

BWISC Convention 2013

Informal Display

By

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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 ½d, 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 12½-13 on thin paper.



Imperf proof

April 1863. Printing of 60,000 in sheets of 100. Perf 12½-13 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

35,000 printed

Third printing October 1862; 66,000 in sheets of 100. Perf 12½x13 on thin paper.

Brownish Orange



Deep Orange



66,000 printed

60,000 printed

Fourth printing April 1863; 78,000 in sheets of 100. Perf 12½x13 on medium paper.



Blue



Greyish Blue



78,000 printed

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

Pink

Lilac

Grey 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 12½x13



Third printing April 1863 on medium paper, perf 12½x13, 18,000 8c and 12c, 54,000 24c



1864-1875 Printings: Narrow space between words in value tablets

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.

Type A



White flaw left of "O"
in lower right corner

Type B



Lower edge of
buckle deformed

Type C



Near complete white
line over "One Cent"

Type D



"O" of "One"
cut at base

Type E



"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.

Type A



Type B



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

Type B



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

1864-1875 Printings: Narrow space between words in value tablets

One Cent Black

Dated examples suggest only one printing from stone 2 was made perf 12½x13.

Type B



Type D



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

Type A



Type B



Type C



Type D



Type E



Wavy line broken over "EN" of "Cent"

Oblique line in lower left of bottom right sq

White spot right of "1" at top left

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

White spot between "GE" of "Postage"



Perf 15

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



Types B - C



Types E - A

1864-1875 Printings: Narrow space between words in value tablets

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 12½x13.



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



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

Stamps perf 12½x13 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



1864-1875 Printings: Narrow space between words in value tablets

Two Cents Orange

Printing stone 2 stamps per 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, per 10.



Types A-B



Type A



Type B



Type D



Type E

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"

1864-1875 Printings: Wide space between words in value tablets

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 12½x13. The stone was made using an intermediary stone of five and stamps are hard to identify.

Types D-E



White dot below "A" of "Postage" Coloured spot in top of "G" of "Postage"

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 stone 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.

Slate-blue



Deep slate-blue



Pale Blue



Blue



Deep Blue



Type A



Type B



Type C



Type D



Type E



Square foot to "A" of "Postage"

Coloured line across foot of "P" of "Postage"

White flaw between "S" & "T" of "Postage"

White flaw over "C" of "Vicissim"

Colour dot in "G" of "Postage"

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.

Perf 10

Type B



Type E



Perf 15



Type E



White flaw between "T" & "A" of "Guiana"

White dot below "S" of "British"

1864-1875 Printings: Narrow space between words in value tablets

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 12½x13 or perf 10. There are four distinct shades and four printing stones were employed. 54,040 printed in sheets of 90.

Blue



Deep Blue



Milky Blue



Greenish Blue



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



White floor top right of "3"



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"

C



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

D



Lower end of upper left ornament joined to oval

E



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

Type A



White blur left of "8" "I" of Petimusque"

C



Colour dot after "V" of "Vicissim"

D



Two colour spots above "S" of "Cents"

E



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

**Perf 15
Ultramarine**



1864-1875 Printings: Narrow space between words in value tablets

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 from an intermediate transfer stone of 5 and all the printing to 1871 were perf 10, thereafter some were perf 12½x13.

Type A



Blob in centre arm of "E" of "Cents"

Type B



Colour dot over "N" of "Guiana"

**Perf 10
Type C**



Colour dot below "TS" of "Cents"

Type D



Bottom of "T" of "Cents" missing

Type E



Colour dot below third "I" of "VIII"

Perf 12½x13



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 12½x13.

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.



1864-1875 Printings: Narrow space between words in value tablets

Eight Cents Pink

There were ten printings of the eight cents using printing stone 2, with approximately equal numbers perf 10 and perf 12½x13. These printings were spread over nearly ten years and not surprisingly the shade varied considerably.

Perf 10



Pink



Deep Pink



Brownish-pink



Carmine

Perf 12½x13



Pale-dull Pink



Pink



Carmine-pink



Carmine

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.

1864-1875 Printings: Narrow space between words in value tablets

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 12½ x 13.

1864-1875 Printings: Narrow space between words in value tablets

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 $12\frac{1}{2} \times 13$ 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 $12\frac{1}{2} \times 13$



Grey-lilac



Lilac-mauve



Pink-lilac



Brown-lilac

Perf 10



Grey-lilac



Lilac-mauve



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.



1864-1875 Printings: Narrow space between words in value tablets

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.

Perf 12½x13



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"

Perf 10



Type A



Type B



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.



1864-1875 Printings: Narrow space between words in value tablets

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



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



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

Type B



December 1864 second printing of 15,000, also from printing stone 1; printed in sheets of 50 on medium paper perforated 12½x13.

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 12½x13.

Perf 12½x13



Yellow-green



Green



Blue-green

Perf 10



Yellow-green



Green



Dark Green

1864-1875 Printings: Narrow space between words in value tablets

Twenty four Cents Green

No perf10 printing used stone 1, but it may have been used for some of the perf 12½x13 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.

Type A



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.

Perf 12½x13

Type A



Colour spot left of "6" in lower left corner

Type B



White spot adjoining inscription circle at middle left

Perf 10

Type A



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.

Type A



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



1864-1875 Printings: Narrow space between words in value tablets

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 12½x13.



Type
A



Type
B



Break in left of "V" of "Vicissim"

Colour dot on white 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 12½x13.



Type
A



Type
B



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

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 under left side
of central ornament

Type
B



Colour flaw between
"X" and "L"

Printing stone 4 also made using an intermediate transfer pair



Type
A



Type
B



Colour dot outside frame opposite "3"

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