

# Saint Vincent 1861 to 1881

## THE PERKINS, BACON PRINTINGS

Perkins Bacon produced the stamps of St. Vincent from 1861 until December 1881 when the Government of St Vincent cancelled the contract due to disputes over production quality.

Early in 1860 Perkins, Bacon & Co. commissioned a new Queen Victoria head, for use on postage stamps, based on a watercolour drawing by Edward Henry Corbould, now in the Royal collection.



Proof of the Queen's head with oval surround in black on thick wove paper

Engraved by Charles H. Jeens

Used for the first stamps of St. Vincent, St. Lucia and the South Australia 9d.

The exhibit shows stages in the production of the stamps including examples of proofs, specimens and issued stamps together with local provisionals and usage.

### Principal Reference Sources

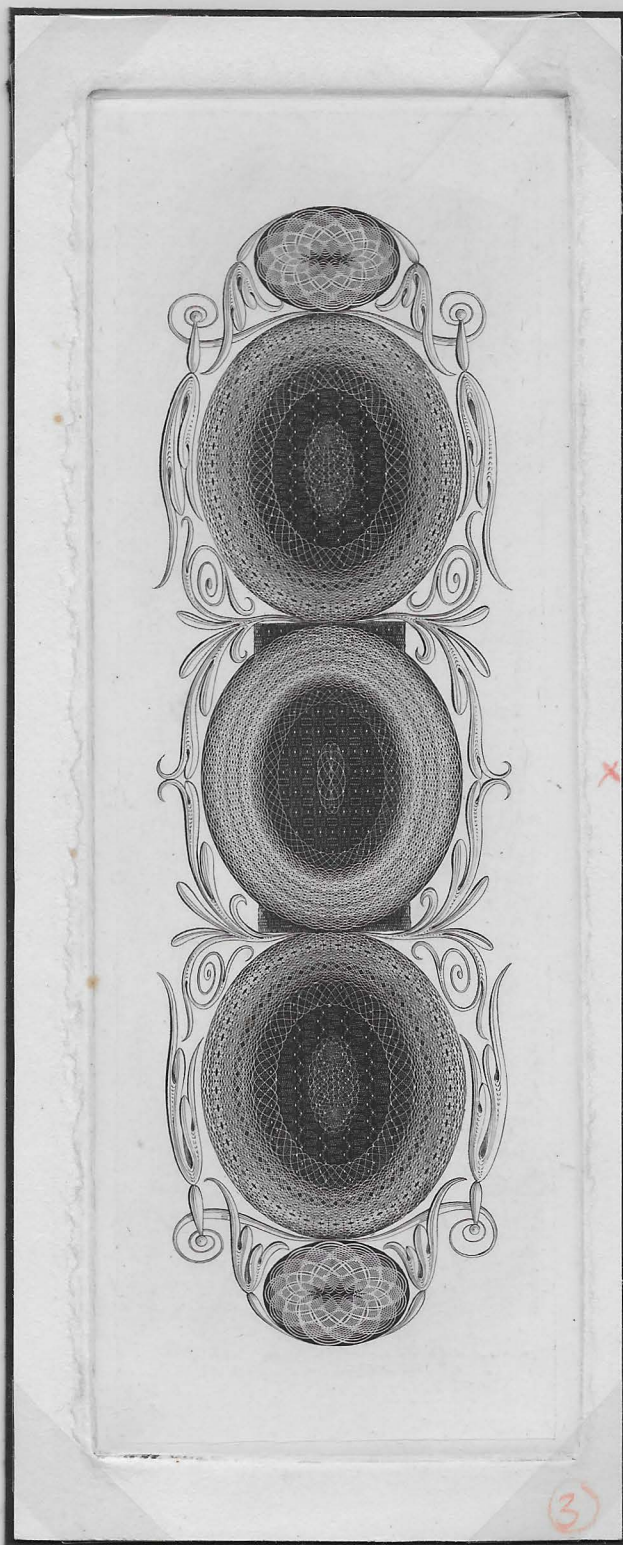
Napier, F. H. and Bacon, E. D  
Pierce, A. D., Messenger, J. L., Lowe, R.  
Proud, E. B. And Chin Aleong, J.  
Samuel, M.  
British Caribbean Philatelic Journal  
The London Philatelist

Saint Vincent (1895)  
St. Vincent (1971)  
The Postal History of St. Lucia and St. Vincent (2006)  
Specimen Stamps of the Crown Colonies 1857-1948  
British West Indies Study Circle Bulletin  
Personal research

PERKINS BACON DIE PROOFS

PROOF ON POROUS CARD 210 X 81mm

Five oval designs as used for G.B., St. Vincent and New South Wales issues circa 1860



The centre oval design was used for the background on St. Vincent stamps.

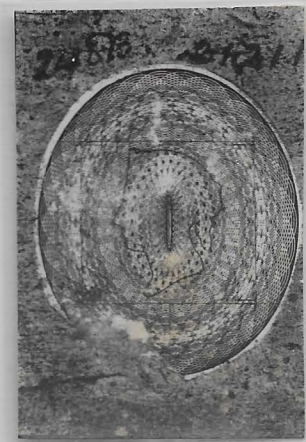
This proof shows examples of complex white line engraving utilizing the rose lathe.

PERKINS BACON BROMIDES

BROMIDE CONTACT PRINTS FROM THE ORIGINAL PLATES

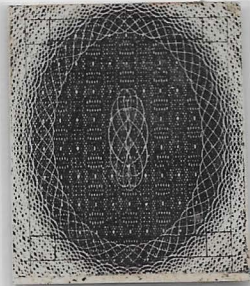
USED FOR ILLUSTRATIONS IN PERCY DE WORMS BOOK ON THE PERKINS BACON RECORDS

Plate XVI, 4

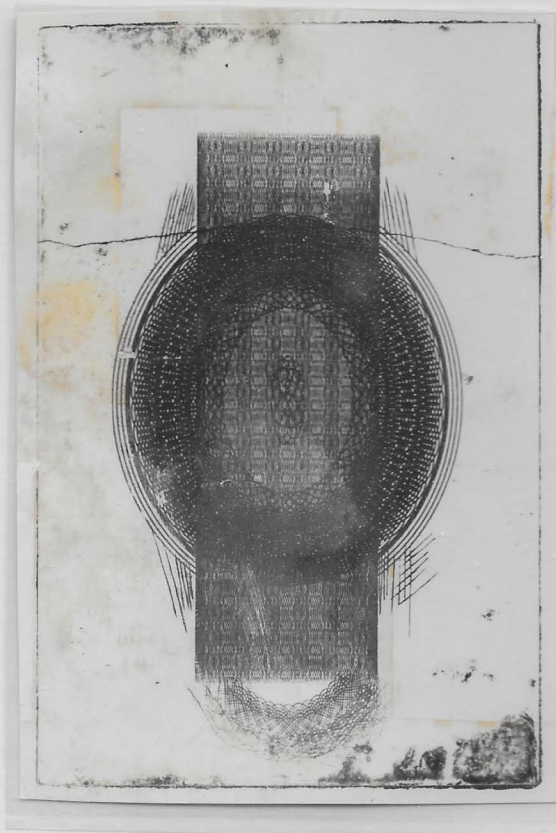


Bromide for background of  
the 1881 Die Proof (defective)  
Background design for the 1/2d

Plate XV, 7



Bromide for background  
Rose Lathe engine-turning  
With stamp template overlaid.  
Background design of the first issue



Stress crack

Bromide of engine-turned background  
Showing an overlay of two separate engine-turnings  
Before clearing for head and lettering

## THE PERKINS, BACON PRINTINGS 1861 - 1881

On 1 May 1860 the Colonial Authorities took over the responsibility of administration of the Post Office in St. Vincent from the Postmaster General of the United Kingdom and Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Co., were requested to produce printing plates for 1d and 6d stamps. The dies were engraved by Charles Jeens during the latter part of January 1861 and the printing plates were then produced, each plate of sixty stamps being made up of six rows each ten stamps long.

### ONE PENNY PLATE PROOF



Plate proofs in colour are distinguished from imperforate remainders by use of thin hard wove paper.

### SIX PENCE PLATE PROOF



Ex. Glossop  
Messenger  
Jaffé

Only a small portion of the sheet of 6d plate proofs seems to have survived.

## ONE PENNY ROSE-RED 1861-1870

### PRINTED ON UNWATERMARKED PAPER

Two single line guillotine machines were used to perforate the stamps.  
The first machine had a 23 inch line of pins varying in gauge from 14 to 16 in two centimetres.



The second machine had a 12 inch line of pins varying in gauge from 11 to 13 in two centimetres.



[36-40/46-50/56-60]

Seven consignments of 1d stamps were despatched to St. Vincent between 1861 and 1870.

The allocation of consignments and printings between the two machines is difficult although it is probable that the majority of the first five consignments to March 1866, a total of 158,100 stamps, were perforated 14 to 16.

ONE PENNY ROSE-RED 1861-1870

PERF 11-13 x 14-16 ROUGH



It is believed that there were as few as two sheets produced with the compound perforation and only 25 used examples are recorded by Jaffé.

The following three cancellers were in use between 1861 and 1872.



Horizontal 'A10' obliterator, 22-25 mm x 17 mm.  
Believed to have been destroyed in the Kingstown Post Office fire on 29 October 1866.



Horizontal 'A10' obliterator, 20.5mm x 17mm, in use from 1866 to 1869



Vertical 'A10' obliterator, 20 mm x 30 mm, in use from 1866 to 1872

1870 (25 August) folded outer sheet ex. the 'Polignac' correspondence to Paris  
Bearing 2 x 1d rose-red and 6d deep green pre-paying 8d for the ¼ ounce rate,  
7d due to the G.P.O. London.



Cancelled 'A10', showing red crayon '7', oval framed 'PD', St. Vincent cds in red,  
London paid transit in red and Calais entry datestamp plus arrival cds on reverse.

**SIX PENCE DEEP YELLOW-GREEN May 1861**

**UNWATERMARKED PAPER, PERF 14-16**



167 sheets printed by H.Draysey, perforated by Miss Stewart and invoiced on 27 March 1861

**SIX PENCE DEEP GREEN 1862-1866**

**UNWATERMARKED PAPER, PERF 14-16**



Double horizontal perforation



Imperforate horizontally

Four deliveries totalling 1,502 sheets were invoiced between 22 July 1862 and 14 March 1866

**SIX PENCE DEEP GREEN 1868**

**UNWATERMARKED PAPER, PERF 11-13**



18,000 stamps were despatched to the Colony on 15 June 1868



1865 (8 February) envelope to London, marked 'p. Mail'  
Pre-paid 1/- for the ½ ounce rate, 11d due to the G.P.O. London.



Bearing 6d deep green pair cancelled 'A10', showing red crayon '11',  
St. Vincent c.d.s. in black and London Paid transit datestamp in red.

1863 (24 February) piece apparently showing the single rate to London.



Bearing 6d deep green cancelled 'A10', St. Vincent c.d.s. in black and London Paid transit datestamp in red.

## PRINTERS SAMPLE STAMPS ON UNWATERMARKED PAPER



Horizontal pen lines applied by the printer for record purposes.

## THE LONDON REMAINDERS

The Perkins Bacon records imply that of the 2,444 sheets of one penny stamps produced between 1861 and 1870, 2,364 were perforated leaving a possible 80 sheets imperforate although a substantial quantity may have been destroyed.



Imperforate six pence stamps are much less common than one penny imperforate stamps.



Imperforate stamps, unlike plate proofs, are on gummed paper.



Imperforate vertically

## THE PERKINS, BACON PRINTINGS 1861 - 1881

On 8 May 1866 the Colonial Authorities ordered printing plates for 4d and 1/- stamps,  
each plate of 30 stamps being made up of 3 rows 10 stamps long.  
Both plates were finished 9 July 1866

### FOUR PENCE PLATE PROOF

This stamp met the need to provide for the long-standing four penny Packet Letter rate between ports in British America.



There is no evidence for more than one sheet of black plate proof of the 4d being printed.

### ONE SHILLING PLATE PROOF

The packet rate to the United Kingdom was raised from 6d to 1/- on 1 April 1863,  
but no steps were taken to provide a suitable stamp until May 1866.



[26/27]



[8/9]

Two sheets of thirty of the 1/- black plate proof were produced.

**FOUR PENCE BLUE August 1866**

**UNWATERMARKED PAPER, PERF 11-13**



Printers sample stamp

15,000 stamps were invoiced on 28 July 1866

1868 (25 June) letter sheet to Paris redirected to Seine-et-Oise  
Pre-paid 8d for the ¼ ounce rate, 7d due to the G.P.O. London.



An exceptional 4d pair, well centered, cancelled in black with the first horizontal 'A10' obliterator.

**ONE SHILLING INDIGO April 1869**

**UNWATERMARKED PAPER, PERF 11-13**

A second order for one shilling stamps was placed on 4 January 1869,  
On arrival they were found to be similar in colour to the 4d blue which could create confusion.



9,000 stamps were invoiced on 27 February 1869

**FOUR PENCE DEEP YELLOW September 1869**

**UNWATERMARKED PAPER, PERF 11-13**

Colour changed to provide a sharp contrast to the shilling value although  
the 4d yellow and 4d blue remained in use concurrently for several years.



18,000 stamps were invoiced on 13 August 1869

**ONE SHILLING BROWN September 1869**

**UNWATERMARKED PAPER, PERF 11-13**

Colour changed to provide a sharp contrast to the four pence value.

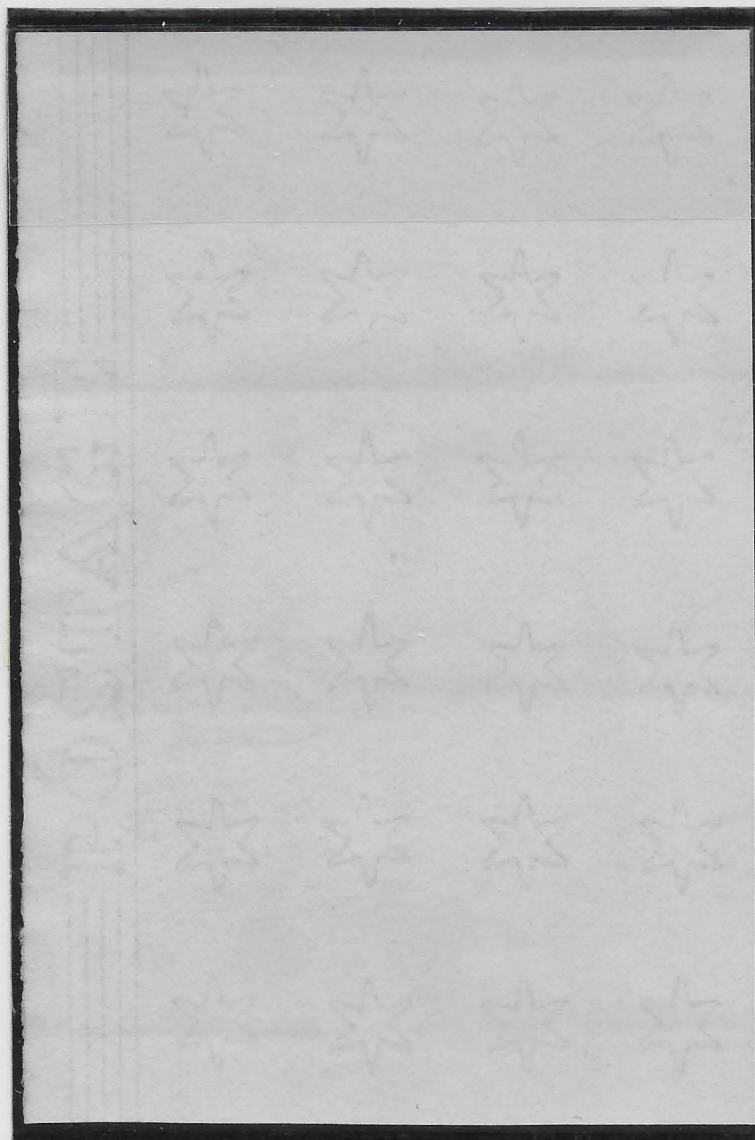


9,000 stamps were invoiced on 13 August 1869

## PERKINS BACON SMALL STAR WATERMARKED PAPER

Produced from moulds made in July 1860 and used for St. Vincent stamps from April 1871 to December 1881.

Star measuring 12 to 12.5mm point to point and 24mm from centre to centre vertically.



Marginal lines enclosing the word 'POSTAGE' in double lined capitals surround the sheet.

The paper was made to accommodate a sheet of two hundred and forty stamps in twelve rows of twenty, the intended position of the star being at the centre of each stamp with one point upwards.

The marginal watermark can often be found in subsequent printings of St. Vincent stamps as a result of the paper being cut to accommodate sheet sizes of 60 (1d and 6d) in six rows of ten stamps, and 30 (4d and 1/-) in three rows of ten stamps. Many St. Vincent stamps are also found with the watermark sideways.

# ONE PENNY BLACK 1871-1878

## WATERMARK SMALL STAR

### PRINTERS SAMPLE STAMPS



Pen line in black  
Watermark Upright



Two pen lines in black  
Watermark sideways



Pen line in violet  
Watermark sideways

There were 9 consignments of one penny black stamps invoiced between April 1871 and August 1878, a total of 6,000 sheets.



Perforated 14-16



Perforated 11-13 x 15



Perforated 15

The first two consignments, invoiced on 27 February 1871 and 5 January 1872 were perforated 14-16, this 23 inch long single line guillotine machine was overhauled in June 1872 being fitted with a new set of pins gauging 15 which were more regularly spaced than before.

Portions of some consignments were perforated on two different machines, producing stamps perforated 11-13 x 15.

# ONE PENNY BLACK 1871-1878

Type 4 'A10' obliterator.



Perf. 'A'



Perf. 'C'



Perf. 'C'



Perf. 'B' x 'C'

Used in black between 26 October 1872 and 9 April 1875



Perf. 'C'



Perf. 'B' x 'C'



Perf. 'C'

Used in red between October 1875 and February 1878



Marginal watermark



Cut throat variety

'GB/40c' Anglo-French Accountancy Handstamp.



Originally intended to denote the sum due from France to Great Britain on unpaid letters from St. Vincent the requirement ended with the foundation of the Universal Postal Union and the instrument was bought into use as an emergency obliterator during the period 1879 to 1883.



# ONE PENNY BLACK 1871-1878

## Village Usage

The vertical obliterators were sent to the villages around the time of the opening of the new village post offices And are found struck in red in the period 1873 to 1878.

### Type 3 'A10' obliterator



### Georgetown

### Type 7 'A10' obliterator



### Barouallie



### Abbreviated Village Datestamps

### Black pen strokes



Possibly applied at Union Estate



BI (Biabou)  
JA 27 80



K (Kingstown)  
AP 1 76



K (Kingstown)  
AP 28 76



CA (Caliaqua)  
JA 6 76



CO (Colonarie)  
FE 21 78



RAB (Rabacca)  
NO 27 74



MES (Mesopotamia)  
AP 6 78



## SIX PENCE GREEN 1871-1880

### WATERMARK SMALL STAR

There were 6 consignments of six pence green stamps invoiced between 28 March 1871 and 13 May 1880 each for 300 sheets, a total of 18,000 stamps, some of which were surcharged or utilized for revenues as detailed below.



28 March 1871, Blue-Green  
Perforated 14-16, Watermark Upright



28 July 1873, Dull Blue-Green  
Perforated 15, Watermark Sideways



27 March 1875, Deep Blue-Green  
Perforated 15, Watermark Sideways



30 December 1876, Pale Yellow-Green  
Perforated 11-13 x 15, Watermark Sideways



28 August 1878, Light Yellow-Green  
Perforated 15, Watermark Upright



13 May 1880, Deep Yellow-Green  
Perforated 11-13, watermark Sideways

2,340 stamps from this consignment were surcharged for provisionals and an estimated 1,900 for revenue use.

## ONE SHILLING 1872-1880

### WATERMARK SMALL STAR

In February 1872 the Colony requested 1/- stamps in a colour matching the English 3d. Perkins Bacon supplied rose-red stamps closely matching the old 1d stamps which had been obsolete for over one year.



13 April 1872, Rose-Red  
Perforated 11-13, Watermark Sideways

A new order for 1/- stamps was sent in June 1873 with the request that the shade be lighter than the preceding rose-reds.



Printers sample stamp



28 July 1873, Lilac-Rose  
Perforated 11-13 x 15, Watermark Sideways

An order for a further 300 sheets of 1/- stamps sent in January 1875 asked for a shade lighter than the preceding lilac-rose. Perkins Bacon used the English ½d ink to produce a deeper claret shade.



27 March 1875, Claret  
Perforated 11-13, Watermark Sideways

There were two consignments printed in vermilion finally achieving a distinctive colour which could not possibly be confused with that of any of the colony's other stamps.



30 December 1876, Vermilion  
Perforated 11-13 x 15, Watermark Sideways



28 August 1878, Vermilion  
Perforated 11-13 x 15, Watermark Sideways

**1d ON HALF SIXPENCE DEEP BLUE-GREEN June 1880**



Exhaustion of the stocks of one penny stamp necessitated 15 sheets of the 1875 6d being surcharged 'd' over '1' twice on each stamp. These were then divided with a central line of perforations, gauging 12, thus creating 1,800 stamps.

**½d ON SIX PENCE DEEP YELLOW-GREEN September 1881**



In August 1881 a ½d stamp was ordered from Perkins, Bacon to provide for the 2½d U.P.U. rate coming into effect on 1 September. As an interim measure a ½d provisional was provided by surcharging twelve sheets of the 1880 6d twice on each stamp. These were then bisected with the local gauge 12 perforator producing 1,440 stamps.

**'4d' ON ONE SHILLING VERMILION November 1881**



Following admission to the U.P.U. the overseas rate became 4d per ½ oz. Pending the arrival of a new consignment of this value, a provisional was created by surcharging 630 stamps, of the 1880 1/-.

**ONE PENNY ON SIX PENCE DEEP YELLOW-GREEN November 1881**



Exhaustion of the stocks of the 1880 one penny olive-green stamp resulted in 1,620 six pence stamps being overprinted 'ONE PENNY' with the original value obliterated by black bars 1mm wide. This provisional was issued on 28 November and was only required for a few days as the new stocks of 1d stamps arrived on 3 December 1881.

## FIVE SHILLINGS ROSE-RED June 1880

### WATERMARK SMALL STAR (UPRIGHT) PERF. 11-13

Ordered on 27 February 1880 the die and plate were completed on 20 April 1880.

Incomplete and completed die proofs are known but are of great rarity. No plate proofs are known to have survived.



“Specimen” in upper and lower case, 18mm long, 2½mm wide. Handstamped locally.  
Only six copies recorded.



The design of Justice pouring out a Libation to Peace, surmounted by a scroll inscribed with the motto of the colony “Pax et Justitia”, and a crown above, all enclosed in an oval band containing the title and value, on an engine-turned background, is a superb example of the draughtmanship and engraving skill of William Ridgway.



One hundred sheets, 2,000 stamps, were printed of which 800 stamps were overprinted for revenue purposes.

**HALFPENNY ORANGE December 1881**

**PLATE PROOF**



Ordered on 8 August 1881 the plate was finished on 15 October 1881.

**WATERMARK SMALL STAR (UPRIGHT) PERF. 'B'**



It was this stamp issue which caused the termination of St. Vincent's contract with Perkins, Bacon & Co. On 16 December the Colonial Secretary sent the firm a complaint from his auditors that "One parcel of Halfpenny stamps marked 500 sheets proved to be 497 sheets and 5 part sheets containing 240 stamps, equivalent to four sheets of 60 stamps each, making the contents of the parcel equal to 501 sheets .."