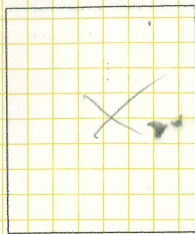
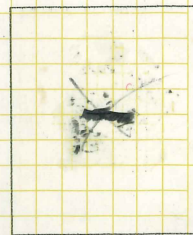


Tobago

As from 1 April 1858, the pre-payment of postage by the use of GB stamps was made compulsory. In Tobago four values were used, viz. 1d, 4d, 6d and 1s; normally these were cancelled with the 'A14' obliterator. The rate to the UK was 6d and this is the most common of the values found.



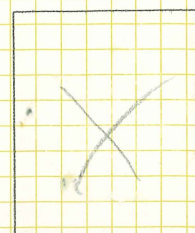
When Tobago decided to issue its own stamps, the design was copied from the Dominica stamps of the same period and the lettering of the duty plates is identical. However, there was a delay in the delivery of the stamps inscribed 'POSTAGE' and the use of the Fiscal stamps was authorised for postage; these were on paper watermarked Crown CC.



An interesting variety only recently catalogued is the 6d stamp with inverted watermark.



1883 The fiscal stamps were later issued on paper watermarked Crown CA.



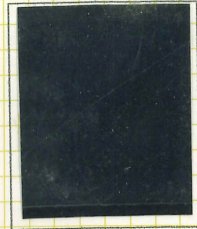
1889 The colours were later changed but they were still printed on paper watermarked Crown CA.



In Gibbons catalogue, it is stated that the stamps of this design "watermarked Crown CA, are fiscals which were never admitted to postal use". If this is so, there are some pretty convincing fakes about!



1880 A new but similar design was introduced, this time with the legend 'POSTAGE' beneath the portrait of Queen Victoria. Wmk. Crown CC.



No 109818

THE ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY
LONDON



41, Devonshire Place,
London, W1N 1PE

Meeting of 27 JUN 1970

In the OPINION OF THE EXPERT COMMITTEE the item
submitted as

Tobago 1880 S.G. No 10

40. Yellow-green - watermark Crown CC -
used - is Genuine.

Observations Small upanied tear.



[Signature]
Chairman

MEMO:-
top Row -
misplaced watermark

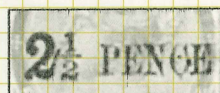
Submitted by J. De Vries.

TOB
03

In order to cover the new UPU 2½d postcard rate introduced in 1882, Tobago decided to overprint the 6d stone stamp from the 1880 issue. This proved to be the first of many provisionals issued in Tobago.



There is a well-known flaw with a 'long tail to the 2'.



No. 177392

THE ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY
LONDON

41 Devonshire Place
London W1G 6JY

Meeting of 27 SEP 2000

COMMITTEE the item

described as

Tabago: 1883

S.G. No. 13 b

2½ D on 6D Stone - surcharge type 3, variety
large "2" with long tail - without gum -
unused - is genuine



Beard
Chairman

Submitted by *Peter C. Ford*

*Tab
024*

1882-84 The design with the 'POSTAGE' legend was reissued in 1882 on paper watermarked Crown CA and an additional value was issued, the 2½d to cover the UPU postcard rate.



16c

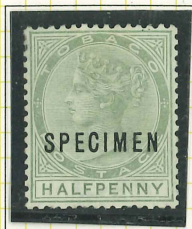
23a5

Two blocks of 12 of the ½d purple-brown and the 1d Venetian red.



1885 - 96 Wmk Crown CA

To conform to the standard UPU colours, Tobago issued stamps of the same design colours. There are two colours of the 1s because one printing of the stamp was done in the colour of the 6d in error by De La Rue.



Only three of the values were overprinted 'SPECIMEN' (Samuel Type D12).



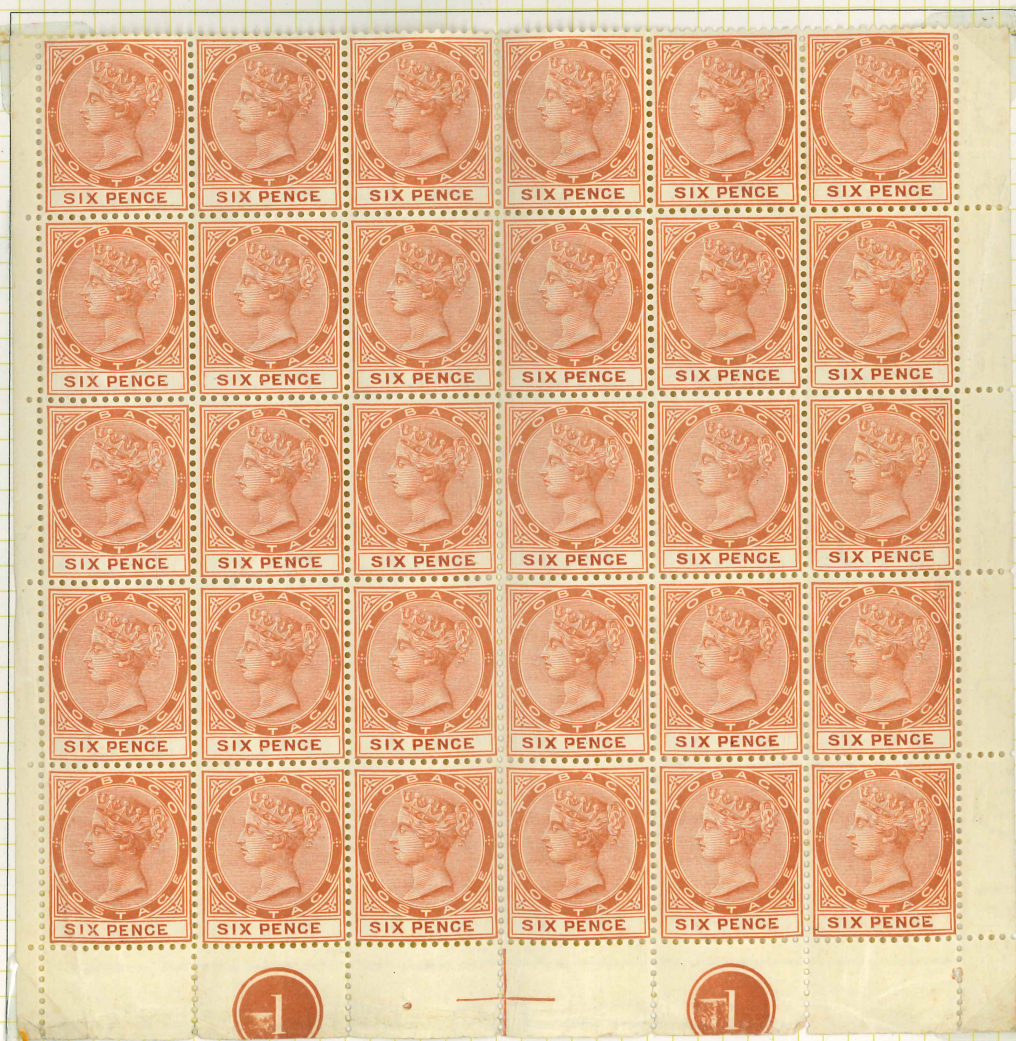
2. There are two other unlisted flaws on these issues. The first is a colourless blob between the 'G' and 'O' of 'TOBAGO'. It occurs on the fourth stamp in the second row (R2/4) adjoining the 'slash' flaw stamp above. It is not always visible and varies in size.



3. The other unlisted flaw, the damaged 'O' in 'TOBAGO' occurs on the third stamp of the fifth row. This flaw is sometimes evident in embryonic form and may have developed as the



3. This flaw takes the form of the letter 'I' in 'SIX' being shortened at the base. It occurs on the first stamp of the bottom row (R10/1) and has been reported only on the 6d orange-brown. On occasion, the 'S' is also damaged at the foot.



In January 1886, the Tobago Post Office found itself with a shortage of ½d stamps and commissioned the Government Office to overprint the 6d stone stamps. This was done in a setting of 12 (2 rows of 6), repeated five times down the pane of 60 stamps. It is believed that between 4,200 and 5,400 stamps were thus overprinted (70–90 sheets).



It is generally acknowledged that there are four settings (A to D). In the first and second settings (A and B), there is a constant flaw with the figure '½' further from the word 'PENNY'. The difference is small (4.25 opposed to 3.25mm) but noticeable, and occurs on the 4th stamp on the bottom row of the setting of 12 (Position 10). Additionally the second setting shows the wider spaced variety in Position 3.



The position of the wider spaced variety is shown in this block of 10, the middle stamp on the lower row. The block is from the first setting as the stamp in Position 3, the second from the left in the top row, doesn't exhibit the wider space.



There is also a closer spaced variety where the figure is only 2.75mm from the word. All four settings show this flaw in Position 7, the first stamp in the bottom row of the overprint setting. This closer spaced overprint appears in all four settings.



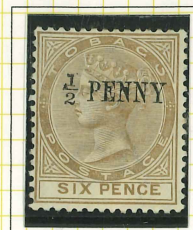
There is a flaw, which is non-constant, showing a raised 'P' in 'PENNY'.



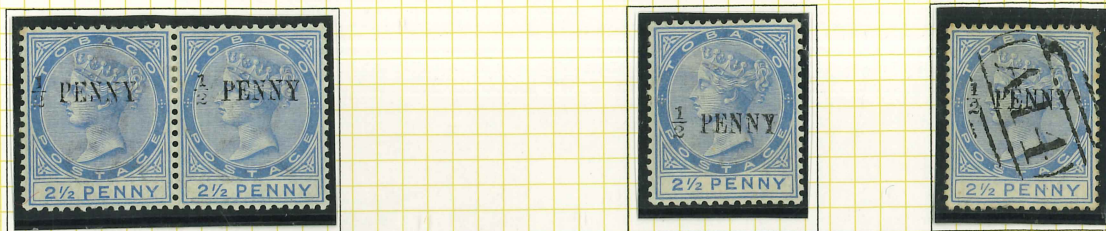
On occasion a different spacing is accompanied by a recognised flaw in the original stamp. This block of 8 shows the 'G' of 'POSTAGE' joined to the outer ring on the 3rd stamp in the lower row (R8/3) and to its right the wider spaced overprint.



On this stamp the damaged 'O' in 'TOBAGO' is evident (R5/3).



Later in 1886, in April, the supplies of the overprinted 6d were running low and the Post Office decided to use the same overprint forme to surcharge 2½d dull blue stamps.



Needless to say, the flaws evident on the ½d on 6d are also present on this surcharge, such as the figure further from the word. The wider spaced value is the bottom left stamp (No. 10).



The raised 'P' in 'PENNY' is also present, sometimes in combination with the wider spaced value (visible on the right hand pair).

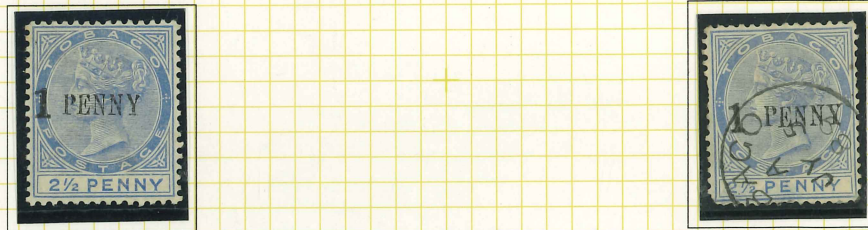


In August 1887, the Post Office again found itself with a shortage of ½d stamps, and this time decided to overprint the 6d orange-brown. The same forme was again used and similar flaws are apparent.



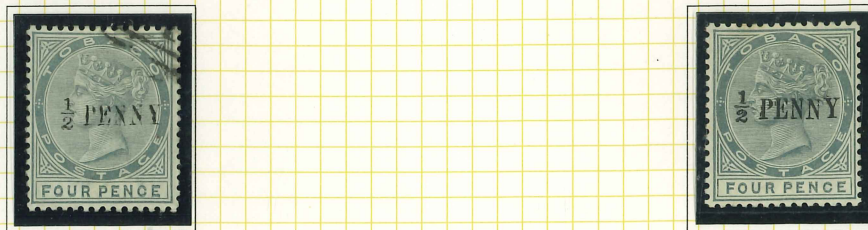
Wider spacing

In July 1889, there occurred a shortage of 1d stamps and the 2½d dull blue was again overprinted. It is apparent that the same forme was used with the '½' being replaced by a '1'.

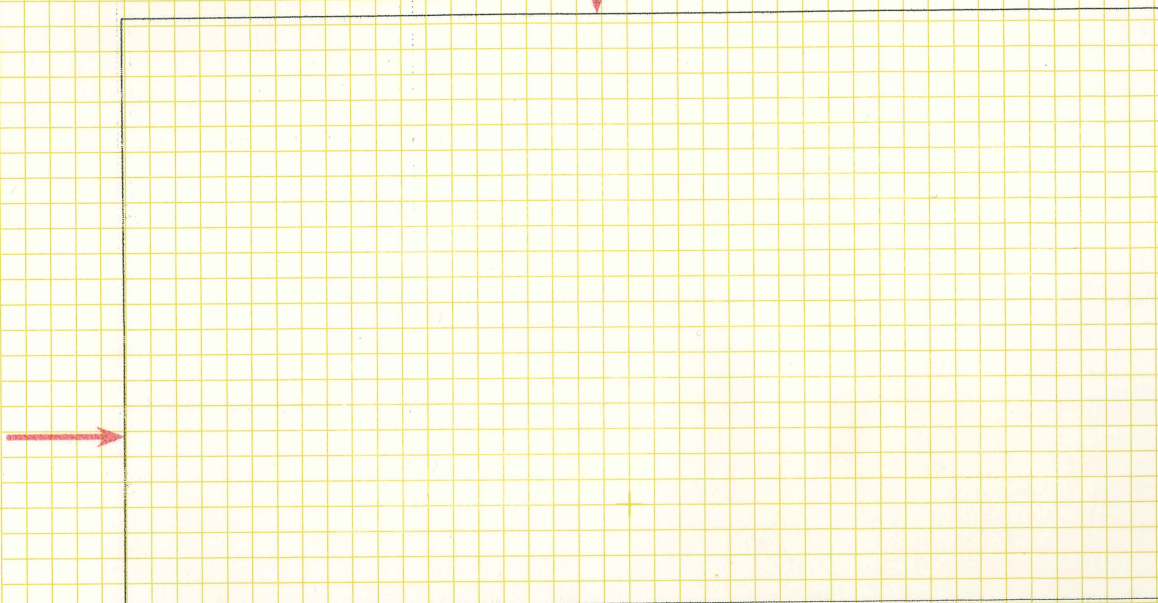
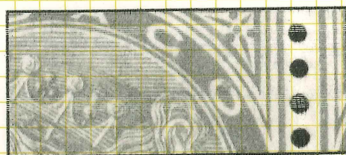


Wider spacing

Later still, in March 1892 a '½ PENNY' on the 4d grey was issued. Again the same forme was used.



There is another unlisted flaw, the damaged 'O' in 'TOBAGO' which occurs on the third stamp of the fifth row. This flaw is sometimes evident in embryonic form and may have developed as the plate became more worn (R5/3).

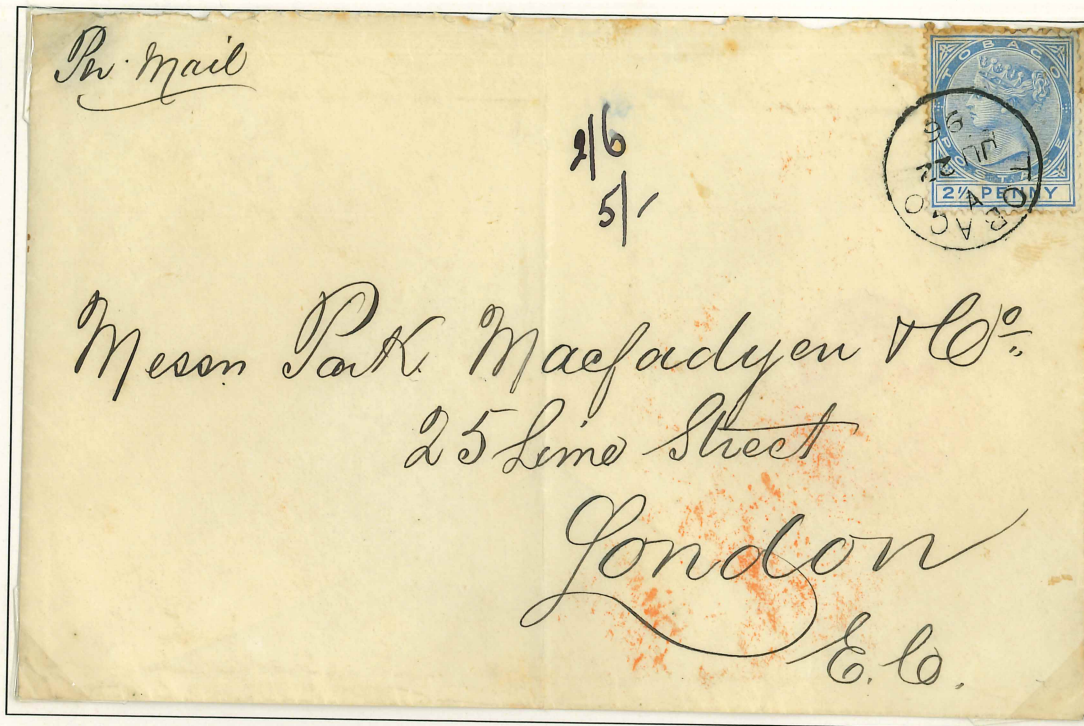


There is another, less well-known flaw showing a colourless dot between 'T' and 'A' of 'POSTAGE' on the second stamp of the bottom row (R10/2).



Tobago

A 1896 commercial cover to London franked with a 2½d stamp.



A 1898 commercial cover to Manchester franked with two 2½d stamps.



go
with
care!



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