

Thomas De La Rue & Company Limited

1935 Silver Jubilee of King George V List of Common Design Printers and the Varieties

Printers

Printing for the common design stamps was undertaken by three companies. Waterlow & Sons prepared the master dies of the vignette and frames. Duplicates were provided to the other two printers. This accounts for the differences in varieties seen. Perforation size for the Waterlow and Bradbury printings were 11 x 12 whereas the De La Rue perforations were 13 1/2 x 14. The De la Rue printings contained the Frame Plate numbers on the bottom selvages (margins) under the second stamp in the bottom row (10/2) and Vignette Plate numbers under the fifth stamp in the bottom row (10/5). Although these were not present with the other printers the various plates have been identified. Bradbury and Waterlow undertook the printing for 15 colonies each (see below), while De La Rue did the printing for 14 colonies. The De la Rue company was also responsible for the issue of printing papers to all three printers.

Bradbury	De la Rue	Waterlow
Bechuanaland	Antigua	Ascension
British Honduras	Bahamas	Barbados
Falkland Islands	Basutoland	Bermuda
Gambia	British Guiana	Cyprus
Gibraltar	British Solomon Islands	Grenada
Gilbert & Ellice Islands	Cayman Islands	Leeward Islands
Gold Coast	Ceylon	Montserrat
Hong Kong	Dominica	Nigeria
Jamaica	Fiji	Nyasaland
Malta	Kenya, Uganda & Tanganyika	St. Christopher & Nevis
Newfoundland	Mauritius	St. Vincent
Seychelles	Northern Rhodesia	Somaliland
Sierra Leone	St. Helena	Straits Settlement
Swaziland	St. Lucia	Turks & Caicos
Trinidad & Tobago		Virgin Islands
Plates: 1-12	Plates: 2A,(2A), 2B, (2B) 4, 4/	Plates: 1, 2A, 2B, 3-10

The next pages list the plates used with the various denominations of each colony, a listing of the major and minor varieties, and a table showing the major varieties found on the stamps of the colonies.

Plate Pairings:

Vignette plates were printed as pairs on the printing cylinder. The groupings below are the ones described by Cooper.

Plates: 2A & 2B; 4 & 4/; (2A) & (2B)

Plating Legend

- = Plate identified
- ? = Plate assumed. Yet to be confirmed

Stamp Sheets – Vignette Plates used and Numbers of stamps printed.

Colony	Value	2A	(2A)	2B	(2B)	4	4/	No. printed
Antigua	1d	●	●	●	?			122,040
	1½d					●	●	82,200
	2½ d		?	●				69,120
Bahamas	1/-		●		?	●	?	53,100
	1½d					●	●	278,400
	2½d	●		●				200,100
	6d	?		●				102,960
Basutoland	1/-					●	●	63,060
	1d	●	●	?	●			1,388,820
	2d	●		●				691,860
	3d	?		●		●	●	94,440
British Guiana	6d			●		●	●	77,160
	2c	●		?		●	●	2,592,780
	6c	●		●		●	?	144,900
	12c	●		?		●	●	103,800
British Solomon Islands	24c					●	●	89,220
	1½d	●		●		●	●	177,480
	3d	●		?		●	●	40,140
	6d	?		●		●	●	36,000
Cayman Islands	1/-	●	●	●	●	●	●	36,600
	½d	●	?	●	?	●	●	226,260
	2½d	●	●	●	?			94,140
	6d	?		●		●	●	55,680
Ceylon	1/-	?		●		●	●	55,200
	6c	●	●	●	?	●	●	11,433,240
	9c	●		●		●	●	1,085,040
	20c	●	?	●	?		●	456,300
Dominica	50c					●	●	821,400
	1d	●		●		●	●	147,720
	1½d	●		?		●	?	132,120
	2½d		●	●	●			64,500
Fiji	1/-		●		?	●	●	51,620
	1½d	●	?	●	●	●	●	118,835
	2d	●	●	●	●			620,700
	3d	?		●		●	●	74,050
Kenya, Uganda, Tanganyika	1/-	●	?	?	●	●	●	55,440
	20c	●		●		●	●	3,729,120
	30c	●		●		●	●	591,720
	65c	●		●				484,500
	1/-	●		●		●	?	534,360
Mauritius	5c	●	●	●	?	●	●	702,720
	12c	●		●				150,000
	20c	●		●				141,300
	1r					●	●	36,600
Northern Rhodesia	1d	●		●		●	●	1,588,140
	2d	●		●				531,060
	3d	●	?	●	●			103,260
	6d		●		?	●	●	135,780
St. Helena	1½d	●	●	●	●			73,380
	2d	●	●	●	?		●	70,800
	6d	●	●	?	●	●	●	37,800
	1/-		●		●	●	●	33,300
St. Lucia	½d	●		●				207,780
	2d	●	●	?	?			163,920
	2½d	●		●				85,140
	1/-		?		●	●	●	51,240

Dates of dispatch of sheets, Numbers of sheets printed and Sheet Numbers used

Colony /	Date	No. printed	Sheet numbers	No. printed	Sheet Numbers	No. printed	Sheet Numbers	No. printed	Sheet numbers
Antigua		1d		1½d		2½ d		1/-	
	March 6, 1935	1,598	1 - 1198	1,152	1 - 802	690	1 - 440	390	1 - 220
	July 5, 1935							275	1 - 275
	September 30, 1935	208	1 - 208	218	1 - 218	220	1 - 220	220	1 - 220
	November 14, 1935	228	1 - 228			242	1 - 242		
	<i>Total sheets printed</i>	<i>2,034</i>		<i>1,370</i>		<i>1,152</i>		<i>885</i>	
Bahamas		1½d		2½d		6d		1/-	
	February 27, 1935	4,640	1 - 4290	3,335	1 - 3085	1,166	1 - 970	501	1 - 331
	August 13, 1935					550	1 - 550	550	1 - 550
	<i>Total sheets printed</i>	<i>4,640</i>		<i>3,335</i>		<i>1,716</i>		<i>1,051</i>	
Basutoland		1d		2d		3d		6d	
	March 3, 1935	13,315	Not numbered	11,531	Not numbered	1,030	Not numbered	736	Not numbered
	July 2, 1935					544		550	
	July 11, 1935	9,832							
	<i>Total sheets printed</i>	<i>23,147</i>		<i>11,531</i>		<i>1,574</i>		<i>1,286</i>	
British Guiana		2c		6c		12c		24c	
	February 22, 1935	36,713	181x200; 1-113	1,975	8x200; 1-150	1,070	4x200; 1-80	1,050	4x200; 1-80
	Aug 29 – Sept 5, 1935	6,500	32c200; 1-10	440	2x200; 1-20	660	3x200; 1-60	437	2x200; 1-37
	<i>Total sheets printed</i>	<i>43,213</i>		<i>2,415</i>		<i>1,730</i>		<i>1,487</i>	
	Note: Sheets were numbered in batches from 1 – 200 (first figure) plus extra sheets to number less than 200 (second figure)								
British Solomon Islands		1½d		3d		6d		1/-	
	January 7, 1935	2,528	Not numbered	445	Not numbered	400	Not numbered	280	Not numbered
	July 13, 1935	430		224		200		220	
	December 1935							110	
	<i>Total sheets printed</i>	<i>2,958</i>		<i>669</i>		<i>600</i>		<i>610</i>	
Cayman Islands		½d		2½d		6d		1/-	
	January 27, 1935	2,075	Not numbered	1,350	Not numbered	373	Not numbered	353	Not numbered
	August 14, 1935	367				180		183	
	September 30, 1935	367		110		275		275	
	November 30, 1935	440		109		100		109	
	December 1935	522							
	<i>Total sheets printed</i>	<i>3,771</i>		<i>1,569</i>		<i>928</i>		<i>920</i>	
Ceylon		6c		9c		20c		50c	
	March 9, 1935			18,084	Not numbered				
	March 15, 1935					7,605	Not numbered	13,690	Not numbered
	April 12, 1935	190,554	Not numbered						
	<i>Total sheets printed</i>	<i>190,554</i>		<i>18,084</i>		<i>7,605</i>		<i>13,690</i>	

Dates of dispatch of sheets, Numbers of sheets printed and Sheet Numbers used

Colony /	Date	No. printed	Sheet numbers	No. printed	Sheet Numbers	No. Printed	Sheet Numbers	No. printed	Sheet numbers
Dominica		1d		1½d		2½d		1/-	
	March 7, 1935	2,462	1 - 2062	2,202	1 - 1852	1,075	1 - 825	445	1 - 275
	August 29, 1935							220	1 - 220
	November, 1935							195 20/60	1 - 185
	<i>Total sheets printed</i>	2,462		2,202		1,075		860 20/60	
Fiji		1½d		2d		3d		1/-	
	February 28, 1935	1,010	1 - 660	10,200	1 - 9900	775	1 - 550	500	1 - 330
	August 20, 1935	600	1 - 600			325 50/60	1 - 325	220	1 - 220
	September 25, 1935	100						100	
	December 9, 1935	270 35/60		145		133 20/60		104	
	<i>Total sheets printed</i>	1,980 35/60		10,345		1,234 +10/60		924	
NB: The third and fourth prints were for Dealers only and were not numbered									
Kenya, Uganda, Tanganyika		20c		30c		65c		1/-	
	February 20, 1935	59,402	1 - 59152	8,086	1 - 7886	8,075	1 - 7885	6,806	1 - 6636
	August 15, 1935			1,776	1 - 1776			2,100	1 - 2100
	September 4, 1935	2,750	1 - 2750						
	<i>Total sheets printed</i>	62,152		9,862		8,075		8,906	
Mauritius		5c		12c		20c		1R	
	February 23, 1935	11,712	Not numbered	2,500	Not numbered	2,355	Not numbered	610	Not numbered
Northern Rhodesia		1d		2d		3d		6d	
	February 23, 1935	8,969	1 - 8569	8,851	1 - 8551	953	1 - 728	1,620	1 - 1430
	July 25, 1935	17,500	1 - 17500						
	October 10, 1935					768	1 - 768	643	1 - 643
	<i>Total sheets printed</i>	26,469		8,851		1,721		2,263	
St. Helena		1½d		2d		6d		1/-	
	March 11, 1935	893	Not numbered	850	Not numbered	410	Not numbered	335	Not numbered
	July 1, 1935	330		330		220		220	
	<i>Total sheets printed</i>	1223		1180		630		555	
St. Lucia		½d		2d		2½d		1/-	
	March 7, 1935	2,800	Not numbered	2,424	Not numbered	1,089	Not numbered	524	Not numbered
	October 24, 1935	330		308		330		330	
	December 31, 1935	333 20/60							
	<i>Total sheets printed</i>	3,463 +20/60		2,732		1,419		854	

(Information per Nicholas Levinge – 1st Edition Flagstaff, 1987. Source: Requisition books and plate issue books in Crown Archives in British Library)

Notes to Printings

Information from the De la Rue archives produced the following additional information

Specimen stamps – a total of 421 specimen stamps of each value for each colony was printed. There is no information regarding the numbers printed by the other two printers, but it is likely it was the same number.

Discrepancies are noted between the De la Rue and Crown Agents Archives with respect to numbers printed from the first printing of the below colonies (The tables above list the official numbers from the Crown Agents records).

Numbers of Sheets printed

Colony	Tablet Value	Crown Agents	De la Rue
British Guiana	2c	36,713	36,313
Dominica	1½ d	2,202	2,404
Kenya, Uganda and Tanganyika	65c	8,075	8,076
Northern Rhodesia	3d	953	974 40/60

Description of listed De la Rue Varieties

The listed varieties below are those noted as occurring on the various plates. The subsequent country listing includes only those stamps where the actual variety has been noted. The plate indicator on the country listings would suggest that these varieties could be found.

Row/Column	Description	Variety Grade*
Plate 2A		
10/1	Diagonal line at edge of Brunswick Tower	A
10/2	Diagonal line at edge of Brunswick Tower – angles up at about 20°	A
10/2a	Broken flagstaff	C
Plate (2A)		
1/6	Diagonal line cutting across right upper corner of frame	B
3/6	Short vertical line above middle of St. George's Chapel	B
6/4	Short line rising from State Apartments to left of Norman Gate	C
7/6	Prominent dot in sky to right of turret of St. George's Chapel	B
10/2	Short line arising from left spire of St. Georges Chapel	C
10/4	Short line protruding upwards from side of Curfew Tower	C
10/5	Three slightly angled parallel lines outside lower frame	B
Plate 2B		
1/4	Left slanting diagonal hairline from high above left turret of Chapel through frame	
8/3	Dot just above and slightly to left of King Henry III Tower	A
10/5	Prominent waves on river in front of Round Tower	
Plate (2B)		
1/1	Tiny vertical dash in sky 3.4mm above and 0.6mm to left of centre of Curfew Tower	B
5/5	Tiny spot in sky, 0.7 mm above UR corner of Winchester Tower	B
5/6	5mm horizontal line in right selvedge just below level of tip of top of Curfew Tower (Thought to be a printer's mark)	B
5/6	A pair of tiny spots in the UR corner of the sky, just inside the inner frame lines/corner. The pair align at 45° from UL to LR and are about 0.2 mm apart.	B
6/1	Tiny spot in sky about 2.7 mm above the tip of the Curfew Tower and 2/3 mm left of the tower centerline.	B
6/2	Tiny spot in sky above the left pillar at the front of St. George's Chapel, about 1/4 mm up and 1/4 mm left of pillar tip.	B
6/4	Trio of tiny spots near left edge of sky, just above the level of the horizontal frame lines under the Orb.	B
10/1	Small spot in sky near UL corner, approx. 1/2 mm below inner top frame line and approx. 1 mm to right of inner frame line to right of the Orb.	B
10/2	Tiny spot in Thames River, 1.3 mm to the right of tip of Brocas Meadow	B

Description of listed De la Rue Varieties (Continued)

Row/Column	Description	Variety Grade*
Plate 4		
1/1	Dot to left of middle of flagstaff	B
1/5	Short left slanting line arising from middle of State Apartments	B
5/2	Short horizontal line above St. George's Chapel	B
5/6	Small dot (broken line) in water near tip of Brocas Meadow	B
6/5	Dot above and to left of flagstaff on Round Tower	B
8/4	Dot just to left of flagstaff on Round Tower	A
10/2	Dot high above Curfew Tower	B
10/4	Dot high in sky above right edge of Round Tower	B
Plate 4/		
1/6	Spot 5mm above and 0.8 mm to left Brunswick Tower	B
3/6	Dash at left vignette border opposite the Brunswick Tower	A
5/4	Dot high in sky above right gable of St. George's Chapel	B
5/6	Dot in sky above King Henry III Tower	A
6/5	Short lightning conductor on left edge of Brunswick Tower	B
6/6	Dot just to right edge of Curfew tower	B
7/1	Dot at right vignette border at level of Curfew Tower	B
7/5	"Rowboat" in middle of River Thames in front of King Henry III Tower	B
8/5	Very short lightning conductor on left edge of Round Tower	C
8/6	Dots below first letter of Colony and to right of Curfew Tower	B
10/1	Right up slanting hairline from frame through to Brocas Meadow	B

Described Varieties where plate/position unknown i.e. Grade D

Row/Column	Description	Country	Value
6/3 (UK1)	Spur on "F" of Fiji	Fiji	1½d
6/4 (UK2)	Detached Flag	Fiji	1½d
? (UK3)	Slanted lightning conductor on Brunswick Tower	Fiji	2d
? (UK4)	Patch of colour missing in Value Tablet	Fiji	1/-
? (UK5)	Lightning Conductor middle of Round Tower	KUT	1/-
? (UK6)	Damage to roof of State Apartments	KUT	1/-
10/6 (UK7)	Plate scratch through lake and Diaresis above "S" of Castle	Mauritius	5c
? (UK8)	Extra flagstaff on King Henry III Tower	N. Rhodesia	6d
? (UK9)	Line from "E" in Postage up through word Castle – Frame	St. Helena	1/-
? (UK10)	Broken flagstaff	St. Lucia	½d
? (UK11)	Second, short flagstaff on Round Tower	St. Lucia	1/-
? (UK12)	Very Short lightning conductor on Henry III Tower	Mauritius	1r
? (UK13)	Short lightning conductor on Henry III Tower	KUT	65c

Grading of Varieties

Grade	Description
Type A	Varieties commonly described, appearing in books or catalogues. These may be found on one or more stamps.
Type B	Known varieties, not commonly described, but found on two or more different stamps.
Type C	Known varieties, not commonly described, but found on one stamp only.
Type D	Described variety where the position of the stamp is unknown.

Notes:

1. Kenya, Uganda and Tanganyika 1/- has a frame variety (line through 0 of 1910) which is unique to this stamp only. It occurs in Row 4, Column 2.
2. Kenya, Uganda and Tanganyika 20c also has a frame variety (line starting in the right margin going diagonally through the date). It occurs in Row 3, Column 5.
3. Kenya, Uganda and Tanganyika 30c. Frame re-entry near value tablet. Plate 4/, Row 1, Column 6.
4. Northern Rhodesia 1d has one frame plate damage through most of column 6.
5. Part of Fiji 1½d issue is known to have the perforations pins arranged as irregular comb (giving the impression of line perforations) rather than regular comb perforation, which was the usual process. These stamps also differ in that they were perforated through the bottom margin instead of top margin.
6. Albino frames have been described for:
 - a. British Solomon Islands 6d (Frame printed triple with 2 albino – only 5 or 6 examples known) and 1/- (Frame printed double with 1 albino – only 3 examples known). There may also be an albino 1½d
 - b. Fiji 1½d and 1/-
 - c. Northern Rhodesia 6d (Only 8 copies known)
 - d. St. Helena 6d
 - e. St. Lucia 2½d (Frame printed double – 1 albino. Only one example known)

Note on De la Rue Plate Identification

The De la Rue printings contained the Frame Plate numbers on the bottom selvages (margins) under the second stamp in the bottom row (10/2) and Vignette Plate numbers under the fifth stamp in the bottom row (10/5), in the colour of the vignette.

Frame Plate 1A was used exclusively for Fiji. Frame Plate 1 was used for the other colonies. Not all Colonies used Frame Plate numbers. Of interest is that these were made individually for each Colony value. If one compares the frame measurements between the different stamps one will find slight variation in sizes. All sheets had vignette numbers printed. Vignette plate numbers (2A) and (2B), also called "abnormal" because of their position, are situated much lower and further away from the bottom stamp. They appear in print as 2A and 2B respectively and in many instances have been partially or completely cut off. Plate (2A) can also be identified by the presence of three slightly angled parallel lines found under the fifth stamp in the bottom row (10/5) but to the left of where the vignette number should be.

Vignette Plate Number 4 presents in two formats. In the first the Number 4 is found under Stamp 10/5. In the second format designated 4/ a 6mm vertical line appears under Stamp 10/6 usually in line with the left border of the Order of the Garter. Another short vertical line is found at the top of the sheet, above Stamp 1/6

Ainscough has developed a simple method of identifying the distance and position of the different plates. Using the flagstaff on the top of the Round Tower as the "anchor point" he has produced the following measurements. (Ref: Flagstaff 5th Edition p36. 1989)



	X mm	Y mm
2A & 2B - normal	6	25.5
(2A) & (2B) - abnormal	0	34.5
4	7	27.5
Line for 4/	13	29.0

Sheet numbers are found above the last stamp of Row 1 i.e. Row/Column 1/6. Note that not every colony had their sheets numbered. It appears that when half sheets were printed the sheet number was placed above the last stamp i.e. Stamp (Row/Column) 1/3

De la Rue Plate varieties

Colony	Value	Plate 2A			Plate (2A)				Plate 2B			Plate (2B)							
		10/1	10/2	10/2a	1/6	3/6	7/6	10/5	1/4	8/3	10/5	1/1	5/5	5/6	6/1	6/2	6/4	10/1	10/2
Antigua	1d	●	●		●	●	●	●											
	1½d																		
	2½d									●									
	1/-																		
Bahamas	1½d																		
	2½d	●	●							●									
	6d									●									
	1/-																		
Basutoland	1d	●	●		●	●	●	●											
	2d	●	●							●									
	3d									●									
	6d																		
British Guiana	2c	●	●																
	6c		●							●									
	12c		●																
	24c																		
British Solomon Is.	1½d	●	●																
	3d	●	●																
	6d																		
	1/-		●		●	●	●	●											
Cayman Islands	½d	●	●	●					●	●									
	2½d																		
	6d																		
	1/-																		
Ceylon	6c	●	●							●									
	9c	●	●							●									
	20c	●	●							●									
	50c																		

Plate identified

Plate assumed. Yet to be confirmed



De la Rue Plate varieties

Colony	Value	Plate 2A		Plate (2A)							Plate 2B			Plate (2B)							
		10/1	10/2	1/6	3/6	6/4	7/6	10/2	10/4	10/5	1/4	8/3	10/5	1/1	5/5	5/6	6/1	6/2	6/4	10/1	10/2
Dominica	1d		●								●	●									
	1½d		●																		
	2½d				●																
	1/-																				
Fiji	1½d													●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	2d	●	●									●		●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	3d	●	●																		
	1/-	●	●											●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
KUT	20c	●	●																		
	30c	●	●									●									
	65c	●	●									●									
	1/-	●	●																		
Mauritius	5c	●	●									●	●								
	12c	●	●									●									
	20c	●	●									●									
1r																					
Northern Rhodesia	1d	●	●									●									
	2d	●	●									●									
	3d	●	●									●									
	6d					●		●	●												
St. Helena	1½d	●	●	●	●		●	●	●	●											
	2d	●	●		●							●									
	6d	●	●		●																
	1/-				●																
St. Lucia	½d	●	●								●	●									
	2d	●	●																		
	2½d		●									●									
	1/-																				

Plate identified

Plate assumed. Yet to be confirmed



De la Rue Plate varieties



Colony	Value	Plate 4								Plate 4/										
		1/1	1/5	5/2	5/6	6/5	8/4	10/2	10/4	1/6	3/6	5/4	5/6	6/5	6/6	7/1	7/5	8/5	8/6	10/1
Antigua	1d																			
	1½d																			
	2½d																			
	1/-						•													
Bahamas	1½d	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•		•	•	•
	2½d																			
	6d						•													
	1/-						•													
Basutoland	1d																			
	2d																			
	3d						•													
	6d						•				•	•	•	•	•	•			•	•
British Guiana	2c						•			•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		•	•
	6c						•													
	12c	•					•				•									
	24c	•		•			•	•			•									
British Solomon Is.	1½d						•				•	•	•	•	•	•			•	
	3d						•													
	6d						•				•									
	1/-						•				•		•							
Cayman Islands	½d						•				•									
	2½d																			
	6d						•				•									
	1/-						•				•									
Ceylon	6c						•				•	•	•	•	•	•			•	•
	9c						•						•							
	20c												•							
	50c						•													

Plate identified
 Plate assumed. Yet to be confirmed



De la Rue Plate varieties

Colony	Value	Plate 4								Plate 4/											
		1/1	1/5	5/2	5/6	6/5	8/4	10/2	10/4	1/6	3/6	5/4	5/6	6/5	6/6	7/1	7/5	8/5	8/6	10/1	
Dominica	1d						●				●	●	●	●	●	●				●	●
	1½d						●														
	2½d																				
	1/-						●														
Fiji	1½d						●				●	●	●		●	●	●				
	2d																				
	3d				●		●		●	●	●	●	●		●	●	●			●	
	1/-						●		●												
Kenya, Uganda, Tanganyika	20c						●				●		●								
	30c						●				●		●								
	65c																				
	1/-																				
Mauritius	5c						●						●								
	12c																				
	20c												●								
	1r						●														
Northern Rhodesia	1d	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		●	●	●	●	●	●				●	●
	2d																				
	3d																				
	6d						●														
St. Helena	1½d																				
	2d												●							●	
	6d						●														
	1/-						●				●		●		●						
St. Lucia	½d																				
	2d																				
	2½d																				
	1/-						●													●	

Plate identified 
 Plate assumed. Yet to be confirmed 

Neil Donen
October 12, 2003