Bermuda King George VI "key plates"

The King George VI high values are an area that I am unlikely to show as a standalone exhibit. In my younger days I collected these stamps as I could not afford the KGV high values that I now focus on. I primarily collect KGVI in blocks in a semi attempt to reconstruct sheets by value, by printing. I believe this makes it more difficult to tell the story in an exhibit. I might eventually include the material in this display with my KGV to be able to show 8 frames at the international level.

Printings / Paper coatings

The paper and coating are more consistent than those for KGV. The paper used to print stamps until 1944 including a chalk coating, with improvements of paper quality this coating was not required after this date. It should be noted that the dates are the date dispatched to Bermuda, while the dates for the requisition of the head and frame plates and the issue of the paper the date that the stamps were printed is unknown.

Perforations

Except for emergency printing in 1941 following the bombing of the De la Rue plant the stamps from 1937 to 1949 were comb perforated 14 (13.9 x 13.8) and from 1949 to the final printings the perforation was reduced to 13 (13.2 x 13.0). The 1941 perforation (and printing) was performed by William Lea & Co using a line perforation of 14.1 and usually can be readily recognized by the imperfect shape of the perforation at the corners of the stamp and in examples with a bottom margin where the perforation runs through that margin

Sheet layout

The Bermuda issue was printed by De La Rue in sheets of 60 stamps in five rows of 12. This 60-set was surrounded by a "jubilee line" for both the head and frame plates to help spread the pressure of the inking and printing across the plate and lessen any damage. In addition, plate numbers ("1") were inserted opposite positions 2, and 59 for the first printings, however the plug below position 59 was replaced with that from above position 2. This plug was replace with another plug after 1938.



1 2 13 14

When a multiple is displayed a box shows the position of the stamps on the sheet, a blue fill shows a flaw occurs, the red fill shows a major flaw (listed by SG) and a green fill shows a frame flaw.

Showing part of a large cover which has the low and high values issued on the first day being January 20, 1938

Flaws

Unlike the flaws on the KGV stamps which were repaired using lead solder and therefor show various states even during a single printing run the flaws on the KGVI stamps the repairs are stable so the flaw and state give great assistance in helping to determine the printing and the lack of the flaw also provides negative connotations to a printing. Major flaws are those which have catalogue status, significant flaws are ones that should deserve a premium to normal stamps or minor flaws..

Items of Note: I am particularly proud of completeness of the plate singles shown with the printings and plate blocks. All the major flaws are shown (except the ten shilling line perf with the 17a gash in chin flaw).

References The King George VI Large Key Plate Revenue and Postage High Value Stamps 1937-1953 by Eric Yendall, published by The Royal Philatelic Society London 2008











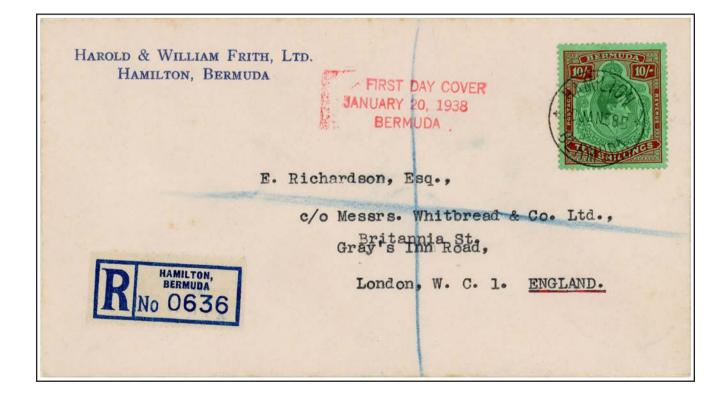


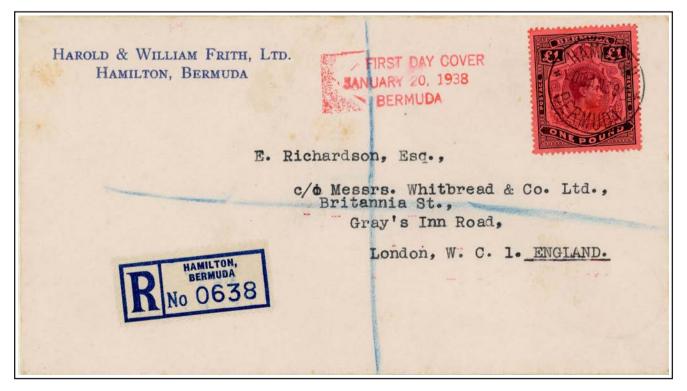


Perforated SPECIMEN, Samuels type D20

A number of first day covers are recorded with some of the values, and some covers with the complete set. There and very few conplete sets on separate covers.







Two Shillings

Perf 13.9 x 13.8 comb



Nov 1937 513 sheets Position 2



Mar 1943 326 sheets (block)

Perf 13.2 x 13.0 comb

Due to the damage on the plug under stamp 59 the plug from above stamp 2 was moved after the first printing. The plug from above position 2 was moved to position 59 for the July 1938 printing of the 12s6d and then replace with a different plug. This plug, then suffers progressive damage from which printings can be ascertained by looking at the extent of the damage.



Nov 1937 513 sheets Position 59



Oct 1940 513 sheets



Oct 1940 513 sheets reprint



May 1941 250 sheets perf 14.1 line



Oct 1941 1,229 sheets





Mar 1944 1,008 sheets



Jun 1945 552 sheets



Dec 1946 550 sheets (block)



Jul 1947 493 sheets



Feb 1949 1,229 sheets



Dec 1949 504 sheets

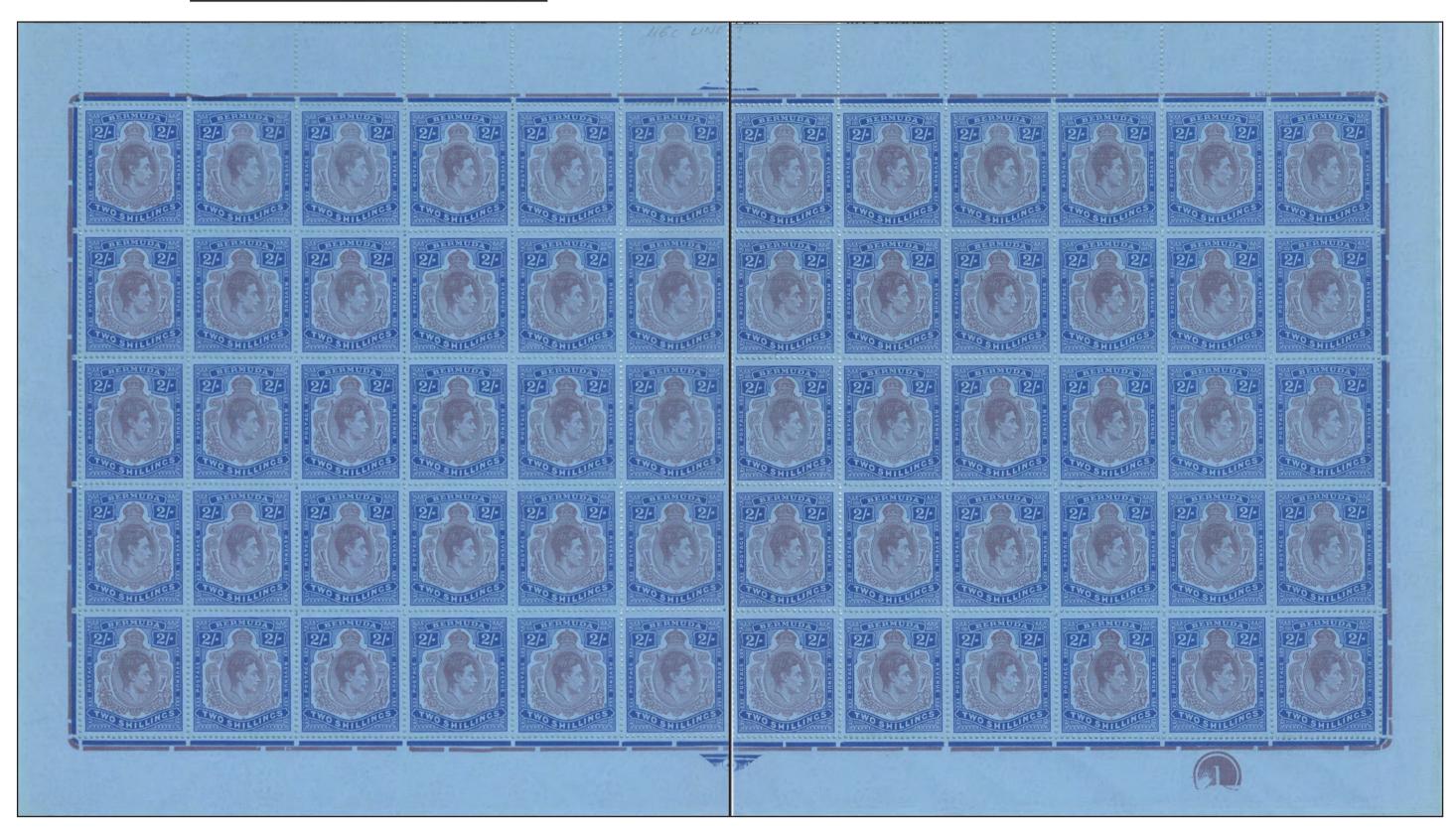


Aug 1951 1.518 sheets



Feb 1952 745 sheets

Note the Jubilee lines on the King George VI plates are not uniform and therefore can be used to position any stamp with a margin



Two Shilling Six Pence

Perf 13.9 x 13.8 comb







Nov 1937 278 sheets Position 59



Oct 1940 514 sheets



May 1941 200 sheets perf 14.1 line



Dec 1941 254 sheets



308 sheets



Dec 1946 unk sheets



Dec 1946 596 sheets (reprint)



Jun 1948 525 sheets

Perf 13.2 x 13.0 comb



Aug 1950 778 sheets



Nov 1951 1,163 sheets



Feb 1952 693 sheets

1st printing November 1937 - 200 sheets

7	8	9	10	11	12
19	20	21	22	23	24
31	32	33	34	35	36
43	44	45	46	47	48
55	56	57	58	59	60

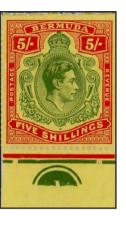


Five Shillings

Perf 13.9 x 13.8 comb



Nov 1937 505 sheets Position 2



Nov 1937 505 sheets Position 59



Jan 1939 204 sheets



May 1941 200 sheets perf 14.1 line



Nov 1941 111 sheets 1 of 2 pt singles



Mar 1943 246 sheets



Mar 1944 508 sheets



Dec 1946 600 sheets



Jun 1948 500 sheets

Perf 13.2 x 13.0 comb



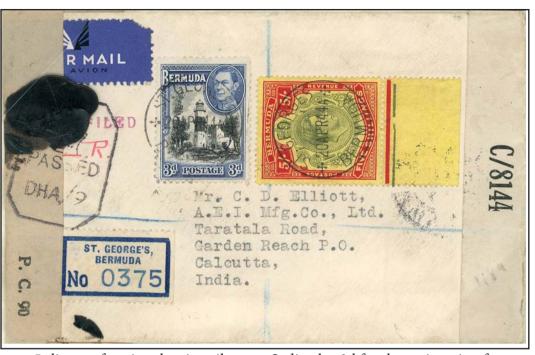
Dec 1949 502 sheets



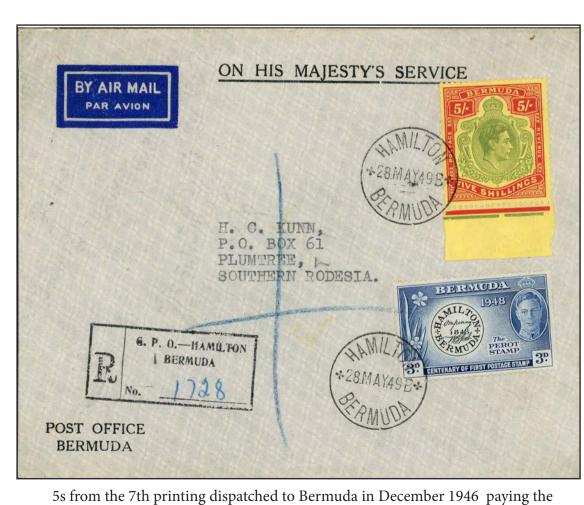
Aug 1950 1,541 sheets



Apr 1952 1,000 sheets

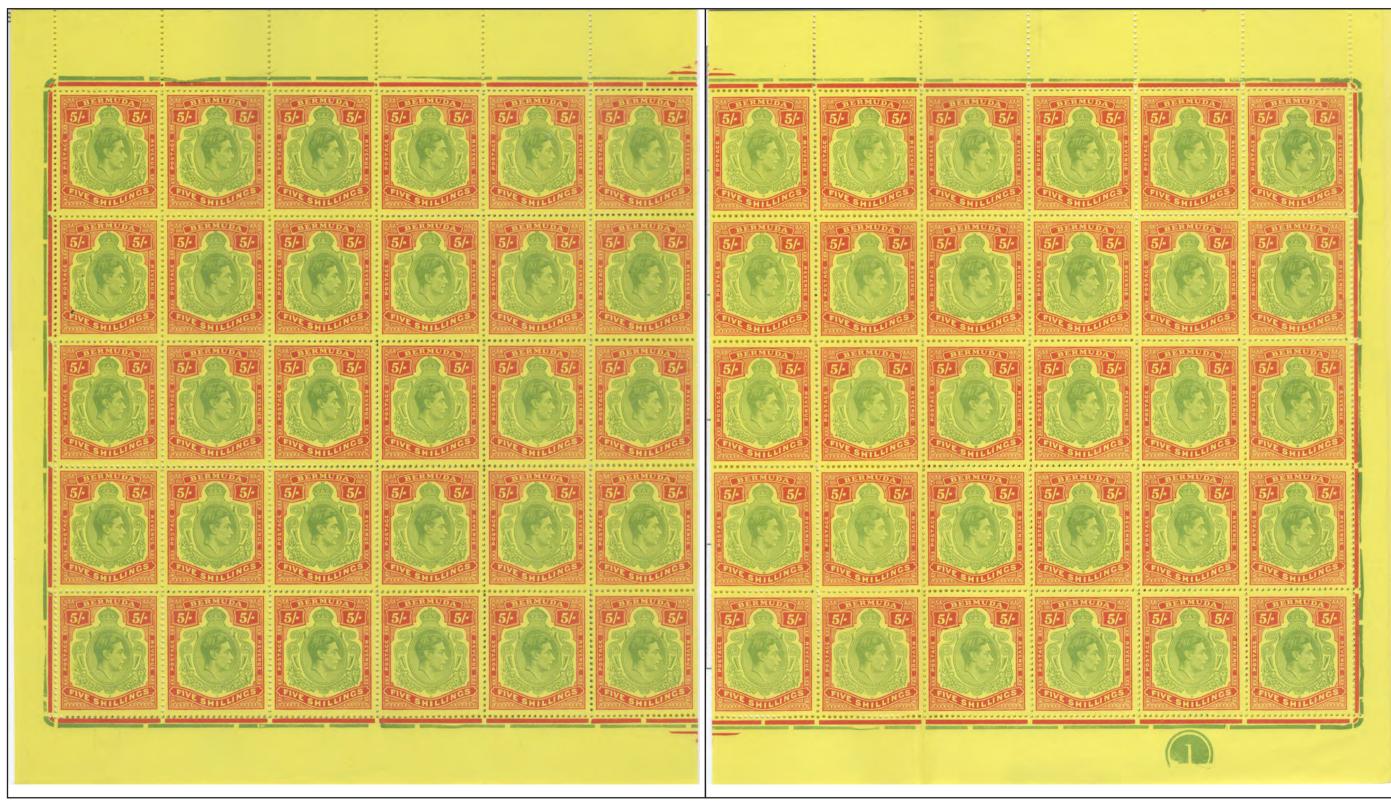


5s line perf paying the airmail rate to India plus 3d for the registration fee



airmail rate to Southern Rhodesia plus 3d for the registration fee

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36
37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48
49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60



Only recorded sheet of this printing

Ten Shillings

Perf 13.9 x 13.8 comb



Nov 1937 338 sheets Position 2



Nov 1937 338 sheets Position 59



Jan 1939 200 sheets



Sep 1941 190 sheets perf 14.1 line



Mar 1943 86 sheets



Nov 1944 250 sheets



Dec 1946 496 sheets

Perf 13.2 x 13.0 comb



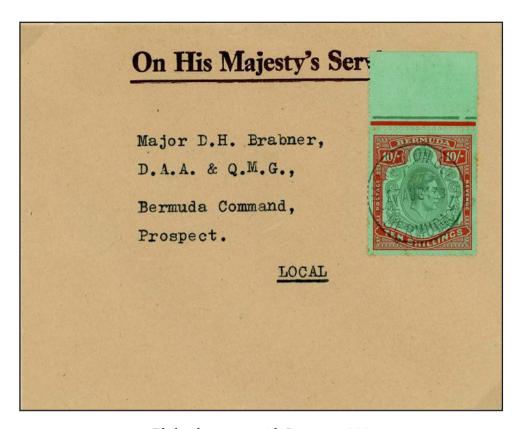
Jun 1951 520 sheets



Blue-green back



Jan 1953 625 sheets



Philatelic cover with January 1939



Philatelic cover with September 1941

Twelve Shillings Six Pence

Perf 13.9 x 13.8 comb



Nov 1937 1,983 sheets



Jul 1938 513 sheets two plate single recorded Ex Wong



Aug 1938 510 sheets only recorded plate plug Ex Wong



Jul 1939 494 sheets



Oct 1940 1,023 sheets



Mar 1943 91 sheets



Jun 1946 1,113 sheets Lemon



Dec 1946 999 sheets



Jun 1948 1,020 sheets

Perf 13.2 x 13.0 comb



Aug 1950 1,085 sheets



Jun 1951 2.775 sheets



Sep 1952 2,282 sheets

Prague cover



One of 7 recorded covers sent to Prague, Czechoslovakia. The stamp appears to be a unrecorded printing. This cover was researched at the Postal Museum at the Smithsonian using the Foster VSC and no sign of prior use of the stamp or alteration was observed.

Lemon Yellow



Reputedly other covers with the June 1946 "lemon" yellow printing were seen in the 1970s, however this is the only such cover that I have recorded

One Pound

Perf 13.9 x 13.8 comb



Nov 1937 338 sheets Position 2



Crimson Paper

Originally listed in the Four Kings catalogue as CW14aa, testing using the Smithsonian's Bruker X-Ray fluorescence machine counts per second at $40 \, \mathrm{Ky}$

	Chromium	Iron	Leac
1937 red paper	82	80	379
1937 crimson paper	8	110	51
1951 perf 13	14	85	81

Readings are from the back of the stamps to more accurately show the elements in the paper. These results appear to prove there is a physical difference on the paper used confirming a or a couple of sheets of a different paper stock.



Nov 1937 338 sheets Position 59



Mar 1943 326 sheets



Mar 1944 1,008 sheets



552 sheets



Dec 1946 550 sheets

Perf 13.2 x 13.0 comb



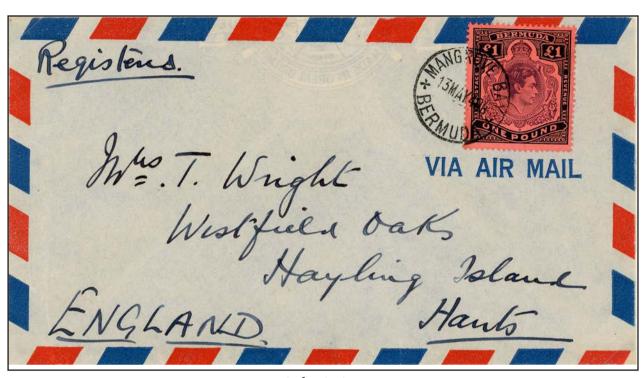
504 sheets



Aug 1951 1,518 sheets



Feb 1952 745 sheets

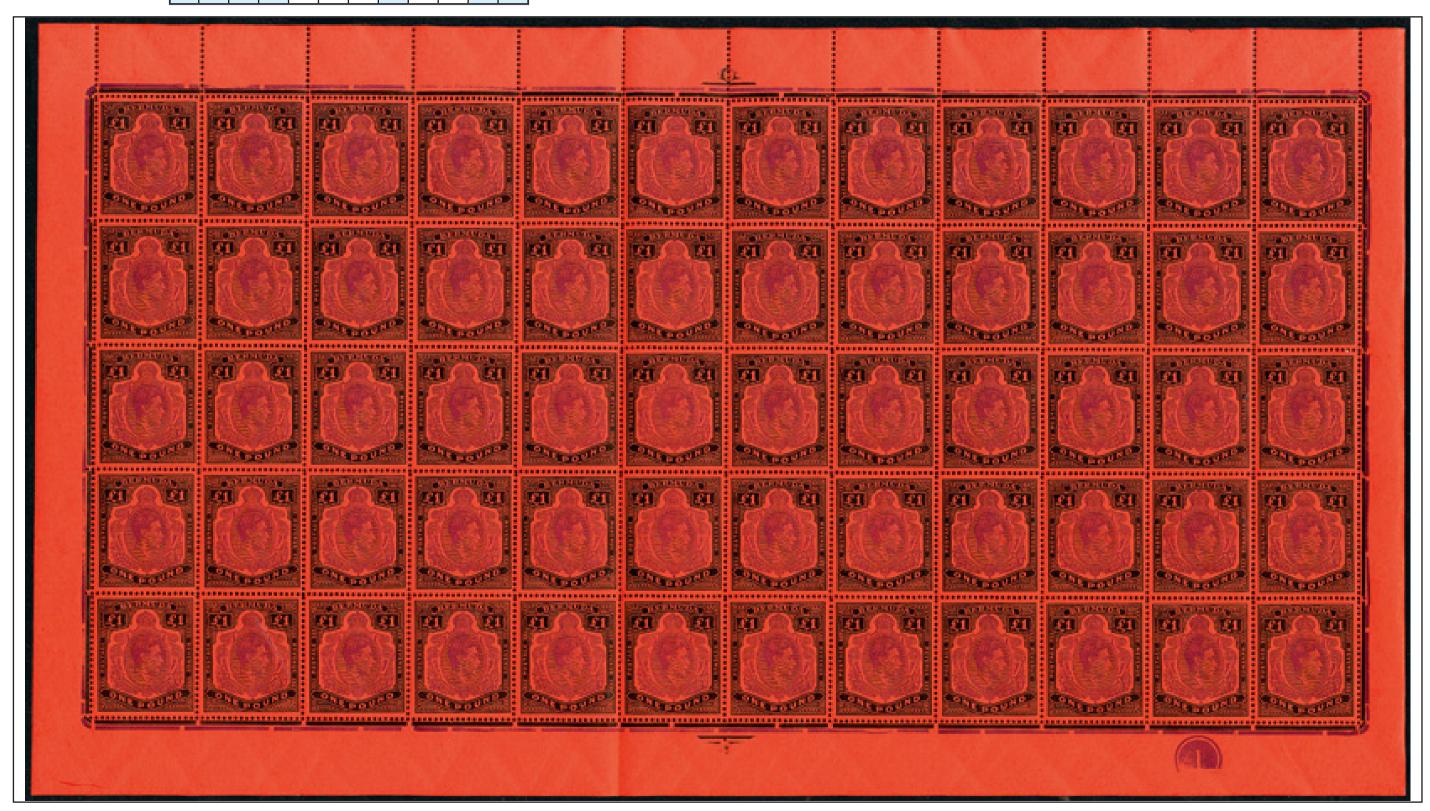


3rd printing



6th printing dispatched in December 1948 to Bermuda

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36
37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48
49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60



Upper left - positions 1 - 30

1	2	3	4	5	6
13	14	15	16	17	18
25	26	27	28	29	30

HPF 13c

Occurs on all printings. Small break just above left jewel on band below crown

November 1937 1st printings

1		3	4	5	6
13	14	15	16	17	18
25	26	27	28	29	30

1	2	
13	14	







One of two recorded plate blocks

Positions from the top left quarter of the sheet i.e. positions 1 to 30 include major flaws 1 showing the blank scroll on the 1943 printing, position 17 with the gash in chin that occurred from 1941 to 1944

13 14

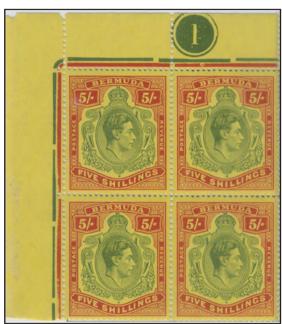




One of four recorded plate blocks

Flaws on stamp 1, 1a occurs on all printings stamp 2 the first flaws doesn't occur until Mar 1944, stamp 13 - flaw 13c occurs on all printings, stamp 14 the first flaws also occurs in the Mar 1944 printing.





This frame flaw occurs on position 2 of the 1st, 2nd and 3rd printings of the £1. The complete extent is only seen on the 1st printing



1938/9 printings





July 1938 1a, 13c



January 1939 1a, 13c

1	2	
13	14	



13





October 1940 13c



May 1941 1aFF, 13bc



May 1941 1a, 13c



September 1941 1a, 13cFF



December 1946 3, 4, 15abc, 16a

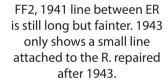








1941

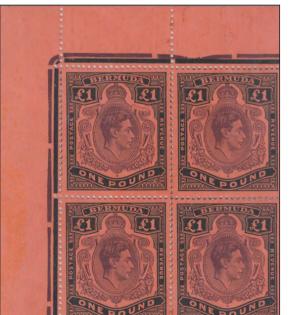




13 14



July 1941 1abcFFAFFB, 2eFF, 13ac



March 1943 1abcFFAFFB, 2eFF, 13ac



HPF 1b

Blank scroll, only occurs on the 2s and £1 of the 1943 printings



March 1943 1abc, 2e, 13ac





March 1943 1ac, 2e, 13ac

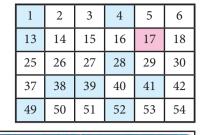
Upper left - positions 1 - 30

3	4
15	16





5
17





Major flaw 17a - gash in **chin** first occurs on the 1941 line perforated printings and continues through the 1943 printings





November 1937 FF 6

July 1939 no flaws





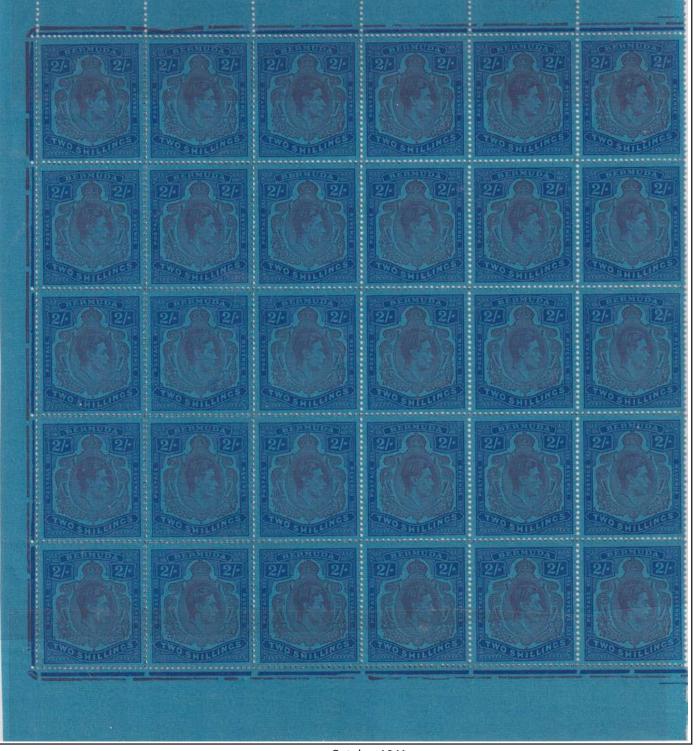
May 1941 17a







May 1941 17a

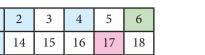


October 1941

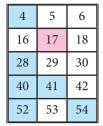
Upper left - positions 1 - 30 Major Flaw 17a

March 1943 printings

1	2	3	4	5	6
13	14	15	16	17	18









2/ 2/-	2/ 2/
2/ 2/ 2/ AVERTAGE OF THE SHILLINGS	



5	6	
17	18	





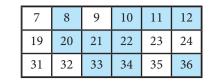
1	2	3	4	5	6
13	14	15	16	17	18



Upper right - positions 7 - 36 March 1943 printings



The March 1943 printing does not have the listed flaw 22a as this only occurs on the 1941 line perf. However, a number of other flaws that are considered significant occur in this quadrant and are: 12a, 12c, (21d, 23 and 24 which do not occur on this printing), 34 and 36









- damage to shading on pearls in crown



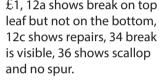
34, 1941 LP to March 1943 and December 1946 broken crown

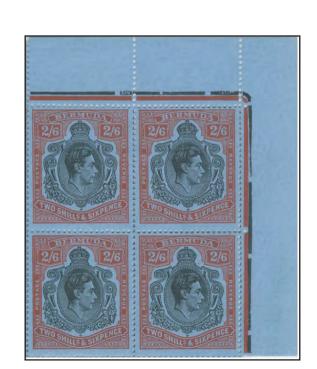




36, Oct 1941 to 1943 deformation to the upper right scroll

2s6d - 12a small break remaining on top leaf, some repairs to 12c. 5s 12a mostly repaired, 12c shows repair, 34 not showing, 36 shows scallop but no spur 10s 12a full flaw, 12c partial repair, 34 shows break, 36 shows scallop £1, 12a shows break on top







Upper right - positions 7 - 36

19 20

11 12 19 20 21 22 23 | 24 32 33 34 35

Positions from the top right quarter of the sheet ie positions 7 to 36 include major flaws 22a with damage to the bottom of the right hand scroll but this only occurs on the line perf stamps. However a number of stamps have significant flaws as shown in the table on the left

8		11	12
20		23	24

10s line perf value; about 6 numbers are

recorded 11 12 24 23

A sheet number is only recorded on the



11 12

23 24

11900

FF12A: scratch below E or REVENUE



FF12B:

019

10s September 1941 line perf 11a, 11FFA, 12ac, 12 FFA



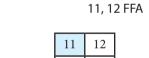
July 1939 no flaws



September 1952 7bc, 8abc, 20abc



11, 12a



January 1939





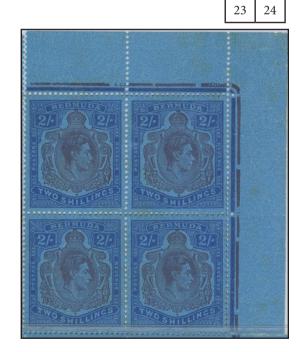
11a, Nov 1937 to March 1943 small dot on base of neck



12a 12/6 July 39 to 1943: scallop out of 2nd and into 3rd leaf on the left



May 1941 line perf 11, 12ac, 12FF



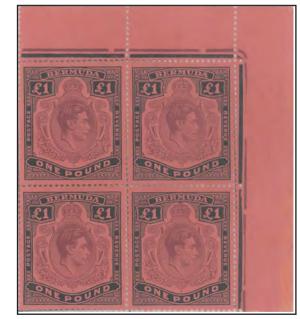
October 1941 11, 12ac



January 1939 11, 11FF



November 1941 12ac



November 1937 11a

Upper right - positions 7 - 36

March 1943

11, 12ac

11	12
23	24



11	12
23	24



Frame flaw 11 "White island!" December 1946 printing, appears to be a precursor to the white island flaw



23 24

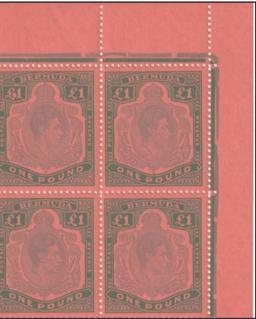


Major flaw 11 "White island!" only occurs on the £1 on some of the November 1951 printing.

11	12
23	24



November 1951

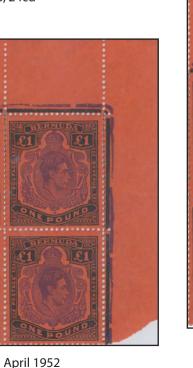


FF11, 12b, 24cd

12b, 24cd

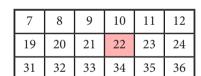


November 1951 12b, 24cd



October 1952 12b, 24cd bright violet

Upper left - positions 1 - 36 Major flaw 22a



Ì	12	40.	Paper iss
ľ	24	10s 5s	14 Marcl 17 March
ĺ	36	2s	26 March

Date dispatched sued 25 September 1941 h 1941 1941 16 May 1941 1941 16 May 1941 2s6d 26 March 1941 16 May 1941

December 1946

12b,



Major flaw 22a, only on 1941 line perf: break in the outer scroll line on the right hand side and break in the

Yendal states that this flaw was likely repaired during the 10s printing as this value is known with and without the flaw. However, based on the date the papers were issued it is likely the 10s value was printed first, the flaw occurred during the printing, and was repaired after all the line perf stamps were printed





June 1946

lemon yellow

12b





This flaw only occurs on the line perf printings, the 2/6 value is know in a top marginal block and the 10s in an internal block, these are the only multiples with this flaw that have been recorded.



Major flaw 21d

Two chips in outline of upper left scroll. Occurs

July 1939 and traces on

line perf printings

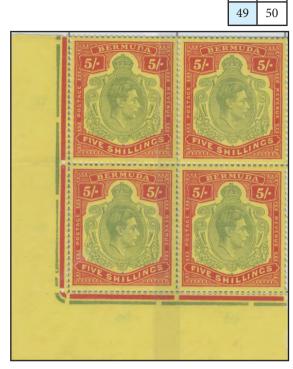
May 1941 21ade

Lower left - positions 37 - 54 Positions from the bottom left quarter of the sheet i.e. positions 37 to 54 includes one major flaw, that of the missing pearl 49b, that only occurs on the 5s march 1944 printing, significant flaws are 49a and 49d and 52d

37	38	39	40	41	42
49	50	51	52	53	54

	126 126	126 126
0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0		8/23
1	Two death of the state of the s	
	SIMERS	SINSUS
1	126 126	126 126
6 6 6		
	THE SHIPS AS NOT HEE	THE STORES

August 1938 no flaws



March 1943 49a



October 1941 49a





49a damage to lower keft outline of lower right scroll. Occurs from the May 1941 line perf to the final printings.



May 1941 line perf 49a



52d Cracked crown are marked in Yendall as occurrring on all line perfs but believed to only occur on the 10s Sep 1941 lp



May 1941

line perf

49a

54 indentation in outer left side on lower left scroll, Fist occurs on the line perf printings

49

50



49d major damage

to the bottomright

of the crown. Only

1943 12s6d

occurs on the March

March 1943 49ad



PN

May 1941 lp

No flaws

41 52 53



May 1941



September 1941 54

Lower left - positions 37 - 54



Major flaw 49b "missing pearl" only occurs on the 5s March 1944 printing





49 50

42 43 52 53 54 55

March 1944 37, 49b "missing pearl"

June 1946 lemon yellow 37, 49ac

August 1950 37, 49ac

June 1946 lemon yellow 40ab, 41, 52, 54





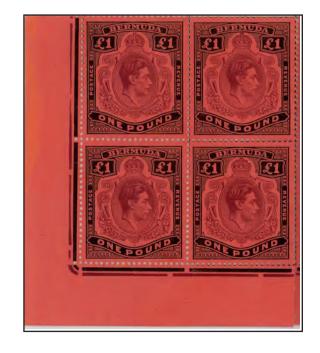
37	38
49	50

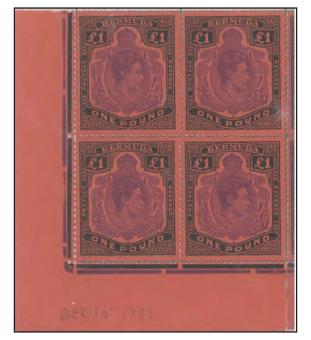














March 1943 37FF, 49a

November 1944 37, 37FF, 49ac

November 1937 No flaw

October 1952 37, 38, 49ac

November 1937 39, 40FF

Lower right - positions 43 - 60 43 - 56

43	44	45	46	47	48
55	56	57	58	59	60

Positions from the bottom right quarter of the sheet i.e. positions 43 to 60 includes the two most recognized flaws being 59 damage to the top right scroll and 60 damage to the bottom right scroll

60 damage to the bottom right scroll

October 1941

FF43, 44, 45ab, 45FF

43 44

55 56



Flaw 56
Slight indent slice of the outer scroll outline of the lower right scroll.
Recorded June 45 to Dec 49. May occur earlier.



2s Frame Flaw 43 Break in outline below the upper right value tablet. Recorded from Oct 40 to Apr 52



October 1940 FF43



33a, FF43, 44, 45ab, 45FF

31	32	33
43	44	45
55	56	57



Flaw 44
Slight indent slice of the outer scroll outline of the lower right scroll.
Recorded Oct 41 to Dec 49. May occur earlier.



March 1943 43FF, 44

43

44



March 1944 43FF, 44



6	56		
		43	44
		55	56





2s6d Frame Flaw 43Part of sharding line is missing. Recorded from Nov 37 to Apr 52



May 1941 FF43



March 1943 FF43



March 1943 44



March 1943 44



March 1943 44

Lower right - positions 43 - 60 45 - 58

45	46
57	58



November 1937 no flaw



2s Frame Flaw 45 Wedge shaped indent above the H of shilling. Recorded from Oct 40 to Dec 46



October 1940 45FF



45

57 58

46

March 1943 45FF





March 1944 45FF

45



July 1939 no flaws



45

57

46

March 1943 No flaw

45	46
57	58

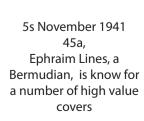


October 1940 no flaw



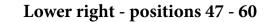
107- 107-

September 1941 45ab





September 1952 45a



47	48	
59	60	

_	
	47
	59

60

1939 printings



59 60

59 60





November 1937 no flaws

November 1937 no flaws

January 1939 47a

January 1939 47a

July 1939 47a





1940 printings

47	48
59	60



47A: ERD: July 1938 to end break in outline of third leaf on left

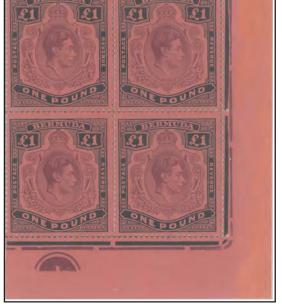
47	48
59	60



November 1937

no flaws





November 1937 no flaws



October 1940 47a



October 1940 reprint 47a One of two recorded plate blocks



October 1940 47a,48FF

Line Perf printings

47 48

1941 printings



47k

Flaw 47b Very small break on second leaf on right. Occurs from May 1941 to 1944



Maia

Major flaw 59
Major damage to the upper right scroll. Only occurs on the 1941 line perf printings,



6

Major flaw 60
Massive damage to the lower right scroll. First occurs on theMay 1941 line perf printings, continues through the March 1943



May 1941 47a, 59i, 60 Three recorded plate blocks

47	48
59	60



May 1941 47ab, 48FF, 59i, 60



47

59 60

48

May 1941 47a, 59i, 60

based on the plate plug the 10s appears to have been printed before the other line perf stamps

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BERMUDA	BERNUDA
10/-	(P7.42) (P7.42) 3
TAISHITIDIES	TI TOS
A SHILLING	TINSHILLINGS
DE BRIMWINA	BERMUDA
10/-	10/-
TEN SHITTINGS	THUSHILLINGS.
	and the same of th
STREET OF THE PERSON NAMED IN COLUMN TWO IS NOT THE OWNER.	

September 1941 47a, 59i, 60

The papers used for the line perf printings were all requisitioned in March/April 1941 and the four values must have been printed at approximately the same time even though the 10s value was not dispatched to Bermuda until September. The flaw 59 was almost completely retouched as shown on the £1 value that must have been printed in June and dispatched in July, however it is surprising that stamp 60 was not retouched to a better extent until after the 1943 printings



59ii



60

20	21	22	23	24
32	33	34	35	36
44	45	46	47	48
56	57	58	59	60



July 1941 47a, 59ii, 60

November 1941

59ii

November 1941

47ab, 59ii, 60

only plate block

with full margins ex Ludington



March 1943

47a, 59ii, 60

March 1943

47a, 59ii, 60

March 1943

47a, 59ii, 60

1944 - 1949 printings

47	48
59	60

47
59

Both major flaws 59 and 60 are fully repaired

60



 47
 48

 59
 60

59

 47
 48

 59
 60







March 1944 47ab, 59b

June 1945 47ab, 59b, 60c

December 1946 47ab, 59b, 60c

July 1947 47ab, 48, 59b, 60c

February 1949 47ab, 48, 59b, 60bc













December 1946 47ab, 48FF, 59b, 60c

June 1948 47ab, 48FF, 59b, 60c

March 1944 47a, 59b

December 1946 47ab, 59b, 60c

June 1948 47ab, 48, 59b, 60bc

1944 - 1949 printings

47	48
59	60



November 1944 59b



December 1946 47ab, 59b, 60c



59

lemon yellow





June 1946 47ab, 59b, 60c





59 60

June 1948 47ab, 48, 59b, 60c

47 48 59 60



59 60

November 1944 59b. 60c



June 1945 47ab, 59b, 60c



December 1946

December 1946 47ab, 59b, 60c

47	48
59	60



December 1949 47ab, 48, 59b, 60bc

Perf 13.2 x 13.0 comb, ordinary paper





August 1950 47ab, 48, 59b, 60bc



 47
 48

 59
 60

September 1952 47ab, 48, 59b, 60bc



December 1949 47ab, 48, 59b, 60bc





August 1950 47ab, 48, 48FF, 59b, 60bc



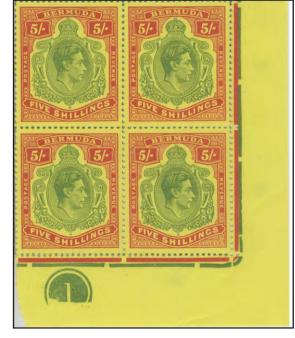


November 1951 47ab, 48, 48FF, 59b, 60bc



September 1952 47ab, 48, 48FF, 59b, 60bc

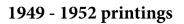




August 1950 47ab, 48, 59b, 60bc

Perf 13.2 x 13.0 comb, ordinary paper

59 60



47	48
59	60



59 60

59 60



June 1951 47a, 48, 59b, 60ab

January 1953 47a, 48, 59b, 60ab

August 1950 47ab, 48, 59b, 60bc

June 1951 47ab, 48, 59b, 60bc

September 1952 47ab, 48, 59b, 60c





November 1951 47ab, 48, 59b, 60bc

April 1952 47ab, 48, 59b, 60bc

October 1952 47ab, 48, 59b, 60bc

Commercial destination mail



BRAZIL

4s6d double rate plus 3d registration

ARGENTINA

2s single (air mail) rate plus 3d registration

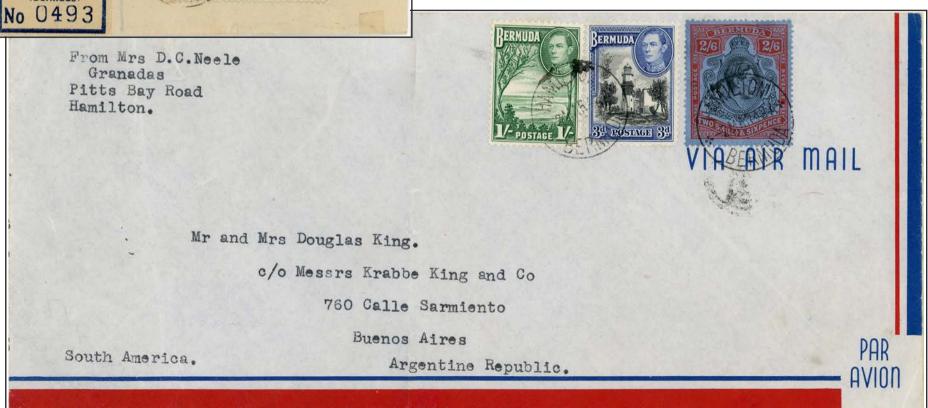


SWITZERLAND 2s single rate

ARGENTINA 3s9d triple surface rate

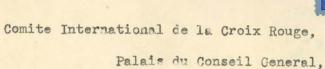
SOUTH AFRICA





"Red Cross Postal Message Scheme."





GENEVA.

Switzerland.

2 COUPON-REPONSE

Fiscal usages

A large number of the 12/6 stamps were used to pay head tax on passengers leaving Bermuda by ship or later by plane. The tax was raised to 12/6 in 1932 and to £1 from November 1952



January 1939 Harnett Richardson Shipping agent



August 1938 Lady Rodney



GRACE LINE January 1940

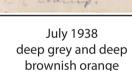


June 1946 lemon



November 1937 grey and brownish orange





AIRPORT DEPARTURE TIMES

From 135 E 42 57 at 7 AM.

at

WELW YORK NORTH BEAGE

PAN AMERICAN AIRWAYS SYSTEM PAR

SPEED . COMFORT . DEPENDABILITY

EXAMINE YOUR TICKETS: Read the contract conditions, and check routing, expiration limit and other details DEPARTURES WILL NOT BE DELAYED FOR PASSENGERS ARRIVING TOO LATE FOR INCLUSION IN FLIGHT DOCUMENTS

TICKETS FOR MRS

EMBAI

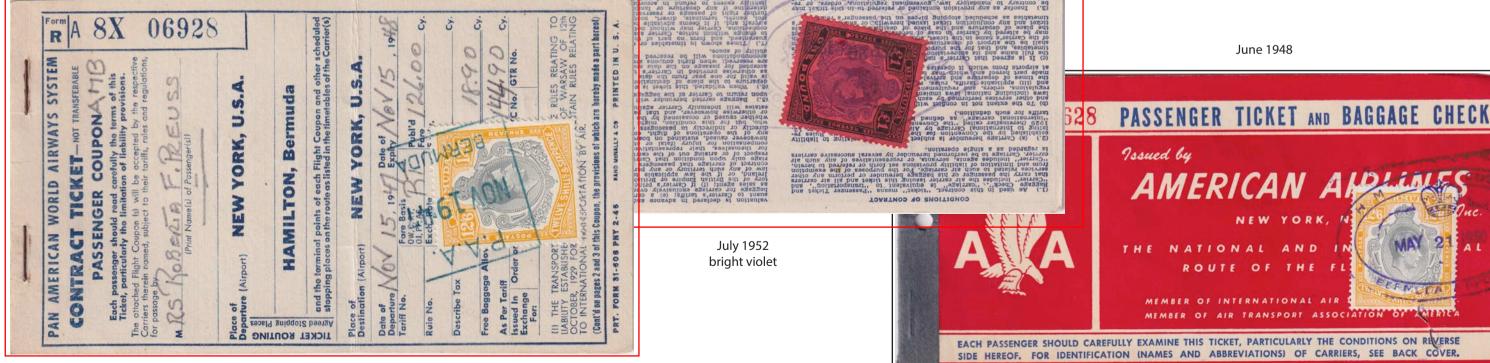
(USE ABOVE SPACE TO STAMP OR ATTACH SPECIAL NOTICES)

Before any departu

sumentation for entry

passengers arriving

cheduled departure. Earli



EACH PASSENGER SHOULD CAREFULLY EXAMINE THIS TICKET, PARTICULARLY THE CONDITIONS ON REVERSE SIDE HEREOF. FOR IDENTIFICATION (NAMES AND ABBREVIATIONS) OF CARRIERS, SEE BACK COVER.

June 1946 lemon yellow