



THE EVOLUTION OF THE ONE HALF PENNY QUEEN VICTORIA YELLOW STAMP

by

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CHAPTER 3

1863-1868 S.G. & Said Nos. 5-7

Watermarked paper Crown CC began to be used with the 4th printing of 17th April, 1863 and continued to be used up to the 24th printing of 28th March, 1881.

INVERTED WATERMARK:

Normally, this watermark is found in an upright position, but specimens of the 4th printing are known with inverted watermark. Other printings with inverted or reversed watermark have been recorded and these inverted watermarks will be pointed out under each printing individually.

With the introduction of "watermark paper" marginal inscriptions were used for the first time in 1863. The plate "No. 1" uncoloured in a coloured circle, appeared at the NE and SW corners of the sheet. The words MALTA — POSTAGE ONE HALF-PENNY were printed in the horizontal margins above the four panes. A perforation guide across was also printed in the upper margin. These margins and those of the sides were watermarked "CROWN COLONIES".

RIGHT & LEFT WINGED MARGINS:

The perforation between the upper two panes and the lower two panes was central giving rise to 20 "Right Winged" margin, and 20 "Left Winged" margin stamps in each sheet. When these Right and Left Winged margined stamps form blocks, they are known as "Interpanneau Blocks".

This system of central perforation between panes continued up to the 19th printing. With the 20th printing, a new perforating machine was introduced (14 x 12½), perforating the stamps close to the margins, doing away with the wings, and instead, we have an independent perforated strip separating the "Left and Right" panes vertically.

4TH PRINTING:

Buff (S.G. & Said No. 5).
Invoiced on 17th April, 1863.
From Private Day Book AA Page 168.

4TH INVOICE: 17th April, 1863.

Agents General for Crown Colonies Malta Postage

115 Sheets of Postage x 240 = 27,600 1 5 3

Case lined tin 6

1 11 3

Delivered to Mr. Winckley

COLOUR — BUFF: The 4th printing (S.G. & Said No. 5) Buff are nearer to a Pale-Brown and the following supplies (4, 5, 7 and 8) can only be differentiated by a careful study of dated copies.

PAPER: The 4th printing was on a thin hard surfaced paper and the shade of the stamp is Buff, very similar to the 'unwatermarked' 3rd printing (S.G. & Said No. 3).

EARLIEST-LATEST DATES RECORDED: It was issued in Malta in June 1863, the earliest recorded date is 4th June, 1863 (Orme) (Royal Collection) and the latest recorded date is 19th May, 1864 on piece, (Bonnici Malta).

Strips, Wing margin blocks of four, and a pane of 60 with sheet margin at top, have been recorded (Harmer 15/16, 1970 sale as lots Nos. 175, 176 and 177), and a strip of 5, block of 4, block 3 x 2, and block of 24 mint recorded in (Harmer 5/26, 1971 sale as lots Nos. 458, 459, 460 and 461), and an inverted watermark has been recorded by (Orme and Cann).

An imprimatur from the foot of the sheet has been recorded in Robson Lowe (19th May 1963 sale, item 500) as well as a copy overprinted SPECIMEN in small print, printed on a 10" incline (item 501) exists.

5TH PRINTING: (S.G. & Said No. 5).
Pale-brown to Brown. Watermark Crown CC. White paper.
Perf. 14. Invoiced on 11th January, 1864.
Invoiced on 11th January, 1864.
Private Day Book A page 233.

5TH INVOICE: 11th January, 1864.
Crown Agents for the Colonies
Malta Postage
103 sheets x 240 duty half-penny = 24,720 @ 11d 1 2 8
Case lined tin 2 4

1 5 2

COLOUR: The colour of this printing is best described as Pale-Brown, although extreme cases exist of "Dark Brown" stamps with blurred impression due to over-inking.

EARLIEST-LATEST DATES RECORDED: This supply was issued in Malta in 1864 and the earliest recorded date is 1st June, 1864 (Clough), whilst the latest recorded date is 2nd December, 1867 on piece (Bonnici Malta).

The top three rows of the Right and Left pane with the inscription "Malta Postage One Half-Penny" on each, making a block of 36 has been recorded, but I believe that this has now been broken up. In the top Right hand pane, 2nd row 2nd stamp from right, there is a crack in the plate under the letter "E" of PENNY which can be followed constantly through to the 30th printing, proving the same plate was used throughout.

SPECIMEN: Copies of this printing have been recorded with SPECIMEN in small thin type.

6TH PRINTING: (S.G. & Said No. 6)
Bright Orange Watermark Crown CC White Perf 14
Invoiced on 7th September, 1864.
Private Day Book B, page 32.

6TH INVOICE: 7th September, 1864.
Crown Agents for the Colonies
Malta Postage
107 sheets Duty "one half-penny"
25,680 @ 11d =

1	3	6
3	6	
1	7	2

Packed in tin lined case

Delivered to Mr. Winckley

COLOUR Between the 5th and the 7th printing there is a Bright Orange printing, (S.G. & Said No. 6) but varying from Pale to Bright according to the amount of ink used, and mostly on thin surfaced paper. The ink is mineral and does not stain the paper as does the 15th printing "Golden Yellow".

EARLIEST-LATEST RECORDED DATES: It was issued in Malta at the end of 1864 the earliest recorded being 4th November, 1864 (Orme) and the latest 4th December, 1865 on piece, (Bonnici Malta).

INVERTED WATERMARK: Inverted watermark stamps have been recorded of this printing, (Bonnici).

7TH PRINTING: (S.G. & Said No. 5)
Buff watermark Crown CC Perf 14.
Invoiced on 30th March, 1865.
From Private Day Book B Page 114.

7TH INVOICE: 30th March, 1865.
Crown Agents for the Colonies
Malta Postage
102 sheets Duty one half-penny
240 = 24,480 @ 11d

1	2	5
5		
1	7	5

Packed in tin lined case and cartage

COLOUR:

The 9th printing of the 2nd October, 1866 S.G. & Said No. 7 is of a distinctive "pale red brown". The ink is clear, though varying in depth, and this together with the reddish tinge, distinguishes it from the deeper shades of S.G. & Said No. 5 with which it might otherwise be confused.

EARLIEST-LATEST RECORDED DATES:

It was issued in Malta in early 1867 and the earliest recorded date is 1st January, 1867 (Royal Collection) and the latest 11th January, 1869 (Ganado, Malta). A copy dated 6th May, 1867 on letter has been recorded (Clive Smith). Winged Marginal Mint blocks of nine have been recorded.

10TH PRINTING:

(S.G. & Said No. 8)
Brownish — Buff WMK Crown CC, Rough Perf 12½.
Invoiced on 27th May, 1868.
From Private Book C Page 193.

10TH INVOICE:

27th May, 1868.

Crown Agents for the Colonies
Malta Postage

240 sheets duty one half-penny	
240 on each sheet = 48,000 stamps @ 1/6	3 12
Case lined tin	5 6
	<hr/>
	3 17 6

PERF 14 x 12½:

This is the first printing that departed from the previous perforation 14, perforated by the line machine. This printing and printing No. 12 of July 1870 has a perforation of 12½. But whereas printing No. 10 of May, 1868 has a rough perforation, printing No. 13 of 21st July, 1870 has a clean cut and is thus easily distinguished.

COLOUR:

The 10th printing (S.G. & Said No. 8) exists in two slightly different shades of "buff-brown" and the perforation is rough, varying from very rough to tolerably clean-cut. Vertical pairs have been found imperforate on top and bottom (Harmer 19th April, 1971 sale item 21), and an unused specimen, imperf horizontally is in the Tapling collection, coming from the right hand corner of a sheet.

EARLIEST-LATEST RECORDED DATES:

This printing was issued in Malta at the end of 1868. The earliest date is 3rd November, 1868 (Orme) and the latest recorded 31st May, 1870 (Mrs. Turnbull). Mint blocks of four have been recorded (Harmer 15/16th June, 1970 item 205).

MEETINGS

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