

FLAW FINDER ½d ELECTROTYPE PLATES 1 & 2

INTRODUCTION

Three different printing types were used for the ½d.



Recess/Engraved



Lithograph



Electrotype

The initial print was the recess/engraved printed in London, first issued in March 1900.

Identified by the TAS watermark and perforated 14. Very little work has been done to identify flaws on this printing, a number of stamps have coloured lines passing through them.

The second series was the lithographed printing done in Melbourne, earliest known is September 1903. Two plates were used, watermark V over Crown and perforation 11 or 12½.

The third series, released December 1908, was electrotype on Crown over A paper, perforation 11 or 12½, again two plates used and printed in Melbourne.

The easiest way to tell the difference between lithographed and electrotype is by watermark, lithographed being V over Crown and electrotype Crown over A, also the electrotype printing contains a number of plate flaws listed below.

The ½d electrotype print

Dates: 2 plates seen from December 1908.

Watermark: Crown over A.

Perforations: p11 or 12½

Shades: green to yellow green (SG), later yellow green prints poor quality generally.

Look out for: mixed perforations and vertical/inverted watermarks (1909).

The ½d electrotype stamps were first issued on 10th December 1908. In 1909 a small number were produced with the watermark vertical/inverted, these were perforated 12½. SG list a p11 as mint only with a high CV.

The colour is defined by SG as yellow green, the questionable quality of the ink resulted in very mixed outcomes, a good and bad example shown below. The poor quality prints have numerous flaws which are not practical for plating and many of the listed plating flaws are unusable on these prints.



A series of plate flaws are present and they are reported by Lancaster as:

1. A diagonal colour dash on top left of 'M' of 'TASMANIA';
2. Similar dash in the third 'A' of 'TASMANIA';
3. A minute colour dot in the top of the second 'A' of 'TASMANIA';
4. A smaller and finer colour dash in the top of 'N' of 'TASMANIA';
5. Colour dots inside the two upper ornaments.

Plating based on colour flaws in these areas is not practical. A number of copies of various positions have been reviewed and the arrangement of these colour flaws is variable on each position studied.

OVERVIEW

For the separate flaw finder the stamp is broken down by section.

Where a flaw covers more than one section it will be shown in both. Once a flaw is found on a stamp it can be compared to the appropriate section on the flaw finder file. If it can be matched it should then be checked in the plating guide.

Under the picture of the flaw the plate position is noted. Check the relevant position in the plating guide for any other flaws that may be present, the state and the full description.

This flaw finder is based on the 1986 work by Keith Lancaster and earlier work by J Purves together with additional research by the author, Richard Singleton.

Thanks to Jerry Weirich who has provided invaluable support, examples and help in this project.

This work is not complete. If you have any blocks, pairs or flaws for either plate please contact me by email at rsingle@enchem.co.nz. Or they can be posted on the TPS bulletin board, or on Stampboards.

It should also be noted that nearly all the flaws are variable, copies of confirmed positional stamps without the relevant flaw have been found on many occasions.

The platings are based on observation of two full sheets from plate 1 and two sheets from plate 2. In addition a number of smaller blocks and many singles.

For all new platings, they either match the description by K Lancaster or a minimum of 3 copies have been viewed.

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FLAW FINDER



For the flaw finder the stamp is broken down the following headings:

- Top frame
- Bottom frame
- Right frame
- Sky
- Left upper ornament
- Tasmania band
- Right upper ornament
- Mountains
- Water
- Left Value Tablet (LVT)
- Right Value Tablet (RVT)
- Lake Marion band
- Left lower ornament
- Right lower ornament

Where a flaw covers more than one area it will be shown in both.

Under the picture of the flaw the plate position is noted. Check the relevant position in section 2 for any other flaws that may be present and the description.

Top frame



1-6



2-6



1-54



1-54



1-60



1-60

Bottom frame



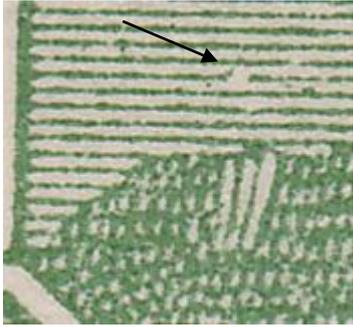
2-60

Right frame



1-53

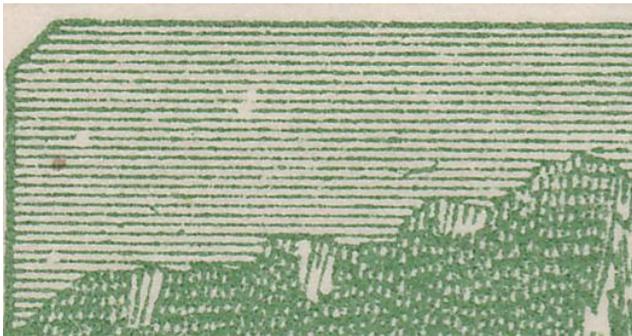
Sky



2-26



2-26



1-28

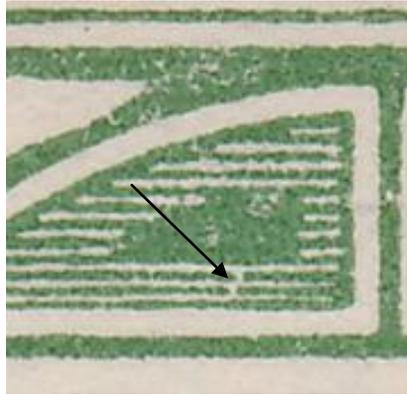


2-45

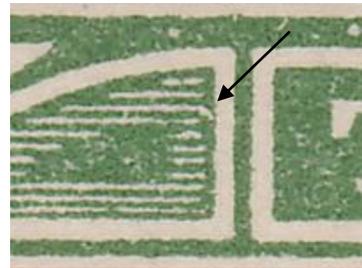
Left upper ornament



2-25



1-23



2-20

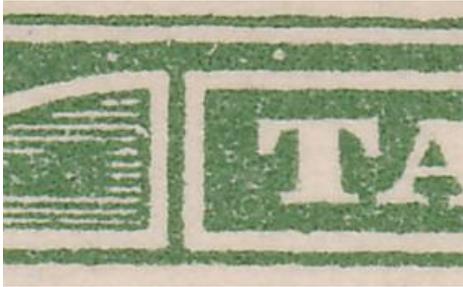


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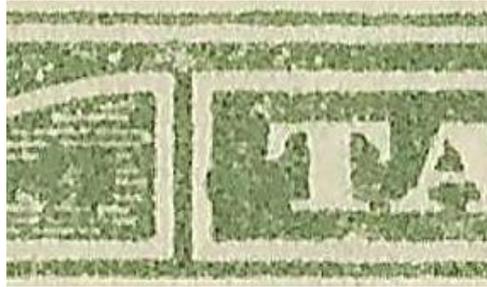


1-44

Tasmania band



2-20



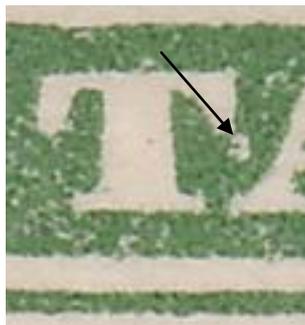
2-20



1-16



2-34



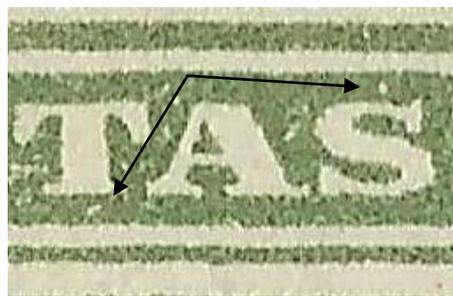
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2-50



1-32



1-44



2-14



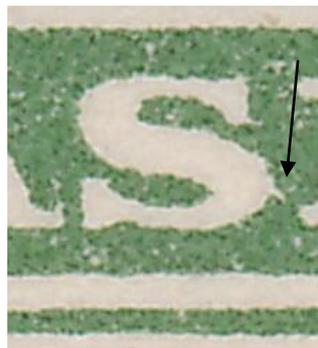
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1-33



1-14



1-12



1-14



2-22



2-44



2-45



1-35



1-57



2-31



2-50



2-32



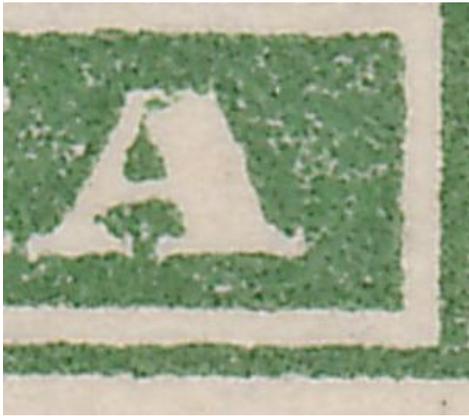
1-33



2-31



2-33

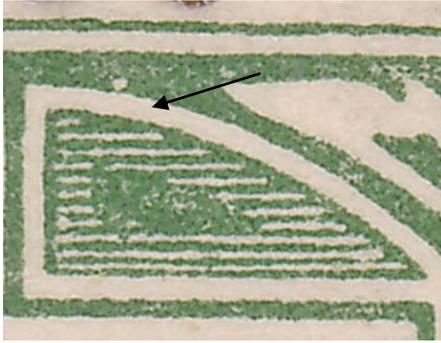


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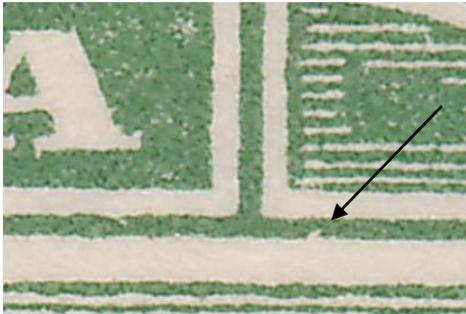


2-54

Right upper ornament



2-13



1-8

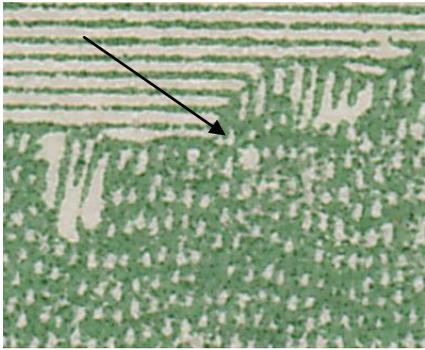


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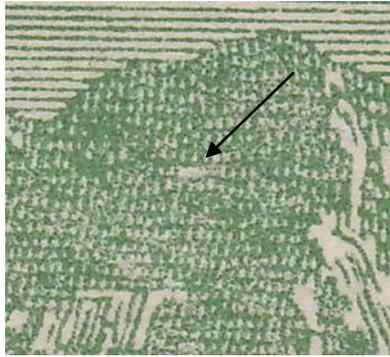


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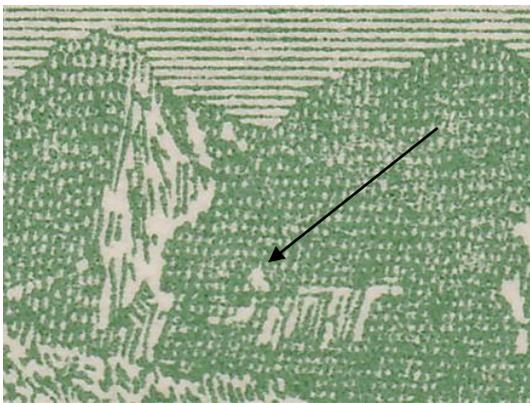
Mountains



1-14



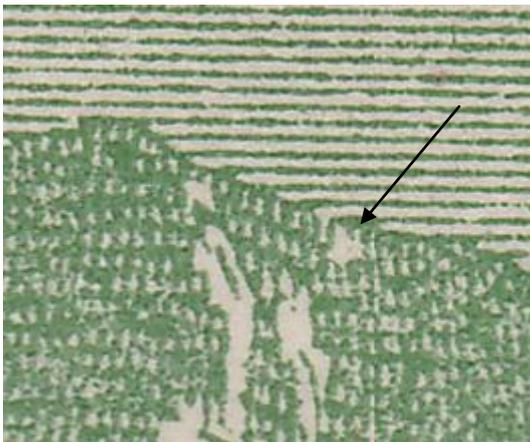
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1-16



2-38

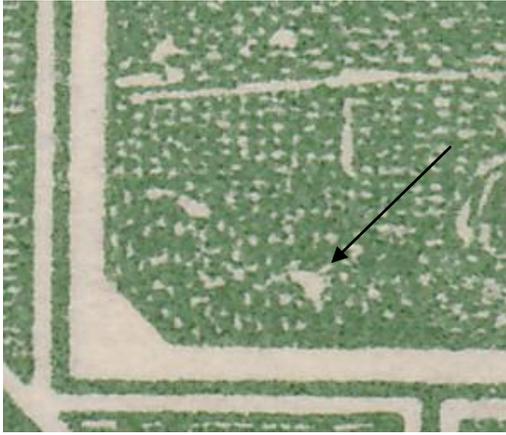


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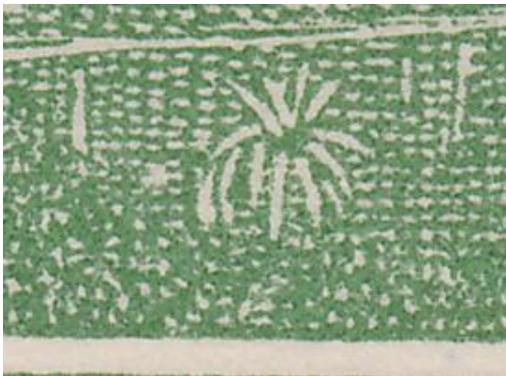


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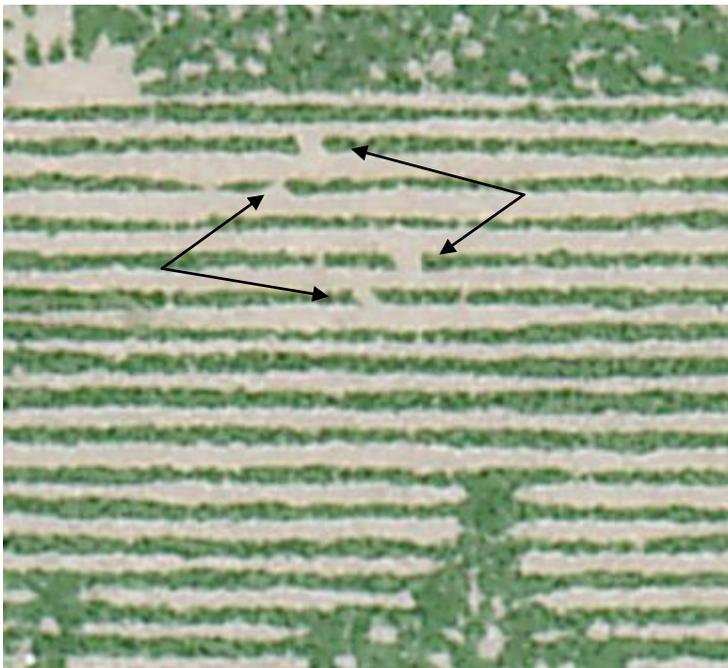
Water



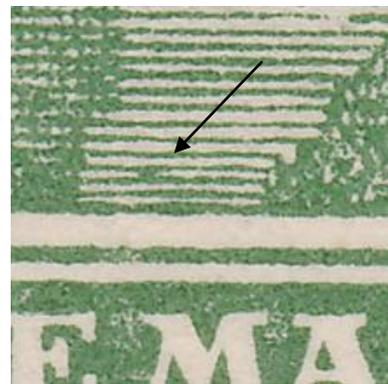
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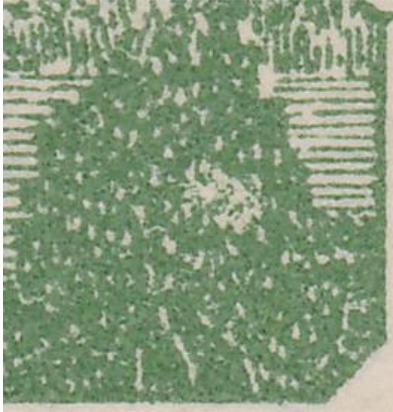
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1-52



1-24

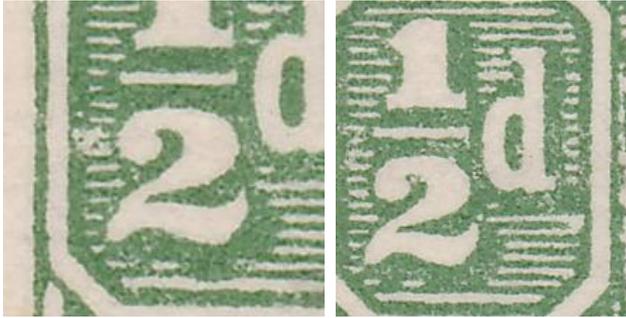


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1-55

Left Value Tablet (LVT)



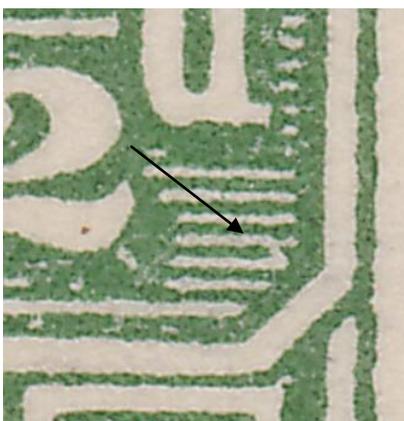
1-26

1-32

Right Value Tablet (RVT)



2-24



2-25



2-18

Lake Marion band



1-35



1-48



2-56



1-11



2-14



1-8



1-17



1-24



1-30



1-45



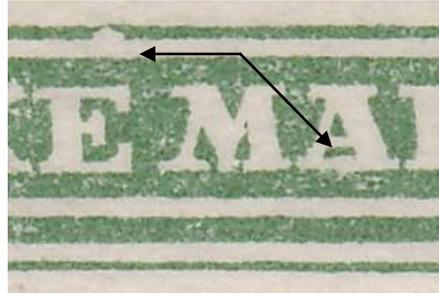
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1-41



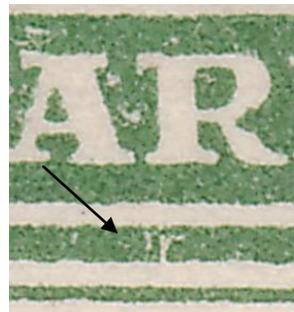
1-44



2-29



1-51



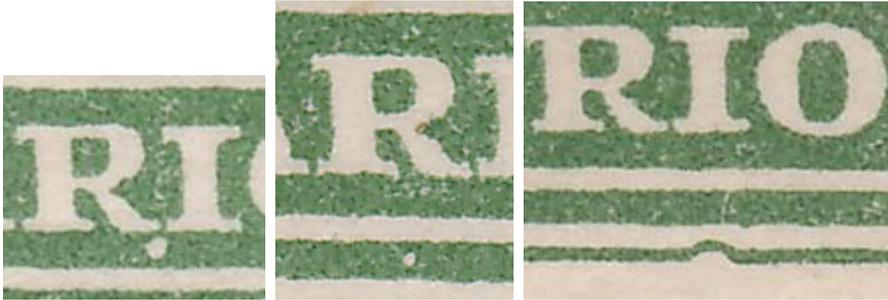
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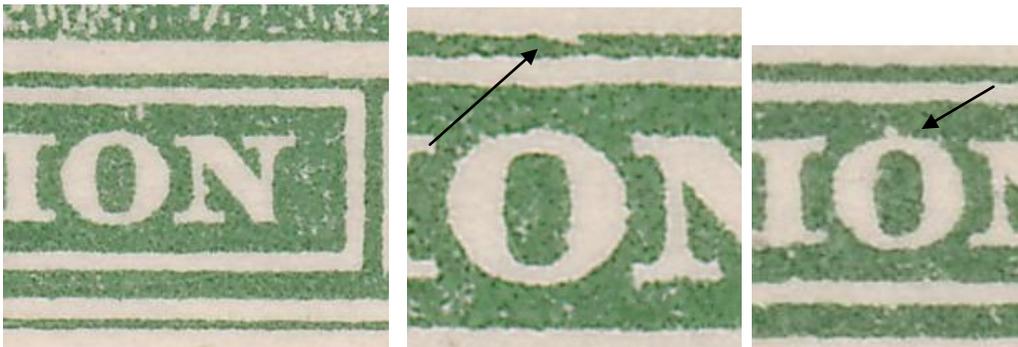
2-47



1-25

2-44

2-60



1-3

1-9

1-51



2-25

2-55



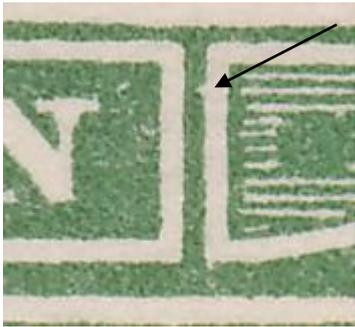
2-28



2-56

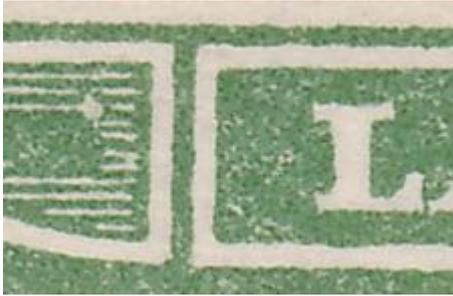


1-10



1-28

Left lower ornament



1-26



2-28



1-8



1-15



2-57

Right lower ornament



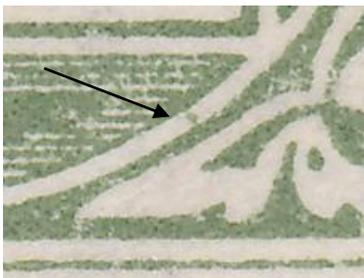
1-25



2-14



1-15



1-7



1-25



1-59



2-60



2-18



2-18

Checklist.

Plate 1

1-1

No plateable flaws identified.

1-2

No plateable flaws identified.

1-3



a) White spur above 'O' of 'MARION'.

Present in both early and later prints.

1-4

Lancaster notes a nick in the right frame near the top, this is not present on the copies I have seen.

1-5

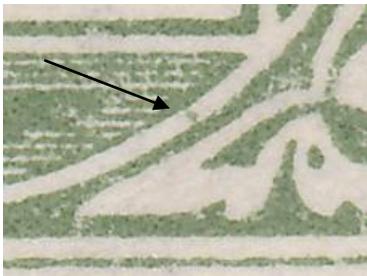
No plateable flaws identified.

1-6



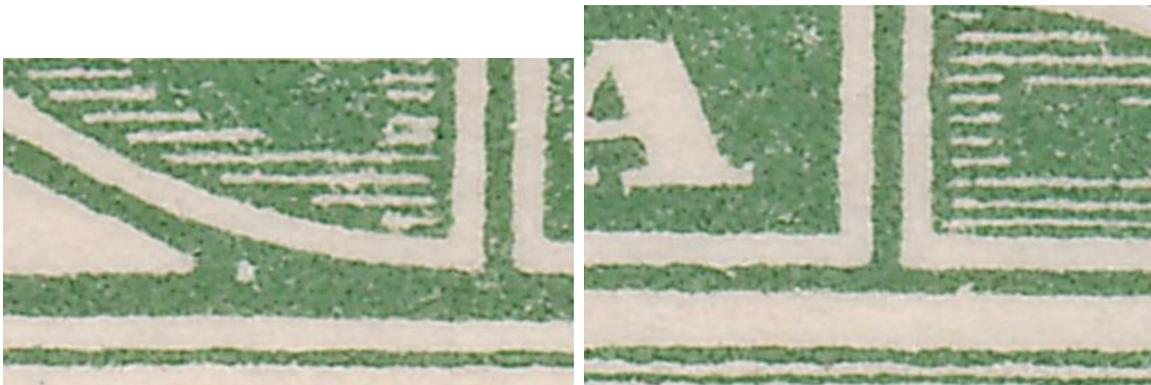
a) top frame thickened above 'SM' of 'TASMANIA'.

1-7



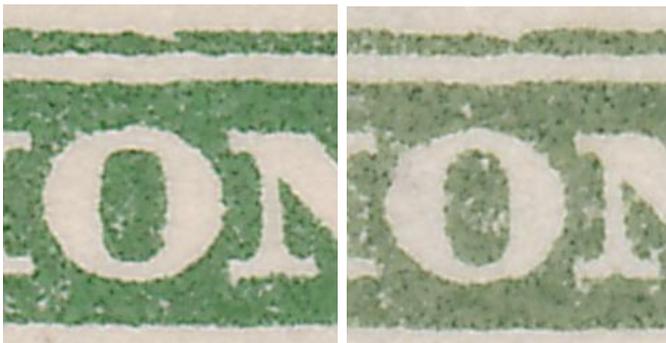
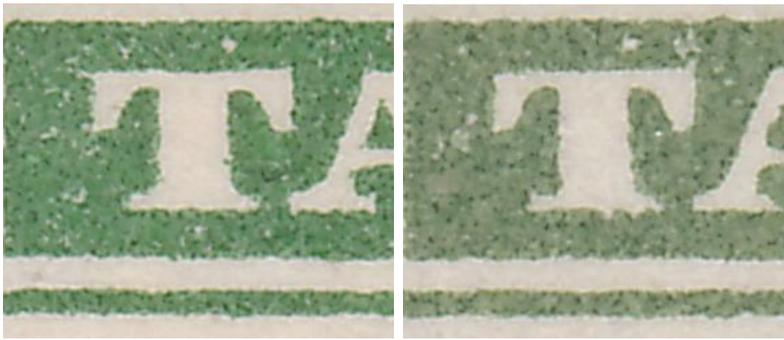
a) Colour dot in margin between lower right ornament and tri-angular panel.

1-8



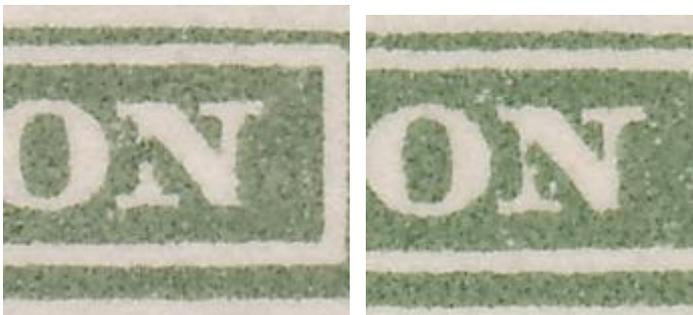
- a) Series of white spots below 'KE MA' of 'LAKE MARION'.
- b) White spot in base colour at right end of bottom left triangular ornament;
- c) Small white spur below left end of top right triangular ornament.

1-9



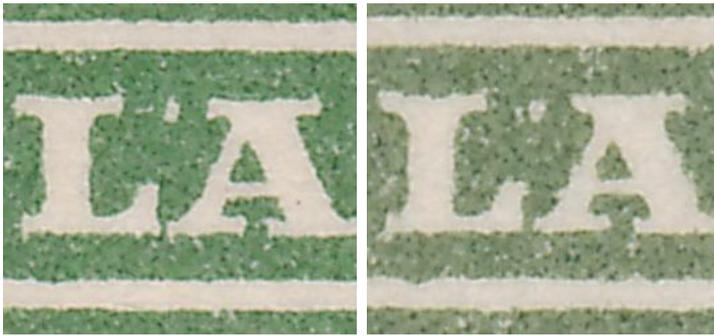
- a) Small white spot over first 'A' of 'TASMANIA';
- b) Nick in top of outer base vignette frame over 'O' of 'MARION'.

1-10



- a) Colour flaw if left upright on 'N' of 'MARION'.

1-11



a) White spot between 'L' an 'A' of 'LAKE' in line with top.

1-12

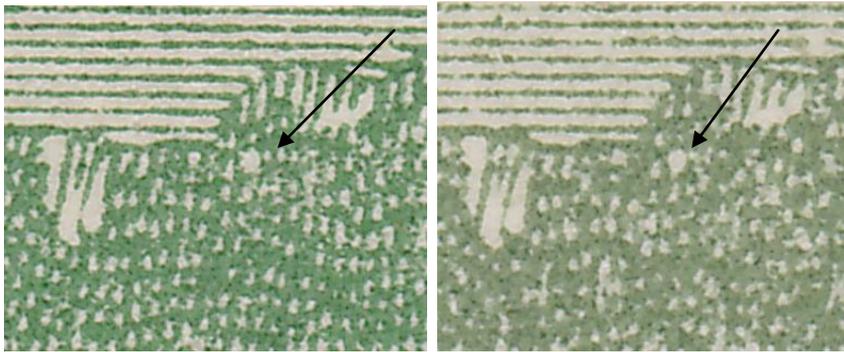


a) Small white line from lower right of 'S' of 'TASMANIA'.

1-13

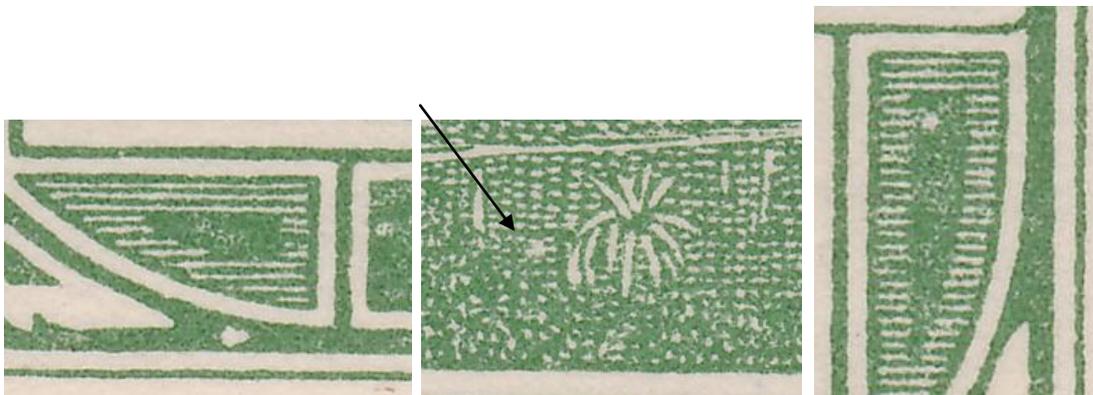
No plateable flaws identified.

1-14



- a) Small white spot in hills.
- b) Break in top inner vignette frame below right leg of 'M' of 'TASMANIA';
- c) Small white spur on top right inner of 'S' of 'TASMANIA'.

1-15



- a) White spot in colour at right end of bottom left ornament;
- b) Small white spot in water at left of plant;
- c) White spot in lower right triangular ornament.

1-16



- a) White flaw on left of 'S', white flaw above second 'A', and white flaw at right of 'T' (all of 'TASMANIA').
- b) White spot on centre hills.

1-17



- a) Series of white dots under 'KE MARION'.
- b) Small white spot over top left of 'N' of 'TASMANIA'.

1-18

No plateable flaws identified.

1-19

No plateable flaws identified.

1-20

No plateable flaws identified.

Lancaster notes : "White dot in right colour 5½ mm above base." Not seen.

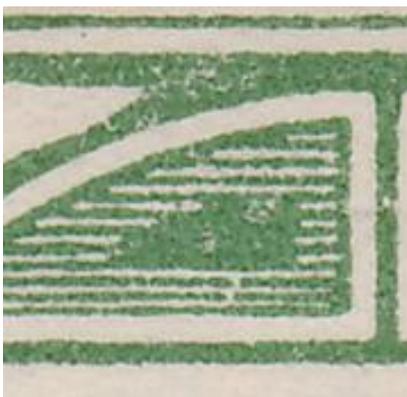
1-21

No plateable flaws identified.

1-22

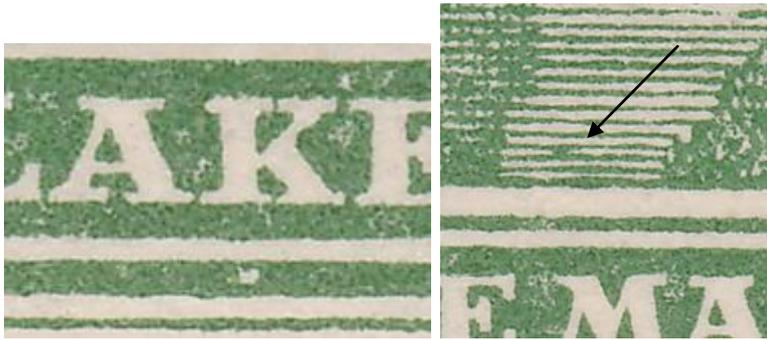
No plateable flaws identified.

1-23



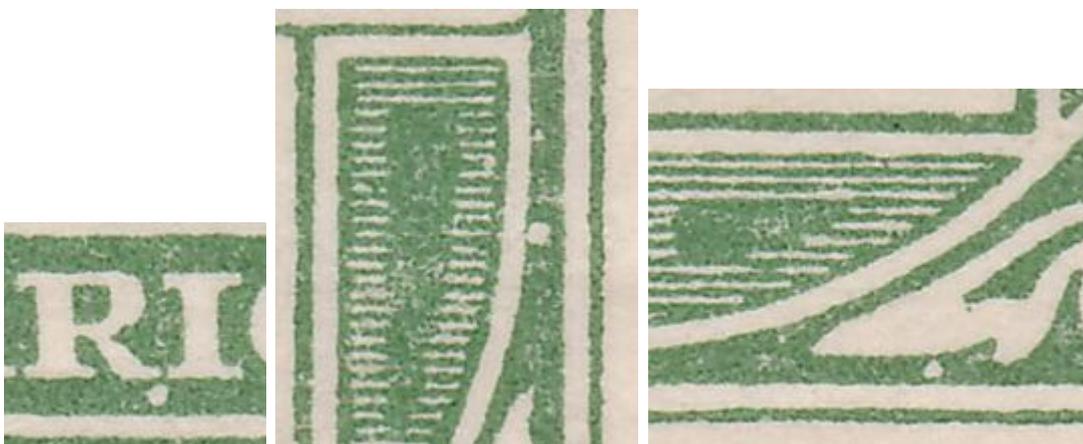
- a) Small white flaw breaking two shading lines below the coloured triangle in the upper left triangular ornament.

1-24



- a) White spot under 'K' of 'LAKE';
- b) Colour spot in water above "E M" of 'LAKE MARION' (variable).

1-25



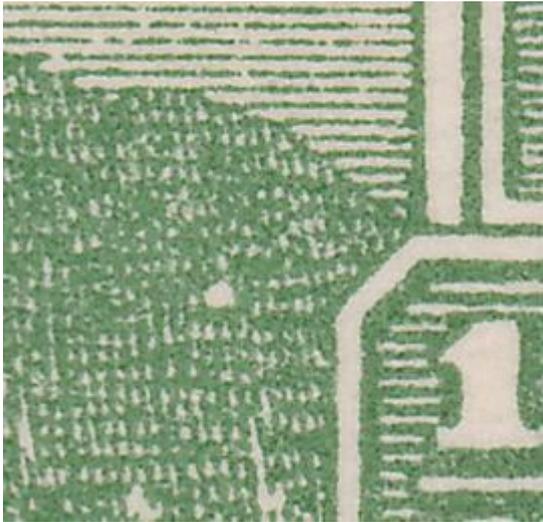
- a) White flaw in right colour 7 mm above base;
- b) White flaw below 'RI' of 'MARION',
- c) White flaw below lower right ornament.

1-26



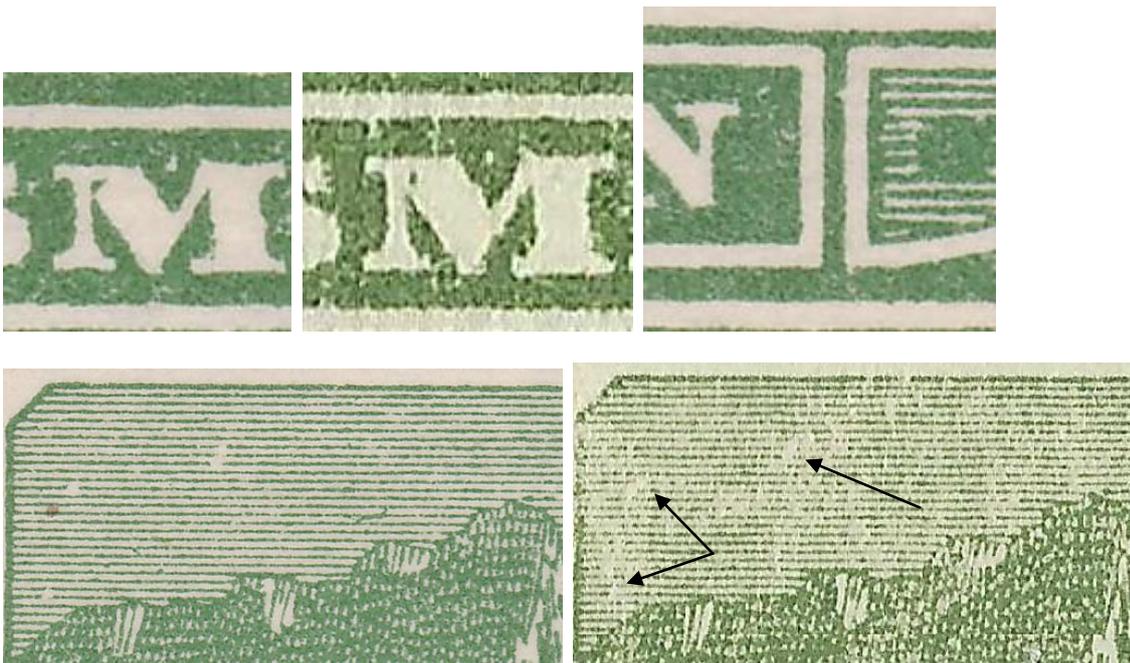
- a) Small white dash in colour over 'T' of 'TASMANIA';
- b) Small white flaw in LVT left of ball of '2' (variable);
- c) White spot in bottom left triangular ornament.

1-27



a) White spot on right hills 11½mm from top frame and 5½mm from right frame.

1-28



- a) Small white spots over 'M' of 'TASMANIA';
- b) Small white spur on left frame of bottom right triangular ornament (variable);
- c) White and colour flaws in left sky.

1-29

No plateable flaws identified.

1-30



a) White flaw below 'A' of 'LAKE'.

1-31



a) Two white spots in upper part of right upper triangular ornament.

1-32



- a) White dot at lower right of left 'd';
- b) White flaw in left colour 5 mm below top frame;
- c) Break in inner vignette frame below 'T' of 'TASMANIA'.

1-33



- a) White flaw on top right of 'S' of 'TASMANIA';
- b) White spot under centre of 'M' of 'TASMANIA';
- c) White spot under third 'A' of 'TASMANIA'.

1-34

No plateable flaws identified.

1-35



- a) White spot under second 'A' of 'TASMANIA';
- b) Small white spur at bottom left of 'L' of 'LAKE'.

1-36

No plateable flaws identified.

1-37

No plateable flaws identified.

1-38

No plateable flaws identified.

1-39

No plateable flaws identified.

1-40

No plateable flaws identified.

1-41



- a) Small white spot under right of 'K' of 'LAKE';
- b) Nick in base colour below 'M' of 'MARION'

Note: Lancaster notes "variable nick in colour above 'AN'". Not seen.

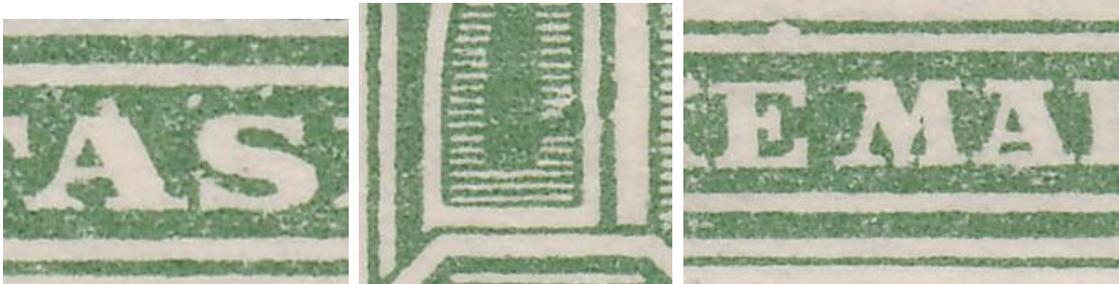
1-42

No plateable flaws identified.

1-43

No plateable flaws identified.

1-44



- a) An arc nicked from colour line above 'E' of 'LAKE';
- b) Base serifs of 'A' of 'MARION' are joined;
- c) Diagonal colour flaw breaking panel frame above LVT;
- d) White spots over 'S' and on top of first 'A' of 'TASMANIA' (variable).

1-45



- a) White spot over 'K' of 'LAKE'.

1-46



- a) White spot in bushes at lower right (variable).

1-47

No plateable flaws identified.

1-48



- a) White spot in water at lower left of vignette;
- b) 'LA' of 'LAKE' joined at base;
- c) Fine vertical white line in base colour below 'R' of 'MARION' (variable).

1-49

No plateable flaws identified.

1-50

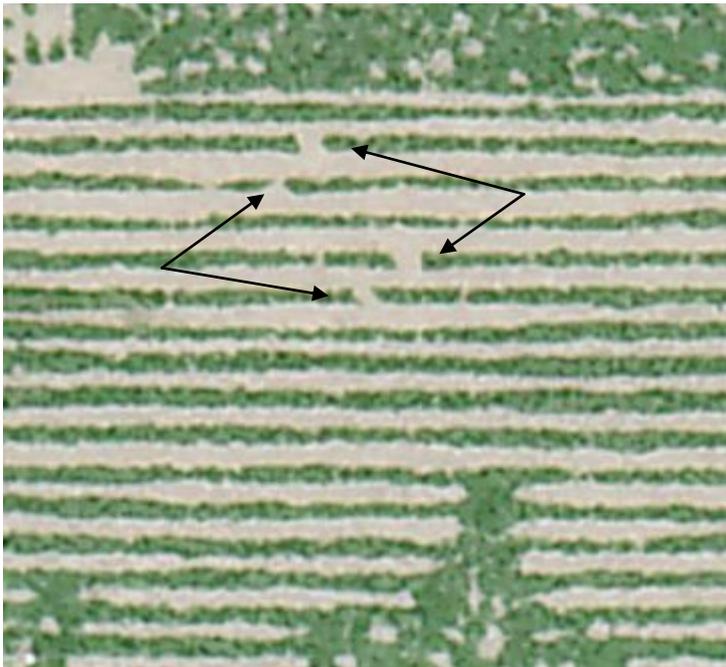
No plateable flaws identified.

1-51



- a) Nick in colour below 'AR' of 'MARION'
- b) White spot in colour over 'T' of 'TASMANIA';
- c) White spot on top of 'O' of 'MARION';

1-52



a) Four breaks in shading in central water over 'RIO' of ,MARION'.

Note: this is only relevant to early printings, later printings are too rough on detail.

1-53



a) Break in right frame 5.2mm above base frame.

1-54



- a) Top frame thinned towards right corner later shows as a break

Note: Do not collect as a single unless there is a full break.

1-55



- a) Distinctive breaks in shading in water at lower left of RVT.\;
- b) Bottom row watermark line.

1-56

No plateable flaws identified.

1-57



- a) White spot at top left of 'N' of 'TASMANIA';
- b) White spot between 'I' and 'A' of 'TASMANIA' close to the 'I';
- c) Bottom row watermark line.

1-58

No plateable flaws identified.

1-59



- a) Small vertical white flaw below right bottom ornament (variable).

1-60



- a) Top frame thins and later has breaks towards top right corner;
- b) Bottom row watermark.

Note: there are similar flaws, many of the right column positions have colour flaws which can assist confirming position.

Plate 2.

2-1

No plateable flaws identified.

2-2

No plateable flaws identified.

2-3

No plateable flaws identified.

2-4

No plateable flaws identified.

2-5

No plateable flaws identified.

2-6



a) nick in top frame above 'N' (variable).

2-7

No plateable flaws identified.

2-8 to 2-12

No plateable flaws identified.

2-13



- a) small white spot over top right triangular ornament 6½mm from right frame.

2-14



- a) White spot in front of left diagonal of first 'A';
- b) White spot in thick colour line above 'S';
- c) Nick in colour level with top of lower right ornament

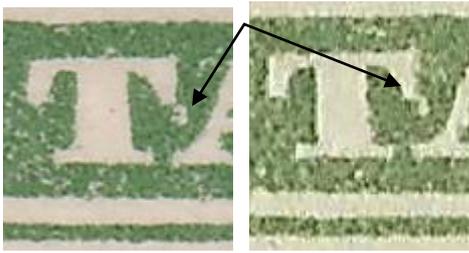
2-15



- a) White spot between 'A' and 'K' of 'LAKE'.

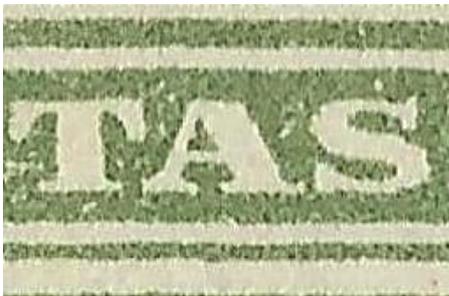
Note: was UCVxvi from Lancaster book.

2-16



- a) Small white flaw below and slightly right of right serif of 'T' of 'TASMANIA'.

2-17



Plated by Patrick Reid in Courier issue 25 December 1999 from Lancaster UCVvii.

- a) White spot below 'T' and another above 'S' of 'TASMANIA'

2-18



- a) Break in thick colour at right 4½ mm above base joining lower right ornament to vertical white line at right;
b) Later a white flaw forms inside right 'd'.

2-19

Plated by Patrick Reid in Courier issue 25 December 1999 from Lancaster UCVxv.

- a) White flaw in top colour above 'S'; white spot inside 'O'; nick in right colour 5 mm above base.

Not seen.

2-20



- a) White spots in top colour over right end of left triangular ornament and over 'T' of 'TASMANIA';
- b) Small white spot in right end of top left triangular ornament.

2-21

No plateable flaws identified.

2-22



- a) White spot in heavy colour line above right upright of 'M'.

2-23

No plateable flaws identified.

2-24



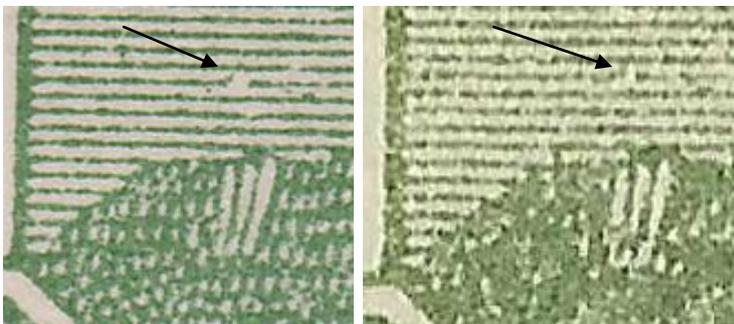
- a) Diagonal white dash breaking both frame-lines of RVT at top left.

2-25



- a) Colour spot in margin at right of top left ornament;
- b) Small white flaw at lower right of '2' in RVT;
- c) Nick in base color below .ON' of 'MARION'.

2-26



- a) Break in sky shading 4th line up from first ridge on left (variable).

2-27



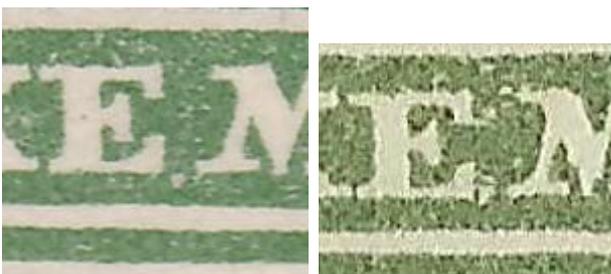
- a) White flaw under right leg of first 'A' of 'TASMANIA'.

2-28



- a) Spot attached to bottom of right upright of 'N' of 'MARION';
- b) Nick in outer vignette frame above 'K' of 'LAKE';
- c) Spur on top of left base triangular ornament frame (variable).

2-29

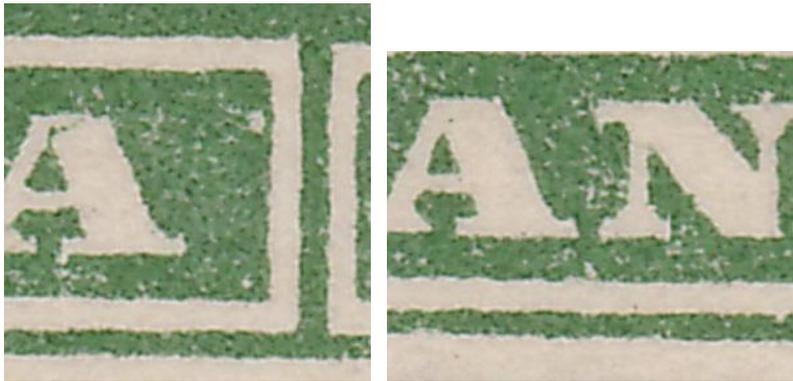


- a) White spot between 'E' and 'M' of 'LAKE MARION'.

2-30

No plateable flaws identified.

2-31



- a) White spot at right end of 'TASMANIA' block;
- b) Small spur up from title frame below 'AN' of 'TASMANIA' (variable);
- c) Minute white spot on top right of 'N' of 'TASMANIA' (variable).

Plating from article by Patrick Reid in the December 1999 Courier issue 25.

2-32



- a) White spot between 'I' and 'A' of 'TASMANIA';
- b) Small white down spur from title frame below 'R' of 'MARION' (variable).

2-33



- a) White flaw attached to right foot of third 'A' of 'TASMANIA'.

2-34



a) Nick in colour above 'T' of 'TASMANIA'.

2-35

No plateable flaws identified.

2-36

No plateable flaws identified.

2-37

No plateable flaws identified.

2-38



a) White spot in hills right of centre (variable).

2-39

No plateable flaws identified.

2-40

No plateable flaws identified.

2-41

No plateable flaws identified.

2-42



- a) Nick in colour at right level with base of top right ornament and 5½ mm below top.

2-43

No plateable flaws identified.

2-44

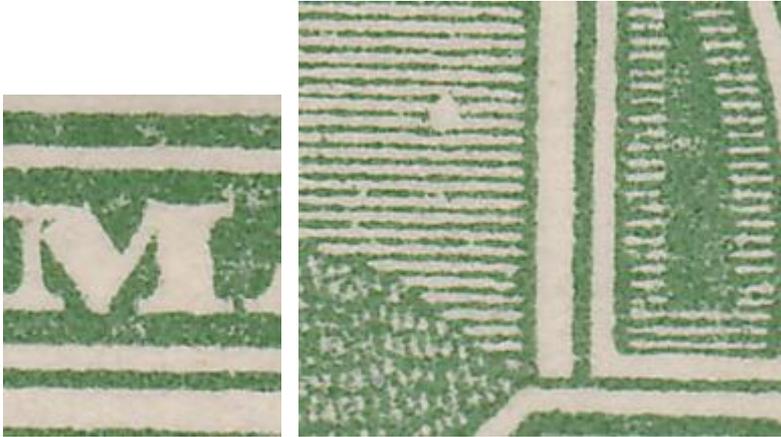


- a) Tiny white flaw above centre of 'M' of 'TASMANIA' (variable).
b) white flaw in left colour 6 mm above base (variable).

2-45

Lancaster UCvii "ii White spur on top right of 'M'; colour flaw in base of 'T'; white flaw in right sky 6 mm below top frame."

Plating confirmed by Patrick Reid in the December 1999 Courier issue 25 as three stages.

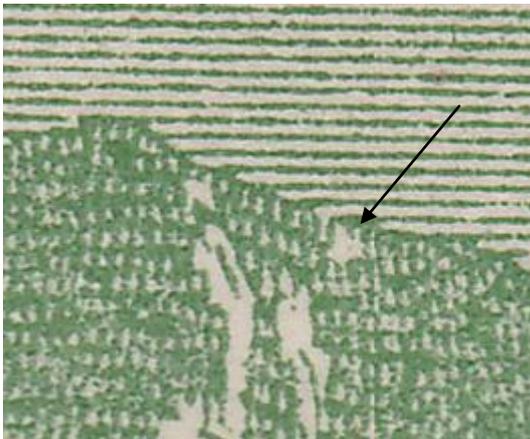


State 1: White spur on top right of 'M' of 'TASMANIA';

State 2: As state 1 plus white flaw in right sky 6mm below top frame;

State 3: As state 2 plus colour flaw in base of 'T' of 'TASMANIA'.

2-46



a) White spot in hills on right 11mm from right frame.

2-47



- a) White flaws at top and base of 'A' of 'MARION'.

2-48

No plateable flaws identified.

2-49

Plated by Lancaster "White dot between 'T' and 'A' on level with top."

Not seen.

2-50



- a) White dot to right of first 'A' of 'TASMANIA';
b) White spot to right of second 'A' of 'TASMANIA'.

Note: Was UCV iv

2-51



- a) Curved white spur on right of third 'A';

Note 1: Was UCVv

2-52

No plateable flaws identified.

2-53

No plateable flaws identified.

2-54



- a) Short diagonal white line attached to top right of last 'A' of 'TASMANIA' (variable).

2-55

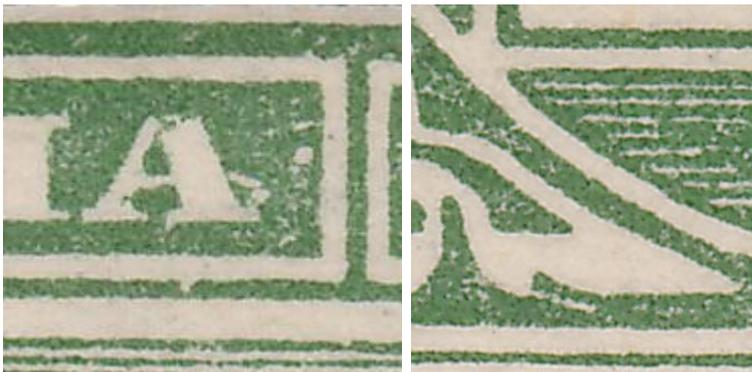
No plateable flaws identified.

2-56



- a) Small white horizontal dash in base colour below 'A' of 'LAKE';
- b) Colour spot in left upright of 'N' of 'MARION'.

2-57



- a) White flaws at lower right of last 'A' of 'TASMANIA' and white spot at central right;
- b) Horizontal white line attached to bottom right of bottom left corner ornament.

Note: was UCVv

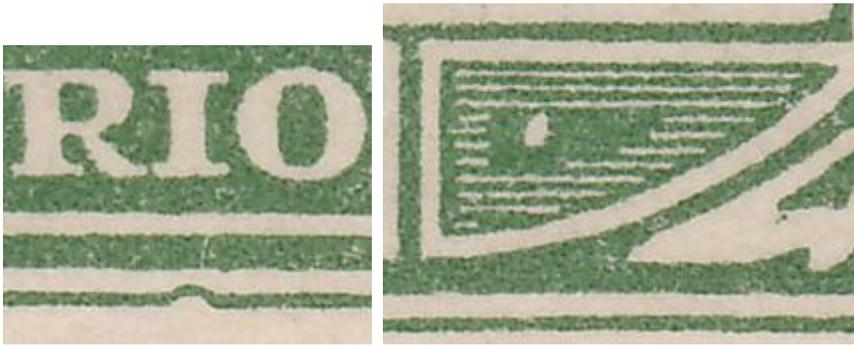
2-58

No plateable flaws identified.

2-59

No plateable flaws identified.

2-60



- a) Small buckle in base frame below 'I' of 'MARION';
- b) White spot in bottom right triangular ornament.