

KGV RESEARCH
THREE HALFPENCE DIE II

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The most complex and mystifying stamp of the KGV Three Halfpence series, is the Die II stamp. Unlike the Die I stamp, which was printed from copper electros, the Die II stamp was printed from steel plates.

As there were only 5 plates of 120 stamps (as opposed to 33 electros of 120 stamps in the Die I), one would think the number of platable flaws would be simple, however this is not the case.

For many years the puzzling array of frame lines and crown top markings has confused and exasperated collectors, and as a consequence, many of the accumulations held by collectors are just that, accumulations, rather than collections.

The number of flaws embodied in the actual stamps themselves is not large, but the addition of the frame line and crown top markings leave the collector with doubts as to where many of these stamps belong, particularly if there are no other recognisable flaws embodied in the stamp itself.

The purpose of this article is to demonstrate a single stamp from this series.

To elaborate a little, I am sure collectors are aware of the long running debate about the so called "Substituted Clichés" 4L47, 4L53 AND 4R25.

There is still no conclusive proof that they were substituted.

In addition to this, the "Void Corner" variety 2L59 has also been the subject of much study, with the outcome determined only by the link to the various Printers Imprints throughout the life of the stamp.

It became apparent that if there is so much subjectivity about the above stamps, what about all the other stamps that surround these.

The single stamp I have chosen to demonstrate the complexities involved is 2L50, one of the "split frame" varieties.

Considerable time was spent trying to use similar methodology to plating as was used for the Die I stamps, including following the variety by time, however I soon discovered that this is not possible with the Die II stamps. As a consequence, the flaws do not flow in a logical order.

The methodology chosen has been to list the states as they were discovered, as they were not able to put in a sensible chronological order.

The same as with Die I stamp it is always assumed that the first state for any stamp is the normal state, therefore flawed stamps commence with state 1.

It can be seen by the number of different states for this individual stamp, it would not be possible for Collectors to have the required number of full sheets to confirm states.

It has only been with the assistance of a large number of pairs and other multiples that the states have been able to be confirmed.

As a final note, I am in the process of attempting to plate all of the flaws that I can find, so this exercise will be laborious and extended; before any accurate plating guide can be produced for the remainder of the Die II stamps.

In conclusion, I believe that the variations causing the flaws surrounding the stamp itself were caused by two separate activities:

1. Adjustment of the pressures on the plate during printing runs.

2. The practice of "makeready". This is the process whereby the Printer made repairs to small flaws on the plates prior to a print run. It is known that this process could take up to a week each time it was employed.

Descriptions for the various states are as follows, with drawings:

2L50 (8 states)

State 1 (P14 and P13.5x12.5)

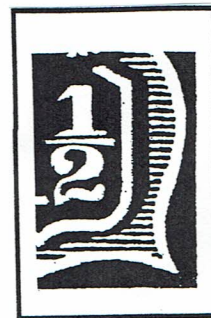
- (a) Bottom Frame: Frame break upwards from right to left below "LF" of HALFPENCE and the tip of the right end of the broken portion is hinged inwards and tapered.
- (b) RVT: The fraction bar is thicker at the right end. There are many similar units, but this is the most obvious.
- (c) Top Frame: Frame split angling down slightly from left to right above the right projecting point.
- (d) Right Frame: Frame shaved from 5.5-8.5mm from TRC.



2L50 Flaw (c)



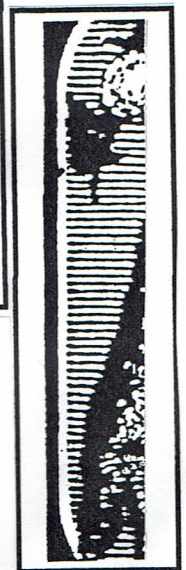
2L50 Flaw (a)



2L50 Flaw (b)



2L50 Flaw (d)



2L50 Flaw (f)

State 2 (P14 only)

- (a) (b) (c) and (d) As before
- (e) Bottom Frame: Small coloured flaw in outer white border frame below left end of small numeral 2 in LVT.
- (f) Left Frame: Small coloured mark in inner white border frame 9.75mm from TLC.



2L50 Flaw (e)



State 3 (P14 and P13.5x12.5)

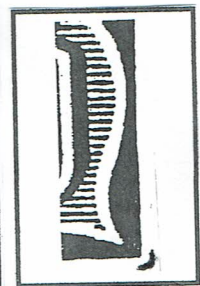
- (a) (b) (c) and (d) As before
- (e) and (f) No longer present
- (g) Right Frame: A 3mm frame line from TRC, parallel with the right frame.
- (h) BRC: A coloured dot at BRC.
- (i) Top Frame: A dash to the left and a dot to the right of the crown top, slightly above the top level of the crown top.



2L50 Flaw (i)



2L50 Flaw (g)



2L50 Flaw (h)

State 4 (P14 and P13.5x12.5)

- (a) No longer present
- (b) (c) and (d) As before
- (e) (f) (g) (h) and (i) No longer present

State 5 (P13.5x12.5 only)

- (a) No longer present
- (b) (c) and (d) As before
- (e) and (f) No longer present
- (g) and (h) Reappear
- (i) No longer present

State 6 (P13.5x12.5 only)

- (a) No longer present
- (b) (c) and (d) As before
- (e) and (f) No longer present
- (g) Right Frame: The previous frame line is now just a small dash at the TRC, parallel with the right frame.
- (h) As before
- (i) No longer present
- (j) Crown Top: The centre of the right side of the crown top extends to the right.



2L50 Flaw (j)



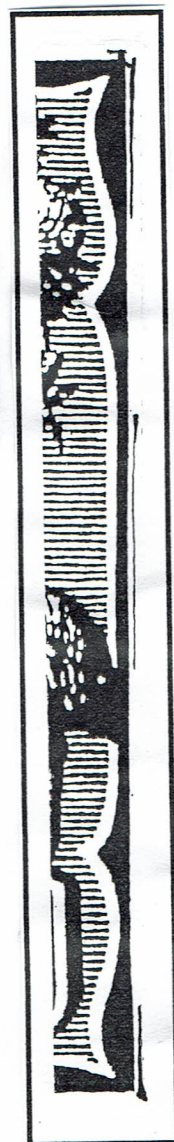
2L50 St 6

State 7 (P13.5x12.5 only)

- (a) No longer present
- (b) (c) and (d) As before
- (e) and (f) No longer present
- (g) and (h) Reappear as per state 3
- (i) No longer present
- (j) As before

State 8 (P13.5x12.5 only)(only seen Overprinted "TWO PENCE")

- (a) No longer present
- (b) (c) and (d) As before
- (e) and (f) No longer present
- (g) and (h) Right Frame: Fragmented frame line down right side of stamp.
- (i) No longer present
- (j) As before



2L50 St 8