

THE EVOLUTION OF THE ONE HALF PENNY QUEEN VICTORIA YELLOW STAMP



by

Dr. ALFRED BONNICI

B.Pharm. M.D. M.R.S.H.

CHAPTER 2

1861 — 1863 Unwatermarked, White Paper, Perf. 14

(Editor's Note: As a result of further research and new information which has come to light, Dr. A. Bonnici has revised Chapter 2, which is now being published in whole. This should now offer the proper classification).

A rather controversial issue in the unwatermarked white paper — Perf. 14, series is whether there were three printings as listed by Messrs. Stanley Gibbons and Said as S.G./Said Nos 2, 3, 4, or in actual fact only two as claimed by Major F. Orme.

From the Invoices of Private Day Book AA of Messrs De La Rue, it results that the following printings were executed on the dates specified below.

2nd Printing	17th August 1861	Private Day Book AA Page 92
3rd Printing	11th September 1862	Private Day Book AA Page 134
4th Printing	17th April 1863	Private Day Book AA Page 168
5th Printing	11th January 1864	Private Day Book AA Page 233

The earliest recorded date of a Watermarked, Crown CC, Perf. 14 stamp is 4th June 1863 and a cover addressed to "Il Conti A. Sant, Commandante del Forte Chambray" — Gozo, having one watermarked Crown CC white paper — perf. 14 stamp has the date 29th November 1863, (C. Smith). This proves that the watermarked Crown CC white paper perf. 14 belongs to the 4th Printing of the 17th April 1863, as the 5th Printing was Invoiced on the 11th January 1864, and so like Orme, we are quite correct in assuming that there were only two Unwatermarked — white paper, perf. 14 printings; namely the 2nd Printing of the 17th August 1861 and the 3rd Printing of the 11th September 1862.

The 2nd Printing — 17th August 1861 (S.G. & Said No. 3)

Brown Orange; white paper; no watermark; perf. 14.

Invoice from Private Day Book A A Page 92

17th Aug. 61.	The Agents General for Crown Colonies		
	106 Sheets of Postage Labels		
	for Malta, duty ½d.		
	240 on sheets = 25,440 labels @ 11d	1	3 4
	Packed in tin lined case		7 6

Delivered to Mr. Winckley

1 10 10

The 3rd Printing — 11th September 1862
 Buff (variation: stone colour); white paper; no watermark; perf. 14.
 Invoice from Private Day Book AA Page 134

1862	Agents General for Crown Colonies			
Sept. 11th	Malta Postage Stamp			
	109 Sheets Malta Stamp Duty one half penny			
	240 on sheet = 26,160 @ 11d		1	4
	Making ready the form (less than 1 Reem)		10	0
	Packing		7	6
			<hr/>	
	Delivered this day to Mr. Winckley receipt left		2	1
				6

The 2nd printing of 17th August 1861 is brown orange — a blurred and muddy printing which has not been seen used after 1862. The so-called pale-buff, or clear stone shade listed by S.G. & Said as No. 2, did not comprise a complete printing, as very few copies have been recorded. The only copies recorded are dated "MAR 28/62" and "APR 2/62" — (F. Orme). Of all the famous collections that have been sold on the market over the past ten years, there was not one single mint block of four, the last recorded being in the Damsell collection, which makes such a mint block of four numerically rarer than S.G. 1, whereas from the above quoted Invoices we know that the 2nd printing of the 17th August 1861 consisted of 106 sheets, a total of 25,440 stamps, and the 3rd printing of the 11th September 1862 (S.G. & Said No. 4) consisted of 109 sheets, a total of 26,160 stamps. This printing is the buff shade which is not recorded as used prior to 1863.

From the above it is therefore clear that the pale buff (S.G. & Said No. 2) is a variation of the 3rd printing of the 11th September 1862, and that S.G. & Said Nos. 2 and 4 are really the 3rd printing of the 11th September 1862.

We may therefore safely conclude that the period 1861-63, (what S.G. & Said list as Nos. 2, 3, 4, Unwatermarked, white paper, perf. 14), really consist of the:-



2nd Printing—17th August 1861 — brown orange (S.G. & Said No.3)

3rd Printing—11th September 1862 Buff shade, variation pale Buff
 (S.G. & Said Nos. 2 and 4)

The 2nd printing of the 17th August 1861 was issued in Malta in November 1861, and the earliest and latest recorded dates are 24.1.62 (Orme) and 16.12.62 respectively. One dated the 18th Dec. 1862 is on the entire addressed to Il.Sig.Dr.Av. Giuseppi Xuereb, Gozo (Bonnici, Malta), while one on piece has the date 16.12.62 (Bonnici, Malta).

The 3rd printing of the 11th September 1862 was issued in Malta in 1863 and the earliest and latest recorded dates are 11.1.63 and 12.12.63 respectively, (Orme).