



## Rhodesia – Double Heads

### Introduction to Head-plate Flaws



**Flaws**, as opposed to Shop Marks, are **accidental** but they are no less valuable as evidence in the Double Head story. The focus here is on **Major Flaws** (those visible either to the naked eye or easily seen with low power magnification) as opposed to minor flaws which require higher power magnification to be seen and which are very numerous, indeed they number in the thousands! Of particular interest are **Transitional Flaws** (or Transitional Marks), i.e. those that occur on two or more plates and prove the relationship between the plates. (Amongst the Shop Marks in the preceding section the only transitional features are the Medal Marks, the Bottom Row Marks, the King's Extra Eyebrow Line on Position 15, the 6th Rayon Dash on Position 22, and the "Button Flaw" on Position 26.) It is worth the trouble to consider briefly the **flaw types** and how they are caused:

1) **Roller Misalignments**: where the transfer roller die (which presses the impression into the plate) slips out of its proper groove and makes an extra (double) image in some portion of the design. (Examples: LG I-III, Position 25 "Lines by King's Cheek", LG I-III, Position 46 "King's Extra Curl", MG-TE Position 20 "Double Tiara Rayons", and on the Frame-plates in their late states numerous doublings of scroll contours and horizontal lines in the corners of the design.) These are also called "Shifted Entries."

2) **Rust or Corrosion Flaws**: occur when, through whatever agency, the plate begins to deteriorate chemically. (Examples: MG-TE Position 4 "Queen's Cheek Flaw", MG-TE Position 36 "Rust Flaw", HK III Position 13 "Corrosion Marks".)

3) **Scratches**: (Examples: MG-SG Positions 9/14 "Vertical Scratch from the South-West corner of Position 9 to the North-West corner of Position 14"; MG II-HK Position 17 "Curved Scratch below the Queen"; SG-HK Position 20 "Diagonal Scratch below King"; MG-TE Position 30 "Vertical Scratch SE of Queen"; etc...)

4) **Recurrent Transfer Roller Flaws**: these occur when some foreign material gets impacted in the transfer roller which makes an unintended indentation at the same place in the design on two or more positions in succession. (Examples: MG-TE Positions 14-15 "Queen's Dark Ear"; MG-TE Position 44-45 "Mark in the Bay on the King's Right Shoulder" - Mid-Gash Roller Die (MGRD) Flaw; HK Positions 46-49 "Mark Above the 2nd Rayon" - The Hook Roller Die (HRD) Flaw; NG Positions 36-49 "Dot East of Queen's Chin" - No Gash Roller Die (NGRD) Flaw. Flaws like the NGRD are very important for printing identification because they occur on many positions and are easily seen.)

5) **Break in the Roller Die**: this causes the distortion or omission of a feature in the design (Example: Clipped wing tail linings in the Value Circles that identify the second 6d. Frame-plate.)

In addition to the above there are dots and other marks of various origins, such as MG-TE Position 3 "Z-Flaw" (a tool mark); TE Position 6 "Queen's Tiara Flaw" (vandalism?); TE Position 8 "Three Identical Pairs of Marks (a comma and a dot) East of King" (another tool mark?); LG III-HK, TE, & NG Position 14 "Dots below King's Medal"; MG-TE Position 24 "King's Forehead Flaw"; NG Position 28 "Hairpin (or Staple) Flaw" (a third tool mark?); NG Position 29 "Club Flaw"; etc...

## Proving Marks

Finally, a word needs to be said about "**Proving Marks**": these are flaws or other marks that exist only on a certain state of one plate and can identify a stamp with a particular printing with absolute certainty. (Examples: the "Lion's Footprint" on Position 9 can only be LG I; the "Corrosion Marks" on Position 13 can only be HK III; and the "Crossed out Medal (Aiguillette)" on Position 26 can only be TE I (2) ) Only a few "Proving Marks" are large enough to be easily seen with the naked eye. Most are tiny and elusive and need not concern the neophyte collector - and for that reason, they are not illustrated here - although they will in time become the primary concern and interest for the specialist.

# Head-plate Flaws

## Position 1 - "Vertical Scratches Below King" – HK II-III



"Vertical Scratches Below King"  
HK II-III: Position 1



"Vertical Scratches Below King"  
HK II-III: Position 1

**Vertical Scratches Below King:** Two parallel vertical scratches under the King's right shoulder near the "E" of RHODESIA. **Important flaw** as it is one of the criteria to distinguish HK I from HK II.

## Position 1 - "Two Dots Above 2<sup>nd</sup> Rayon" – NG I & II (All states)



"Two Dots Above 2<sup>nd</sup> Rayon"  
NG I & II (All states): Position 1

**Two Dots Above 2<sup>nd</sup> Rayon:** Large oval South-East dot and a smaller dot to the South-West.

## Position 1 - "Dot 2.9mm East of King" – NG II (5) (late) – (8)



"Dot 2.9mm East of King"  
NG II (5) (late) – (8): Position 1

**Dot 2.9mm East of King:** Dot between the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> lines over the King's ear.

# Head-plate Flaws

## Position 3 or 8 - "Z" Flaw – MG I-II & TE I (1) (Only)



"Z Flaw"  
MG I: Position 8



"Z Flaw"  
MG II: Position 3



"Z Flaw"  
TE I (1): Position 3

**Z-Flaw:** Stylized "Z" shaped flaw 5.5mm South-South-East of the King's left shoulder. Large flaw over 1mm area.

## Position 3 - "Large Dot 2.6mm NW of King's Curl" – TE I (3) – II (5)



"Large Dot 2.6mm NW of King's Curl"  
TE I (3)- II (5): Position 3

**Large Dot 2.6mm NW of King's Curl:** Very large dot from 2.6mm to 2.8mm North-West (@ 60°) of the King's curl.

## Position 3, 8, 13, & 18 - "Doubling of Areas around Portraits" – TE II (5) (Intermittent)



"Doubling of Areas around Portraits"  
TE II (5): Position 3, 8, 13, & 18

**Doubling of Areas around Portraits:** Partial double printing especially of the Queen's ear and neck. Occurs primarily on the top four rows, mainly in the middle column, especially on 6d, RSC-H. (Also exists to different extents on Positions 2, 7, 12, & 23)



## Head-plate Flaws

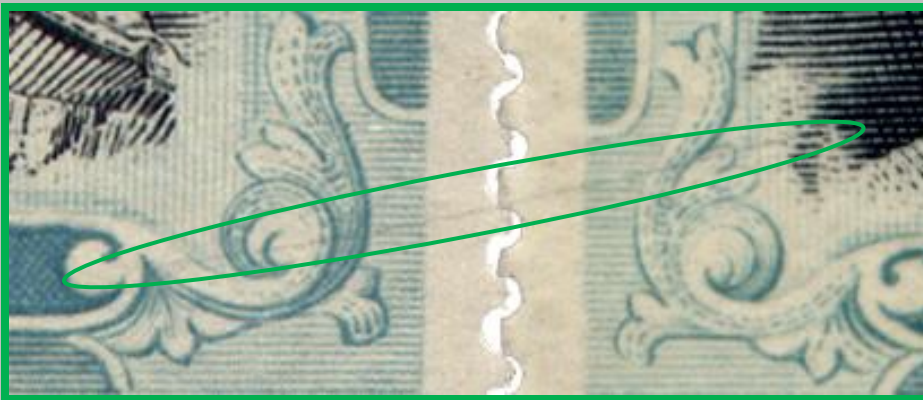
### Position 3 - "Large 4-5mm NE Gouge" – NG I (4) only



"Large 4-5mm NE Gouge"  
NG I (4): Position 3

**Large 4-5mm North-East Gouge (South of King's left shoulder):**  
(1) Large diagonal scratch (4mm to 5mm gouge) below the King's medals.

### Position 4/5 - Mid-Gash Scratch – MG I-II & SG I



"Scratch (To the East) Below King's Medals"  
MG I-II: Position 4

"Scratch (To the West) at Bottom of Queen's Neck"  
MG I-II: Position 5

**Position 4-5 Mid-Gash Scratch:** Thin North-East scratch extending East from a point 2.5mm below the King's medals through the East margin and onto position 5; extends 5mm (+) North-East to the bottom of the Queen's neck.

### Position 4 - "Queen's Cheek Flaw" – MG I-II, SG I-III, & HK I-III)



"Queen's Cheek Flaw"  
MG I-II: Position 4



"Queen's Cheek Flaw"  
SG I-III: Position 4



"Queen's Cheek Bruise"  
HK I-III - Position 4

**Queen's Cheek Flaw:** Corrosion flaw on the Queen's cheek, 0.5mm South-West of her right eye. (HK I-III) the flaw is diminished, appearing as a faint "bruise" over the same area where the "Cheek Flaw" had been.

## Position 4 - "Queen's Cheek Flaw" – TE 1-5 & NO "King's Temple Flaw" – TE I (1) (only)

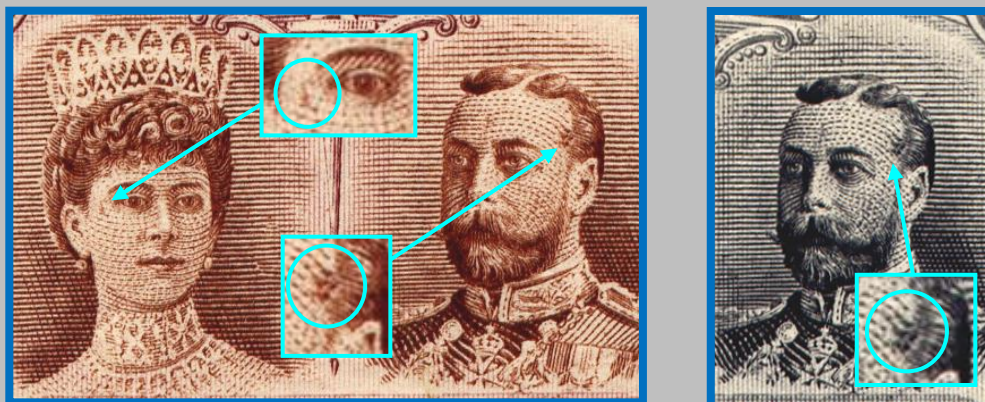


**Queen's Cheek Flaw**  
**TE 1-5:** Corrosion flaw on the Queen's cheek, 0.5mm South-West of her right eye. No evidence of King's Temple Corrosion flaw on **TE I (1)** printings.

"Queen's Cheek Flaw"  
 TE I (1-3) – II (4-5): Position 4

**NO** "King's Temple Flaw"  
 TE I (1) (only): Position 4

## Position 4 - "Queen's Cheek Flaw" – TE 1-5 & "King's Temple Flaw" – TE 2-5



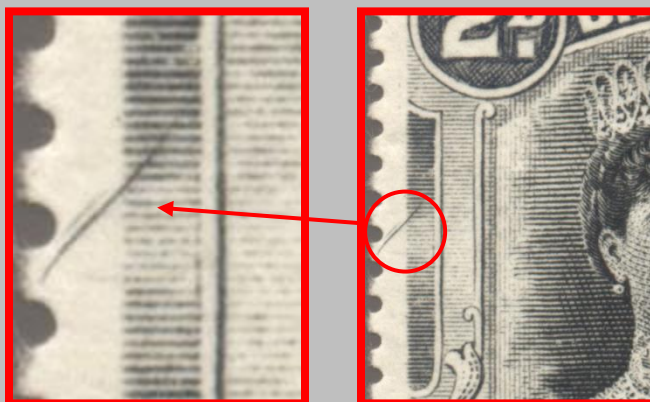
**Queen's Cheek & King's Temple Flaw:**  
 The "King's Temple Flaw" is a Corrosion / Rust Flaw and exists in two States: (1) 4 dots on **TE I (2)** and **SG145 (TE I (3))**, and (2) 5 dots close together on **2d, RSC-A (TE I (3))** and **TE II (4-5)**.

"Queen's Cheek Flaw"  
 TE I (1-3) – II (4-5): Position 4

(1) "King's Temple Flaw"  
 TE I (2) & SG145: Position 4

(2) "King's Temple Flaw"  
 2d, RSC-A – TE II (4-5): Position 4

## Position 4 - "Large 3mm NE Gouge" – NG I (4) – II (5)

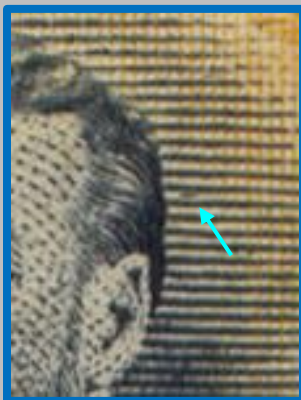


**Large 3mm North-East Gouge (6mm West of Queen):** Deep, thick, crooked, 3mm diagonal North-East gouge from 7.5mm to 6mm West of the Queen, just over the level of the top of her ear. Progressive wear on the **NG II (5)** print run rendered the gouge thinner until finally absent.

"Large 3mm NE Gouge"  
 NG I (4) – II (5): Position 4



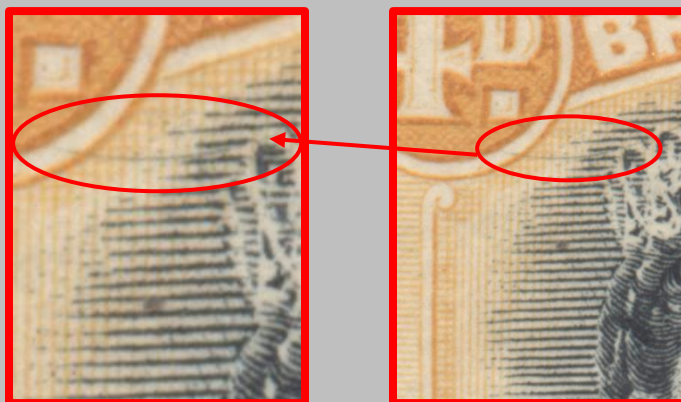
## Position 5 - "Dash 0.5mm E of King" (Over 5<sup>th</sup> Line Above His Ear) – TE I (2-3) – II (4-5)



**Dash 0.5mm East of King (Over 5<sup>th</sup> Line Above His Ear):** Tiny, horizontal dash 0.5mm East of King between 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> lines above his ear.

"Dash 0.5mm E of King"  
TE I (2-3) – II (4-5) : Position 5

## Position 5 - "Curved Scratch from 2<sup>nd</sup> Rayon" (onto WVC) – NG II (6-8)



**Curved Scratch from 2<sup>nd</sup> Rayon (onto WVC):** Curved scratch from the 2<sup>nd</sup> rayon onto the West Value Circle.

"Curved Scratch from 2<sup>nd</sup> Rayon"  
NG II (6-8) : Position 5

## Position 6 - Dot on Top of the 5<sup>th</sup> Rayon – HK II-III



**Dot on Top of the 5<sup>th</sup> Rayon:** Distinct dot on the North-East part of the rail of the 5<sup>th</sup> rayon.

"Dot on Top of 5<sup>th</sup> Rayon"  
HK II-III: Position 6

# Head-plate Flaws

## Position 6 - "Queen's Tiara Flaw" – TE I (2-3) – II (4-5)



**Queen's Tiara Flaw:**  
The bottom of the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th rays are smeared with various flaws causing the base of their bows to lose definition.

"Queen's Tiara Flaw"  
TE I (2-3) – II (4-5) : Position 6

## Position 6 - "Smudges W of King's Beard" – NG I & II (all states)



**Smudges West of King's Beard:** Smudges just West of the King's beard over the 4th, 5th, and 6th lines below his mustache, arcing to the South-East 0.4mm West of the beard.

"Smudges W of King's Beard"  
NG I & II (all states): Position 6

## Position 7 - "'M' Comet Flaw" – SG I-III, HK I-III, & NG I & II (All)



"Comet Flaw"  
SG I-III: Position 7



"Comet Flaw"  
HK I-III: Position 7



"Comet Flaw"  
NG I & II (All): Position 7

**'M' Comet Flaw:**  
3.5mm North-East of the 8th Rayon (usually on the "M" of COMPANY), 9.5mm North-West of the King's right eye (NG: 2 horizontally aligned dots (the East dot is the one that transferred from SG3), 0.4mm apart, 3.8mm North-East of the 8th rayon on or near the "M" of COMPANY).

## Position 7 - "Constellation Flaw" – TE I (1) (5d Only) – TE II (5)



"Constellation Flaw"  
TE I (1) – II (5): Position 7



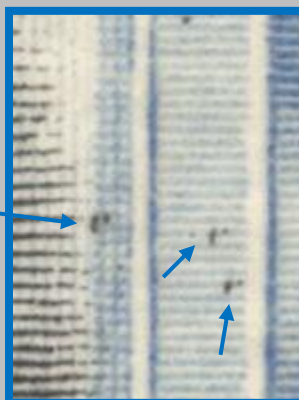
"Constellation Flaw"  
TE I (1) – II (5): Position 7

**Constellation Flaw:** Constellation of flaws over a large area from 1mm to 4.4mm East of the King's head between points 5mm North-East of his part and the 8th line below his part. Major TE flaw. Large flaw near value circle diminishes. Other flaws remain distinct.

## Position 8 - "Comma and Period Flaws" – TE II (4-5)



"Comma and Period Flaws"  
TE II (4-5): Position 8



**Comma and Period Flaws:** 3 sets at 3.8mm, 5.2mm and (lower) 5.5mm East of the center of the King's ear.

## Position 8 - "Scratch N from 7<sup>th</sup> Rayon" – NG II (6-8)

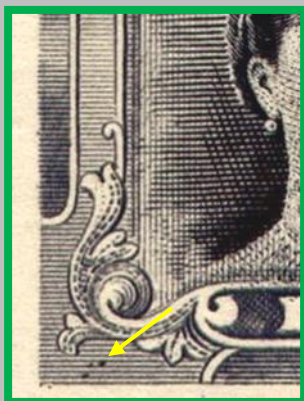


"Scratch N from 7<sup>th</sup> Rayon"  
NG II (6-8): Position 8

**Scratch North from 7<sup>th</sup> Rayon:** Distinct 2.5mm vertical scratch from the center of the 7th rayon onto the "S" of BRITISH. (Note: on the 2d RSC-H, NG II (6), but not on the 2/- RSC-E, NG II (6), the line continues south, crosses the margin between positions 8 & 13, and ends near the 7<sup>th</sup> Rayon on position 13.



## Position 9 - "Footprint Flaw" – LG I (only)



"Footprint Flaw"  
LG I (only): Position 9



"Footprint Flaw"  
LG I (only): Position 9



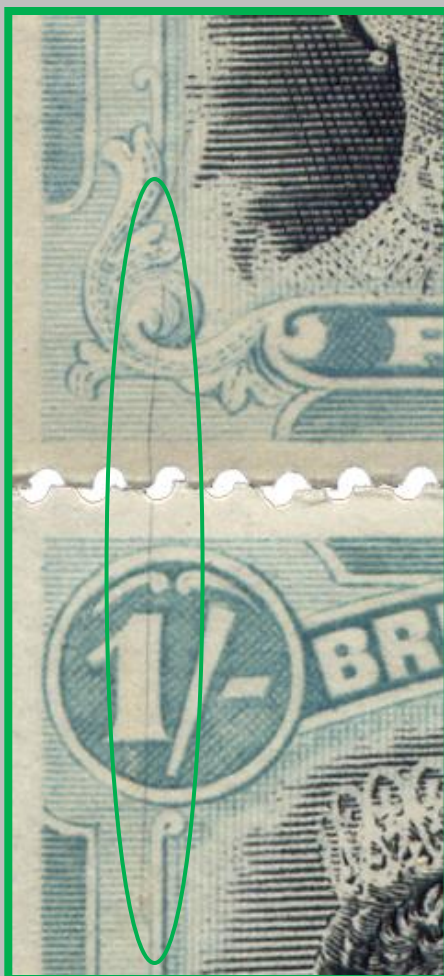
"Footprint Flaw"  
LG I (only): Position 9

**Footprint Flaw:** Three large dots 7.5mm, 8mm, and 8.5mm (the dot at 8mm a bit North-West of the others) South-West of the Queen's right shoulder roughly on the line of the shoulder contour.

## Position 9/14 – Mid Gash Scratch – MG I-II & SG I-II

"Scratch from SW Scroll"  
(To the South)  
MG I-II: Position 9

"Scratch through WVC"  
(To the North)  
MG I-II: Position 14



**Position 9/14 Mid Gash Scratch:** Uneven vertical scratch in the South-West corner of Position 9 extending South from the top of the South-West scroll through the West Value Circle on Position 14, and down to a level just above the top of the Queen's Ear.

## Position 9 - "Crescent Flaw on SE Scroll" – NG I (2) – II (8)



**Crescent Flaw on South-East Scroll:**  
Crescent shaped flaw on the South-East scroll, 3.8mm East-South-East of the King's left shoulder.

"Constellation Flaw"  
NG I (2) – II (8): Position 9

## Position 9 - "Scratch NE from 4<sup>th</sup> Rayon" – NG I (4) – II (8)



**Scratch North-East from 7<sup>th</sup> Rayon:** (1) 3mm diagonal (North-East) line extending from the 4th rayon to the "SH" of BRITISH (NG I (4) – II (5)); (2) diminishes to a 1mm line (NG II (6)); and (3) then a dot (NG II (8)).

"Scratch NE from 4<sup>th</sup> Rayon"  
NG I (4) – II (8) : Position 9

## Position 10 - "Constellation of Dots" – TE I (2) – II (5)



**Constellation of Dots:**  
Five large and a couple of smaller dots between the King and Queen at eye level 4mm to 5mm West of the King's right eye.

"Comma and Period Flaws"  
TE I (2) – II (5): Position 10