

# THE EVOLUTION OF THE ONE HALF PENNY QUEEN VICTORIA YELLOW STAMP



by

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## CHAPTER 7

With the 25th printing we see a change to the Watermark Crown CA. These were the 25th printing invoiced on 14th February, 1882.

26th printing invoiced on 6th April, 1882.

27th printing invoiced on 9th May, 1883.

28th printing invoiced on 29th January, 1884.

30th printing invoiced on 27th August, 1884.

The 29th printing was in green to conform with the U.P.U. regulations and will be commented upon separately in Chapter 8.

The first four of these five supplies vary in colour from pale to deep orange-yellow (S.G. & Said 18) and it is very difficult to differentiate between these, without the aid of dated copies.

The 30th printing (S.G. 19) is reddish orange.

In the P.A. Wilde Auction at Bristol on 17th November, 1973 a sheet comprising 120 stamps of the 1882-1884 issue realised £255. (Malta Newsletter Volume 7 No. 9 — Page 138).

**25TH PRINTING:** (S.G. & Said No. 18)  
Pale orange Yellow WMK Crown CA Perf 14.  
Invoiced on 14th February, 1882.  
From Day Book K Page 183.

**25TH INVOICE:** 14th February, 1882.  
The Crown Agents for the Colonies  
Malta Postage Stamps  
200 sheets of 240 duty  $\frac{1}{2}$ d = 48,000 stamps

3	4	0
	2	6
3	6	6

**EARLIEST-LATEST USED RECORDED DATES:** Issued in Malta in February, 1882.  
Earliest recorded Mrs. Turnbull — 27th March, 1882.  
Latest recorded copy 30th January 1883 (Bonnici, Malta).

**26TH PRINTING:** (S.G. & Said No. 18)  
Pale orange-yellow WMK Crown CA White Perf 14.  
Invoiced on 6th April, 1882.  
From Private Day Book K Page 230.

26TH INVOICE: 6th April, 1882.  
 The Crown Agents for the Colonies.  
 Malta Postage Stamps.  
 201 sheets of 240 duty ½d = 48,240 stamps 3 4 4  
 Case lined with tin 4 6

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3 8 10

EARLIEST-LATEST USED RECORDED DATES: This printing was released in Malta in January 1883, and the earliest recorded date is 20th January, 1883. (Bonnici, Malta) and the latest recorded date is 9th July, 1883. (Orme).

27TH PRINTING: (S.G. & Said No. 18)  
 Orange-yellow WMK CA Perf 14.  
 Invoiced on 9th May, 1883.  
 From Private Day Book L Page 208.

27TH INVOICE: 9th May, 1883.  
 The Crown Agents for the Colonies.  
 Malta Postage Stamps.  
 202 sheets duty ½d of 240 = 48,480 stamps 3 4 7  
 Case lined tin 4 6

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3 9 1

EARLIEST-LATEST USED RECORDED DATES: The 27th printing was issued in Malta in 1883.  
 The earliest recorded copy is 4th August, 1883 (Orme).  
 The latest recorded copy is 23rd September, 1884 (Bonnici, Malta).

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## CHAPTER 8

### The 28th-30th Printing (Nov. 1883 — Aug. 1884)

The procedure adopted for the Requisition and supply of the ½d yellow was as follows:—

The Post Master General (Roger Duke) informed the Governor General through the Chief Secretary to the Government (The Hon. Walter Hely Hutchinson C.M.G.), who in turn requested the Crown Agents in London to supply by ordering the printing for Messrs. De La Rue.

The official correspondence covering the 28th, 29th and 30th printings are produced at the end of this chapter. (Vol. 8. No. 1)

In 1883, it was decided that the time had come for the Malta Post Office to be controlled internally (The original date proposed for the transfer was July 1884).

On 4th September, 1883 Roger Duke, the Post Master General in Malta, wrote to the Hon. Walter Hely Hutchinson C.M.G. (Letter 1) requesting "approximate quantities of the several denominations of stamps which will have to be provided for use after Transfer", adding "I have just been informed that it has been decided to have certain stamps of uniform colour throughout the Postal Union, i.e., the ½d in green", etc. (letter No. 1).

The Chief Secretary Walter Hely Hutchinson on 8th September, 1883 wrote to the Crown Agents in London informing them of the request of the Maltese Post Master General. (letter No. 2).

On 26th September, 1883 De La Rue returned the above mentioned correspondence, giving the necessary information (Letter No. 4). From this letter it follows that the printing plate used for the  $\frac{1}{2}$ d green was the same as that for the  $\frac{1}{2}$ d yellows as among other details we find "A printing plate is in existence here for the  $\frac{1}{2}$ d stamps, so that it becomes necessary to provide for producing five denominations (1d, 2d,  $2\frac{1}{2}$ d, 4d and 1/-)".

On 27th November, 1883, the Chief Secretary of Malta requested the Crown Agents to supply Malta with 200 sheets, (letter No. 5) and enclosed a requisition. This was received by the Crown Agents on 5th December, 1883 and written in the margin is the following note:—

"Instruct Messrs. De La Rue that having regard to the correspondence respecting the new stamps, generally we may assume that the Malta Government approves of the  $\frac{1}{2}$ d stamps being printed in green as recommended".

From the correspondence it is clear that the Crown Agents did not realise that this requisition was a separate and distinct one from the correspondence that had just passed between Malta and London for the issue of stamps after "the date the Post Office was to pass to internal control", and they assumed quite wrongly that this requisition was to be in green. This information was passed to the printers.

Consequently, on 10th December, 1883 the Crown Agents transmitted this requisition, stating "We herewith beg to return the requisition covered by your letter of yesterday for 200 sheets of  $\frac{1}{2}$ d Malta Postage Samps, which you inform us are to be printed in green, etc." (letter No. 7).

On 13th December, the Crown Agents informed the Chief Secretary in Malta that the printing was going to be in green, which must have upset Roger Duke, the Post Master in Malta, considerably, as the Chief Secretary on 31st December, 1883 replied to the Crown Agents as follows:— (Letter No. 8).

"The Post Master reports much inconvenience will result if green half-penny stamps be introduced before the transfer of the Post Office to Colonial control, and I am therefore to request that you will be so good as to give the necessary instructions for a supply of yellow stamps, the green ones which you have already ordered being kept for future use."

On 11th January, 1884 the Crown Agents placed a new requisition for a supply of yellow stamps. (Letter No. 9).

On 14th January, 1884 Messrs. De La Rue informed the Crown Agents that the original order of the 10th requesting a green printing had not yet been executed, and so the colour of this printing would be yellow (letter No. 10).

On 16th January, 1884 the Crown Agents approved this letter (letter No. 11).

This 28th printing was delivered on 29th January, 1884 and in Private Day Book M Page 29, we find the following invoice:—

28TH PRINTING: (S.G. & Said No. 18)  
 Invoiced on 29th January, 1884.  
 From Private Day Book M. Page 29.

28TH INVOICE: 29th January, 1884.  
 The Crown Agents for the Colonies  
 Malta Printing Stamps  
 200 sheets of 240 duty  $\frac{1}{2}$ d = 48,000  
 Case lined tin

3	4	0
	4	6
3	8	6

COLOUR: Orange-yellow WMK Crown CA Perf 14.  
 EARLIEST-LATEST This printing was issued in Malta in 1884.  
 USED RECORDED The earliest recorded copy is 19th March, 1884. (Orme)  
 DATES: The latest copy is 26th August, 1884 (Orme)  
 Reversal of date slugs 14th May and 16th May have been recorded (Clive Smith).

#### The 29th Printing

The Post Office in Malta was scheduled to be transferred in July, 1884.

On 29th May, 1884 the Chief Secretary wrote to the Crown Agents requesting the various quantities stating "The Post Office is to be handed over in July, etc." (Letter No. 12).

On 3rd June, the Crown Agents requested (Letter No. 13) De La Rue to print the quantities mentioned in (Letter No. 1) and De La Rue replied on 4th June (Letter No. 15) stating "That a good supply should reach Malta by the end of this month. The requisition to complete will take from six to eight weeks from now." (Letter No. 14).

In actual fact, there were 2 consignments of this 29th printing in green, one on 20th June, and another consignment on 5th July. Invoices from De La Rue. Day Book M. Page 72, 20th June, 1884. 688 sheets of 240 duty  $\frac{1}{2}$ d = 165,120 stamps and on page 77 of Day Book M, 5th July, 1884, 1,017 sheets  $\frac{1}{2}$ d postage, etc.

#### The 30th Printing

The Post Office was not, however, transferred in July as had originally been planned, and so the Malta Government although they had now an ample supply of  $\frac{1}{2}$ d green (in storage) ran once again short of the  $\frac{1}{2}$ d yellows, and on 8th August, 1884, the Chief Secretary requested the Crown Agents to supply the "Usual 200 sheets of Malta local Postage Stamps." (Letter No. 19).

On 18th August the Crown Agents placed the order with De La Rue for 200 sheets of  $\frac{1}{2}$ d adding "I have to add that the colour of the stamps is to be in Yellow". (Letter No. 20).

This letter was acknowledged by De La Rue on 19th August (letter No. 21) and from De La Rue Private Day Book M, Page 92, we know that this 30th printing was dispatched to Malta on 27th August, 1884.

30TH PRINTING: (S.G. & Said No. 19)  
 Reddish-orange WMK Crown CA White Perf 14.  
 Invoiced on 27th August, 1884.  
 Private Day Book M Page 92.

30TH INVOICE 27th August, 1884.  
 The Crown Agents for the Colonies  
 Malta Postage Stamps  
 200 sheets of 240 duty  $\frac{1}{2}$ d = 48,000 stamps  
 Case lined tin

3	4	0
	4	6
3	8	6

EARLIEST-LATEST Issued in Malta 1884.  
 USED RECORDED Earliest recorded date 17th August, 1884 (Orme).  
 DATES: Latest recorded date 26th November, 1885 (Orme).