Bradbury Wilkinson Printings

1/- Issue 3 - Perf. 14 X 13½ up

Issue 1 Perf 14 Printed 6/10/1926

Left pane. No guide line visible as the pane was guillotined in such a way that the guide fell on the right pane.

Issue 1a Perf 14 (second printing) Printed 7/09/1927

Left pane. No guide line visible as the pane was guillotined in such a way that the guide fell on the right pane.

Issue 1b Perf 14 (third printing) Printed 28/05/1928

Right pane. Guide line now visible.

Issue 2 Perf 14 X 13½ down. Printed 22/09/1929

Left pane. Guide line visible at right.

Conclusion

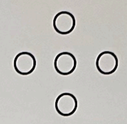
This covers ***all*** the issues printed by British printers. The quality of the printing was in most cases superior than anything produced in South Africa.

From 1930 onwards all stamps were progressively printed in South Africa using a Rotary Process. As stamp stocks ran low on the London printed stamps, these were replaced by locally printed stamps. For the higher values this only happened as late as 1940.

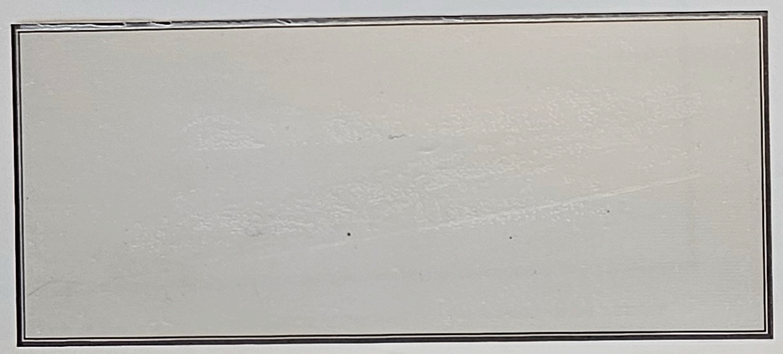
Bradbury Wilkinson Printings

With perforation 14. Printed from a four pane 240 image sheet. This issue is characterised by having 9 perforation holes in the gutter between the stamp panes, instead of the 8 in the later issues. This printers error made it impossible to get a good alignment of the vignettes within the stamp frames.

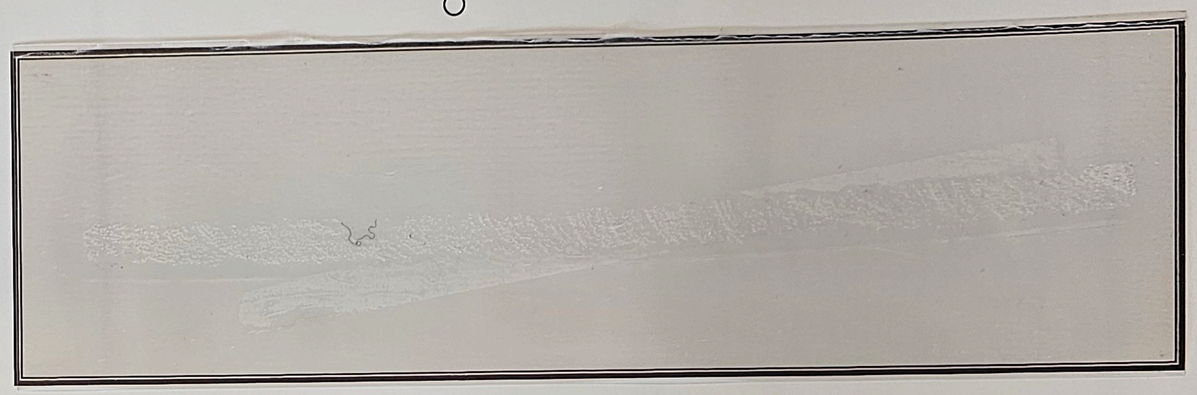
Identification of Perforation Gauge 14



Setting of perforation holes at corners

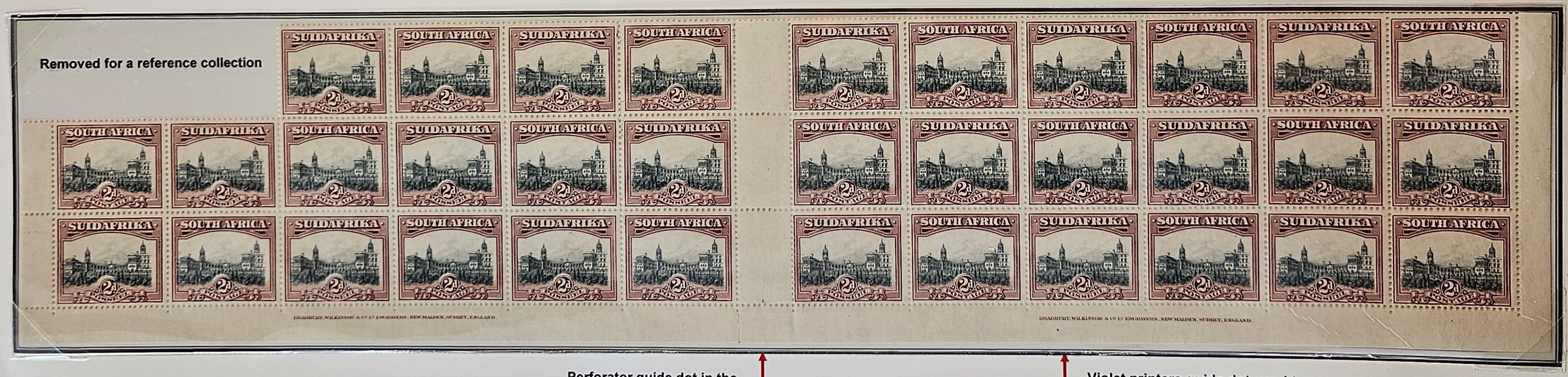


Gutter block of 8 spanning top two panes is marked with the printers order number 0/8175 and dated 25.8.25 a full year and a half before its issue to the public. This supports the comment in the Union Handbook that the stamps were originally intended to be issued on 1st January 1926 together with the smaller sized values printed by Waterlow & Sons.



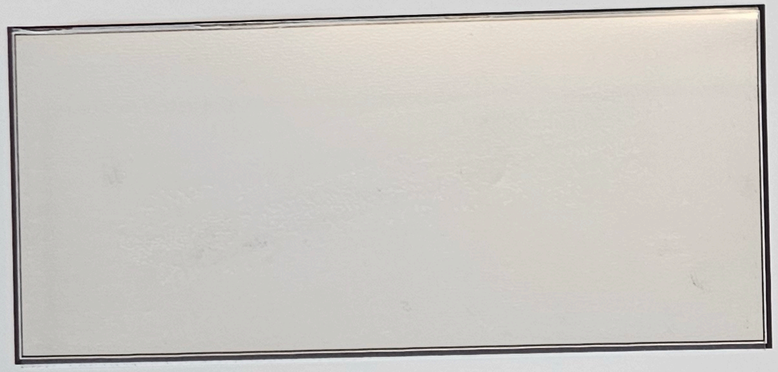
Top left two rows from the four pane printing. Vignettes slightly out of alignment, a common feature of the early four pane printings.

Bottom 3 rows from the lower two panes of the four pane sheet. The number of holes in the gutter margin is 9, typical of Issue 1.
These panes originated from the Bradbury Wilkinson Archive and were removed from their backing, resulting in these panes having no gum.

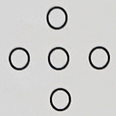


Perforator guide dot in the central gutter in line with the bottom stamp frame

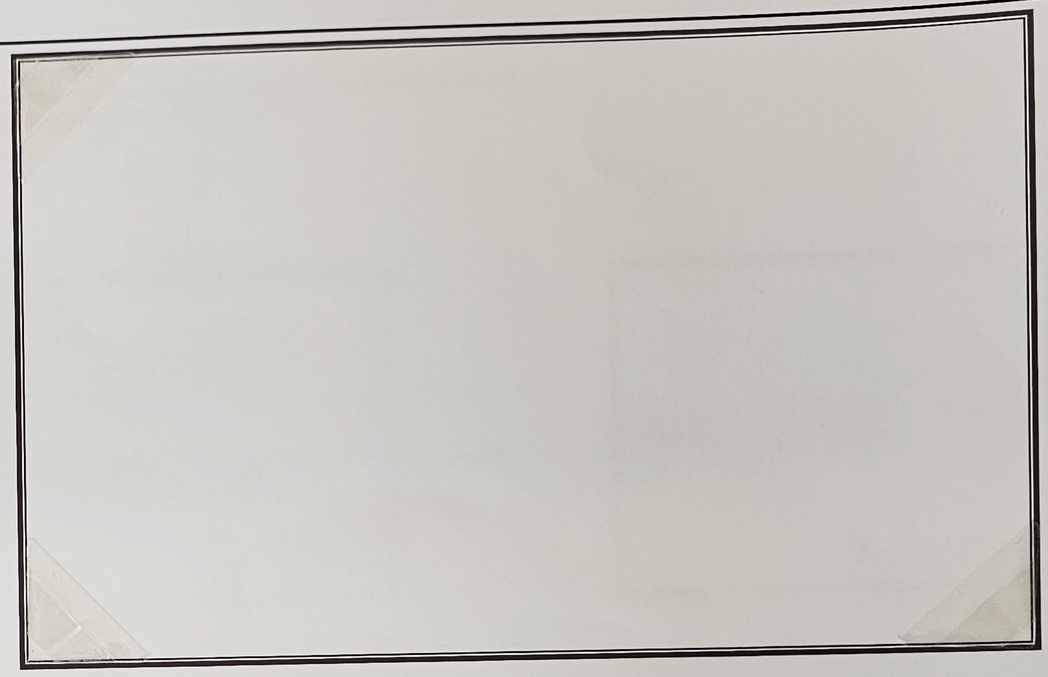
Violet printers guide dot used to transfer the inscriptions below the BU of Bradbury



Gutter block of 8 spanning top two panes is marked with the printers order number 0/13797 and dated 28.5.28. Note the guide dot in the centre of the margin between the panes in line with the top of the stamp frames



Setting of perforation holes at corners

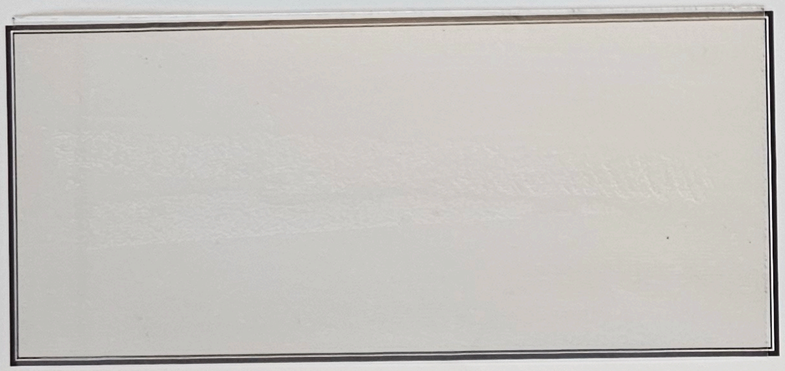


Unusual use of an envelope folded to create a parcel

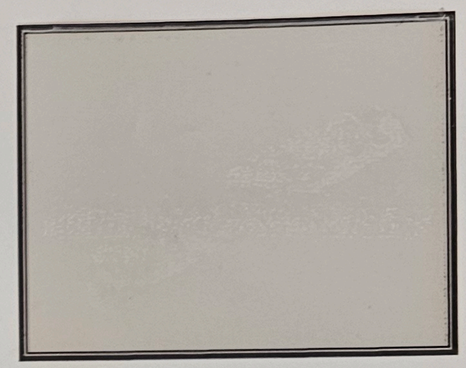
Bottom 3 rows from the lower two panes of the four pane sheet. The number of holes in the gutter margin is 8, an identification feature of Issue 3. These panes originated from the Bradbury Wilkinson Archive and were removed from their backing, resulting in these panes having no gum.

A different guide line has now been etched on the frame cylinder and interestingly a guide dot has been added as well. The guide line is now closer to the bottom stamps and is now 8.5 mm from the corner of the nearest stamp.

With perforation 14. Printed from a four pane 240 image sheet.
This issue is characterised by having 8 perforation holes in the gutter between the stamp panes, instead of the 9 in the previous issue. This improved the situation of alignment of the vignettes within the stamp frames.



Gutter block of 8 spanning top two panes is marked with the printers order number 0/12599 and dated 7.9.27. Note the guide dot in the centre of the margin between the panes in line with the top of the stamp frames



The two corner blocks from the upper right pane

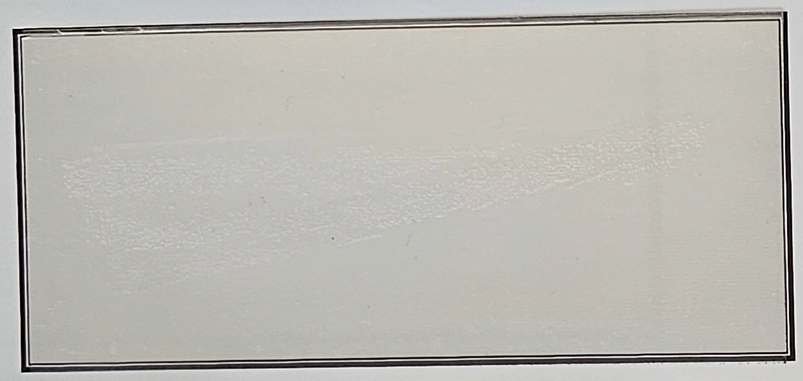
Bottom 3 rows from the lower two panes of the four pane sheet. The number of holes in the gutter margin is 8, an identification feature of Issue 2. These panes originated from the Bradbury Wilkinson Archive and were removed from their backing, resulting in these panes having no gum.

There is now no guide dot in the bottom gutter margin, instead it was replaced with a guide line, the top of which is 11mm from the corner of the nearest stamp

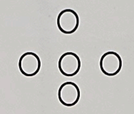
Bradbury Wilkinson Printings

2d Issue 4 - Perf. 14 X 13½ up

Printed from a 2 pane layout but the perforation gauge was changed for this printing to 14 x 13½ up. Identification of the perforation can be done visually from the illustration below. These sheets now did not have the central gutters perforated through, instead only two holes appeared in the gutter.

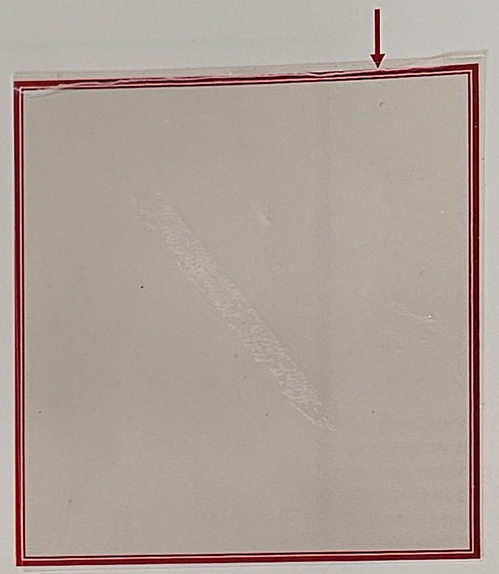


Gutter block of 8 spanning top two panes is marked with the printers order number 0/15788 and dated 22.2.29. Note the guide dot in the centre of the margin between the panes in line with the top of the stamp frames



Setting of perf. holes at top corners.

Split d variety found on this issue and the following issue 4 before the flaw was erased by cleaning the plate. The additional perforation holes are unusual and no explanation has been found to date.



Bottom 3 rows from the lower two panes of the four pane sheet. The number of holes in the gutter margin is now only 2. These panes originated from the Bradbury Wilkinson Archive and were removed from their backing, resulting in these panes having no gum.

Split *d* variety Row 8/8 or Row

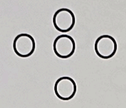
The guide line position is the same as for the previous issue,

Bradbury Wilkinson Printings

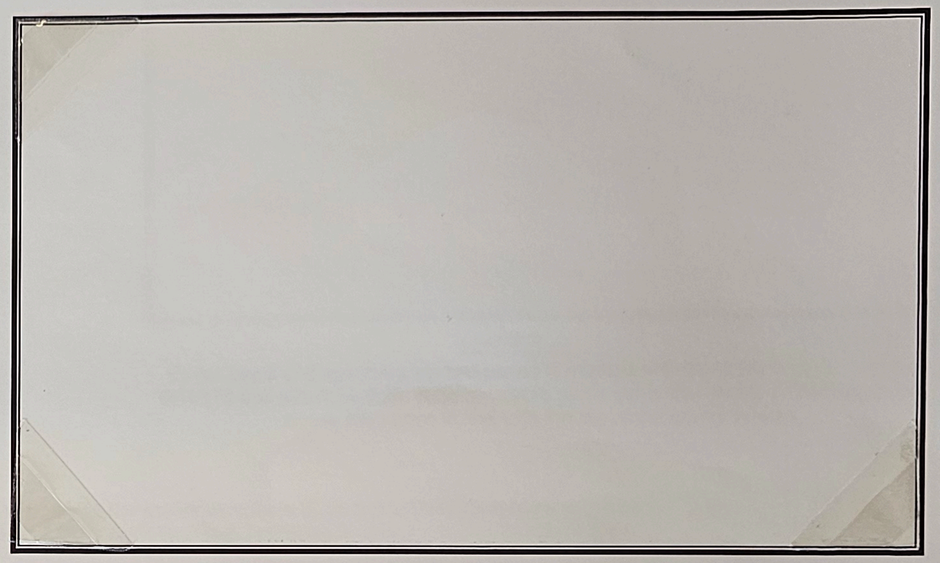
2d Issue 4 - Perf. 14 X 13½ down

Printed from a 2 pane layout but the perforation gauge was changed for this printing to 14 x 13½ down. Identification of the perforation can be done visually from the illustration below. These sheets now did not have the central gutters perforated through, instead only two holes appeared in the gutter.

Gutter block of 8 spanning top two panes is marked with the printers order number 0/15788 and dated 22.2.29. Note the guide dot in the centre of the margin between the panes in line with the top of the stamp frames



Setting of perf. holes at bottom corners



2d Bradbury printing on an airmail letter to England at the 6d Commonwealth airmail rate.

Bottom 3 rows from the lower two panes of the four pane sheet. The number of holes in the gutter margin is now only 2. These panes originated from the Bradbury Wilkinson Archive and were removed from their backing, resulting in these panes having no gum.

Split *d* variety Row 8/8 or Row 8/2 if looking at a single pane now not present. This was a cleaned plate.

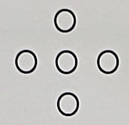
Removed for a reference collection

The guide ... sue, 8.5 mm from the corner of the nearest stamp.

Bradbury Wilkinson Printings

The 3d values of the Bradbury Printings were an improved layout when compared to the early 2d printings. They gained experience from the 2d printings! Guidelines were now used for the perforator alignment and for guillotining the panes into two sheets.

There were in fact 3 printings for issue 1 which is not reflected in the literature. The Bradbury Wilkinson archive sheets indicate three different dates for this issue with perf. 14. These appear to have all been printed from the same plate as the added guide dots in the inscription pane are constant for all three dates.

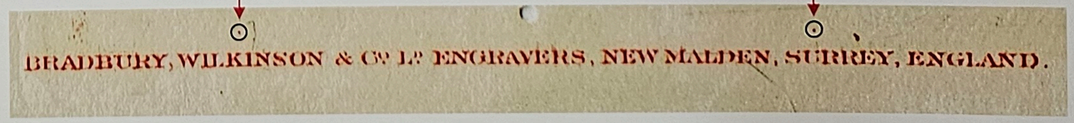


Setting of perforation holes at corners

Gutter block of 8 spanning top two panes is marked with the printers order number 0/10378 and dated 29.9.26. Note no visible guide dot in the centre of the margin between the panes in line with the top of the stamp frames

Bottom 3 rows from the lower two panes of the four pane sheet. The number of holes in the gutter margin is 8, an identification feature of Issue 1. These panes originated from the Bradbury Wilkinson Archive and were removed from their backing, resulting in these panes having no gum.

The guideline top end is in line with the bottom of the frames of the lower stamps



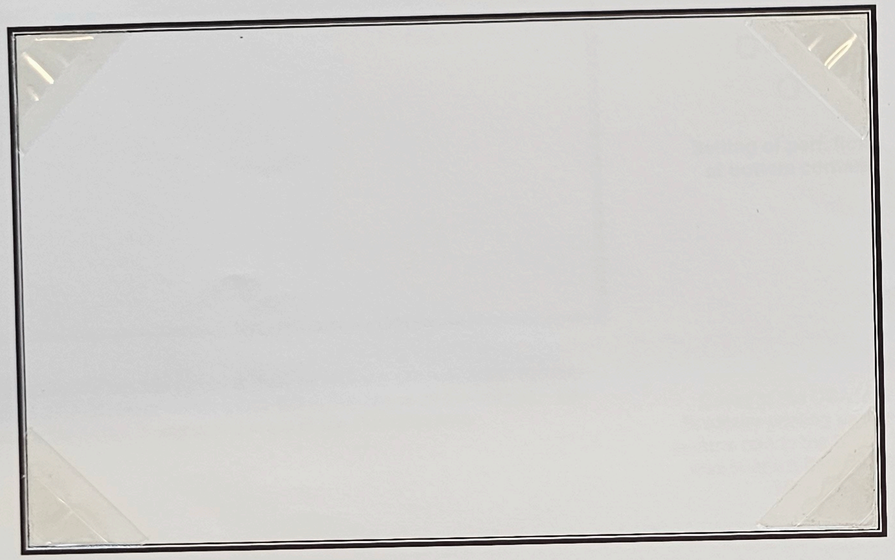
Guide dot above upward leg of K in WILKINSON and dot above U of SURREY, common to all printings of the 3d

Bradbury Wilkinson Printings

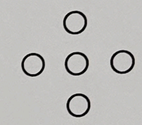
2d Issue 1a - Perf.14

A second printing of the 3d Perf 14 in September 1927. Only one printing is documented but these Bradbury archive pieces indicate additional printings from the same plates as there is no distinguishing difference found between the printings.

The UPU rate for surface mail to Europe from Jan 1926 to May 1950 was 3d per 1oz. Letter from 1928 by surface mail to Germany paying the 3d/oz rate.



Gutter block of 8 spanning top two panes is marked with the printers order number 0/02600 and dated 7.9.27. Note visible guide dot in the centre of the margin between the panes in line with the top of the stamp frames



Setting of perforation holes at corners

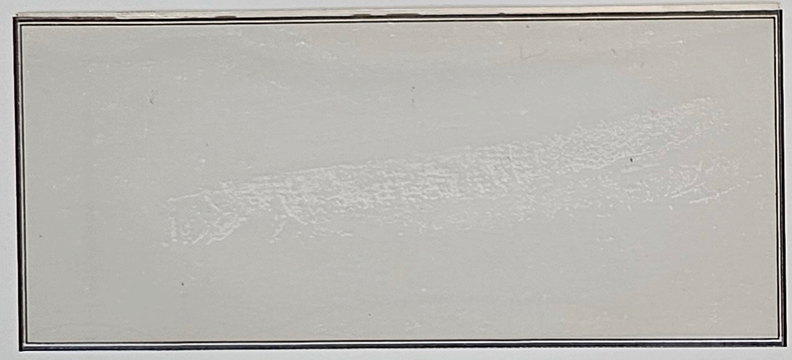
Bottom 3 rows from the lower two panes of the four pane sheet. The number of holes in the gutter margin is 8, an identification feature of Issue 1.
These panes originated from the Bradbury Wilkinson Archive and were removed from their backing, resulting in these panes having no gum.

The guideline top end is in line with the bottom of the frames of the

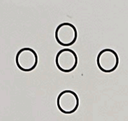
Bradbury Wilkinson Printings

3d Issue 2a - Perf. 14 X 13½ down

The last of the 3d issue printed by Bradbury Wilkinson. The same perforating method as used for the previous printing was used again. Printed Feb, 1930.
This was a relatively short lived issue as the Pretoria printings followed soon after.

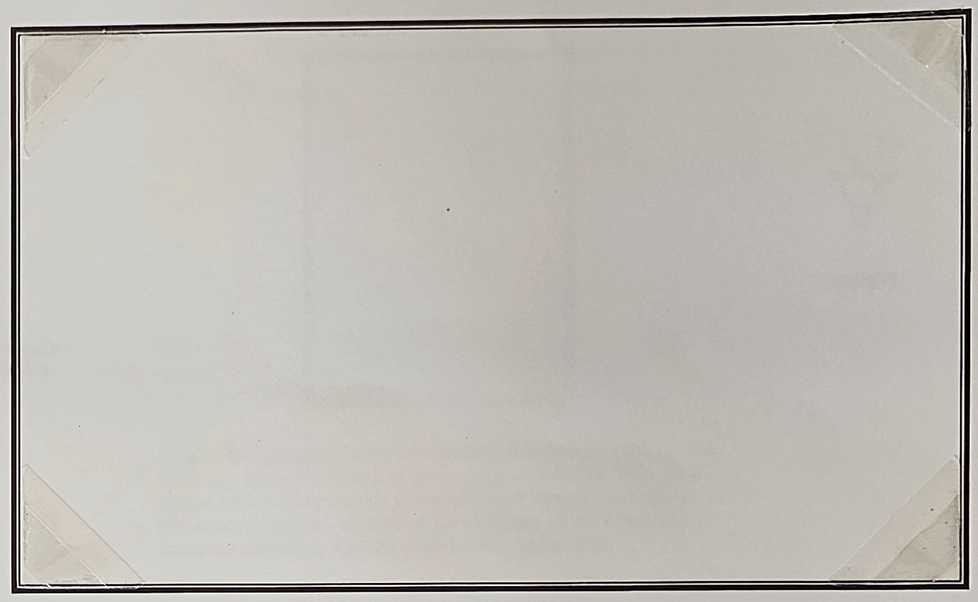


Gutter block of 8 spanning top two panes is marked with the printers order number 0/18073 and dated 27.2.30. Note visible guide dot in the centre of the margin between the panes in line with the top of the stamp frames



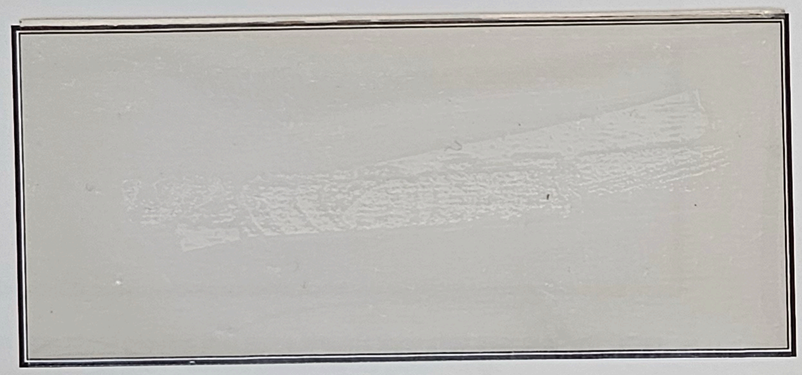
Setting of perf. holes at bottom corners

Cover to the USA with a 3d Bradbury printing paying the 3d surface rate to the USA. This rate was in effect from Jan 1926 to May, 1950

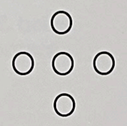


Bottom 3 rows from the lower two panes of the four pane sheet. The number of holes in the gutter margin now reduced to 2, an identification feature of Issue 2.
These panes originated from the Bradbury Wilkinson Archive and were removed from their backing, resulting in these panes having no gum.

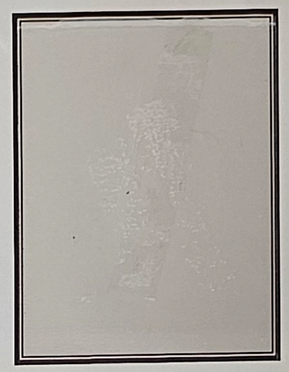
The guideline top end is in line with the bottom of the frames of the lower stamps



Gutter block of 8 spanning top two panes is marked with the printers order number 0/13798 and dated 28.5.28. Note visible guide dot in the centre of the margin between the panes in line with the top of the stamp frames



Setting of perforation holes at corners



Due to the procedure of perforating the double panes, the locating pin to hold the sheet in place and also acts as a guide which pierces the paper at the top and bottom in the central gutter. Above is an example of an accurate location showing a clear hole on the guide dot.

Upright

Bottom 3 rows from the lower two panes of the four pane sheet. The number of holes in the gutter margin is 8, an identification feature of Issue 1.
These panes originated from the Bradbury Wilkinson Archive and were removed from their backing, resulting in these panes having no gum.

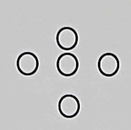
The guideline top end is in line with the bottom of the frames of the lower stamps

Bradbury Wilkinson Printings

3d Issue 2 - Perf. 14 X 13½ down

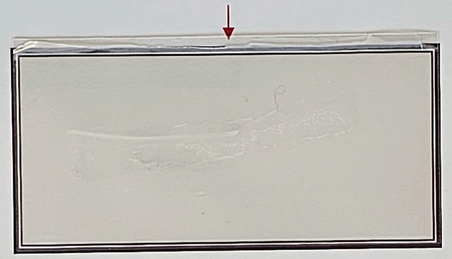
For Issue 2 the perforating direction was changed and the sheets were fed in from the top margin down thus leaving the top margin imperforate and the bottom margin perforated through.
The identifying feature for this perforation gauge is illustrated in the accompanying sketch.

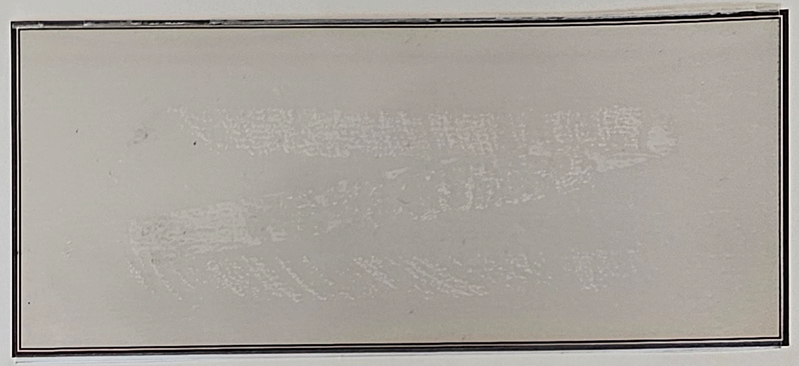
Gutter margin piece proving that these stamps were sold over the Post Office counter I double panes before guillotining.



Setting of perf. holes at bottom corners

Guide dot in gutter





Gutter block of 8 spanning top two panes is marked with the printers order number 0/15789 and dated 22.2.29. Note visible guide dot in the centre of the margin between the panes in line with the top of the stamp frames

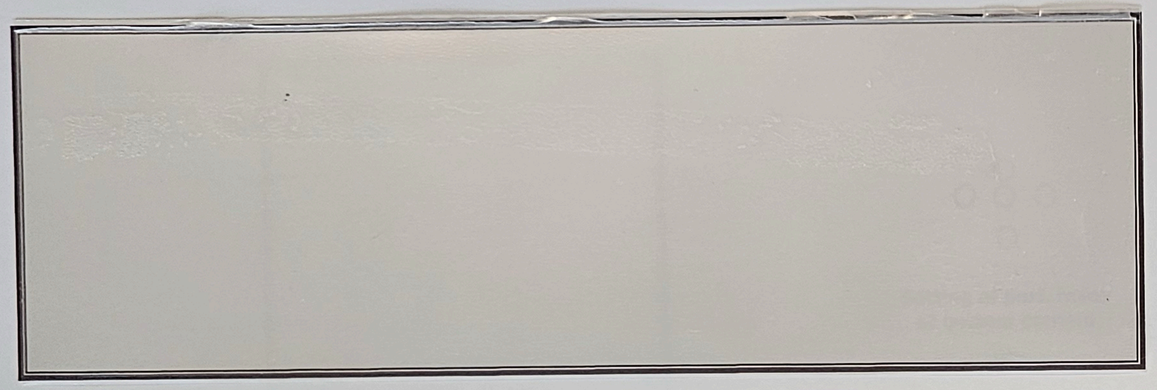
Bottom 3 rows from the lower two panes of the four pane sheet. The number of holes in the gutter margin now reduced to 2, an identification feature of Issue 2.
These panes originated from the Bradbury Wilkinson Archive and were removed from their backing, resulting in these panes having no gum.

The guideline top end is in line with the bottom of the frames of the lower stamps

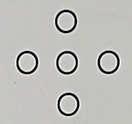
Bradbury Wilkinson Printings

4d Issue 1 - Perf. 14

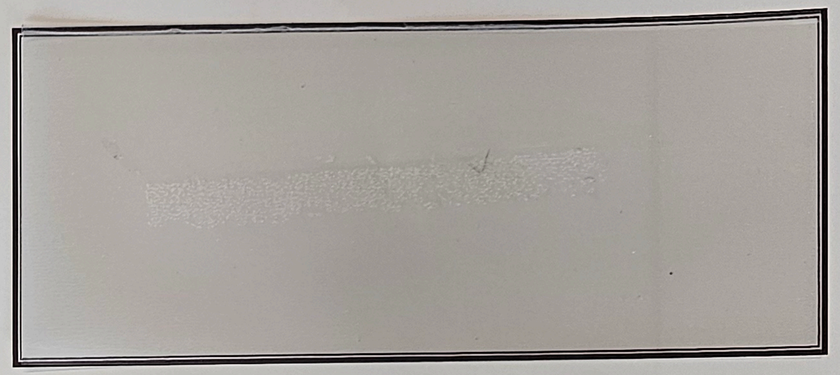
With perforation 14. Printed from a two pane 120 image sheet. This issue is characterised by having 8 perforation holes in the gutter between the stamp panes.



Bottom left inscriptional pane. These are very difficult to find intact.



Setting of perforation holes at corners



Gutter block of 8 spanning top two panes is marked with the printers order number 0/12778 and dated 10.10.27. Note the guide dot above the perfs. in the centre of the margin between the panes.

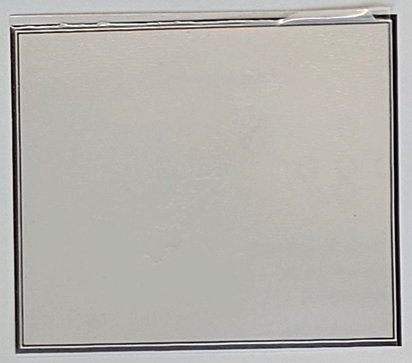
Bottom 3 rows from the lower two panes of the two pane sheet. The number of holes in the gutter margin is 8, an identification feature of Issue 1. These panes originated from the Bradbury Wilkinson Archive and were removed from their backing, resulting in these panes having no gum.

There is now no guide dot in the bottom gutter margin, instead it was replaced with a guide line, the top of which is 11mm from the corner of the nearest stamp

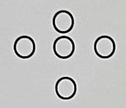
4d Issue 2 - Perf.14 X 13½ down

Bradbury Wilkinson Printings

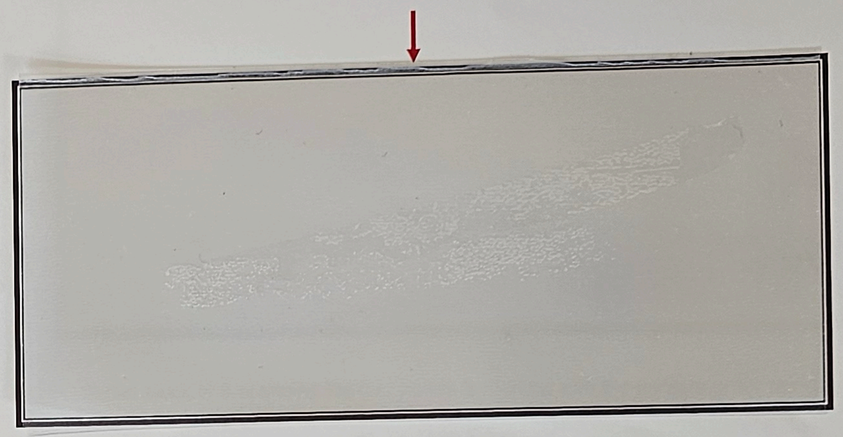
Printed from a 2 pane layout but the perforation gauge was changed for this printing to 14 x 13½ down. Identification of the perforation can be done visually from the illustration below. These sheets now did not have the central gutters perforated through, instead only two holes appeared in the gutter.



Right corner block from right pane



Setting of perf. holes at bottom corners



Gutter block of 8 spanning top two panes is marked with the printers order number 0/15790 and dated 22.02.29. Note the guide dot above the perfs. in the centre of the margin between the panes.

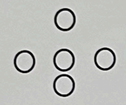
Bottom 3 rows from the lower two panes of the two pane sheet. The number of holes in the gutter margin is now 2, an identification feature of Issue 2. These panes originated from the Bradbury Wilkinson Archive and were removed from their backing, resulting in these panes having no gum.

There is now no guide dot or line in the bottom gutter margin.

Bradbury Wilkinson Printings

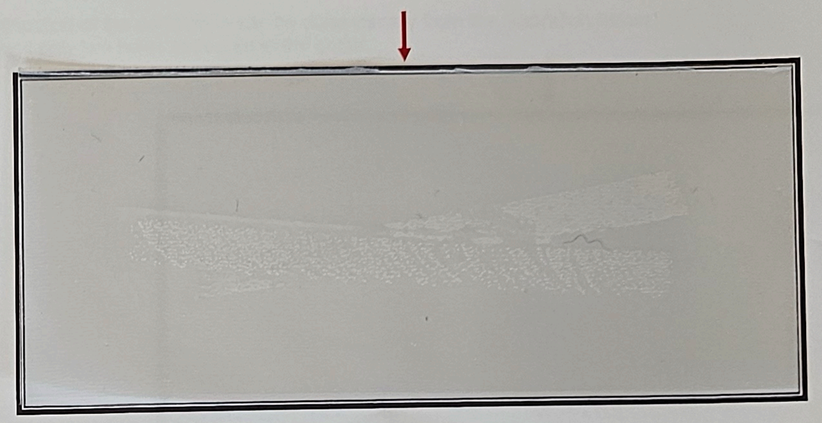
4d Issue 3 - Perf.14 X 13½ up (first printing)

Printed from a 2 pane layout but the perforation gauge was changed for this printing to 14 x 13½ up. Identification of the perforation can be done visually from the illustration below. These sheets now did not have the central gutters perforated through, instead only two holes appeared in the gutter.



Setting of perf. holes at perforation junctions

Wmk. Upright



Gutter block of 8 spanning top two panes is marked with the printers order number 0/18014 and dated 27.02.30. *No* guide dot above the perfs. in the centre of the margin between the panes.

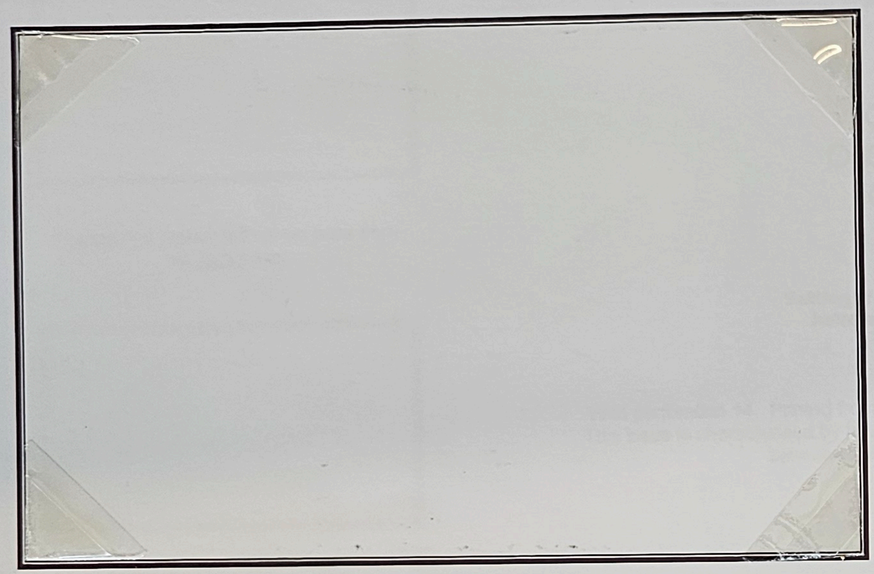
Bottom 3 rows from the lower two panes of the two pane sheet. The number of holes in the gutter margin is now 2, an identification feature of Issue 3.
These panes originated from the Bradbury Wilkinson Archive and were removed from their backing, resulting in these panes having no gum.

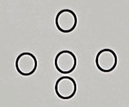
The guide line has now been repositioned to a higher point in the bottom of the gutter margin.

Bradbury Wilkinson Printings

4d Issue 3 - Perf.14 X 13½ up (second printing)

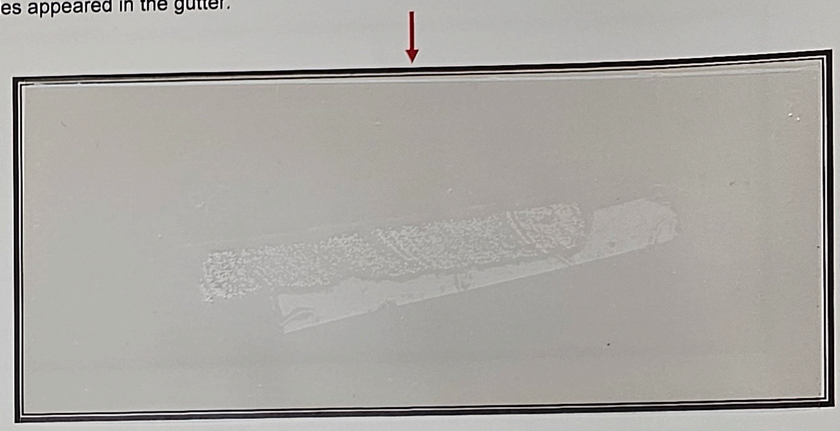
Printed from a 2 pane layout but the perforation gauge was changed for this printing to 14 x 13½ up. Identification of the perforation can be done visually from the illustration below.
These sheets now did not have the central gutters perforated through, instead only two holes appeared in the gutter.





Setting of perf. holes at perforation junctions

Registered letter to England
by surface rate of 4d.
4d Registration on reverse.



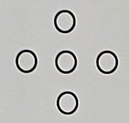
Gutter block of 8 spanning top two panes is marked with the printers order number 0/20303 and dated 9.03.31. *No* guide dot above the perfs. in the centre of the margin between the panes.

Bottom 3 rows from the lower two panes of the two pane sheet. The number of holes in the gutter margin is now 2, an identification feature of Issue 3.
These panes originated from the Bradbury Wilkinson Archive and were removed from their backing, resulting in these panes having no gum.
This printing shows no visible difference to that of the previous printing, as the same plate was used, apart from a later printing date.

The guide line has now been repositioned to a higher point in the bottom of the gutter margin.

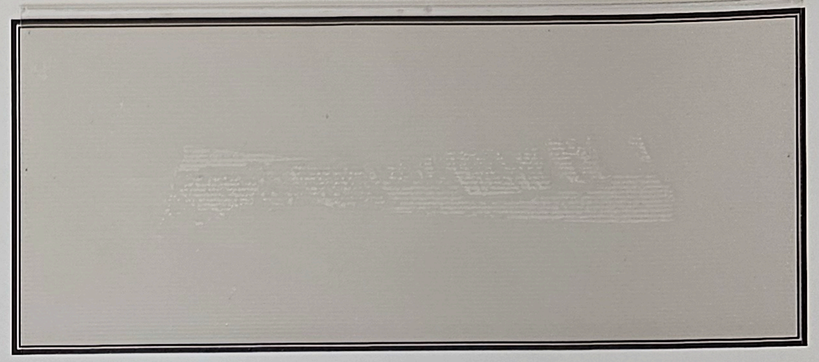
The top and bottom left corner pairs from the right pane.

Identification of Perforation Gauge



Setting of perforation holes at corners

With perforation 14. Printed from a two pane 120 image sheet. This issue is characterised by having 8 perforation holes in the gutter between the stamp panes.



Gutter block of 8 spanning top two panes is marked with the printers order number 0/10595 and dated 6.10.26. Note the guide dot in line with the top of the stamp frame in the centre of the margin between the panes.

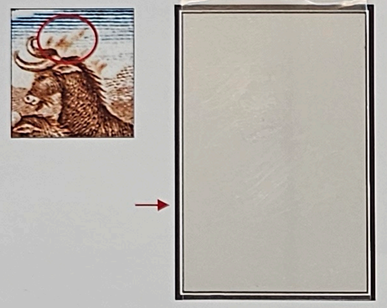
Bottom 3 rows from the lower two panes of the two pane sheet. The number of holes in the gutter margin is 8, an identification feature of the perf 14 issues. These panes originated from the Bradbury Wilkinson Archive and were removed from their backing, resulting in these panes having no gum.

There is now no guide dot in the bottom gutter margin, instead it was replaced with a guide line, the top of which is 11mm from the corner of the nearest stamp. Note the perforator pin hole at the top of the guide line.

Bradbury Wilkinson Printings

1/- Issue 1a - Perf. 14

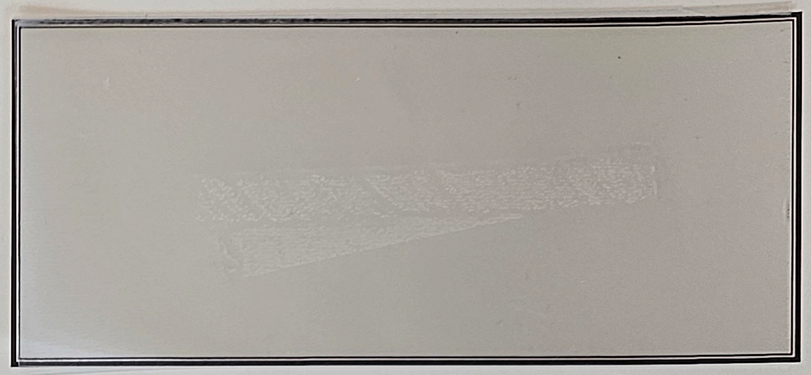
Bottom left corner block with gutter showing the perforator guide mark and pin hole where the locating pin pierced the paper.



Mane on Gnu's back. Position unknown although believed to be constant.

Upright

The watermark was always upright for all the printings.



Gutter block of 8 spanning top two panes is marked with the printers order number 0/12601 and dated 7.09.1927. Note the guide dot in line with the top of the stamp frame in the centre of the margin between the panes.

There is no difference between these printings as they were made from the same plate apart from a slight shade difference.

Bottom 3 rows from the lower two panes of the two pane sheet. The number of holes in the gutter margin is 8, an identification feature of the perf 14 issues. These panes originated from the Bradbury Wilkinson Archive and were removed from their backing, resulting in these panes having no gum.

There is now no guide dot in the bottom gutter margin, instead it was replaced with a guide line, the top of which is 11mm from the corner of the nearest stamp. Note the perforator pin hole at the top of the guide line.

Bradbury Wilkinson Printings

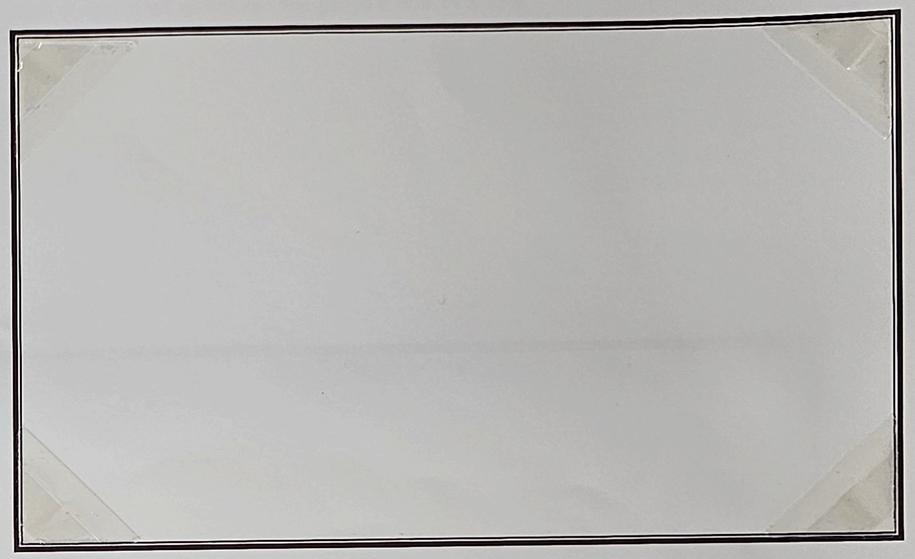
1/- Issue 1b - Perf. 14 (reversed)

With perforation 14. Printed from a two pane 120 image sheet. This issue is characterised by having 8 perforation holes in the gutter between the stamp panes.

Gutter block of 8 spanning top two panes is marked with the printers order number 0/13799 and dated 28.05.1928. Note the guide dot in line with the top of the stamp frame in the centre of the margin between the panes.

There is no difference between these printings as they were made from the same plate apart from a slight shade difference.

1/- pays the airmail rate to Europe.



Bottom 3 rows from the lower two panes of the two pane sheet. The number of holes in the gutter margin is 8, an identification feature of the perf 14 issues. These panes originated from the Bradbury Wilkinson Archive and were removed from their backing, resulting in these panes having no gum.

This printing was perforated in the reverse direction. Instead of the sheet being fed from the right it was fed in from the left. All other perforation 14 printings have the right margin imperforate and the left margin perforated through. This pane shows the reverse. <u>Unrecorded in the literature.</u>

Removed for a reference collection

There is now no guide dot in the bottom gutter margin, instead it was replaced with a guide line, the top of which is 11mm from the corner of the nearest stamp. Note the perforator pin hole at the top of the guide line.

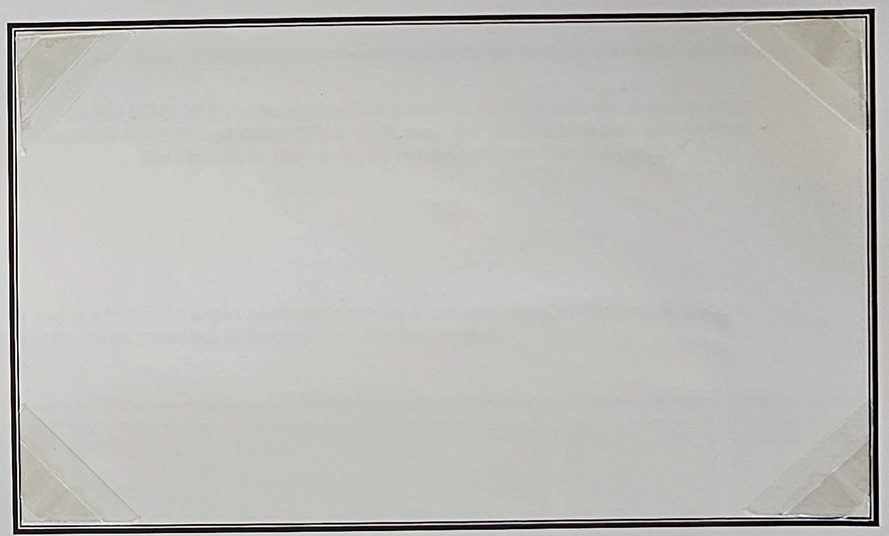
Bradbury Wilkinson Printings

1/- Issue 2 - Perf. 14 X 13½ down

For this printing the perforation was changed. The perforator now moved from the top of the sheet down instead of right to left as before. The gauge is now 14 X 13½.
This printing employed a new plate and was printed on 22/02/1929

Lower 2 rows of the left pane of issue 2.

Lower 3 rows of the right pane of issue 2.

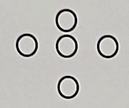


Airmail letter to USA paying the 1/6 airmail tae using a 1/- and 6d value. Letter found to be over-weight and most likely diverted to surface mail as no further markings or postage due noted.

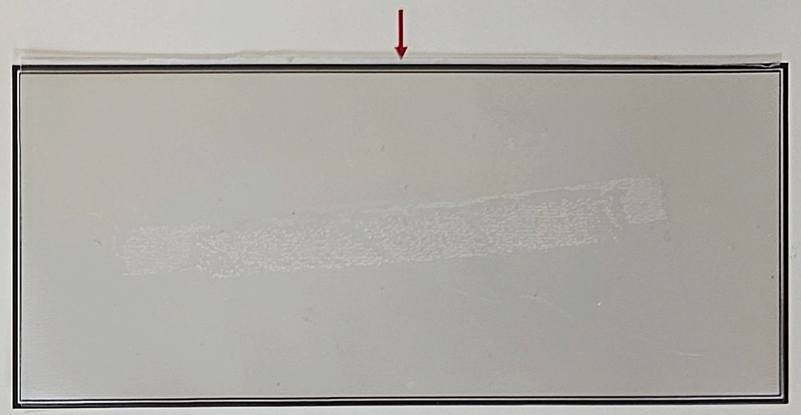
Bradbury Wilkinson Printings

1/- Issue 2a - Perf. 14 X 13½ down

Printed from a 2 pane layout but the perforation gauge was changed for this printing to 14 x 13½ down. Identification of the perforation can be done visually from the illustration to the right. These sheets now did not have the central gutters perforated through, instead only two holes appeared in the gutter.



Setting of perf. holes at bottom corners



Gutter block of 8 spanning top two panes is marked with the printers order number 0/18015 and dated 27.02.1930. Note the guide dot in line with the top of the stamps in the centre of the margin between the panes.

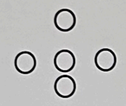
Bottom 3 rows from the lower two panes of the two pane sheet. The number of holes in the gutter margin is now 2, and the bottom margin perforated through, an identification feature of Issue 2. These panes originated from the Bradbury Wilkinson Archive and were removed from their backing, resulting in these panes having no gum.

There is now a guide line in the bottom gutter margin.

Bradbury Wilkinson Printings

1/- Issue 3 - Perf. 14 X 13½ up

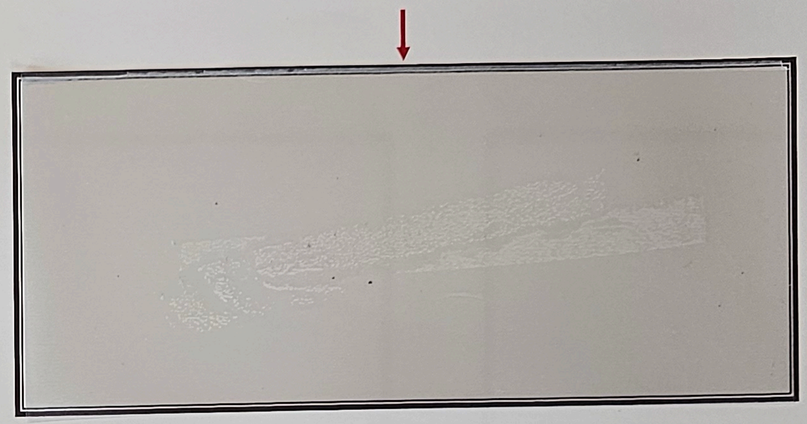
Printed from a 2 pane layout but the perforation gauge was changed for this printing to 14 x 13½ up. Identification of the perforation can be done visually from the illustration below. These sheets now did not have the central gutters perforated through, instead only two holes appeared in the gutter.



Setting of perf. holes at perforation junctions

Upright

The watermark was always upright for these issues.



Gutter block of 8 spanning top two panes is marked with the printers order number 0/20304 and dated 9.03.1931. Guide dot in line with the top of the stamps in the first row in the gutter margin.

Bottom 3 rows from the lower two panes of the two pane sheet. The number of holes in the gutter margin is now 2, and bottom margin imperforate, an identification feature of Issue 3. These panes originated from the Bradbury Wilkinson Archive and were removed from their backing, resulting in these panes having no gum.

The perforator guide line

Issue 1 Perf 14 Printed 6/10/1926

Left pane. No guide line visible as the pane was guillotined in such a way that the guide fell on the right pane.

Top left and right corner blocks from the right pane.
Note the perforation guide hole, top left of left block.

There was no discernable difference between these printings. The catalogues only list one and if it was not for the archival items, specialist collectors would have been none the wiser.

Issue 1b Perf 14 (third printing) Printed 28/05/1928

Left pane. Guide line now visible.

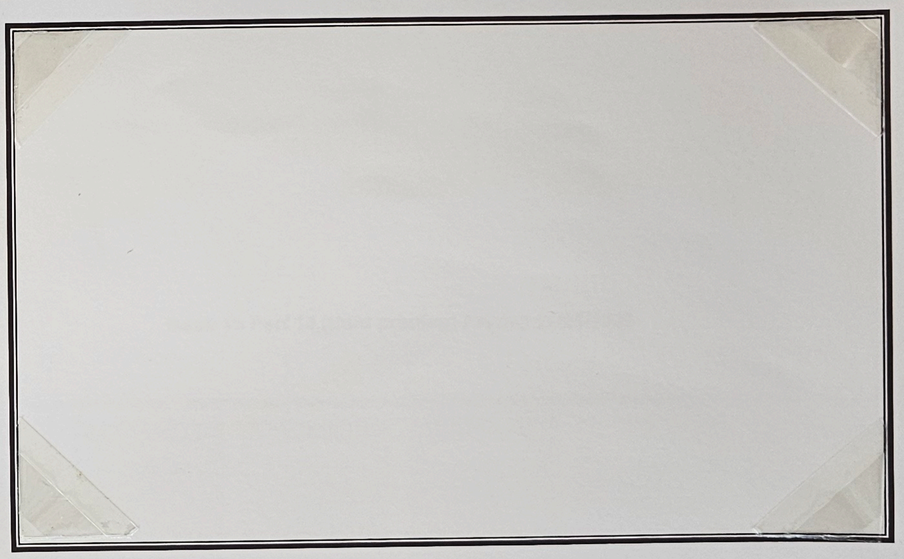
Issue 1a Perf 14 (second printing) Printed 7/09/1927

Left pane. No guide line visible as the pane was guillotined in such a way that the guide fell on the right pane.
Brown ink smudges characteristic of this printing.

Issue 2 Perf 14 X 13½ down. Printed 22/09/1929

Right pane. No guide line visible at left.

The perforation was changed for this printing. The perforator moved from top to bottom leaving the top margin perforated through and the bottom margin imperforate except fot the gutter where one line of perforation holes went through the bottom margin.



Airmail letter to the USA via England at the 2/6 rate. This was considered the expensive route which went up the East coast of Africa, through the Middle East, Italy, France and then to England. The alternative route was up the west coast of Africa, across the Atlantic to the Caribbean and on to New York. Probably by domestic air mail to Michigan.

Issue 1 Perf 14 Printed 6/10/1926

Left pane. Guide line visible at the bottom edge of the pane.

Issue 1a Perf 14 (second printing) Printed 7/09/1927

Left pane. Guide line visible

Issue 1b Perf 14 (third printing) Printed 28/05/1928

Right pane. No guide line visible.