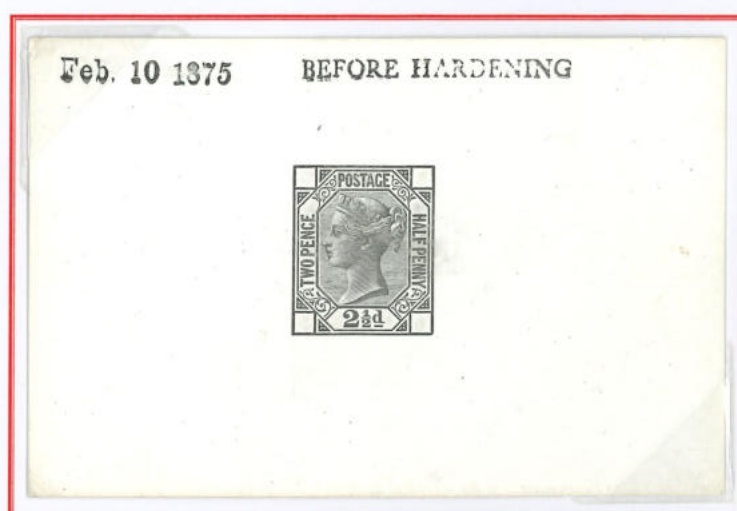
An Orb bit in brass, stitched on a card. This is a piece from the mesh that was used to create the watermark on the paper used to produce the stamps.



Watermarked paper with two impressions of the orb that was used in the UK for both postal and revenue issues.

Die Proofs

A Great Britain 2½d die proof with blank tablets at the four corner letters and plate number 14, as used in Cyprus, in black on white glazed card, 92x60mm and dated "Oct. 24 1876" with the notation "AFTER STRIKING".



A Great Britain 2½d Die Proof with blank tablets at the four corner letters and plate numbers in black on white glazed card, 92x60mm and dated "Feb. 10 1875" with the notation "BEFORE HARDENING". The Great Britain stamp was printed during 1875-1881 with a number of plates being used in Cyprus between the years 1878-1880. Two plates, 14 and 15 were subsequently overprinted "CYPRUS" and became part of the 1880 Provisional Overprinted Issue. The 2½d value, was widely used as it was the normal foreign letter rate at the time.

The GB Issue

The Die proof plate 14,
marked as Oct 22 78,
192 leads plate 14.



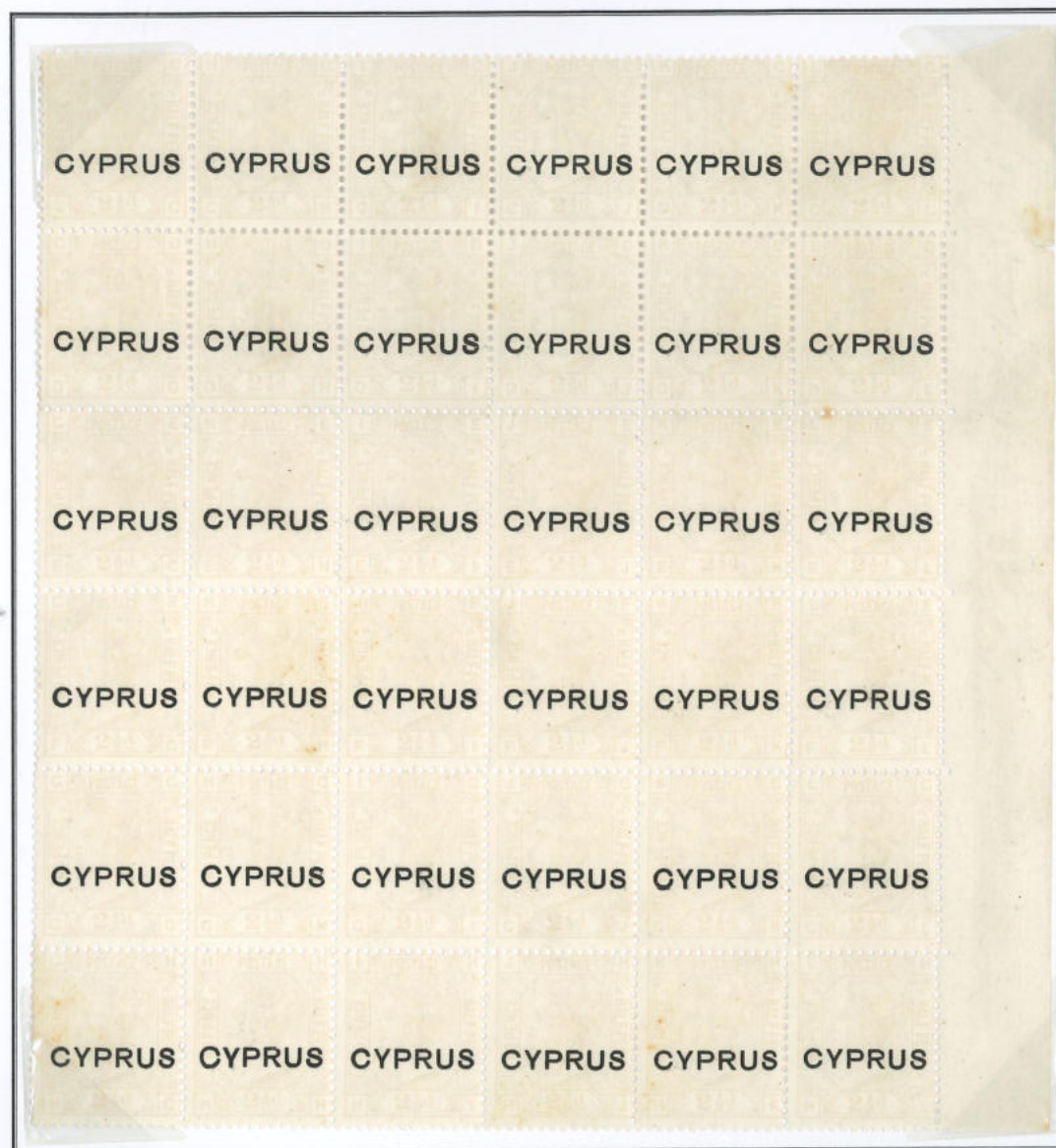
The Die proof plate 15,
marked as Feb 21 79,
192 leads plate 15.



Imprimaturs from plates 14 & 15 as
well as the stamps as issued in Great
Britain prior to the "CYPRUS" over-
print being applied.



Watermarked paper with "CYPRUS" overprint



e

The 2½ rosy-mauve plate 14, with the colours largely discharged, as mentioned in the accompanying BPA certificate, showing clearly the watermark "orb" as well as a clear misperforation on the left hand side not uncommon for this stamp. The interesting thing about this piece is that the overprint is of superb quality and the gum on the reverse is untouched and not cracked.

The thought thus evolves if it is indeed a case of discolouration or a sheet that was originally misprinted and as remained un-noticed or as it was charged, it followed the route and was further overprinted "CYPRUS" at a later stage without it being disparted at any stage during the printing process.

All the varieties described on the previous pages on the overprint can also be found on this block. These are the diagonal crack in "R" at row 4 column 3, the thick base of "C" at row 5 column 5 and the broken "R" along the whole of the bottom row.

SPECIMEN

Under inked "C" and part of the "Y" in "CYPRUS".



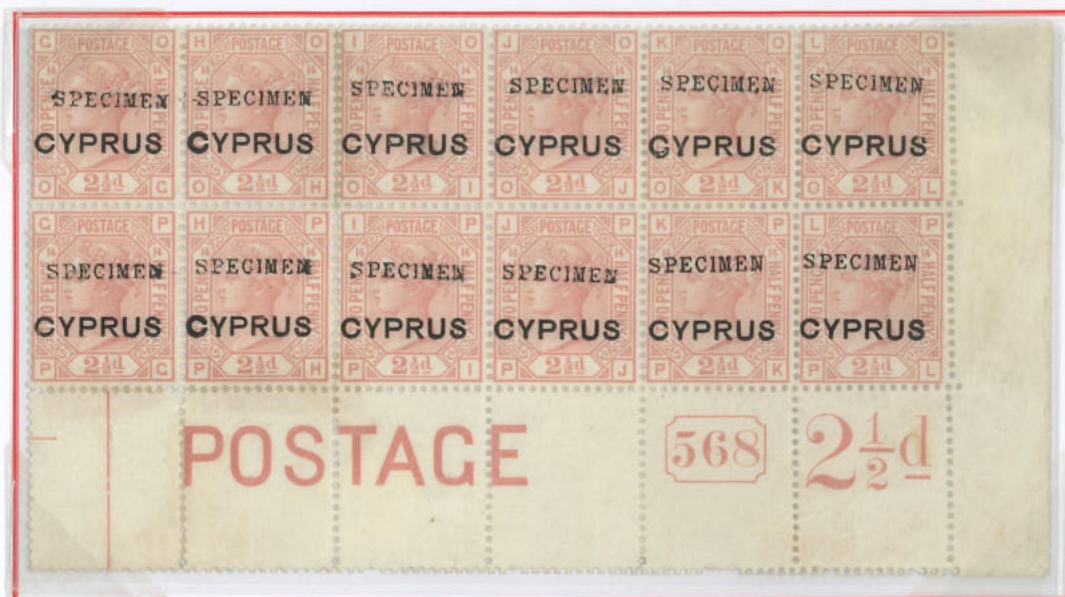
The left stamp of the "SPECIMEN" pair shows a strange crack of the letter "R" with the piece missing having moved to the right, in the middle of letters "P & R".

This is not a constant variety as a lot of the sheets exist and a thorough study has been made.

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| I A | I B | I C | I D | I E | I F | I G | I H | I I | I J | I K | I L |
| J A | J B | J C | J D | J E | J F | J G | J H | J I | J J | J K | J L |
| K A | K B | K C | K D | K E | K F | K G | K H | K I | K J | K K | K L |
| L A | L B | L C | L D | L E | L F | L G | L H | L I | L J | L K | L L |
| M A | M B | M C | M D | M E | M F | M G | M H | M I | M J | M K | M L |
| N A | N B | N C | N D | N E | N F | N G | N H | N I | N J | N K | N L |
| O A | O B | O C | O D | O E | O F | O G | O H | O I | O J | O K | O L |
| P A | P B | P C | P D | P E | P F | P G | P H | P I | P J | P K | P L |

From the adjacent study, where the known "SPECIMENS" from various auction catalogues and private collections have been recorded, it can be deduced that the above block is definitely one of the biggest possible blocks that can exist.

The table is an on going process and effort to try and reconstruct the "SPECIMEN" pane and to note the multiples that have survived over the years.

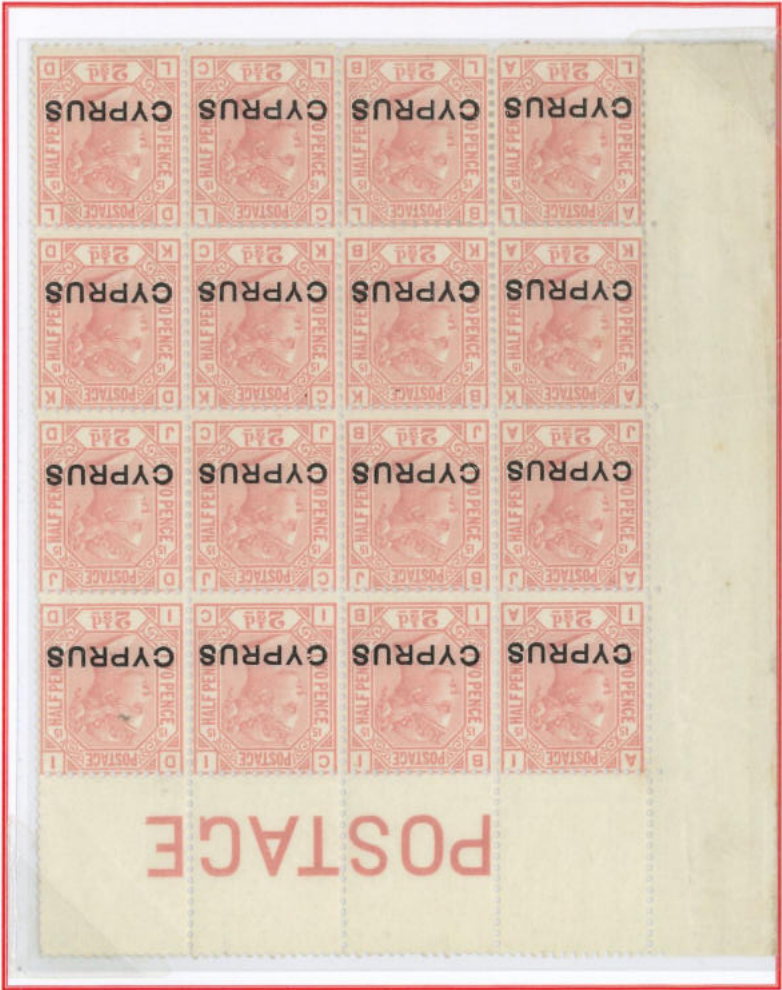
SPECIMEN

The theory proposed that one pounds worth of stamps for each of the six values of the overprinted issue were further overprinted "SPECIMEN" suggests that only 96 copies of the 2½d stamps could have received the overprint.

The fact that no duplicate letters exist with the "SPECIMEN" overprint, does not only conform with the suggested theory but also shows that no attempts to forge this overprint were attempted.

It is noted that the constant variety at position OK with the thick base of "C" is present and the chip of the top right corner of "R" at the bottom row "P" of the sheet is also present. It is further noted that the "C" at positions OH and PH is abnormally thick as if overprinted twice. Furthermore in the whole of the bottom row, PG to PL the broken "R" on "CYPRUS" variety can be seen on all stamps, as illustrated above.

Inverted Watermark



One of the largest blocks recorded of the 2½d stamp, plate 15, with the inverted watermark variety. The study on the right, shows the known pieces that have either appeared in auctions through the years or belong to private collections.

The block also has the varieties as explained in the previous page at positions IC (Cracked “C”), KC (Slice missing of the bottom right part of “S”) and LC (blob on the right hand side of the foot of “P”).)

Although these varieties are constant, they become more significant as only two of each are possible occurring once at upper pane and a second time at the lower pane.

The studies carried out so far lead to the conclusion that only one sheet was printed with the inverted watermark as no duplicate check letters have been recorded with the variety. So only 192 stamps are possible with the variety.

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| AA | AB | AC | AD | AE | AF | AG | AH | AI | AJ | AK | AL |
| BA | BB | BC | BD | BE | BF | BG | BH | BI | BJ | BK | BL |
| CA | CB | CC | CD | CE | CF | CG | CH | CI | CJ | CK | CL |
| DA | DB | DC | DD | DE | DF | DG | DH | DI | DJ | DK | DL |
| EA | EB | EC | ED | EE | EF | EG | EH | EI | EJ | EK | EL |
| FA | FB | FC | FD | FE | FF | FG | FH | FI | FJ | FK | FL |
| GA | GB | GC | GD | GE | GF | GG | GH | GI | GJ | GK | GL |
| HA | HB | HC | HD | HE | HF | HG | HH | HI | HJ | HK | HL |
| | | | | | | | | | | | |
| IA | IB | IC | ID | IE | IF | IG | IH | II | IJ | IK | IL |
| JA | JB | JC | JD | JE | JF | JG | JH | JI | JJ | JK | JL |
| KA | KB | KC | KD | KE | KF | KG | KH | KI | KJ | KK | KL |
| LA | LB | LC | LD | LE | LF | LG | LH | LI | LJ | LK | LL |
| MA | MB | MC | MD | ME | MF | MG | MH | MI | MJ | MK | ML |
| NA | NB | NC | ND | NE | NF | NG | NH | NI | NJ | NK | NL |
| OA | OB | OC | OD | OE | OF | OG | OH | OI | OJ | OK | OL |
| PA | PB | PC | PD | PE | PF | PG | PH | PI | PJ | PK | PL |

The diagram above represents the full sheet consisting of both upper and lower panes with the positions of the known pieces recorded. The large light blue block indicates the position of the block exhibited on this page.

Plate 15 - Registered cover

A pre-register cover bearing one 2½d plate 15 stamp postmarked with the barred "975" Limassol cancellation and the type two date stamp of 19 June 1881 and the oval registration stamp of the same date posted to Alexandria in Egypt.

The reverse shows an arrival stamp at Alexandria of 22 June 1881 and the pre-paid registration fee of 2 pence printed on the cover.

There are only three recorded registered covers to date with the plate 15 stamp. Most 15 plate stamps remained unsold and were sent to London in 1881.

Plate 15

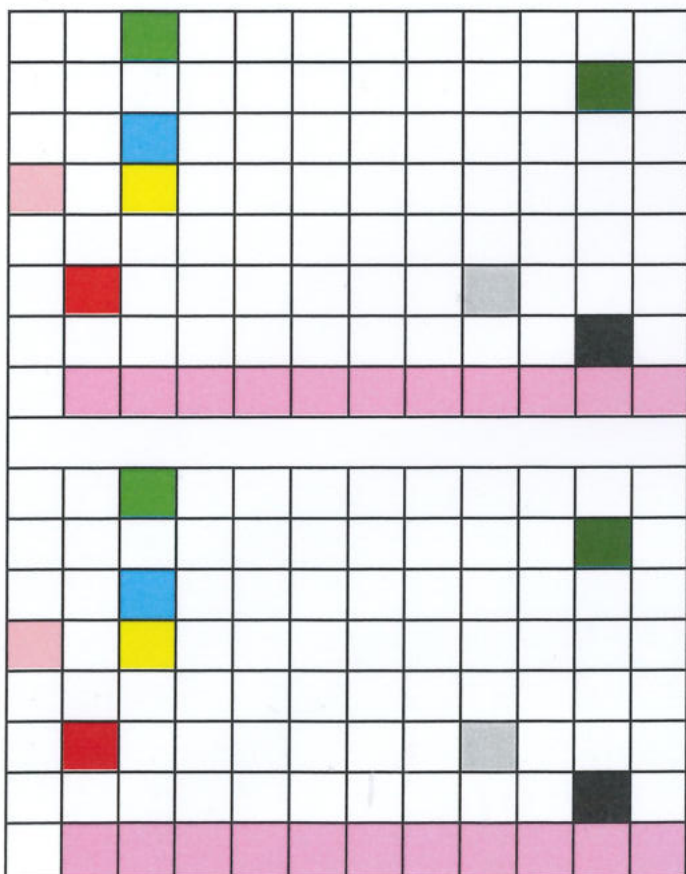
The Cyprus overprinted issue came into circulation on the 1st of April 1880 and was withdrawn on the 30th of June 1881. A large number of the stamps were unsold and these were made available for purchase to Stanley Gibbons in London by the Cyprus Government.

The stamps were then sold to collectors. It is apparent that a small number of these were used for postage purposes in Great Britain. The cover below uses the plate 15 stamp of the 2½d not commonly used in Cyprus as most of the stamps originating from this plate were probably not sold in Cyprus.



A block of eight of the 15 plate 2½d stamp with the BH stamp showing a distinctive break on the "R" of "CYPRUS".

This is not a constant variety but probably caused by a foreign object during the overprinting.

Varieties of both plates on the overprint

Both the 2 1/2d plates 14 and 15 show constant varieties of the overprinted word "CYPRUS" at the positions shown above. These varieties are illustrated in the stamps shown in this page.

The two vertically disposed panes of each sheet shown above, and in both plate numbers, have these varieties at the positions indicated, proving that the overprint was conducted in two separate operations, one for the top and a second for the bottom pane.

[illegible]

RL

The broken "R" variety can be found at positions HB-HL and at PB-PL.

[illegible]

Varieties of both plates on the overprint

| | | | |
|------|-----|-----|---|
| 3 | | | |
| | | 2 | |
| 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| TAGE | 568 | 2½d | |

1. The bottom row PA-PL with the exception of stamp PA shows the broken "R" variety.
2. Positions "GK" & "OK" show a thicker base of "C" than the rest of the overprints.
3. A diagonal crack in "R", extending from the top right corner, extending downwards and across the bottom part of the loop next to the right foot, at positions "FI" & "NI".



1. Broken "R"



2. Thick base of "C"



3. Diagonal crack in "R"

Overseas Usage

A registered cover posted at Swanage with a No22 cancellation on November 22 1894 with further postmarks at Wareham K*P of the same date and a red oval registered cancellation of the following date destined for Germany.

Furthermore a blue "R-Fee Paid" label has been stuck on the bottom left side at the front and on the reverse the arrival stamp at Mittweida of 24 November can be seen.

The cover bears the 2½d "CYPRUS" provisional overprinted stamp along with two 1887-1900 Jubilee Issue Great Britain stamps for ½d and 1½d. The Cyprus stamp paying for the registration fee and the two GB stamps the overseas letter rate at the time.

This is the only cover recorded with the 2½d "CYPRUS" stamp being used overseas.

Variety and early usage

The bottom row of the sheet of the stamp, showing the constant variety of the dot between the legs of "R" of "CYPRUS" at position HF.



Cover with a 2½d stamp paying the foreign letter rate, postmarked 13 April, 1880 to Florence in Italy. The letter was posted on the 13th day of the release of the stamp with a Firenze arrival postmark on the reverse.

Partially imperforated and double rate letter

A plate 14, 2½d stamp lettered LA partially imperforate at right, probably as a result of three missing perforation pins. The variety has not been noticed on any other stamp of this denomination thus far and this can not be considered as a constant variety. Furthermore the stamp has a "974" Kerynia cancellation.



An entire letter bearing two 2½d plate 14 stamps postmarked with the barrel "942" Larnaca cancellation paying the double weight fee to Trieste. The barred hand stamp appears on top of a type two Larnaca date stamp of March 1881, probably to cancel an incorrect date and a new corrected date of 6 March 1881 appears on the bottom right of the entire.

The top left of the letter has the direction "Via Brindisi", something that is supported by one of the two arrival stamps on the back. The first having been applied at Brindisi on 12 March 1881 and the second one at Trieste on the same date.

Late usage cancelled and taxed



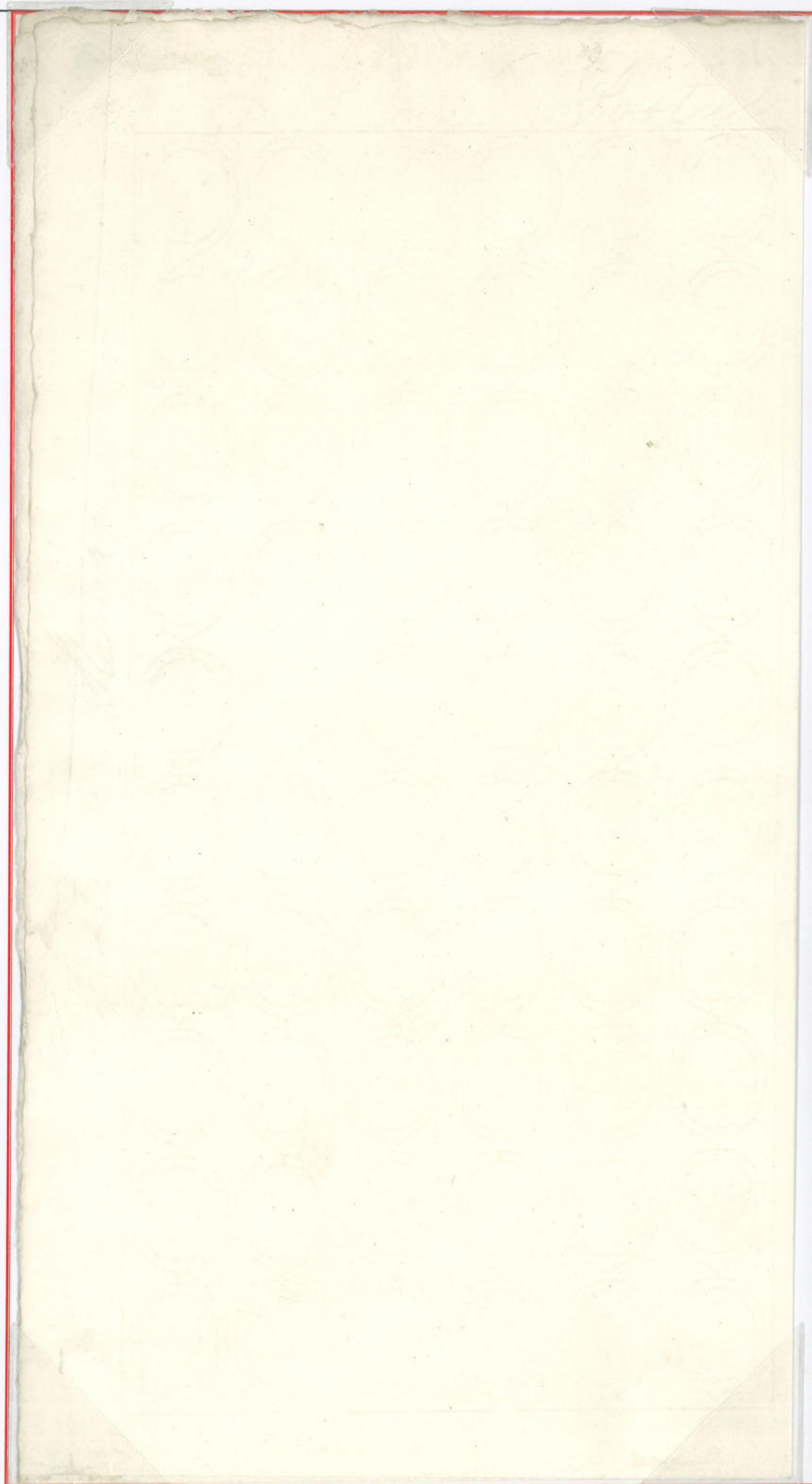
Envelope postmarked Nicosia 12 July 1881 (12 days after the stamps having gone out of circulation) to England, bearing three 2½ stamps of plate 15.

The stamps were not accepted for postage as the stamps were not valid any more, indicated by the four small blue crayon rings drawn on the envelope. The letter was further taxed "T" and a 4d fee was applied in London.

A back stamp at Manchester on arrival is dated 21 July 1881. All three stamps have the broken "R" variety.

This is the only cover recorded with cancelled stamps that have been used late and not accepted.

Watermark



1857 complete sheet (folded) of Large Garter watermark paper, including all marginal inscriptions. The opened sheet shows clearly the four panes that composed the subsequent sheet of stamps that were cut in four before distribution to the post offices.

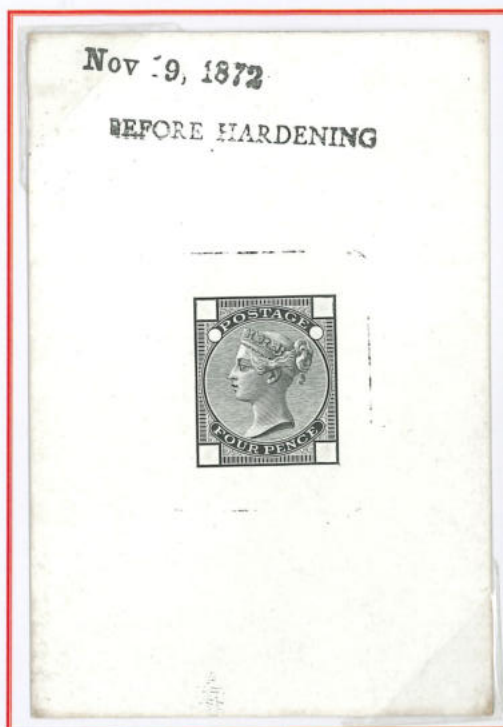
GB Stamp



The 4d plate 16 stamp final proof cut down to stamp size in black with plate number 16 and check letters AL.



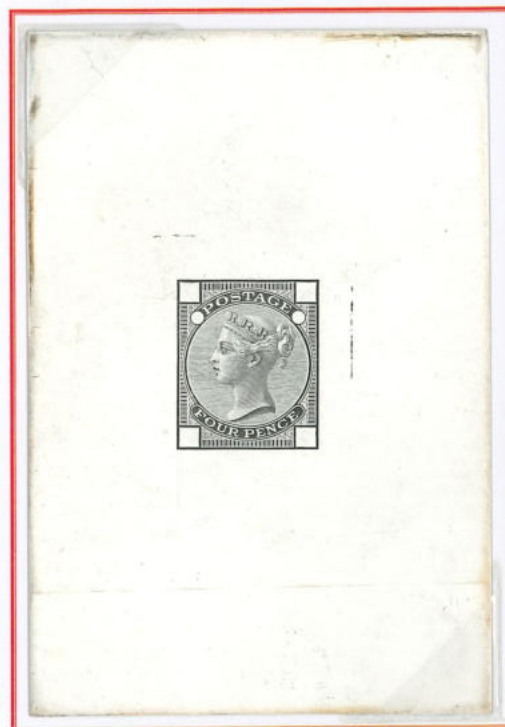
The 4d plate 16 stamp as originally was issued in Great Britain on 12th of March 1877.



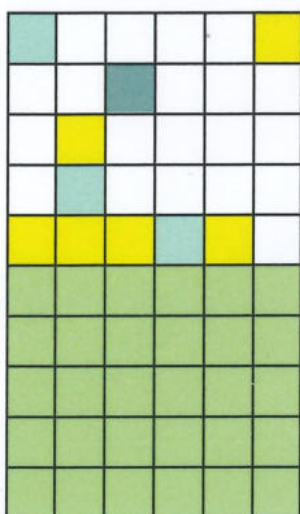
Die proof of the 4d stamp on glazed card as used in the UK and thereafter in Cyprus. The proof comes without plate number and check letters, but with the inscription "Nov 19, 1872 BEFORE HARDENING"

GB Stamp

The four pence stamps cut from the day book of the printers down to stamp size without check letters. The proof shows the plate number "16", the one used in Cyprus and has the endorsements "July 3rd - 240 - 16-449".



Die proof of the 4d stamp on glazed card as used in the UK and thereafter in Cyprus. The proof comes without plate number and check letters.

SPECIMEN

60 copies of the 4d plate 16, the only one to be used in Cyprus, were overprinted "SPECIMEN".

As with the strip of six on the adjacent page the broken "R" in the word "CYPRUS" on the bottom row is present.

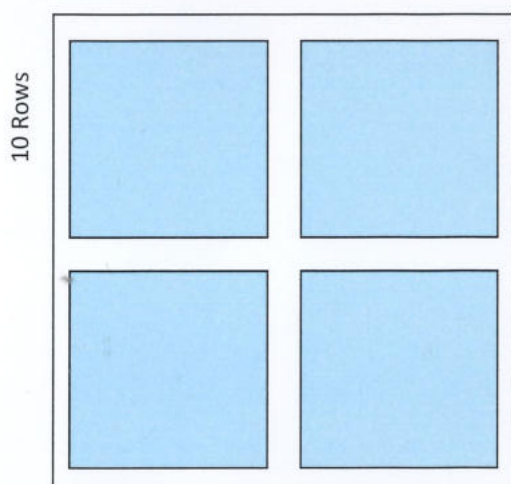
Furthermore, the adjacent diagram shows the 4d specimen values that have been recorded so far, proving that this block is the largest possible for the 4d value in existence.

The only other multiple being recorded is the strip on three "EG-EI" which appeared in the 2000 Feldman sale of the K-collection.

Varieties

Out of the 14,640 stamps were overprinted 10,972 were sold as remainders. Thus with 3,668 stamps only that were sold, used stamps are rarer. From the layout of the sheet, it is clear that stamps with the check letter "F" have a right wing margin and with the letter "G" must have a left wing margin. Some examples are known to have been re-perforated.

6 Columns



10 Rows



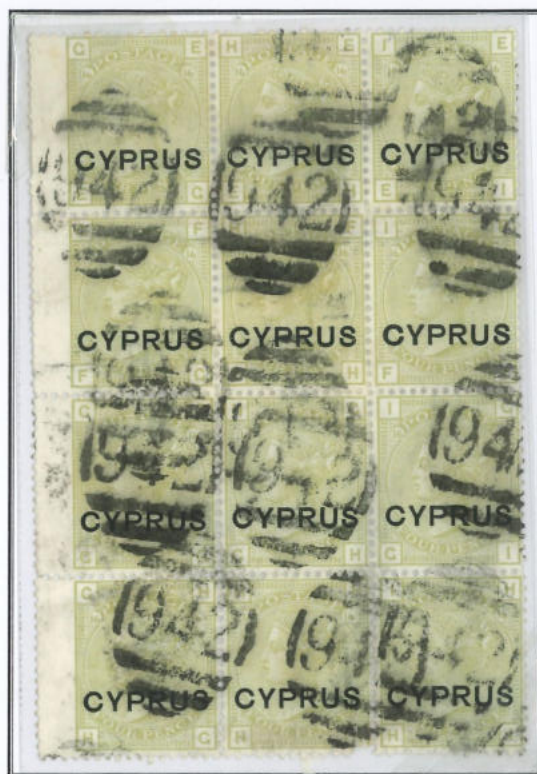
A pair of the 4d stamp showing a damaged "S" non-constant variety on the left stamp.

The 4d plate 16 stamp was used for the overprinting. The sheet layout was 4 panes of 60 stamps each in 10 rows by 10 columns.



All stamps on the above strip show the broken "R" on "CYPRUS" variety, which seems to be constant for the bottom row of the pane.



Used block

A block of twelve cancelled with the Larnaca numeral "942" cancellation.

From the number of remainders used blocks are rarer than mint. Out of the 14.640 stamps printed, 10.972 remained unsold. So 3.668 were actually sold.

There is no way of knowing how any of these were actually used. However, a significant numbers of mint stamps and some strips and blocks have been detected in collections and auctions, which brings down the number of used stamps. Used single stamps are by far the most common to be seen. From the above one can deduce that the number of large blocks with these stamps must be significantly low.

GB Stamp

Plate proof (imprimatur)
from plate 16 that was
submitted to the post office
for the final check before
the printing of the main
print run of the stamps.



Die proof of the 6d stamp on glazed card as
used in the UK on the left used in the UK and
thereafter in Cyprus without plate number.

GB Stamp



The 6d stamp plate 16 as issued in Great Britain on 20th of March 1874.



Die proof of the 6d stamp on glazed card as used in the UK of the 6d stamp on glazed card as used in the UK and thereafter in Cyprus with plate number 16 as the overprinted plate.

Largest known SPECIMEN block

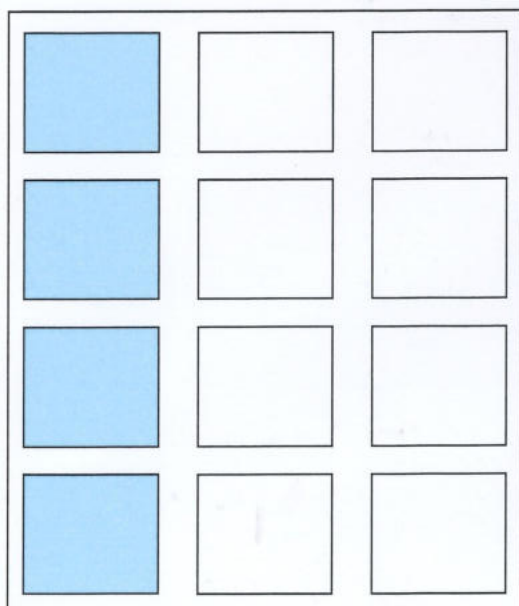
A only one pound's worth of stamps were overprinted "SPECIMEN", There are forty samples for the 6d value. The study below shows the pieces and blocks recorded in various auction catalogues and private collections.

The above block of six overprinted "SPECIMEN" is the largest possible specimen block that can exist in accordance with the study below.

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| K | A | K | B | K | C | K | D |
| L | A | L | B | L | C | L | D |
| M | A | M | B | M | C | M | D |
| N | A | N | B | N | C | N | D |
| O | A | O | B | O | C | O | D |
| | | | | | | | |
| P | A | P | B | P | C | P | D |
| Q | A | Q | B | Q | C | Q | D |
| R | A | R | B | R | C | R | D |
| S | A | S | B | S | C | S | D |
| T | A | T | B | T | C | T | D |

Largest known mint block

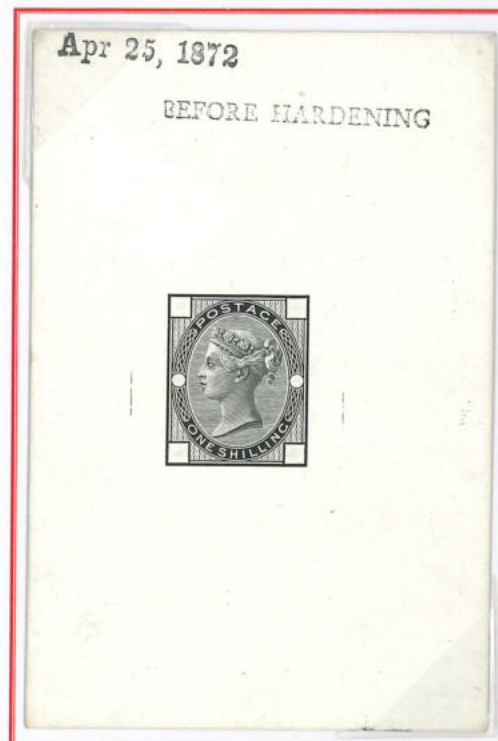
3,360 stamps were overprinted all coming from the left column panes. 1,015 were sold as remainders. From the quantity printed it is evident that 168 sheets were used to accumulate the right number of stamps from only the left column panes with stamps with check letter "D" having a right wing margin unless the stamps were re-perforated.



The 6d plate 16 stamp was used for the overprinting. The sheet layout was 12 panes (4 rows of 3) of 20 stamps each in 5 rows by 4 columns. The adjacent plan shows the complete sheet design as issued for the GB stamps. The blue shade indicates the panes that were used for the overprint. Thus the possible check letters bearing the overprint are AA to TS.

GB Stamps

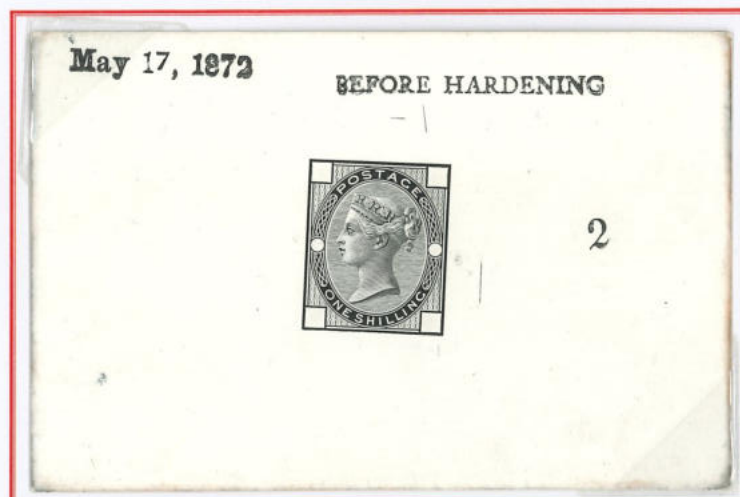
The 1/- die proof at two stages as issued for the 1872 issue and subsequently used in Cyprus as a GB stamp from 1878-1880. The stamp was then overprinted "CYPRUS" making it the highest denomination of the six stamps to form the first Cyprus issue. The above example is from the De La rue records showing plate number "13" and corner letters.



The 1 shilling die proof without plate number and check letters, endorsed "Apr 25, 1872 BEFORE HARDENING".

GB Stamps

The 1 Shilling pate 13 stamp as issued in Great Britain on the 1st of September 1873.



Both of the above die proofs are printed in black on with glazed card. The one on the left in a darker shade and probably from the initial strike of the proof on April 25th 1872 and the one on the right from the second attempt before hardening on May 17th, of the same year. The number "2" on the right probably signifies the 2nd strike of the proof before hardening.

Specimen

e

20 copies of the 1/- plate
13, the only one to be used
in Cyprus, were overprinted
"SPECIMEN".

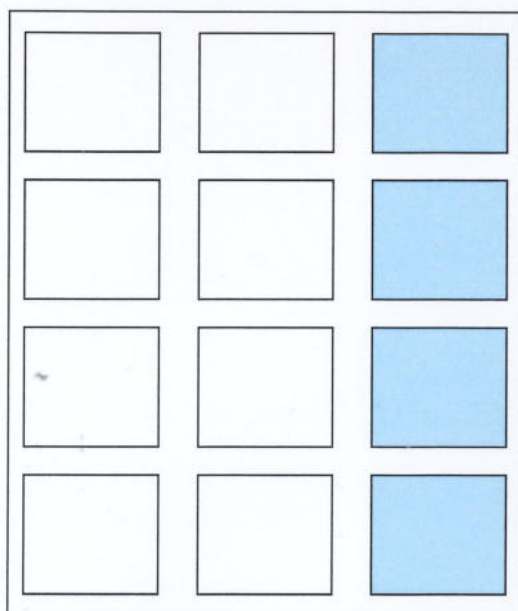
| | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| | | | | |
| | K I | K J | K K | K L |
| | L I | L J | L K | L L |
| | M I | M J | M K | M L |
| | N I | N J | N K | N L |
| | O I | O J | O K | O L |

Only 20 copies of the 1 shilling specimen should exist as only one pounds worth of specimens were overprinted for each value. The colored rectangles above represent the known samples from various private collections, institutions and auction catalogues.

Mint and used

4 Columns

5 Rows



The 1s plate 13 stamp was used for the overprinting. The sheet layout was 12 panes (4 rows of 3) of 20 stamps each in 5 rows by 4 columns. The above plan shows the complete sheet design as issued for the GB stamps. The blue shade indicates the panes that were used for the overprint. Thus the possible check letters bearing the overprint are IA to TL.



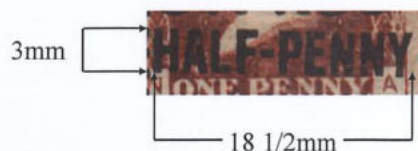
2,880 stamps were overprinted. 1,222 were sold as remainders. The above pair is the largest recorded mint multiple. A second pair was offered in the 1960 Richardson sale at Robson Lowe (lot 197 with check letters JI-JJ).



Canc. 942

Specimen

Plate 201



The above stamp is considered one of the two SPECIMEN stamps in existence from the same plate, the other residing in the Royal collection.

These are considered to be un-adopted essays as the issued stamp was 18mm long by 2 1/2mm high.

Also the fonts used for this essay are different not only in size but also in character with those of the issued stamps.

The used plates

A half penny prepaid post card with an additional half-penny, plate 201, stamp to make up the 1 penny post card rate to the UK, postmarked Larnaca May 29 1881 with an additional barred "942", Larnaca cancellation. A London W. PAID hand stamp of 8 June 81, serves as an arrival mark.

This is the only known usage of a HALF-PENNY stamp on postcard and it is illustrated as such in the *CYPRUS 1353-1986* book by W.T.F. Castle.



Plate 174



Plate 181



Plate 201



Plate 205



Plate 208



Plate 215



Plate 216



Plate 217



Plate 218



Plate 220

Ten plates that were overprinted. Plates 184, 193 and 196 of which only one sheet was issued were not overprinted. They are all used with various barred type cancellations. Particular note is made to plate numbers 215, 217 and 218 which are scarce in the used condition with the most difficult one to find being 215. The reason for the overprint is not clear as there was stock of the half penny stamp, shown at pages 2-12 of the exhibit, but it has been reported that demand for low value stamps from the colonies was high by collectors and this might have been one of the reason for the 1881 overprints.

HALF-PENN Variety

An illustration of the sheet showing the positions where the "HALF-PENN" variety occurs. It is clear that the operation of the overprint was again carried out separately on the top and bottom parts of the sheet separately as was with all other overprints in the series.

| | A | B | C | D | E | F | G | H | I | J | K | L |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| A | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| B | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| C | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| D | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| E | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| F | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| G | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| H | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| I | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| J | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| K | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| L | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| M | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| N | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| O | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| P | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Q | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| R | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| S | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| T | | | | | | | | | | | | |



A plate 205 HALF-PENNY overprinted stamp of position LG which should have had the HALF-PENN variety. It is known that the plate break which caused the variety, occurred at the initial stages of the overprint. However a few sheets escaped the break and a small number of the non-variety stamps, believed to be a maximum of ten examples are known.



Remnants of left arm.



Full stop.

Plate 215 lettered "LG" with the variety. It is thought that only two sheets of this plates were overprinted "HALF-PENNY", yielding only four possible examples of the variety. This is the only copy that has been recorded so far.



Plate 181



Plate 205



Plate 208



Plate 216



Plate 217

The HALF-PENN variety occurs at positions BG and LG on all plates where the upper part of the letter "Y" is missing and in some instances almost the entire letter, leaving what it seems like one full stop at the bottom of the letter and a dot at the end of the left arm.

Plate 220 Double Surcharge variety - The unique pair

Plate 220, HALF-PENNY 3 with a double surcharge.

This is the ONLY example of this variety that has been recorded so far on any of the ten plates that were used with the type 3 overprint.

The scan on the right shows under magnification the doubling. The arrows show clearly the variety on the "P", one being higher and to the left of the other.

Broken pin variety

| | A | B | C | D | E | F | G | H | I | J | K | L |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| A | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| B | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| C | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| D | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| E | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| F | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| G | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| H | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| I | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| J | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| K | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| L | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| M | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| N | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| O | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| P | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Q | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| R | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| S | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| T | | | | | | | | | | | | |

An illustration of the sheet showing the positions where the broken pin variety occurs between columns "B" & "C".



Plate 174. In addition the stamp shows the thick "C" variety.



Plate 205



Plate 215



A marginal block of four, plate 208, showing reverse watermark on the margin as well as the not damaged "U" at position "PA". The broken pin variety showing on the two stamps at the bottom right.



A plate 181 block of four with the 214 current number showing the variety on the two stamps on the right at the bottom.

Small second N in PENNY variety

| | A | B | C | D | E | F | G | H | I | J | K | L |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| A | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| B | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| C | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| D | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| E | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| F | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| G | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| H | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| I | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| J | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| K | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| L | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| M | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| N | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| O | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| P | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Q | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| R | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| S | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| T | | | | | | | | | | | | |

An illustration of the sheet showing the positions where the small second "N" in "PENNY" variety occurs. In this instance the varieties are not all positioned symmetrically across the sheet. The majority of them are which seems to point out that although the operation must have occurred in two separate strikes. Inking problems may have caused the flaw occurring at other positions.



Plate 181

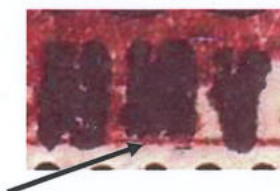


Plate 201



Plate 205



Plate 208



Plate 215



Plate 216

The short "N" in "PENNY" is characterized by the second "N" being shorter than the first as illustrated above.

HALF-PENXY Variety

| | A | B | C | D | E | F | G | H | I | J | K | L |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| A | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| B | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| C | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| D | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| E | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| F | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| G | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| H | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| I | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| J | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| K | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| L | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| M | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| N | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| O | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| P | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Q | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| R | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| S | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| T | | | | | | | | | | | | |

An illustration of the sheet showing the positions where the "PENXY" variety occurs. In this instance the varieties are not all positioned symmetrically across the sheet. The majority of them are which seems to point out that although the operation must have occurred in two separate strikes. Inking problems may have caused the flaw occurring at other positions. The black colored positions show where the flaw is more prominent.



Plate 174



Plate 181



Plate 201



Plate 205



Plate 216. The variety can be seen on "AK" and "BL".



Plate 208



Plate 215



Plate 217



Plate 218



Plate 220

The HALF-PENXY which is not as uniform as the HALF-PENN variety, is characterized by the appearance of a short "x" in the place of the second "N" in "PENNY".

HALF-PENHY variety

| | A | B | C | D | E | F | G | H | I | J | K | L |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| A | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| B | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| C | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| D | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| E | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| F | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| G | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| H | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| I | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| J | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| K | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| L | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| M | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| N | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| O | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| P | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Q | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| R | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| S | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| T | | | | | | | | | | | | |

An illustration of the sheet showing the positions where the "PENHY" variety occurs. In this instance the varieties are not all positioned symmetrically across the sheet. The majority of them are which seems to point out that although the operation must have occurred in two separate strikes. Inking problems may have caused the flaw occurring at other positions.



Plate 174



Plate 181



Plate 205

Horizontal used strip cancelled Larnaca "AP 23 81" with the middle stamp(1) "NH" showing the "PENXY" variety and the adjacent (2) to it "NI" the "PENHY" variety.

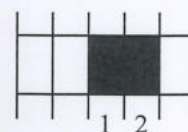


Plate 208



Plate 218



Plate 220

The HALF-PENHY which occurs at constant positions at the top and bottom halves of the sheet is characterized by the appearance of the second "N" in "PENNY" as an "H".

Joined "HA" variety



Plate 201



Plate 174



Plate 205



Plate 208



Plate 218

Double Hyphen variety

1. Double hyphen.



Plate 208



Plate 215



2. Penxy variety



Plate 216 - Unused strip of 6 - Top right marginal showing the plate number "Double Hyphen" variety at AG and "PENXY" at AJ. The "PENxY" variety is the second constant variety of the 18mm overprint. In appearance is a short "x" in the place of the second "N". It is found in several positions with the most prominent being BL-LL, BS-LS and QF-QJ. The strip also has the reversed watermark variety at "AG-AH".



Varieties



Plate 201
Over inking



Plate 218
Joined base of H variety



Plate 208
Joined "F" with hyphen
and "NY"



Plate 174

Plate 201

The top two stamps show the linked F and P variety



Clipped "P" & "R"



A part cover from Kyrenia to London postmarked July 4, 1881 bearing three HALF-PENNY 1881 (Feb) stamps on 1d red plate 201 horizontal strip of three. There should have been two more stamps of the same denomination in order to make the proper 2½d rate to London.

There is a historical significance to the cover as it was sent from the wife of the commissioner of Kyrenia, Mrs Esme Scott Stevenson, an author, to her publishers "Chapman & Hall" who published her book "Our Home in Cyprus".

Plate 205



The above block shows a dramatic shift of the surcharge to the right. Furthermore the top two stamps show the joined lower H and the damaged first N varieties and the two bottom ones the joined HA, bulb on L, over inked first N and thin (not small) second N on the "HALP-PENNY".



The printing quality of the surcharge was extremely poor and this resulted in numerous varieties, over inking, extra lines, distorted letters and various breaks on a large number of stamps. The above block is a good example of this as can be seen from the arrows showing a large number of these small varieties on just four stamps.

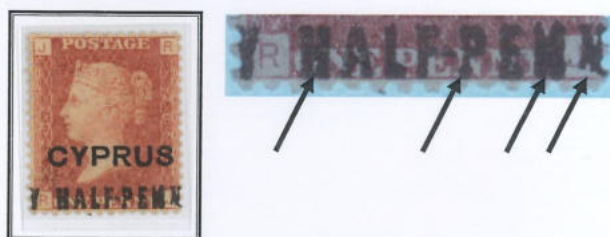
Plate 205



A used strip of five stamps cancelled to order on 23 April 1881



Line in the lower loop of "S"



Various breaks and partial over inking on a number of letters.



Over inking on all letters showing major distortions, including the hyphen between F and P.

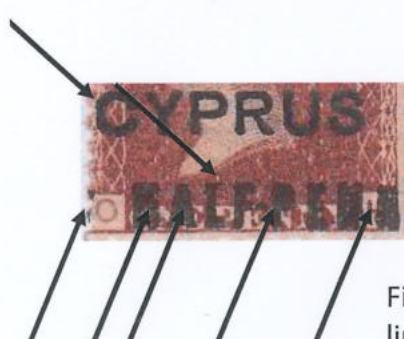
Varieties Plate 216



Filled "H", line joining
"PE" and thin "Y"



Plate 216 horizontal pair
with the "Y" on the right
stamp of "PENNY" faded.



Filled "HA", "P", "NN",
line on top of "L" and
straight back of "C"



Deformed "E" and "Y"



Joined "F-P" variety



Plate 181



Plate 205



Plate 208



Plate 215



Plate 216



Plate 217

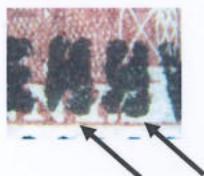
Reverse "NN" in "PENNY" variety

Plate 201



Plate 208

NALF-PENNY variety

Plate 201 - The stamp shows the "NALF-PENNY" variety which is not constant. However, it has been recorded at various positions within the sheet and it is possibly caused by excessive ink, making the "H" looking like an "N".

Broken "R" variety

Plate 174 - The stamp shows the letter "R" of "CYPRUS" broken with a line going across it from the left side in the middle diagonally downwards close to the right foot of the letter.

Joined "NN" variety

The variety seems to occur only on plate 205 and for a long time no other plates have been recorded with it. It takes several forms three of which are shown. Recently a plate 215 stamp has been located and is shown here.

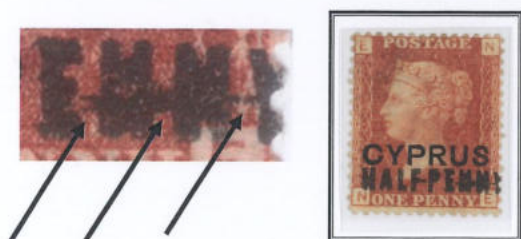


Plate 215: The line starting from the left of first "N", fading out to "Y".



Plate 205: The line starting from the first "N", fading out to "Y" and traces only can be seen to the left of the letter different from the left stamp.



Plate 205: The line starting from the first "N", fading out to "Y" and traces only can be seen to the left of the letter.



Plate 205: The line starting from the first "N", thinning out to "Y" and fading to the left of the letter.

17 mm Surcharge Trial Types plates 201 & 216

Between February and April of 1881, a 17mm overprint was applied on plates 201 and 216 only, before the issue of the 16-16½mm. Two different types of the overprint are noted.

1. The words "HALF" and "PENNY" of the overprint are separated by 2mm instead of 1mm between the letters "F" and "P".



Plate 201

e



Plate 216



17 mm Surcharge Trial Types plates 201 & 216

2. The space between the words is the normal 1mm. However all the letters of the surcharge are spaced more widely giving the overall length of 17mm.

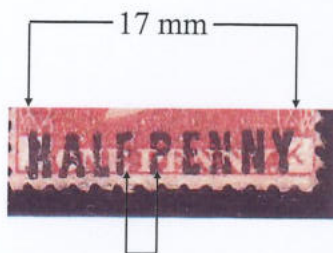


Plate 201

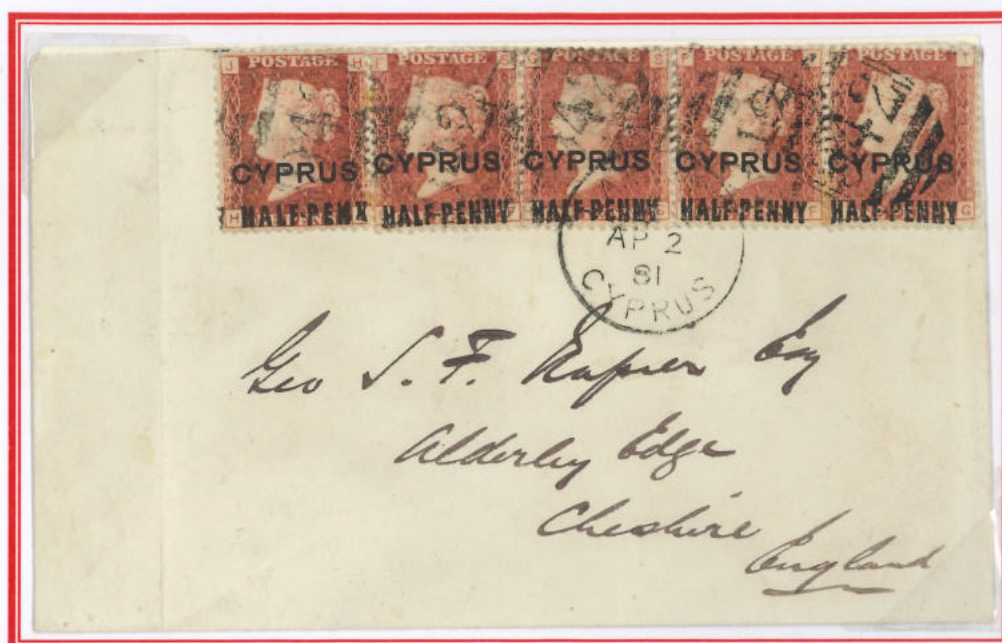
e



Plate 216



1 mm

16-16½ mm Surcharge - The Unique Cover

Two pairs of the plate 201 1d stamp surcharged "HALF-PENNY", the 16mm type along with a single 18mm "HALF-PENNY" stamp, paying the 2½d foreign letter rate at the time. The stamps are cancelled with the Larnaca "942" barrel hand stamp and the Larnaca date stamp of 2nd April 1881. The cover was posted to Cheshire in England and it received an arrival cancellation on the back at Manchester, the probable port of entry on the 11th of April.

It can also be seen that the 18mm stamp on the left hand side of the envelope bears the "PENxY" variety with the surcharged having been shifted to the right and the "Y" from the adjacent stamp showing on the left hand side.

The hand writing on the cover has been recognized as belonging to the postmaster general at the time, J.A.Bulmer.

This is considered to be by far the rarest cover of Cyprus as it is the only recorded cover with the 16mm surcharge. In addition the variety on the 18mm stamp and the handwriting of the post master general give added weight to its scarcity.

16-16½ mm Surcharge

Plates 201 and 216 are known for the 16 - 16 1/2mm overprint, better known as Type II, with most of the known specimens being of the 16 1/2mm type. Studies suggest that the overprint might have been applied individually on the stamps.



Plate 216



16 - 16 1/2mm



Plate 201 : Blob on the left side of "H"



Plate 201 : Faded "Y"



Plate 201 : Double overprint

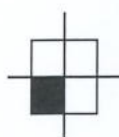


Plate 201 : The stamp at position FA shows the broken "U" variety which was a constant variety in "CYPRUS" from a certain stage of the overprint onwards. Furthermore the block shows the reversed watermark variety on the margin on the right.

13 mm Surcharge - Plate 205

The third and final printing of the "HALF-PENNY" surcharges, took place at the Government Printing Office in Nicosia once more during May-June 1881. The overprint this time was 13mm long by 2mm high. This overprint was applied to four plates, namely 205, 215, 217 and 218.



Triple Overprint



Thick "C" at constant at position MC as well as the blind perforation variety.



Double Overprint

One of the very few multiples with the variety that has been recorded. Also on the right stamp the blind perforation on the right of the check letter "B" is very clear.



Blind perforation variety on the bottom left of the stamp.



Mint blocks of all plates are quite scarce as the number of stamps printed was limited and for the most part were either cancelled to order or were split in singles for philatelic purposes.

13 mm Surcharge - Plate 215

Double overprint



Double Overprint with the second printing on the top of the stamp.



Treble overprint with blind perforation at the bottom left corner of the stamp.



Treble Overprint with offsets on the back of the stamps.



Treble Overprint. Although the certificate indicates that this is a double overprint, there seem to be two overprints at the bottom of the stamp and a further one at the top, like the one just up above. The blind perforation at the bottom right of the stamp is also present.

13 mm Surcharge - Plate 215

Blind perforation on both stamps also showing deformed "P's" & "N's" of exactly the same type.



Joined "H" & "A" and broken "F" as well as the broken pin variety.



Broken "N"



Small line between "P-E" and thin first leg of "N"



Extreme shift of surcharge to the right. "Y" showing on the left of the stamp



A strip of five, probably cancelled to order by a Larnaca type 2 cancellation on July 1 1881. Between the stamps "LB" and "LC", the broken pin variety explained earlier of the 1d stamps is clear.

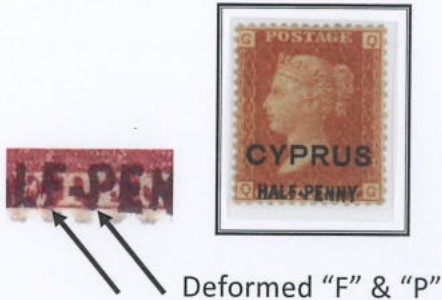
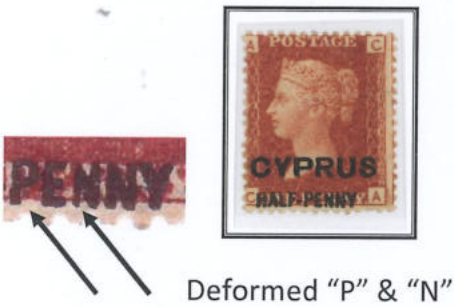
13 mm Surcharge - Plate 215

Blind perforation on the two stamps on the right as well as broken "U" at position "FA" as well as the reversed watermark and broken pin variety.



The top right hand side row of the sheet with plate number, 215, and part inscription "...nts the RIGHT HAND SIDE of the letter. In Writing the Back be careful not to remove the Cement". On the left hand side of the margin, the right part of the guide line can be seen where the sheet was split in the middle. Furthermore the watermark within the top margin can be seen and it has been printed reversed.

13 mm Surcharge - Plate 215



13 mm Surcharge - Plate 215

Filled "HA", thin
"N" and clip off "R"



Filled "A", "P" and
thin first leg of "N" as
well as broken pin
variety



Crack on "Y" and
deformed first "N"



Crack in "R", bottom
part of "F" missing and
thin first "N"



Crack in "PR" and clip
off "P"



Clip of "R" and
thin first "N"



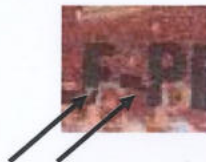
13 mm Surcharge - Plate 215



Missing part of "A",
spot next to and
deformed "P"



Missing bottom part
of "F" and line
between hyphen and
"p"



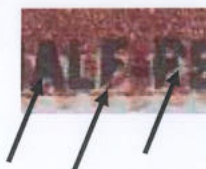
Filled top part of "H"
and deformed first "N"



Line joining "ALF"
and deformed top left
part of first "N"



Filled "A", bottom part
of "F", left of "P" and
right of "E" missing

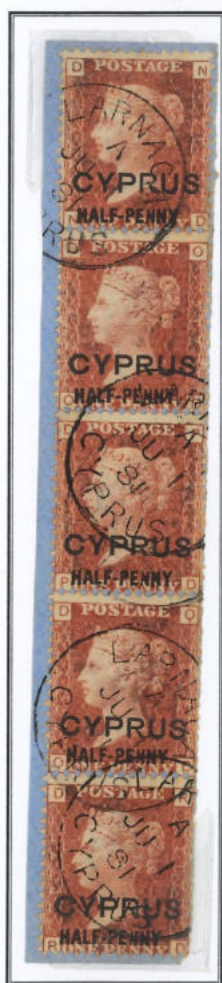


Bite off left side of "P"



13 mm Surcharge - Plate 217

This is the only recorded copy so far of any multiple overprint variety for plate 217. This example which has a BPA certificate of authenticity has been overprinted three times with the 13mm "HALF-PENNY" surcharge.



Used strip of 5
Canc. Larnaca
July 1st, 1881



Clip from "R" and of "P"



Line closing upper loop of "S"
and thin left line of "N"



Block of four from the bottom left of
the sheet showing the blind
perforation variety at the two
stamps on the right.



Deformed "P" & "N" & Blind per-
foration can be seen on the right
of the stamp at the bottom cor-
ner as it can be found between
columns "B" & "C".

13 mm Surcharge - Plate 217 - The Unique Cover

Wrapper to Livorno bearing one 1d plate 217 stamp and three 1d plate 215 stamps, surcharged HALF-PENNY, 13mm. The total rate of 2½d being the correct fee for the foreign letter rate at the time. All stamps are cancelled with the oval barrel "942" stamp and the Larnaca date stamp along side as usual showing the 25th of June as the date of posting the item. Additionally on the back three arrival stamps are present of Livorno and Brindisi as well as an oval arrival stamp dated 3 July 1881. This is the only recorded cover bearing the 13mm surcharged stamps.

13 mm Surcharge - Plate 218

e

Treble overprint

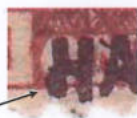


The top right hand side row of the sheet with plate number, 218, and part inscription "...nts the *RIGHT HAND SIDE* of the letter. In Writing the Back be careful not to remove the Cement". On the left hand side of the margin, the right part of the guide line can be seen where the sheet was split in the middle. Furthermore the watermark within the top margin can be seen and it has been printed reversed.

13 mm Surcharge - Plate 218



The overprint showing major inking on the "H" & "A" of "HALF" as well as the first leg of the left "N" thinned



Blob on "H"



Blind perforation on the bottom right of the stamp



"H" of "HALF" almost completely missing from middle stamp

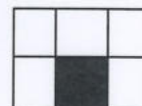


13 mm Surcharge - Plate 218



Plate 201

Dramatic shift of the overprint resulting in the "3" being printed on the left side of the stamp.



Thick "C" at position "PK"

Plate 216

A strip of three plate 216 stamps showing the small and closed loop of "S" variety.



Plate 216 blocks in either the mint or used condition are quite scarce as most of these were actually used and there are no records of any remainders being sold as with the provisional overprinted issue from where these stamps originated.

Plate 216

Plate 216: A variety that can be seen is the "30 PARAS" overprint, looking like "80".



Broken "S" of PARAS



Upper loop of "3" almost closed.



Broken first "A" of PARAS



Thick base of "30"

Plate 216 - Double overprint with one being inverted



e

Plate 216

Double overprint one inverted.

Two examples known to date.

Plate 216 - The Unique Cover

From correspondence discovered at the UPU archives in Switzerland, it is clear that this stamp was sent as specimen along with the 1881 Die I, CC watermarked issue.

As the later did not include a 30 Paras stamp, something that was in fact required for military mail, one could clearly consider the two issues to complement each other and even go to the extent of saying that the 30 Paras stamp was part of the Die I - CC issue.

The appearance of the next 30 Paras stamp was in the Die I - CA watermark issue which was issued in 1882. So the need for this value was evident as the postal need of the Island required this value, which could not be made up from the rest of the series.



A cover postmarked Larnaca, 2 October 1881 bearing two 30 Paras stamps (plate 216) of the provisional overprinted issue along with a CC watermark 1881 half piastre stamp, for the foreign letter rate of two piastres to Ohio in the United States. An arrival stamps in the US and an intermediary London stamp of 10 October 1881 on the reverse

Plate 217



Lower loop of "3"
almost closed.



Black spot between
"3" and "0" & crooked "S"
of "30 PARAS"



Dramatic shift of the overprint
resulting in the "3" being printed
on the left side of the stamp.



Spot over "A" and inside
"P", both in "PARAS"

Plate 220

A black spot between "3" and "0" of "30"
and damaged "S" of CYPRUS.



The "30" with the left sides al-
most joining to look like an "80".



Black spot on "S"
of CYPRUS.



Plate 220 - Double overprint , one inverted

Double overprint
one inverted.



Double overprint one inverted used pair. Studies have shown that this is probably the only pair with the variety.

Furthermore, the variety can be found at the bottom half of one of the sheets. From the recorded examples of the variety, the left six columns are all used and the right six columns all mint as per the diagram below

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| K | A | K | B | K | C | K | D | K | E | K | F | K | G | K | H | K | J | K | I | K | K | K | L |
| L | A | L | B | L | C | L | D | L | E | L | F | L | G | L | H | L | J | L | I | L | K | L | L |
| M | A | M | B | M | C | M | D | M | E | M | F | M | G | M | H | M | J | M | I | M | K | M | L |
| N | A | N | B | N | C | N | D | N | E | N | F | N | G | N | H | N | J | N | I | N | K | N | L |
| O | A | O | B | O | C | O | D | O | E | O | F | O | G | O | H | O | J | O | I | O | K | O | L |
| P | A | P | B | P | C | P | D | P | E | P | F | P | G | P | H | P | J | P | I | P | K | P | L |
| Q | A | Q | B | Q | C | Q | D | Q | E | Q | F | Q | G | Q | H | Q | J | Q | I | Q | K | Q | L |
| R | A | R | B | R | C | R | D | R | E | R | F | R | G | R | H | R | J | R | I | R | K | R | L |
| S | A | S | B | S | C | S | D | S | E | S | F | S | G | S | H | S | J | S | I | S | K | S | L |
| T | A | T | B | T | C | T | D | T | E | T | F | T | G | T | H | T | J | T | I | T | K | T | L |

| | |
|--|---------------|
| | Mint Single |
| | Used Single |
| | Used multiple |

The above diagram shows all the recorded double overprints with one inverted from plate 220