# BWISC Convention 2013 Informal Display By Simon Richards

# BRITISH GUIANA 1860-1875 The Waterlow Lithographs 1860-1875

# British Guiana – The Waterlow Lithographs 1860-1875

British Guiana was formed in 1831 from the former dutch colonies of Berbice, Demerara and Essequibo, named after the three great rivers. In 1839 the currency was reformed and the dollar adopted at a value of 4s 2d, this means that 1c was equivalent to  $\frac{1}{2}$ d, 2c to 1d, 12c to 6d and 24c to 1s.

In 1850 the colonial postmaster put forward a scheme to establish an inland mail service using postage stamps to indicate prepayment. These were produced locally and were the famous "cotton reel". These stamps were not considered satisfactory and an order was given to a local stationers to have stamps produced in London. He placed the order with Waterlow and Sons and the resulting fairly crude lithographs of a design featuring a sailing ship and the motto "DAMUS PETIMUS QUE VICISSIM" – "we give and expect in return. The basic design proved popular and remained in use until 1913.

The quality of the issue was poor and in 1853 a new order was placed with Waterlow and Sons to produce 1c and 4c stamps using an engraved die to build up the lithographic stone.

As mentioned these stamps could only be used to prepay the inland postage, for overseas letters British stamps could be used between 1858 and 1860, but in May 1860 the Post office in London finally succeeded in persuading the colonial administration to take over the post offices in Demerara and Berbice.

This change resulted in an urgent need for a larger supply and a greater range of denominations – 1c for newspapers, 2c for local letters, 4c for inland letters, 8c west indies letters, 12c packet rate to the UK and 24c packet rate after 1863.

The purpose of this display is to show how the stamps changed over the fifteen years of their production. In the first three years the stamps were produced with a wider staff between the words in the value tablet. The early stamps were produced on a relatively thick paper and perforated 12, by 1862 thinner paper and a 12½x13 perforating machine introduced. On these issues the sheets were printed using a single engraved die so there are no plating varieties.

From 1864 a new design was used for the 24c and for two new values the 6c, required for ship letters, and a 48c for heavier items. At the same time a new die with a redrawn value tablet was produced for the other values and used to create an intermediate transfer stone, generally of five examples, which was then used to create printing stone for the whole sheet.

This gave rise to small imperfections which can be used to plate many examples where the cancellation is not too heavy. In the mid 1860s a perf 10 machine was introduced and used on many printing followed by a perf 15 machine in 1875.

**Bibliography:** 

Townsend & Howe: The postage stamps and postal history of British Guiana

**British West Indies Study Circle Bulletins** 

# 1860-1863 Printings: Wide space between words in value tablets

# **One Cent Rose**

Despatched June 1860. Single printing of 50,000 in sheets of 100. Perf 12 on thick paper. For all 1c printings the stone was laid down singly, so there are no transfer types.











**One Cent Reddish Brown** 

Ordered April 1861. Quantity unknown. Perf 12 on thick paper.











Imperf proof

**One Cent Deep Brown** 

Ordered December 1861. Single printing of 30,000 sheets of 100. Perf 12 on thin paper.





**One Cent Black** 



October 1862. Printing of 54,000 in sheets of 100. Perf 12 or 12<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>-13 on thin paper.











**Imperf** proof

April 1863. Printing of 60,000 in sheets of 100. Perf 12<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>-13 on medium paper.





# 1860-1863 Printings: Wide space between words in value tablets

## Two Cents Orange and Four Cents Blue

For these two values there were four printings during this period. Both values were printed in sheets of 100 from a stone laid down singly, so there are no transfer types.

First printing despatched June 1860. Perf 12 on thick paper. 60,000 printed of each value

**Deep Orange** 

Pale Orange

**Deep Blue** 

Blue









Second printing ordered December 1861. Perf 12 on thin paper.

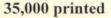








20,000 printed



Third printing October 1862; 66,000 in sheets of 100. Perf 12<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>x13 on thin paper.

**Brownish Orange** 

**Deep Orange** 





66,000 printed

78,000 printed



60,000 printed

Fourth printing April 1863; 78,000 in sheets of 100. Perf 12<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>x13 on medium paper.







**Greyish Blue** 



60,000 printed

# 1860-1863 Printings: Wide space between words in value tablets

## Eight Cents Pink, Twelve Cents Lilac and Twenty Four Cents Green

For these three values there were three printings during this period. Each values was printed in sheets from a stone laid down singly, so there are no transfer types. The eight cents was printed in sheets of 50, the twelve cents in sheets of 40 and the twenty four cents in sheets of 20.

First printing despatched June 1860, perf 12, thick paper. 60,000 printed of each value

**Grey Lilac** 







Lilac





**Deep Green** 



Green

Second printing October 1862 on thin paper, 15,000 8c, 42,000 12c, 7,000 24c.

Perf 12

Purple

**Dull Purple** 



#### Perf 121/2x13









Third printing April 1863 on medium paper, perf 121/2x13, 18,000 8c and 12c, 54,000 24c







From 1864 new printing stones were produced. For the 1c, 2c, 8c and 12c these were derived from a new transfer from the master die with new drawings used for the value tablet. Unlike the earlier printing stones were made via intermediate transfers, usually of five, and therefore show repeating primary types.

#### **One Cent Black**

Both the first printing of 80,000 in May 1864 and the second printing of December 1864 were made from printing stone 1. This stone of 100 impressions was laid down via an intermediate transfer strip of five, and the sheets were perforated 12½x13.





White flaw left of "O" in lower right corner



Lower edge of buckle deformed



Near complete white line over "One Cent"







"E" of "One" cut at base

A third printing of 55,000 from stone 1, perf 10, was made in October 1864 and is very scarce.





"O" of "One"

cut at base



Printing Stone 2 was prepared in 1866 from a new horizontal transfer strip of five and was used to print 1,100,000 stamps in sixteen printings between August 1866 and March 1874. The large majority of these printings were on medium paper perf 10.

Type A



White flaw in left buckle





Black spot in oval over "MU" of "Petimusque"

#### Type C



Middle of "C" of "Cent" thickened

Type D



Black spot in base of "1" at top left

Type E



"T" of "Cent" extended to right

#### **One Cent Black**

Dated examples suggest only one printing from stone 2 was made perf 121/2x13.

Type B



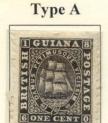


Type E



Printing Stone 3 was used for the final three printings of 1875. Once again an intermediate transfer group of five was used and 150,000 were printed on medium paper perf 10 and 120,000 on the same paper perf 15.

#### Perf 10



Wavy line broken over "EN" of "Cent"





Oblique line in lower left of bottom right sq







White spot right of "1" at top left



Type D



Black dot in left side of "O" of "One"



Type E



White spot between "GE" of "Postage"



Perf 15

Pairs, and larger pieces, show how the transfers were placed.



Types B – C



Types E – A

#### **Two Cents Orange**

Printing stone 1 was only used for the first printing of 72,000 in May 1864. As with the 1c the stamps were produced in sheets of 100 using an intermediate stone of five. Perf 12<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>x13.



Type B Top of "T" of "Two" slopes down



Type C White line left of "T" of "Two"

Stamps perf 12<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>x13 are found in orange and orange red and probably all came from the first two printings.









Orange

Orange-red

However for the second printing of 72,000 stamps a new printing stone was required. The stone was also made up from an intermediate transfer stone of five.



Type B Top of "E" of "Cents" malformed



**Type C** Right foot of "T" of "Two" almost missing



**Type E** Right side of "N" of "Guiana" extends to base

There were some 20 orders received in the colony between October 1864 and March 1875 and the large majority of these 1,665,000 stamps were printed on medium paper and perforated 10.



Orange

**Orange-red** 

#### **Two Cents Orange**

Printing stone 2 stamps perf 10.



Type B Top of "E" of "Cents" malformed



Type E Right side of "N" of "Guiana" extends to base

For later printings a third stone was made, again using an intermediate transfer group of five, perf 10.



**Types A-B** 



The final orders place in 1875 were also printed using stone three, but the stamps were perforated 15.



Type A "T" of "Two" almost touching left corner square



**Type B** Colour dot in middle of "S" of "Cents"



**Type C** Downstroke of "S" of "Cents" has a bulge on left side



**Type D** Coloured blob at top of foresail



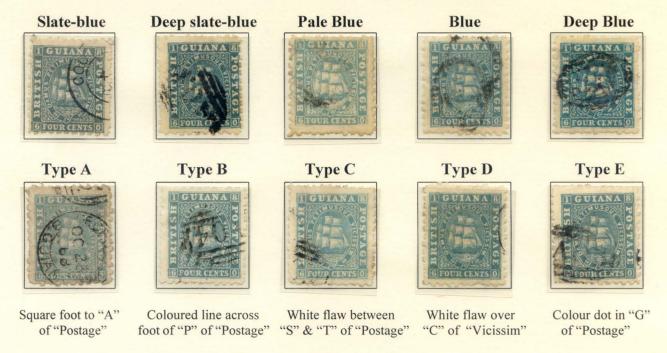
Type E White dot in centre of "D" of "Damus"

#### Four Cents Blue

The four cents was the only value where the value tablet was not redrawn. In 1864 two printings were made from a new printing stone on medium paper, perf  $12\frac{1}{2}x13$ . The stone was made using an intermediary stone of five and stamps are hard to identify.



A third printing stone was laid down in 1865 using an intermediate transfer strip of five. Thirteen printings used this stone, all were printed in sheets of 100 and most are perf 10 but this stome was also used for the final perf 12½x13 printing. The printings were spread over nine years and so a range of shades is only to be expected.



A final printing stone was made in early 1874 also using an intermediary stone of five. It was used to produce 20,000 stamps perf 10 and a final printing of 9,000 stamps perf 15.



White flaw between "I" &"A" of "Guiana" White dot below "S" of "British"

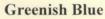
#### Six Cents Blue

On 23 April 1863 an order was placed for a 6c value for use on Ship letters to the UK and with it was sent a sketch of a larger design than that in current use. The first eight printings were either perf 121/2x13 or perf 10. There are four distinct shades and four printing stones were employed. 54,040 printed in sheets of 90.





**Milky Blue** 











#### Printing stone 1 was built up from a horizontal transfer strip of four.



White floor top right of "3"

C



Colour spot in margin opposite "A" of "Damus"



Colour spot between "Petimusque" & "Vicissim"

Printing stone 3 was built up using horizontal strips of five, usually perf 10.

Type B



Colour dot between "E" & "I" of "Petimusque"



Colour dot between "U" & "I" of "Guiana"



Lower end of upper left ornament joined to oval



Colour dot in top of "S" of "Cents"

Printing stone 4 was built up in the same way and was used for the final perf 15 printing

Perf 10

Perf 15 Ultramarine

Type A



"I" of Petimusque"



Colour dot after "V" of "Vicissim"



Two colour spots above "S" of "Cents"



Colour spot on top frame over "UI" of "Guiana"

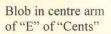




#### **Eight Cents Pink**

Ten printings of the 8c pink took place between 1864 and 1873, most of these printings were relatively small, typically 10,000 stamps in sheets of 50 and so printing stone 2, the first with the redrawn value tablet was used for the first ten of these printings. The stone was created form an intermediate transfer stone of 5 and all the printing to 1871 were perf 10, thereafter some were perf  $12\frac{1}{2}x13$ .









Type B

Colour dot over "N" of "Guiana"



Perf 10 Type C



Colour dot below "TS" of "Cents"

# Perf 121/2x13



Type D



Bottom of "T" of "Cents" missing



Type E



Colour dot below third "I" of "VIII"



In January 1874 a new, third, printing stone of 50 impressions was made, also using an intermediate transfer of five. Two printing totalling 25,000 was made perf 12<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>x13.

Type A



Top of "E" of "Cents" prolonged to left

Type B



Wavy line at bottom left joined to buckle

#### In April 1875 a final printing of 15,000 was made from this stone and perforated 15.







## **Eight Cents Pink**

There were ten printings of the eight cents using printing stone 2, with approximately equal numbers perf 10 and perf 12<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>x13. These printings were spread over nearly ten years and not surprisingly the shade varied considerably.



Dated copies are scarce as 95% bear a killer obliterator. The 8c stamp's primary use was to prepay mail to other colonies in the West Indies, but covers to France are known where postage was paid by a pair of 8c stamps using a killer duplex.



(22) Sept 1867 outer to France carried by the Mersey to St Thomas, via Barbados and then to Plymouth on the Tasmanian, arr 12 Oct, London 14 Oct. This was the first return voyage after the home port moved to Plymouth. Postage paid by a pair of 8c brownish pink, perf 10, types A and B.

**Pale-dull Pink** 

Perf 10

#### **Eight Cents Pink**

From 1865 French steamers also called at Demerara and mail could be sent by them to Europe via Bordeaux. The letter rate to France was 7d or 14c to which was added 2c for British Guiana inland postage, making a total of 16c. Accountancy marks of 1 and 7 were added in red crayon to indicate the postage due, in pence, to the colony and London respectively.



This envelope to France has been datestamped 23 December 1869 in Georgetown and the stamps cancelled with the A03 killer. It is one of six known showing the 16c rate via London and bears the PD in circle mark as well as London paid of 12 January 1870. Carried on the Tamar as far as St Lucia, arr 6 Dec, and then transferred to the Corsica which sailed for St Thomas that day arriving on 29 Dec when the mails were transferred to the Tasmanian and taken to Plymouth, which it reached on 11 January, thence by rail to London and on to Calais which it reached the next day. On the reverse are date stamps of Lyon a Avignon, 13 Jan, and St Peray of the afternoon of that day.

The two stamps on this cover are also Types A and B perf 10, but in a pink shade. The fourth printing of the 8c was received in the colony in August 1869 and these stamps are probably from that printing.

The previous cover is three months earlier than the earliest date given in Townsend & Howe and may be from the third printing which arrived in the colony on 18 May 1867. The first printing had arrived in late 1864 and the second in August 1866.

Not evidence for firm conclusions but it points towards shades and printings and that perf 10 stamps pre-date perf  $12\frac{1}{2} \times 13$ .

#### **Twelve Cents Lilac**

For the twelve cent a printing, probably in 1864, was made using the wide spaced value tablet and this is the only printing with the wide tablet where stamps can be found perf 10. As with the earlier printings these stamps were printed in sheets of 40







Between 1864 and March 1875 there were thirteen printings of the 12c with the redrawn value tablet, these are found perf  $12\frac{1}{2}x13$  and perf 10 and the shades are quite variable. However the lack of dated examples makes their attribution to specific printings difficult. In all 252,000 stamps were printed in this period.

Perf 121/2x13



Grey-lilac



Lilac-mauve

**Pink-lilac** 



**Brown-lilac** 



**Grey-lilac** 

CULANA B COLORA COLORICOLORA COLORA C

Lilac-mauve

Perf 10



**Deep Lilac-mauve** 



Lilac

Some imperforate stamps seem to have been sent to the colony, these are controversial and some authors consider them either to be proofs or cut down stamps, but the margins on the stamp below are large enough to suggest that an imperforate sheet reached the colony.



## **Twelve Cents Lilac**

All thirteen printings in this period were made from printing stone 2 which was laid down from an intermediate transfer stone of 5.



Type A Colour dot in vertical of "T" of "Cents"



Type B Top of "E" of "Cents" curves upwards





Type C Bottom of buckle is flat





Type D "S" of "Cents" close to right hand corner



**Type E** Dot between "U" and "E" of "Petimusque"



Type A



Type C



Type D



Type E

Three further printings were made in 1874 from a new printing stone again made up from an intermediate transfer stone of five. All three printings were perf 10.



Type B "Cents" is set low



Type C Upper left of "X" of "XII" elongated



Type D Colour bulge below "X" of "XII"



**Type E** White flaw after "E" of "Postage"

A final printing of 15,000 was made from printing stone 3 in April 1875 and the stamps were perforated 15.







#### **Twenty four Cents Green**

When the 23 April 1863 order was placed for 6c and 48c stamps it was suggested that future printings of the 24c should also be in the larger design.

First printing of 40,000 in August 1863 in sheets of 50 from printing stone 1 made up from an intermediate transfer pair. The stamps were printed on medium paper and perforated 12.

Type A





Type B





Break in top frame over "IA" of "Guiana"

Lower portion of second "S" of "Vicissim" missing

December 1864 second printing of 15,000, also from printing stone 1; printed in sheets of 50 on medium paper perforated 12<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>x13.

Type A

Type B



Between 1865 and March 1875 a further eighteen deliveries of 24c stamps were made, the majority are perforated 10, but some printings were perforated 12<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>x13.





**Yellow-green** 



Yellow-green



Green



Green



**Blue-green** 



**Dark Green** 

Perf 10

#### **Twenty four Cents Green**

No perf10 printing used stone 1, but it may have been used for some of the perf 12<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>x13 printings. Printing stone 2 seems to have been made in 1867, again a stone of 50 was made up from an intermediary transfer pair. In the lower two rows of the sheet a new type B2 was substituted for type B.



Colour bar through "I" of "Petimusque"

Type B



Colour dot between "I" and "M" of "Vicissim"

Type B2



Lower left of final "E" of "Petimusque" defective

A third printing stone is noted from 1869 again using intermediate transfer pairs.



Colour spot left of "6" in lower left corner

Perf 121/2x13



White spot adjoining inscription circle at middle left

#### Perf 10



Type B



Printing stone 4 was used for the final three printings perf 10 and was laid down using an intermediate printing stone of five. This stone was also used for the final two printings, each of 15,000 stamps, in April and August 1875 which were perforated 15.





White dot at top of "3" in lower left corner



#### Type B



Colour dot in top of upper main sail



#### Type C



Break in circular frame below "QU"



# Type D



Colour dash left of "S" of "Cents"



Type E



Colour flaw at top of bottom of main sail



# **Forty eight Cents Red**

The 23 April 1863 order also called for a 48c value for use on heavy letters. The first printing was of 15,000 in sheets of 50 made from an intermediate transfer pair. The stamps were printed on medium paper perforated 121/2x13.









Break in left of "V" of "Vicissim"

Colour dot on while border to left of date

December 1863 second printing from a new stone of 50 made from a new intermediate transfer pair, also on medium paper perforated 121/2x13.







Coloured hook in lower margin below "6"

Six further printings took place between August 1866 and March 1872 all made in sheets of 50 perf 10. One printing used stone 2, stamps from which are rare.

#### Printing stone 3 made using an intermediate transfer pair.

Type A



Colour joining first "S" of "Vicissim" to outer circle

Colour under left side of central ornament



B

Colour flaw between "X" and "L"

### Printing stone 4 also made using an intermediate transfer pair









Colour dot outside frame opposite "3"

Type

A

Colour dots between "P" and "E" and between "X" and "L"