

BERMUDA DOCK ISSUE

1902 -1910

On 22nd October 1896 the Colonial Secretary requested the Crown Agents and printers De La Rue & Co to prepare a new 5d. value stamp for double rate letters to United Kingdom and the U.S.A. Two essays were prepared for Key plate production showing the central design of the badge of Bermuda. Subsequently the plan for the 5d. stamp was abandoned.

As a result of the death of Queen Victoria the second of the two essays was approved on the 8th August 1901 for the 1d stamp and the new farthing newspaper wrapper On 19th December 1901 it was decided to extend the design to all values of the stamp as and when required.

The final design was bicoloured with the central vignette in one colour and the frame in another colour. The stamps were surface printed in two passes:- one for the vignette another for the frame. The printing quality was high as no constant flaws of the frame or vignette exist.

From the terminology written by the printers on some die proofs it is clear that the stamps were known quite correctly as "Bermuda Arms". However early philatelic articles referred to them as Dock stamps as it was believed that the stamps depicted the new dry dock in Bermuda. It was constructed in England and sent to Bermuda for the naval base on Ireland Island. The design shows a ship at the entrance to a gated dock which allows a ship to loaded or unloaded without tidal interference. A dry dock allows for complete drainage. This erroneous description became the adopted title for this series of stamps.

This display depicts the die proofs of the vignette and the frames in various stages, all the issued stamps showing the different shades that occurred and the different sheet format plus additions made by the printers to the interpanneau margins which are unique to these stamps of Bermuda

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As none of the stamps that were sent to Bermuda were destroyed they remained in use for up to nine years after they had been issued and when stocks ran out they were replaced by the new "Ship" stamps which were first issued in June 1910

DIE PROOFS OF VIGNETTE

The first die proof is dated 9th Dec 1901 but it took until 16th May 1902 before the die was finalised. During this period small alterations were made to the die as can be seen on the 2 proofs shown below. As a result of the alterations there are 2 states of the die.

STATE 1

9th Dec 1901 with uncleared surround



*State 1 showed heavy:- (a) lines for the water
(b) long shading lines on the sails of left ship
(c) thin lines of the rings below the bollards*

STATE 2

16th May 1902 with cleared surround



*State 2 showed:- (a) thinner lines for water
(b) shorter shading lines on the sails and
(c) heavy outlines to rings below bollards*

DIE PROOFS OF FRAME & VALUE TABLET

Compared with the time taken to finalise the vignette die it only took a few days to complete the die for the frame and value tablet. There is however a difference between the 2 dies shown below and they are referred to as Die 1 and Die 2

DIE 1 (One farthing)

The white centre circle in the middle at each side is blank



Die 1 was used for the low values being:-

- (a) farthing*
- (b) halfpenny*
- (c) one penny*

DIE 2 (Three pence)

A small dot is added in the centre circle at each side



It is not known why there was such a small alteration to the die

FIRST ISSUE 1902

The 1st issue consisted of three values which were surface printed by Thomas De La Rue & Co. on Crown over CA watermarked paper. All values were perforated 14 all round.

The one penny value was printed in sheets of 120 consisting of 2 panes of 60
The halfpenny and three penny values were printed in sheets of 240 in 4 panes of 60

It is not known why a different printing format was used

SPECIMEN OVERPRINT (Samuel type D 12)



The stamps were issued as follows:-

- (a) Halfpenny Issued Dec 1902. 1 printing of 361,440
- (b) One penny Issued Dec 1902. 3 printings of 2,175,840
- (c) Three pence Issued Sep 1903 2 printings of 74,160

ISSUED STAMPS IN BLOCKS OF FOUR



Black & green

Brown & carmine

Sage green & magenta

FIRST ISSUE 1902

SHADE VARIETIES

Both the One penny and the Three pence values come in 2 different shades

ONE PENNY



*Brown and Aniline
Carmine*



*Brown & bright Aniline
Carmine*

THREE PENCE



Magenta and Sage Green



*Aniline Magenta and Sage
Green*

PLATE NUMBER LOCATION
PLATE 1 ONLY

HALFPENNY



All values except 1d. were printed in sheets of 240 in 4 panes of 60 being 6 across by 10 deep. The plate numbers appear 4 times:-
upper left pane above stamp 2 upper right pane above stamp 5
lower left pane below stamp 56 lower right pane below stamp 59

Broken Jubilee line in bottom margin

ONE PENNY



1d. value printed in sheet of 120 in two horizontal panes of sixty with ten horizontal rows of 6. On these sheets the plate number appears 8 times
above 2nd and 5th. stamp on each pane
below 56th & 59th. stamp on each pane

Continous Jubilee line in bottom margin

FIRST ISSUE 1903

THREE PENCE

*NORMAL FORMAT OF HORIZONTAL PANE
BLANK SPACE BETWEEN JUBILEE LINES*



SECOND ISSUE 1906 - 1909

FARTHING

SAME FORMAT AS ABOVE

Of the new values issued only the farthing stamp had the same inter panneau format



SECOND ISSUE 1906 - 1909

During 1904 the watermark of British Colonial stamps were changed to Multiple Crown CA but the Bermuda stamps with the new watermark did not appear until 1906. Four new values were added to the existing stamps which were reprinted in the same colours on the new watermark paper

SPECIMEN OVERPRINT
(Samuel type D 12)

NEW VALUES ONLY



NEW VALUES IN BLOCKS OF FOUR



The stamps were issued as follows:-

- (a) Farthing Issued Sep08 1 printing of 368640
- (b) Halfpenny Issued Dec06 1 printing of 365280
- (c) One penny Issued Apr06 1 printing of 1483920
- (d) Two pence Issued Oct07 1 printing 70560
- (e) Two&Half pence Issued Dec06 1 Printing of 489120
- (f) Four pence Issued Dec06 1 printing of 72000

SECOND ISSUE 1906 - 1909

COMPLETE SET OF VALUES



USED SET IN BLOCKS OF 4



SECOND ISSUE 1906 - 1909

PLATE NUMBERS

The plate number printed was printed in the colour of the vignette in the same positions as the first issue. The 1d was printed in the same sheet format.

ALL VALUES PLATE 1 ONLY



Brown and violet



Green and black



Brown and analine carmine



Grey and orange



Brown and ultramarine



Blue and chocolate

SECOND ISSUE 1906 - 1908

ONE FARTHING VALUE

A used block of 8 plus a pair on a cover to the U.S.A. dated 2nd September 1910



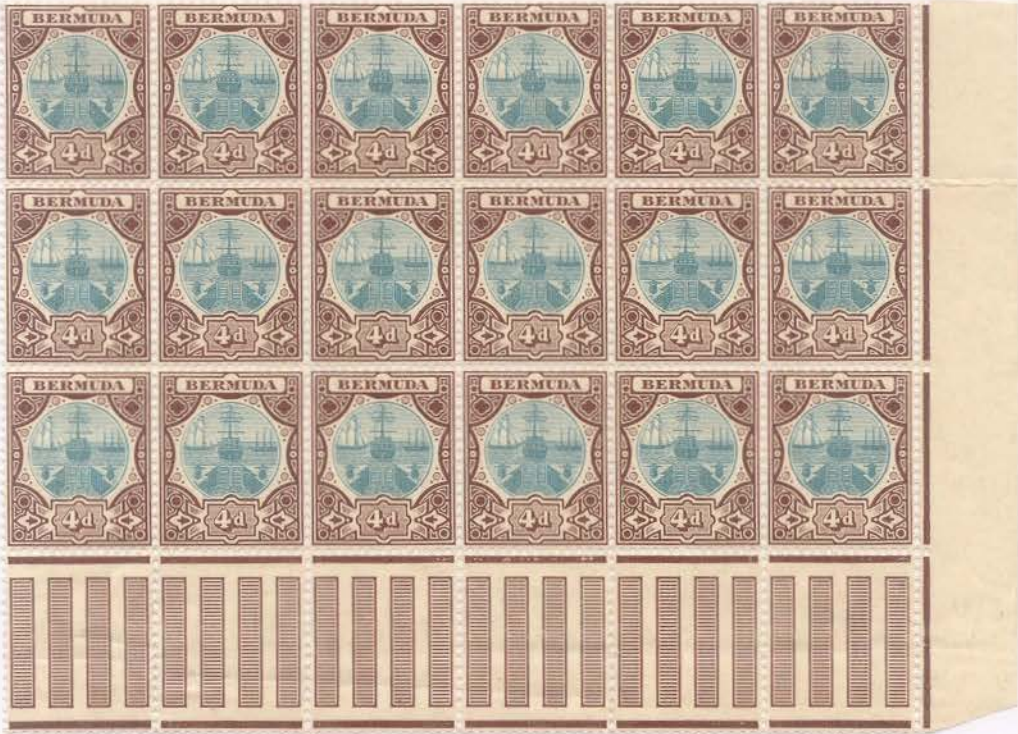
Sent by the Post Office at Hamilton using an O.H.M.S. envelope the cover also has two Postal Stationery cut outs from the Dock issue Newspaper Wrappers which were also cancelled by the Post Office. It is doubtful if they were accepted by the Post Office as being proper usage as the ten Farthing Dock stamps paid the correct postal rate to U.S.A. of Two & a Half pence

SECOND ISSUE 1906 - 1909

When the new values were printed De La Rue added an ornament consisting of four vertical ladder bars to each stamp located to the bottom or top of the stamp adjacent to the horizontal margin between the two panes. The vertical gutter remained the same

It is not known why this ornament was added

FOUR PENCE



Top right pane

TWO PENCE



Bottom left and right panes

PARCEL POST CERTIFICATE

TWO & HALF PENNY

An unusual use for the Two and Half penny stamp which was normally used for letters to the United States of America weighing a half ounce

P.O.—No. 17.

PARCEL POST.

CERTIFICATE OF POSTING OF A PARCEL.

A Parcel prepaid 1 s. 0 d., and addressed as under, has been posted here this day:-

*Albert Sophomau
Ulmeau*

Consecutive }
Number. }



Received a Fee of 5 s. 0 d. for insurance of Parcel for a Sum not exceeding* £ One pound s. 0 d.

*State in words the number of pounds

Alfred

Postmaster's Signature.

A Certificate of Posting a Parcel (Post Office Form No 17) used for insurance purposes with a pair of Two and a Half penny stamps to give insurance to the value of £1 on a parcel costing 1s to post.

The stamps are cancelled with a Parcel Post cancel dated 11 Dec 09

This is the only recorded certificate franked with any of the Dock issue

THIRD ISSUE 1908 - 1910

COLOUR CHANGE

In 1907 the Bermuda Government issued the Halfpenny, One Penny and the Two and halfpenny stamps in single colours as recommended for these values by the Universal Postal Union. The watermark and perforation remained unchanged

SPECIMEN OVERPRINT
(Samuel type D 12)



The stamps were issued as follows:-

- (a) Halfpenny Issued Mar 1909 2 printings of 366,960
- (b) One penny Issued May 1908 2 printings of 1,465,920
- (c) Two & Halfpenny Issued Feb 1910 2 printings of 488,640

ISSUED STAMPS IN BLOCKS OF 4



Green

Red

Ultramarine

THIRD ISSUE 1908 - 1910

SHADE VARIETIES

The colours vary between dull and bright for each value



Slight difference on this value



MULTIPLE BLOCKS

HALFPENNY



ONE PENNY



ALL THREE SERIES

The Dock issue stamps lasted in use up to 1910 when the new Ship stamps came into use in April but the Post Office did not withdraw the Dock stamps but continued to use them up and they can be found on covers dated up to the 1920's used in conjunction with the new Ship stamps

First day covers were not in vogue at this time but tourists to Bermuda occasionally liked to send a cover back home with an array of stamps on the front as a souvenir of their visit. Usually these covers are now regarded as "philatelic" as they do not pay a recognised postal rate and are derided by postal historians.

The cover shown below could be regarded in this category

BUT

this cover is franked with Dock stamps from all three series



Posted on 23rd Feb 1910 this cover is franked with:-

- A 3d from the 1st. series
- A Farthing (6) from the 2nd series
- A Half penny (4) from the 3rd series

The total franking is six and a half pence which is not a recognised postal rate