

FIRST FEDERAL DEFINITIVE ISSUE

Waterlow Archive Dies & Proofs

In 1981 the Waterlow die proof books were discovered and shown to Robson Lowe at Basingstoke; this discovery led to the emergence of about 14 “dirty” books (the proofs used by the printers as an index in the print shop) and about the same number of “clean” books (the proofs used in the design department). In 1982 Robson Lowe estimated that the Waterlow Archives record sheets amounted to about 14,000 sheets. Since that time the 28 volumes of die proofs have been found to contain about 20,000 die proofs.⁵ In studying the Federal issues printed by Waterlow reference, and examples, will be made to this material.¹

As the study of the Waterlow archival material, particularly for the 1954 definitive issue, is a study in itself, it was thought more appropriate to separate it from the main section on this issue. This section will deal with the principal material from the Waterlow archive covering the printing of the stamp issue after the artwork was approved.

This section will start with the dies produced, and progress through the supply of proof material available to study, more material will be welcome if it has not been covered. The archive material comes from the dirty books which were kept as an index in the print room, these contain unperforated proofs, with markings for improvements in the printing of the stamps and various other handwritten annotations.

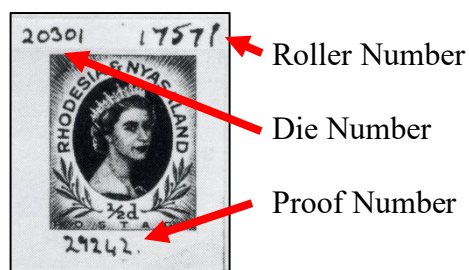
The material from the clean books, which were kept in the design department, are perforated stamps with the only annotation being “File Copy” followed by an order number.

Dies

Sources of images for dies

1. “Rhodesia & Nyasaland Archival Material”, Patrick Flanagan, Rhodesian Study Circle Journal, No 280 August 2020, pages 258 to 263
2. “The Die Proofs of Waterlow & Sons – Part 1: Great Britain and the Empire to 1960” by Colin Frazer and Robson Low, published 1985
3. Rhodesian Study Circle website <http://www.rhodesianstudycircle.org.uk/pre-production-1954-qeii-definitive-series/>

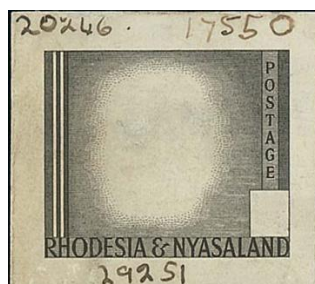
Prints were taken of the dies for the proposed stamps. With master dies being produced as the base die for the individual value stamps dies. The images shown below of each of the master and stamp dies have a series of numbers around for record purposes. These being die, roller and proof numbers, all of which were placed in a preselected position, see opposite



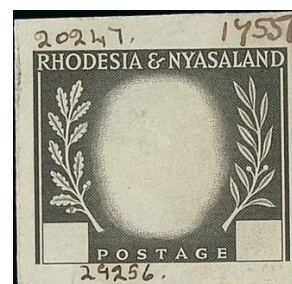
Master Dies



Low values
Die No. 20245
Roller No. 17488
Proof No. 29241



Middle values
Die No. 20246
Roller No. 17550
Proof No. 29251



High values
Die No. 20247
Roller No. 17551
Proof No. 29256

Individual Stamp Dies – low values



1/2d
Die No. 20301
Roller No. 17571
Proof No. 29242



1d
Die No. 20302
Roller No. 17543/17593
Proof No. 29243



2d
Die No. 20294
Roller No. 17542/17557
Proof No. 29244



2 1/2d
Die No. 20876
Roller No. 18354/18356
Proof No. 31546



3d
Die No. 20295
Roller No. 17549
Proof No. 29245



4d
Die No. 20300
Roller No. 17555
Proof No. 29246



4½d

Die No. 20298
Roller No. 17556
Proof No. 29247



6d

Die No. 20299
Roller No. 17578
Proof No. 29248



9d

Die No. 20297
Roller No. 17558
Proof No. 29249



1sh

Die No. 20296
Roller No. 17563
Proof No. 29250



½d Coil

Die No. 20471
Proof No. 29700
“Special steel for ROTAL”

No image

1d Coil

Die No. 20470
Proof No. 29699
“Special steel for ROTAL”

Individual Stamp Dies – Middle values

Two master dies were produced for the vignette to the middle value stamps, one of which was not approved.



Vignette (essay)
Die No. 20248



Vignette (adopted)

Die No. 20263
Roller No. 17638
Proof No. 29259



1sh3d Duty

Die No. 20373
Roller No. 17656
Proof No. 29252



2sh Duty
Die No. 20362
Roller No. 17646
Proof No. 29253



2sh6d Duty
Die No. 20361
Roller No. 17643
Proof No. 29254



5sh Duty
Die No. 20363
Roller No. 17644
Proof No. 29255

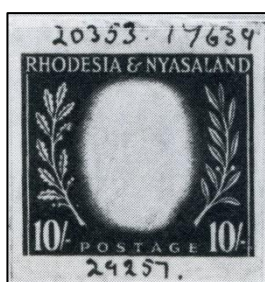
Individual Stamp Dies – High values



Vignette (essay)
Die No. 19690



Vignette
Die No. 20264
Roller No. 17641
Proof No. 29260

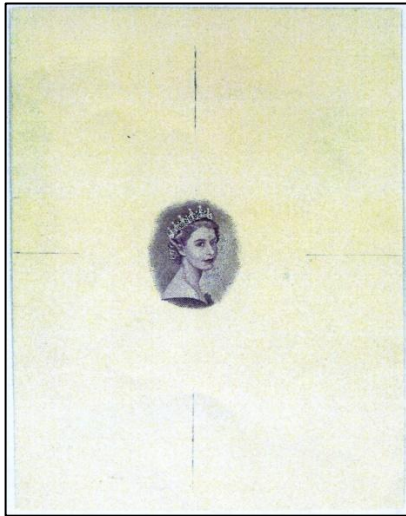


10sh Duty
Die No. 20353
Roller No. 17639
Proof No. 29257

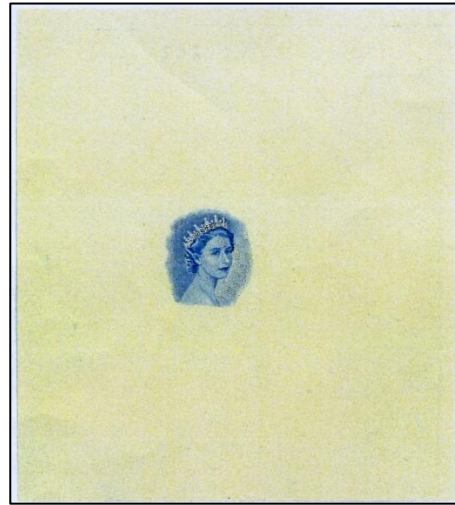


£1 duty
Die No. 20352
Roller No. 17640
Proof No. 29258

Vignette proofs in final colours



Die proof of 2sh duty



Die proof of 5sh duty

(Courtesy of Pat Flanagan)

Printed versions of master dies with vignettes in trial colours



Sources: "Rhodesia & Nyasaland Archival Material", Patrick Flanagan, Rhodesian Study Circle Journal, No 280 August 2020, (low & middle values); Spink auction November 2022 & High value image supplied by James Gavin)

Proofs of individual stamps

Proofs of the final stamps, and vignettes for the higher values, can be found in singles, pairs and blocks. The examples below are of single stamps from the right margin many showing the perforation hole printer's mark. All examples below are imperforate with a small punch hole, from the "dirty" proof sheets.





Booklet pane imperforate blocks
(Courtesy of Patrick Flanagan)



1sh

Proof marginal pair without security punch holes.

Otto Peetoom wrote up his findings from investigations of imperforate 1 shilling stamps that appeared on the market and concluded that these were proof material from the Waterlow archives. He, however, may not have seen a marginal block or pair with wide margin, as illustrated above, which could make his opinion more conclusive.⁵

Below are examples of the proof stamps, perforated, from the “clean” archive sheets. Images sourced from various places



Interpanneau blocks

The 4d to 1sh sheets were printed with four panes of 60 stamps each. Interpanneau blocks of these duties have been seen across the margin between the upper and lower panes and in corner blocks. The panes were arranged in two rows of two panes, the upper two being the 'A' & 'B' blocks with lower 'C' & 'D'. The examples below illustrate what can be found, no attempt has been made to illustrate all the Interpanneau blocks found. To date no interpanneau blocks have been reported from the clean, perforated proof sheets.



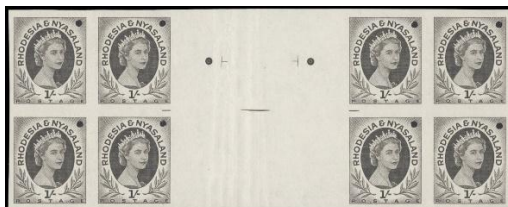
4d

Interpanneau block between panes A & C
or B & D.
(Value printed in four panes)
(Source Diederick Viljoen's 2020 virtual
competition entry display)



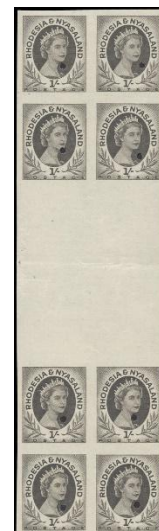
4d

Interpanneau marginal blocks
from panes B & D
(Source Zeboose.com)



1sh

Interpanneau blocks:
Above: between panes A & B or C & D
Right: between panes A & C or B & D
(Value printed in four panes)
(Source Zeboose.com)



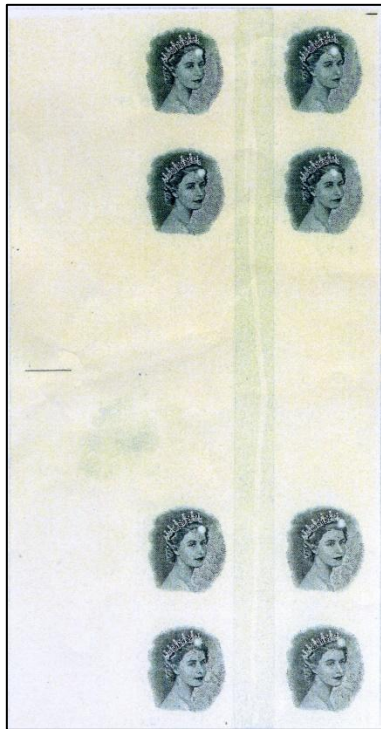


6d

Proving peice for 4 pane printing sheets with
cross over of horizanital and vertical
interpanneau gutters

*(Source Spink auction achieve Decemnber
2024, which included similar block for 4d,
4½d, 9d and 1sh)*

The 1sh3d to 5sh values were printed with two panes of 60 stamps, with one pane above the other, referred to as upper and lower panes or 'A' and 'B'. These duties can be seen with both vignette proof printing and printing of complete design. Below is illustrated the 2sh6d duty left corner blocks. All values have been seen, but will not be illustrated here.



(Courtesy of Pat Flanagan)

It is understood that the printing sheets were guillotined before perforating took place, which makes it unlikely that interpanneau block will be found perforated.

Interpanneau blocks have been found for all booklet stamps, both imperforate and perforate.



(courtesy of Pat Flanagan)



(Courtesy of Christopher Cooksey)

“Official” overprints

R Lowe stated in an article “in 1956 an order appears to have been given for the production of postage stamps overprinted OFFICIAL. Essays were made by overprinting the first three stamps on earlier file sheets of the 4d, 2/6 and 10/-, thus representing the three different sizes of the stamp designs. The scheme was not adopted.”¹

The three examples of these stamps are shown below, all have the number 336316 above, which must reference the order.



Analysis of the annotated proof material

The analysis of the annotated proof material will be undertaken on an individual value/duty basis, based principally on the analysis and information provided by Robson Lowe in his article “Rhodesia & Nyasaland. The Queen Elizabeth II Definitives, 1954-58.”¹ During the examination of the available proof material, the figures and dates advised by Robson Lowe will be checked. Some typographical errors have crept into the article, and additional information has been found.

Placement of orders

Through the examination and cataloguing of the material some sense of the placement of orders by the Federal Post Office has emerged, using the printing dates shown in the proof materials. Some interesting observations have been made. Sometimes the presumed order for individual values is assumed by deduction and can only be proved on receipt of further archival material for analysis.

Order No.	Printing dates	Values/duties	Comments
63423	March to early May 1954	All duties, save 2½d	First printing of all values/duties to meet issue date of 1 st July 1954
63423	July to August 1954	½d to 1sh and 5sh	Same order number as the first printing, to overcome probable shortfall in order. – see note 1
133843	14/12/1954	3d	Appears to be the only duty printed with this order
135245	Sept – Oct 1955	3d, 1sh3d, 2sh & 2sh6d	
132660	Nov 1955 to May 1956	½d, 1d, 2½d & 6d	Prolonged period of printing with this order number
336215	April 1956	4½d	Appears to be the only duty printed with this order
337162	June & July 1956	1d, 2d, 4d, 1sh3d, 2sh, 2sh6d, 5sh & 10sh	
337789	Nov to Dec 1956	All duties printed	
8237	Feb to April 1957	½d to 5sh, except 2d	
207943	Feb – March 1958	1d, 3d, 4½d, 6d, 9d, 1sh, 1sh3d, 2sh, 5sh & £1	

Notes:

- 1 Robson Lowe either banded together the printing of the first two printings or stated that he did not have the information of the number of stamps printed.
- 2 Some logical separate printings outside the probable dates of known orders have been separately shown.

Halfpenny

First Printing:	Order No.	69423
	Plate No.	46134
	Printing date	22-04-1954
	Printing Nos.	8,096,000 stamps = 33,734 pulls
	Comments	



(Source eBay April 2022)



(Source RSC website)



These two images form part of the same double bottom row of this first printing.
(Courtesy of Pat Flanagan)

Second Printing

Order No.	69423 (part of original order)
Plate No.	46781
Printing date	15-07-1954
Printing Nos.	R Lowe suggests none, could be part of the first printing numbers
Comments	



Plate number shown faintly at top of sheet, enlargement.



Date for second printing
(Left: source Spink auction. Right: source eBay)

Third Printing

Order No.	
Plate No.	46134
Printing date	17/06/1955
Printing Nos.	20,000,160 stamps
Comments	Not seen



“Standard for exam – 29/6/55” probably from clean copy
(Source eBay June 2025)

Fourth Printing

Order No.	132660
Plate No.	46134
Printing date	09/05/1956
Printing Nos.	12,000,000 stamps
Comments	



(Image supplied by James Gavin)



(Source: eBay May 2016)

Fifth printing

Order No.	135215
Plate No.	46781 (reuse of plate used in 2 nd printing)
Printing date	20/09/1956
Printing Nos.	20,000,160
Comments	2,000,000 stamps



(Image supplied by James Gavin)

Sixth printing

Order No.	8237
Plate No.	46781
Printing date	26-04-1957
Printing Nos.	12,000,000 stamps = 50,000 pulls
Comments	



(Source eBay December 2021)



(Courtesy of Pat Flanagan)

One Penny

First Printing

Order No.	69423
Plate No.	46133
Printing date	24/03/1954
Printing Nos.	“corrected” – probably part of 2 nd printing numbers
Comments	



(Source eBay March 2022)



(Courtesy of Adrian de Bourbon)

Second printing

Order No.	69423 (part of the original order)
Plate No.	46782 (new plate)
Printing date	06/08/1954
Printing Nos.	50,072,160
Comments	Not seen

Third printing

Order No.	132660
Plate No.	46782
Printing date	07/12/1955 (needs checking)
Printing Nos.	48,000,000 stamps = 200,000 pulls
Comments	



(Courtesy of Adrian de Bourbon)

Fourth printing

Order No.	337162 (to be confirmed)
Plate No.	46980 (new plate)
Printing date	18/07/1956
Printing Nos.	Included in numbers for 3 rd printing
Comments	



Fifth printing

Order No.	337789
Plate No.	46980
Printing date	21/11/1956
Printing Nos.	19,000,000
Comments	



(Image supplied by James Gavin)



(Courtesy of Pat Flanagan)

Sixth printing

Order No.	8237
Plate No.	46980
Printing date	15/05/1957
Printing Nos.	14,400,000
Comments	Not seen



(Image supplied by James Gavin)

Seventh printing

Order No.	8237
Plate No.	47266 (new plate)
Printing date	16/07/1957
Printing Nos.	R Lowe states none – possible testing sheet
Comments	Proof for this states “Revised sheet”. Possibly test run for new plate.



Plate number 47266, but the number has been mirrored.
(Image supplied by James Gavin)



Plate 47266, position above column 10
(Source rhodesia.co.za)



(Courtesy of Pat Flanagan)

Eighth printing

Order No. 207943
 Plate No. 47266
 Printing date 20/02/1958 & 27/02/1958
 Printing Nos. 16,000,000
 Comments



(Source eBay December 2021)



“Improve printing”



“Revised colour sheet”

Two Pence

Trial Printing

Order No.	69423
Plate No.	46130
Printing date	24/03/1954
Printing Nos.	
Comments	R Lowe has a date of 24/03/1954, which is earlier than other printings. Believe this to be a trial printing



(Image supplied by James Gavin)

First Printing

Order No.	69423
Plate No.	46130
Printing date	13/04/1954 & 16*/04/1954
Printing Nos.	70,072,080
Comments	The second date here appears to be a second sheet. See below



Plate 46130 was only used for this printing, as evidenced by released pair.
(Right: Courtesy of Pat Flanagan: Left: Courtesy of Christopher Cooksey)



(Image supplied by James Gavin)



“Correct plate for 2d value. Second sheet”

“Print plate number” dated 13/4/54

(Courtesy of Pat Flanagan)



“With first delivery” & “Improve printing” Dated 16/4/1954

(Source: www.hacfarestamp.co.uk)

Second printing

Order No.	69423
Plate No.	46131 (new plate – number in top margin)
Printing date	05/08/1954
Printing Nos.	Number combined with 1 st printing
Comments	



Plate 46131

(Source: Spink auction Sept 2021)



Plate 46131

(Image supplied by James Gavin)



(Courtesy of Pat Flanagan)

Third printing

Order No.	132660
Plate No.	46131
Printing date	03/05/1956
Printing Nos.	60,000
Comments	



(Source eBay January 2023)

Fourth printing

Order No.	337013)
Plate No.	46131
Printing date	3/05/1956
Printing Nos.	12,000,000
Comments	



(Source Spink auction archive December 2024)

Fifth Printing

Order No.	337789
Plate No.	46131
Printing date	20/11/1956
Printing Nos.	8,000,160
Comments	



(Source eBay December 2021)

Two & a half pence (issued 15/02/1956)

Trial printing

Order No.	132660
Plate No.	46796
Printing date	09/04/1955
Printing Nos.	
Comments	This date was not recorded by R Lowe, as it was well before the issuing of this stamp on 15/02/1956.



Order number in pencil to right
(Courtesy of Pat Flanagan)

First printing

Order No.	132660
Plate No.	46796 & 46797
Printing date	09/11/1955
Printing Nos.	96,000,000 (including second printing)
Comments	Plate 46797 was included in Robson Lowe's listing as 4679?. With the number of stamps printed in this order it was, probably, necessary to have two plates prepared. These are consecutive numbers.



Only very bottom of plate number printed. Handwritten "Print plate no".

There is pencil inscription "4679" which is most of this plate number.
The placement of the sheet number is the same as for the issued example below of a partial plate number. The missing number therefore on the proof pate could be the "7"



Plate 46796 very clear. Note this is on the left of the perforator hole marking, which is a different position to the higher block



Partial plate number 46797 on released pair
(Courtesy of Andrew Wilson)



Order number 132660/55, indicating printed in 1955
(Image supplied by James Gavin)

Second Printing

Order No.	132660 (note same order number as for the first printing, although printed over a year later)
Plate No.	46796 & 46797
Printing date	22/05/1956
Printing Nos.	Included in numbers for first printing
Comments	



(Courtesy of Pat Flanagan)

Third printing

Order No. 337789
Plate No. 46981
Printing date 21/11/1956
Printing Nos. 28,000,000
Comments



(Source eBay January 2023)



Note plate number handwritten to left
(Courtesy of Pat Flanagan)



Also dated 21-11-1956
(Courtesy of Christopher Cooksey)

Fourth printing

Order No. 8237
Plate No. 46981
Printing date 21/11/1956
Printing Nos. 19,200,000
Comments



(Image supplied by James Gavin)

Three pence

First printing

Order No.	69423
Plate No.	46129
Printing date	07/04/1954
Printing Nos.	R Lowe states "plate no added" – there must have been a printing here as the second printing was after the date of issue.

Comments



This could be the sheet seen by R Lowe



Very faint printing of plate number



Partial printing of plate number



Very clear printing of plate number
(Courtesy of Christopher Cooksey)

As only one plate was used for the printing of this duty/value, all the examples above have been placed together. Apart from the first example, which order the printing the others come from is unknown.



(Source eBay December 2021)

Second printing	Order No.	69423
	Plate No.	46129
	Printing date	12/07/1954
	Printing Nos.	3,066,000
	Comments	

Third printing	Order No.	133843
	Plate No.	46129
	Printing date	14/12/1954
	Printing Nos.	4,000,000 stamps = 16,667 pulls
	Comments	The printing of this duty appears to be the only one for this order, the printing dates lies four months after the last order and four months before the next order.



(Courtesy of Pat Flanagan)

Fourth printing	Order No.	135245
	Plate No.	46129
	Printing date	13/09/1955
	Printing Nos.	7,200,000
	Comments	



(Source eBay January 2023)



(Source: www.hacfairstamp.co.uk)

Fifth printing

Order No.	337789
Plate No.	46129
Printing date	30/11/1956
Printing Nos.	4,000,082
Comments	



(Image supplied bby James Gavin)



Assumed to be from this printing. Statement of "Standard for Exam" dated 6/12/56

(Image supplied by James Gavin)

Sixth printing

Order No. 8237 (to be confirmed)
Plate No. 46129
Printing date 14/02/1957
Printing Nos. 8,000,160
Comments

Seventh printing

Order No. 207943
Plate No. 46129
Printing date 07/12/1958 & 10/12/1958
Printing Nos. 21,600,000 stamps = 90,000 pulls
Comments The wording on the 7/12 printing is "Improve printing", and on the 10/12 printing "Revised sheet". The first printing was probably a quick print to confirm colour/print run etc., but was not passed for printing due to poor quality of printing this was improved on the second run



The first printing – "Improve printing"
(Courtesy of Pat Flanagan)

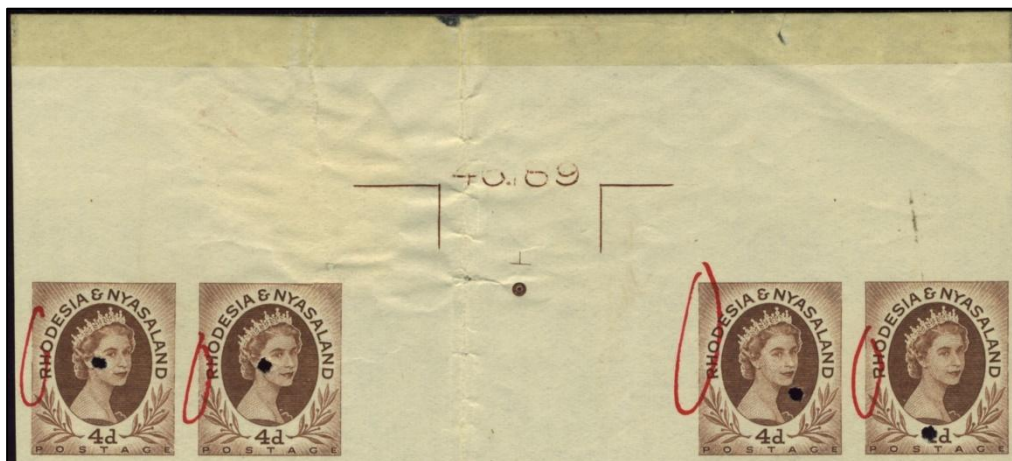


The second printing – "Revised sheet"
(Courtesy of Pat Flanagan)

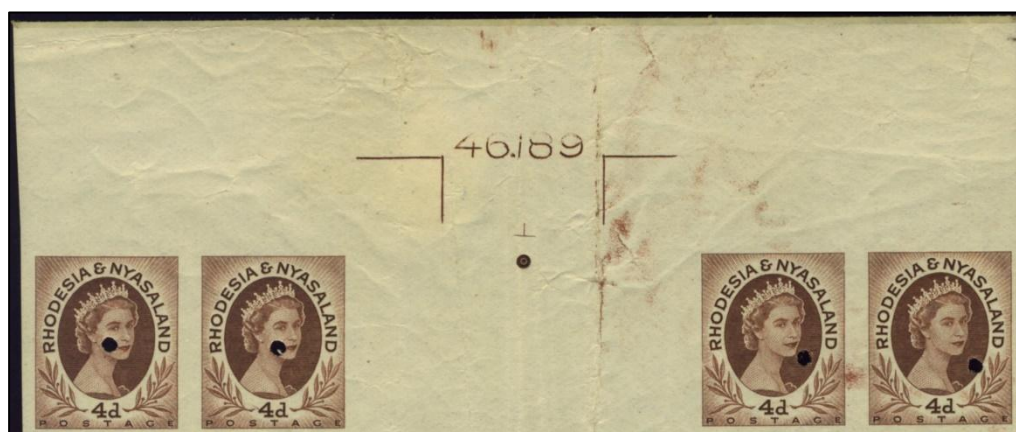
Four pence

First printing

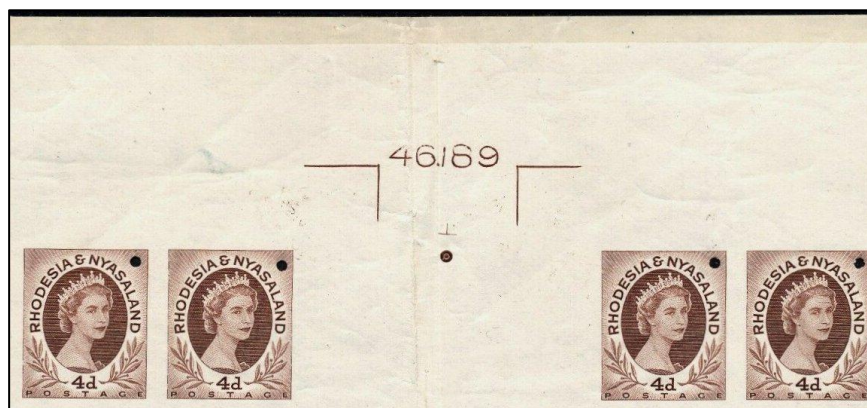
Order No.	69423
Plate No.	46189
Printing date	06/04/1954
Printing Nos.	4,036,800
Comments	



Partial printing of plate number, with various circled areas for improvement



Clear printing of plate number, no corrections required.



Clearer still, note different locations of punch holes
(Source eBay December 2021)



(Courtesy of Pat Flanagan)



(Source: www.hacfarestamp.co.uk)



Second printing	Order No.	69423
	Plate No.	46189
	Printing date	04/08/1954
	Printing Nos.	Possibly included in the numbers for the first printing
	Comments	This printing was not included in Robson Lowe's listing.



(Courtesy of Pat Flanagan)

Third printing	Order No.	337162
	Plate No.	46189
	Printing date	21/06/1956
	Printing Nos.	960,000 stamps = 4,000 pulls
	Comments	



(Courtesy of Pat Flanagan)

Fourth printing	Order No.	337789
	Plate No.	46189
	Printing date	05/12/1956
	Printing Nos.	1,002,480
	Comments	



(Courtesy of Pat Flanagan)

Fifth printing

Order No.	8237
Plate No.	46189
Printing date	05/04/1957
Printing Nos.	1,500,000 stamps = 6,250 pulls
Comments	The wording on the proof below clearly states "Improve printing" and "Revise", so this proof could have been reprinted with an improved image.



(Source Spink auction archive December 2024)



(Courtesy of Pat Flanagan)

Four & a half pence

First printing

Order No.	69423
Plate No.	46187
Printing date	15/04/1954
Printing Nos.	R Lowe stated "none" but could be part of the printing numbers shown for the second printing
Comments	



Plate No 46187. Partial print



Plate No 46187, well printed



(Source eBay May 2016)



Second printing

Order No. 69423
 Plate No. 46187
 Printing date 15/07/1954
 Printing Nos. 1,036,080
 Comments



(Source RSC Journal 280 – Pat Flanagan)

Third printing

Order No. 336215
 Plate No. 46187
 Printing date 17/04/1956
 Printing Nos. 960,000
 Comments





(Source: www.hacfarestamp.co.uk)

Fourth printing

Order No.	337789
Plate No.	45187
Printing date	05/12/1956 & 06/12/1956
Printing Nos.	270,000 stamps = 1,125 pulls
Comments	



(Image supplied by James Gavin)



(Courtesy of Pat Flanagan)

Fifth printing

Order No. 8237
Plate No. 46187
Printing date 22/02/1957
Printing Nos. 640,000 stamps = 2,667 pulls
Comments



(Courtesy of Pat Flanagan)



(Source eBay February 2021)

Sixth printing

Order No. 207943
Plate No. 46187
Printing date 26/02/1958
Printing Nos. 84,000 (?)
Comments Print number appears to be very low



(Image supplied by James Gavin)

Six pence

1st Trial printing

Order No.	69423
Plate No.	46188
Printing date	R Lowe has date of 03/03/1954, which is much earlier than other printings. Believe this to be a trial printing
Printing Nos.	
Comments	



(Source: www.hacfarestamp.co.uk)

2nd Trial printing

Order No.	69423
Plate No.	46188
Printing date	16/4/56
Printing Nos.	
Comments	This date is earlier than the dates suggested for the 1 st printing, could possibly be a second trial.



(Image provided by James Gavin)

First printing

Order No.	69423
Plate No.	46188
Printing date	04/05/1954 (not included in R Lowe analysis)
Printing Nos.	R Lowe has the number as "none", probably print number included in second printing numbers
Comments	



Partial printing of plate number 46188



Plate 46188 clearly printed



(Courtesy of Pat Flanagan)



Pencilled order number – first or second printing)
 (Source Diederick Viljoen's 2020 virtual competition entry display)

Second printing	Order No.	69423
	Plate No.	46188
	Printing date	16/07/1954
	Printing Nos.	8,036,160
	Comments	

Third printing	Order No.	132660
	Plate No.	46188
	Printing date	11/04/1956
	Printing Nos.	4,800,000
	Comments	



(Image supplied by James Gavin)

Fourth printing	Order No.	337789
	Plate No.	46188
	Printing date	06/12/1956
	Printing Nos.	150,000 stamps = 625 pulls
	Comments	



(Courtesy of Pat Flanagan)

Fifth printing	Order No.	207943
	Plate No.	46188
	Printing date	28/02/1958
	Printing Nos.	4,200,000
	Comments	



(Image supplied by James Gavin)

Nine pence

First printing

Order No.	69423
Plate No.	46185
Printing date	24/04/1954
Printing Nos.	2,036,160
Comments	

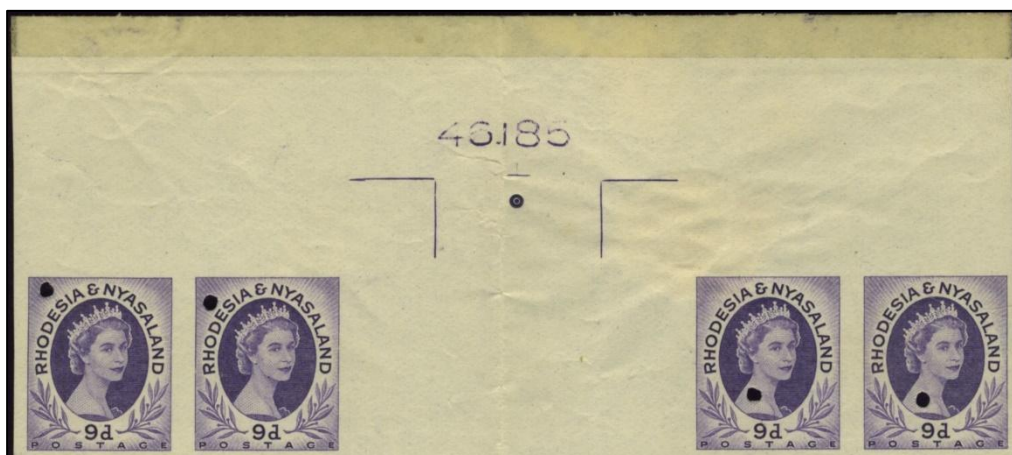


Plate no 46185



(Source eBay May 2016)

Second printing

Order No.	69423
Plate No.	46185
Printing date	13/07/1954 (not recorded by R Lowe)
Printing Nos.	
Comments	



(Courtesy of Pat Flanagan)

Third printing

Order No. 337789
 Plate No. 46185
 Printing date 06/12/1956
 Printing Nos. 760,000
 Comments



(Source: RSC 2020 virtual competition entry by Diederick Viljoen)



(Source: www.hacfairstamp.co.uk)



Comment dated 3/1/57, it is likely that this proof came from this printing.

(Image supplied by James Gavin)

Fourth printing

Order No. 8237
Plate No. 46185
Printing date 08/04/1957
Printing Nos. 800,080 stamps = 3,334 pulls
Comments



(Courtesy of Pat Flanagan)



(Source eBay May 2016)

Fifth printing

Order No. 207943
Plate No. 46185
Printing date 06/03/1958
Printing Nos. 300,000
Comments

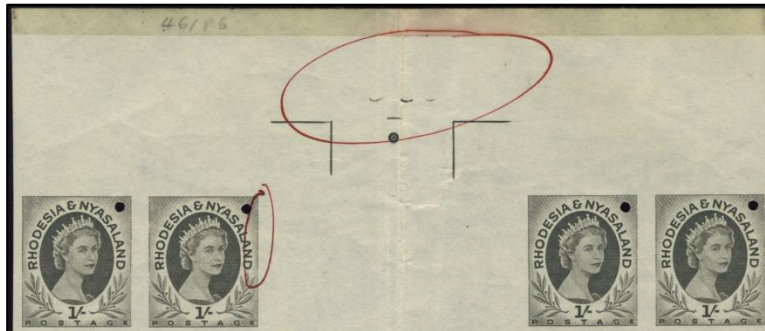


(Image supplied by James Gavin)

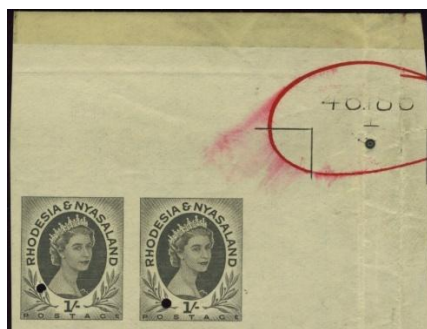
One shilling

First printing

Order No.	69423
Plate No.	46186
Printing date	12/04/1954
Printing Nos.	4,036,000 stamps = 16,817 pulls
Comments	



Partial printing of plate number



Better partial printing of plate number



Both images are from the same proof sheet. It is evident at this early stage that there was need to improve the printing of this die
(Courtesy of Pat Flanagan)

Second printing	Order No.	69423
	Plate No.	46186
	Printing date	15/07/1954
	Printing Nos.	Probably included in the number for the first printing
	Comments	



(Source Spink auction archive December 2024)

Third printing	Order No.	135,245
	Plate No.	46186
	Printing date	23/06/1955
	Printing Nos.	1,800,000
	Comments	Correct plate for 1,800,000 stamps = 7,500 pulls



(Source: www.hacfairstamp.co.uk)



(Image supplied by James Gavin)

Fourth printing

Order No. 337789
Plate No. 46186
Printing date 21/12/1956
Printing Nos. 1,200,000
Comments



(Image supplied by James Gavin)

Fifth printing

Order No. 8237
Plate No. 46186
Printing date 10/04/1957
Printing Nos. 1,400,000 stamps = 5,384 pulls
Comments



Both images are from the same proof sheet. Still need to improve printing.
(Courtesy of Pat Flanagan)



(Source eBay May 2016)

Sixth printing

Order No. 207943
Plate No. 46186
Printing date 07/03/1958
Printing Nos. 840,000
Comments



(Image supplied by James Gavin)

One shilling & three pence

First printing	Order No.	69423
	Vignette Plate No	46220
	Plate No.	46238
	Vignette Printing date	21/04/1954
	Plate printing date	20/05/1954
	Printing Nos.	2,018,000 stamps = 16,817 pulls
	Comments	



Printing of vignette only (no plate number shown)

To left of above also has "Colour correct/Plate Correct" cachet dated 21.4.54

(Courtesy of Pat Flanagan)



Showing casement plate No 46238, and partial vignette plate number

To left of above also has "Colour correct/Plate Correct" cachet dated 21.5.54

(Courtesy of Pat Flanagan)



(Source eBay May 2016)



From clean archive, with message below "Standard for exam 24.5.54"
(Source eBay December 2021)

Second printing	Order No.	135245
	Vignette Plate No	46220
	Plate No.	46238
	Vignette Printing date	03/10/1955
	Plate printing date	06/10/1955
	Printing Nos.	540,000
	Comments	



(Image supplied by James Gavin)

Third printing	Order No.	337162 (to be confirmed)
	Vignette Plate No	46220
	Plate No.	46238
	Vignette Printing date	07/06/1956
	Plate printing date	12/06/1956
	Printing Nos.	960,000
	Comments	

Fourth printing	Order No.	337789
	Vignette Plate No	46220
	Plate No.	46238
	Vignette Printing date	19/12/1956
	Plate printing date	21/12/1956
	Printing Nos.	1,200,000
	Comments	Robson Lowe records "Not used then" against this printing date. It could be that only the vignette plate was printed as a trial printing of the newly produced plate



(Courtesy of Pat Flanagan)



(Source eBay January 2024)

Fifth printing	Order No.	8237
	Vignette Plate No	47102 (new plate)
	Plate No.	46238
	Vignette Printing date	15/04/1957 (query date)
	Plate printing date	26/08/1957
	Printing Nos.	1,440,000
	Comments	



Vignette plate number 47102
(Image supplied by James Gavin)



(Source eBay March 2017)

Sixth printing	Order No.	207943
	Vignette Plate No	47102
	Plate No.	46238
	Vignette Printing date	14/02/1958
	Plate printing date	11/03/1958
	Printing Nos.	900,000
	Comments	



(Source eBay January 2021)

Two shillings

Trial printing	Vignette Plate no	46220
	Vignette Printing date	15/04/1954
	Comments	This appears to be an earlier printing of the vignette plate. The date is prior to the date seen on the vignette plate for the first printing.



(Source RSC Journal 280 – Pat Flanagan)



(Courtesy of Pat Flanagan)

First printing	Order No.	69423
	Vignette Plate No	46220
	Plate No.	46218
	Vignette Printing date	27/04/1954
	Plate printing date	30/04/1954
	Printing Nos.	1,018,000 stamps = 8,484 pulls
	Comments	



Plate number 46218
(Source: Spink auction Sept 2021)



Plate 46218 (different printing)
(Image supplied by James Gavin)



Handwritten plate number in correct position above top row
(Source eBay May 2022)



Vignette plate number 46220
To left of above also has “Colour correct/Plate Correct” cachet dated 27.4.54
(Courtesy of Pat Flanagan)



Showing vignette plate number
(Courtesy of Pat Flanagan)



File copy 69423
(Source eBay November 2025)

Second printing

Order No.	135245
Vignette Plate No	46220
Plate No.	46218
Vignette Printing date	04/10/1955
Plate printing date	07/10/1955
Printing Nos.	480,000
Comments	



(Image supplied by James Gavin)

Third printing

Order No.	337162
Vignette Plate No	46220
Plate No.	46218
Vignette Printing date	25/06/1956
Plate printing date	05/07/1956
Printing Nos.	600,000
Comments	



(Source: RSC 2020 virtual competition entry by Diederick Viljoen)

Fourth printing	Order No.	337789
	Vignette Plate No	47102 (new plate)
	Plate No.	46218
	Vignette Printing date	02/12/1956
	Plate printing date	01/01/1957
	Printing Nos.	620,000
	Comments	



Plate numbers 47102 (new vignette) & 46218
(Image supplied by James Gavin)



The order number is incorrect, this should read “337789”,
as with other duties with this order
(Source eBay September 2023)

Fifth printing	Order No.	8237 (to be confirmed)
	Vignette Plate No	47102
	Plate No.	46218
	Vignette Printing date	15/04/1957 (to be checked)
	Plate printing date	26/08/1957
	Printing Nos.	
	Comments	



(Image supplied by James Gavin)

Order No. 207943

Sixth printing

Vignette Plate No	47102
Plate No.	46218
Vignette Printing date	14/02/1958
Plate printing date	12/03/1958
Printing Nos.	240,000
Comments	



(Source eBay January 2021)

Two shillings & six pence

First printing	Order No.	69423
	Vignette Plate No	46220
	Plate No.	46217
	Vignette Printing date	29/04/1954
	Plate printing date	03/05/1954
	Printing Nos.	768,000 stamps = 6,400 pulls
	Comments	



Plate number 46220

To left of above also has "Colour correct/Plate Correct" cachet dated 29.4.54
(Courtesy of Pat Flanagan)



Casement plate number 46217, with partial vignetter plate number 46220

To left of above also has "Colour correct/Plate Correct" cachet dated 3.5.54
(Courtesy of Pat Flanagan)



(Courtesy of Pat Flanagan)

Second printing Order No. 135245
 Vignette Plate No 46220
 Plate No. 46217
 Vignette Printing date 05/10/1955
 Plate printing date 14/10/1955
 Printing Nos. 480,000
 Comments



(Courtesy of Pat Flanagan)



(Source: RSC Journal 280 - Pat Flanagan)

Third printing Order No. 337162 (to be confirmed)
 Vignette Plate No 46220
 Plate No. 46217
 Vignette Printing date 26/06/1956
 Plate printing date 27/06/1956
 Printing Nos. 960,000
 Comments

Fourth printing	Order No.	337789
	Vignette Plate No	47102
	Plate No.	46217
	Vignette Printing date	Unknown
	Plate printing date	Unknown
	Printing Nos.	510,000
	Comments	



(Source RSC website)

Sixth printing	Order No.	8237 (to be confirmed)
	Vignette Plate No	47102
	Plate No.	46217
	Vignette Printing date	Unknown
	Plate printing date	05/07/1957
	Printing Nos.	570,000
	Comments	

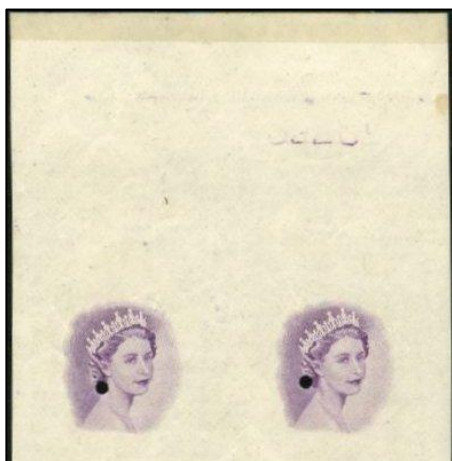
Five shillings

Trial printing	Vignette Plate no	46220
	Vignette Printing date	21/04/1954
	Comments	This appears to be an earlier printing of the vignette plate, the date is prior to the date seen on the vignette plate for the first printing.



This is clearly marked for order number 69423, but is earlier than date suggested by Robson Lowe. Also states "Colour OK for make-up. Check with 1st lot"
(Source: RSC Journal 280 – Pat Flanagan)

First printing	Order No.	69423
	Vignette Plate No	46220
	Plate No.	46219
	Vignette Printing date	03/05/1954
	Plate printing date	05/05/1954
	Printing Nos.	518,000 stamps = 4,317 pulls
	Comments	



Vignette plate number 46220 in top margin
(Image supplied by James Gavin)

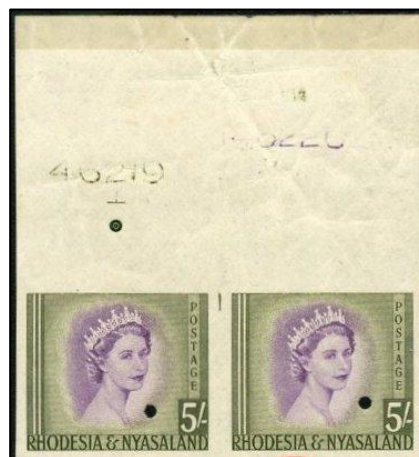


Plate numbers 46220 & 46219 in top margin
(Image supplied by James Gavin)



Vignette plate number 46220 in bottom margin.
 Clear also for order number 69423, but this is dated 3.5.54.
 "Vignette plate and lay correct for 5/- value"
 (Courtesy of Pat Flanagan)



"Improve register and printing"
 To left of above also has "Colour correct/Plate Correct" cachet dated 5.5.54
 (Courtesy of Pat Flanagan)



(Source eBay October 2020)

Interim printing

Vignette number	46220
Vignette Printing date	03/08/1954
Comment	Robson Lowe does not record a printing in August 1954, like the lower dies/values. Not certain whether this is an additional printing.



(Source: RSC Journal 280 – Pat Flanagan)

Second printing	Order No.	337162
	Vignette Plate No	46220
	Plate No.	46219
	Vignette Printing date	11/06/1956
	Plate printing date	14/06/1956
	Printing Nos.	300,000
	Comments	



Dated 11/6/56. Appears that part of sheet cut out and replaced by another cut out. Many of the vignettes have two punch holes, instead of one. Uncertain of wording "Aged by Lab"
(Source eBay April 2023)



(Source eBay December 2021)

Third printing	Order No.	337789
	Vignette Plate No	47102
	Plate No.	46219
	Vignette Printing date	21/12/1956
	Plate printing date	31/12/1956
	Printing Nos.	200,000
	Comments	



(Source eBay January 2023)



(Source RSC website)



(Image supplied by James Gavin)

Comment in right margin dated 9/1/57, assume this is from this printing

Fourth printing	Order No.	8237
	Vignette Plate No	46222 (new plate)
	Plate No.	25/04/1957
	Vignette Printing date	08/05/1957
	Plate printing date	180,000
	Printing Nos.	
	Comments	



(Image supplied by James Gavin)

Fifth printing	Order No.	207943
	Vignette Plate No	47102
	Plate No.	46219
	Vignette Printing date	21/02/1958
	Plate printing date	13/03/1958
	Printing Nos.	90,000
	Comments	



(Source: eBay January 2021)

Ten shillings

First printing	Order No.	69423
	Vignette Plate No	46222
	Plate No.	46221
	Vignette Printing date	16/04/1954
	Plate printing date	20/04/1954
	Printing Nos.	312,000
	Comments	



To left of above also has “Colour correct/Plate Correct” cachet dated 16.4.54
(Courtesy of Pat Flanagan)



To left is also words “Colour OK. Recheck with previously printed”.
(Source RSC Journal 280 – Pat Flanagan)



(Source: ?)

Second printing Order No. 337162
 Vignette Plate No 46222
 Plate No. 46221
 Vignette Printing date 06/07/1956
 Plate printing date 09/07/1956
 Printing Nos. 300,000
 Comments



(Source eBay January 2021)

Third printing Order No. 337789
 Vignette Plate No 46222
 Plate No. 46221
 Vignette Printing date 13/11/1956
 Plate printing date 14/11/1956
 Printing Nos. 370,000
 Comments



(Source RSC website)

One Pound

First printing	Order No.	69423
	Vignette Plate No	46222
	Plate No.	49223
	Vignette Printing date	03/05/1954
	Plate printing date	05/05/1954
	Printing Nos.	212,000 stamps = 3,534 pulls
	Comments	



Vignette plate number 46222
(Image supplied by James Gavin)

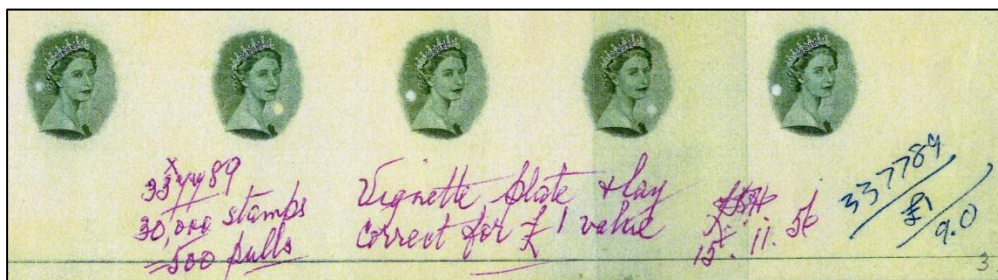


(Courtesy of Christopher Cooksey)



(Courtesy of Christopher Cooksey)

Second printing Order No. 337789
 Vignette Plate No 46222
 Plate No. 46223
 Vignette Printing date 15/11/1956
 Plate printing date 19/11/1956
 Printing Nos. 30,000 stamps =500 pulls
 Comments



(Courtesy of Pat Flanagan)



To left of above also has "Colour correct/Plate Correct" cachet dated 19.11.56
(Courtesy of Pat Flanagan)

Third printing Order No. 207943
 Vignette Plate No 46222
 Plate No. 46223
 Vignette Printing date 24/02/1958
 Plate printing date 11/03/1958
 Printing Nos. 60,000
 Comments



*(Left strip of 3: courtesy of Jamie Smith
 right single: Source Zebooz.com)*

Booklet panes

Halfpenny pane

First printing	Order No.	269193
	Plate No.	46226
	Printing date	8/6/1954
	Printing Nos.	240,000
	Comments	



(Courtesy of Christopher Cooksey)



(Source eBay February 2020)

One penny pane

First printing	Order No.	269193
	Plate No.	46224
	Printing date	10/05/1954
	Printing Nos.	360,000 stamps = 2,000 pulls
	Comments	



(Courtesy of Christopher Cooksey)



(Courtesy of Christopher Cooksey)



(Source eBay February 2020)

Two penny pane

First printing	Order No.	269193
	Plate No.	46225
	Printing date	20/05/1954
	Printing Nos.	
	Comments	



(Courtesy of Christopher Cooksey)



(Source eBay February 2020)

Other interesting proofs

The following proofs are those that have been provided from numerous sources that are of interest. It is not, however, the intention to show proofs that only have correction marks.



1/2d

Part of sheet found, with handwritten script with arrow point to left.

“Block of four sent to I.B.S. Brussels for matching purposes on 5/12/55”

I.B.S. would be Imprimerie Belge de Sécurité, Waterlows subsidiary,
which was responsible for the printing of the coil stamps.

This date would match up with the release date of the 1/2d coil stamp on 6th February 1956.

(Source RSC Journal 266, December 2017)



1d

Printing of this stamp shows offset in the margin and on the stamps themselves

(Source RSC Journal 252, September 2014)

Robson Lowe varieties

When Robson Lowe had the opportunity of examining the Waterlow archive material, he made notes on varieties that he encountered.⁷ In the list of those varieties, below, there are instances where it has been noted that the error has been ‘recut’ or removed. In addition, there are instances where he states that the error continues to be seen on the issued stamps.

As was the practice at that time each stamp was numbered, in these instances the top row would be numbered from 1 to 20, second row from 21 to 40 and so on. For easier reference these numbers have been refigured as row and column numbers.

Value	Row	Col	Description
Low value stamps ($\frac{1}{2}$d to 3d in single sheet, 4d to 1sh in four panes – $\frac{A-B}{C-D}$)			
1d	3	4	Plate 46133. Weak right frame recut leaving small breaks
	6	3	Plate 49680. Dash in left margin opposite ‘E’
	7	4	Plate 46980. Cap on ampersand, only partially removed
	8	12	Plate 47266. Dots in left margin opposite ‘D’
2d	9	4	Plate 46130. Dot after A of Rhodesia
	8	8	Plate 46131. Curl after ampersand – removed
	9	8	Plate 46131. Three dots left of 2 – removed
2½d	9	8	Plate 46796 Dot and curl below ‘A’ of Rhodesia – removed
	8	20	Plate 46981. Dot after 2½d – removed
3d	8	9	Weak left margin (re-cut) and dots at left removed.
	8	10	Weak lower left margin – re-cut.
4d	3	8	Pane A. Left frame broken – recut (1957 printing)
	4	7	Pane A. Left frame broken – recut (1957 printing)
	4	6	Pane C. Dot above Queen’s lip – retouched
4½d	3	1	Pane B. Left Frame broken – recut (1956 printing)
	3	6	Pane D. Dot in lower margin below ‘PO’ (1958 printing)
9d	3	3	Pane B. Tall cross in margin below ‘T’ of Postage (1958 printing)
	4	9	Pane C. Dot below ‘9’ – removed
1sh	3	10	Pane A. Right upper frame broken – recut
	4	9	Pane A. Right upper frame weak – recut
	4	10	Pane A. right lower frame broken – recut
Middle value stamps (in two panes – A & B)			
Vignette	3	3	Pane A: Dash above head (appears in margin of the issued stamp (1958 printing)
	4	3	Pane A; Dash in margin opposite the Queen’s brow (1958 printing) occurs on the issued stamp
	4	10	Pane B; Vertical mark in shading right of Queen’s neck – removed (1957 printing)

1sh3d	3	4	Plate 46238, Pane A: Blue dot in orange behind Queen's ear – removed; Left frame of 'Postage' panel broken – recut (1954 printing)
	4	4	Plate 46238, Pane A: Break in third innermost frame at left – recut (1954 printing)
	4	3	Plate 46238, Pane B: Blue dot left of Queen's shoulder – removed (1957 printing)
2sh	3	3	Plate 46218, Pane A: Blue dot above the head – removed; brown dot on upper frame – also in issued stamp. (1954, more pronounced in 1957 & 1958 printings)
2sh6d	3 & 4	1	Plate 46217, Pane A: Faint scratch in margin between (1956 printings)
	3	5	Plate 46219, Pane A. Vignette scratched above 'OD' of Rhodesian – removed (1956 printings)

Bibliography

1. "Rhodesia & Nyasaland: The Queen Elizabeth II Definitives – 1954 -58" by Robson Lowe, published in the Rhodesian study Circle Journal No 104, December 1978 pages 201-207. (first appeared in "The Philatelist" Vol 44 No 8 May 1978)
2. "The Die Proofs of Waterlow & Sons – Part 1: Great Britain and the Empire to 1960" by Colin Frazer and Robson Lowe, published 1985
3. "Rhodesia & Nyasaland Archival Material", Patrick Flanagan, Rhodesian Study Circle Journal, No 280 August 2020, pages 258 to 263.
4. "The Rhodesian Philatelist", Otto Peetoom newsletter, No 18 December 1998, pages 276-278

Additions/Changes since August 2021	
12/2021	Additional 2½d plate number - 46797 on issued stamps and into printing details of 1 st & 2 nd printing
	Various scans of blocks from H&C Fare Stamp website – 2d, 3d, 4d, 4½d, 6d, 9d & 1sh
	Plate numbers 2d & 2sh ex Spink
	File copies of ½d, 1d, 2d, 3d & 4d
	Interesting annotation to 1sh3d
03/2022	Additional scan of 2d plate 46131
	2sh – 4 th printing, plates 47102 & 46218
	2sh – additional printing plate 46218
	5sh – two scans with vignette plate number 46220, plus duty plate 46219
	£1 – vignette plate no 46222
	1sh3d – replacement scan for vignette plate number 47102
	1d – mirrored plate number 47266
	3d – 5 th printing statement in margin, dated.
	6d – possible second trial printing
	5sh – comment on possible 3 rd printing
	½d – file copy 132660
	½d – Fifth printing
	1d – file copy 337789
	1d – sixth printing
	2d – possible trial printing dated 24/03/1954
	2d – file copy 69423
	2½d – fourth printing order no 8327
	2½d – file no 132600 with 1955 date
	3d – file copy 337789
	4½d – 15/04/54 printing
	4½d – File copies 207943 & 337789
	6d – files copies 132660 & 207943
	9d – file copy 207943
	9d – comment on possible 4 th printing
	1sh – files copies 337789 & 207943
	1sh – “correct plate” – 3 rd printing
	1sh3d – file copy 135245
	2sh – file copies 135245 & 8237
	5sh – file copy 8237
	1d – file copy order 69423
08/2022	Correction to dates in schedule of orders.
	2½d – introduction of trial printing and changes to first printing
	½d – file copy 69423
	2sh – handwritten plate number
12/2022	Improved and additional images from Spink auction November 2022
03/2023	File copies: 2d 132660; 2½d 337789; 3d 135245 & 5sh 337789
08/2023	Addition 5sh vignette with comment

12/2023	2sh – file copy order 337789
	½d & 4d part block with pencilled order number 69423
	1sh6d, 5sh & 10sh File Copy 337789
4/2024	1sh3d file copy 337789
12/2024	2d – 3 rd printing; 4d fifth printing; & 1sh 2 nd printing additions
	6d proving piece of 4 panes to printing sheet
12/2025	2s -1dt printing file copy
	½d – proof dated 29/6/55
4/2026	1d plate no 47266