

Emblems Issue of Victoria 1857 to 1863

Introduction

The purpose of this exhibit is to tell the story of the Emblems Issue, from the unsuccessful essays, through the various papers, methods of separation and constant flaws to when they were replaced, by the Netted Corners and Beaded Oval Issues. Important items are in a burgundy frame.

This display has five sections covering the life of the Emblems Issue;

Essays and proof.

Frame 1 Page 2 to 3.

Calvert Private Contract Period.

Frame 1 Page 4 to Frame 2 Page 31.

Robinson Private Contract Period.

Frame 2 Page 32 to Frame 4 Page 58.

Constant flaws.

Frame 4 Page 59 to Frame 5 Page 67.

Government Printer Period.

Frame 5 Page 68 to Frame 5 Page 80.

Essays and Proof

Tenders were invited to design and print 1^d, 2^d and 4^d stamps, Calvert Bros were the successful tenderer. In this display are 2 William Bell essays, the Calvert essay and the John Mitchell essay, also a progressive die proof.

Calvert Private Contract Period

This section covers from the first printings on Star Wmk Paper through early Roulettes, to the last printing before Samuel Calvert was dismissed for pawning stamps, property of the Post Office. Notable items, largest known unused 4^d on Star Paper, unused 1^d on Star Paper Perf 12, 2^d Lilac on Wove Paper Serrated 18 to 19, pair of 2^d Lilac on Wove Paper Perf 12, cover to Boston with Emerald Green Imperf and only Emerald Green Imperf between in private hands.

Robinson Private Contract Period

Robinson was awarded the stamp printing contract. This section covers from Robinson's first printings, through introduction of Perforations and Marginal Inscriptions to when Robinson was employed by the Post Office. Notable items, only known unused 4^d on Laid Paper Perf 12, only known complete Marginal Inscription, Dull Rose on Wove Paper Rouletted 5½ to 6½, Yellow-green on Wove Paper Imperf, largest known unused 1^d Yellow-green on Quality Wove Paper Perf 12, Yellow-green Perf 12 x Imperf error and a Green on Wove Paper with SPECIMEN Overprint.

Constant Flaws

Throughout the display, Purves' numbering system has been followed, flaws that I have discovered and proven by my personal research have a (c) suffix. This section includes first state of 1^d broken electro, my discovery of 2^d Sub-type B which I have given the number Flaw 24(c) and my partial plate reconstruction of 1^d Setting 3.

Government Printer Period

The Government took control of stamp printing, through to the when the Emblems Issue was replaced by the Netted Corners and Beaded Ovals. Notable items, Mint Block of 6 on ONE PENNY Wmk Paper, 2^d with Specimen Overprint, only recorded unused multiple of Greyish Lilac on Saunders Paper, a Block of 24 Mint Grey-violet and a Block of 12 Mint Slate on Wmk 2 Paper, the largest and second largest recorded multiples of the Emblems Issue.

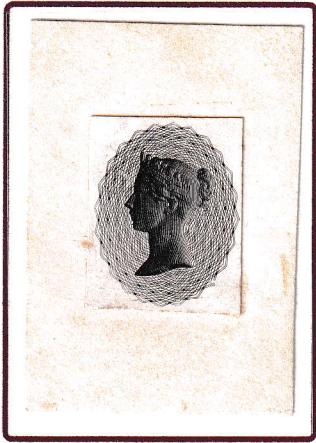
Literature References

J. R. W. Purves.	The Emblems of Victoria
Kellow, Turner, McCredie	The Specimen Stamps of Victoria
B. Peace	Australasian Wreck Mail

G. Kellow. The Stamps of Victoria
Philately from Australia March 1954

Essays and Proof

Unsuccessful Essay, Engraved by William Bell



Ex. Purves.

William Bell produced 6 different impressions from the unfinished engravings.



Ex. Perry, Barelli. Perry Certificate 185395.

William Bell's unsuccessful Essays for the 1857 Emblems tender. The first essay shows the Queen's head with an engine turned background, affixed to card. The second is interesting in that the tender was to produce 1^d, 2^d, and 4^d stamps, however there is a design for a 6^d stamp. The most likely explanation is that William Bell started engraving these sometime before the tender was announced and assumed that there would be a need for a 6^d stamp.

The Queen's portrait is very similar to the one used by Samuel Calvert, the main difference is the position of the diadem. The background of the head to the left of the 6^d stamp, is too heavily engraved for a good image in production, the bottom left corner of the 6^d and the lower right corner of the 2^d are not yet finished.

Unsuccessful Essay, Engraved by Samuel Calvert.



There are only 5 known examples 3 of which are in the Royal collection.

Calvert Brothers at the time of the tender, held the contract for the printing of the Woodblock issue, they submitted this Samuel Calvert engraved essay of their design, which was inspired by the 1847 embossed issue of the UK.

Victoria's head is surrounded by two octagonal frames with VICTORIA at top with stars at each side, the portrait is based on William Wyon's City Medal of 1837. The design is undenominated and incomplete, printed in pale brownish-pink on white paper, affixed to small piece of wove paper.

One of the other 4 examples of this essay was annotated 'Design for the Fourpenny Stamp other colour not embossed. Calvert Brothers' this indicates that the Post Office was considering this design, taking the time to write instructions on the reverse.

Essays and Proof

The Genesis Essay, Hand Drawn by John Mitchell

This hand drawn essay by John Mitchell, in pencil on pale blue writing paper, is highlighted and framed with writing ink, was submitted with the Fergusson & Mitchell tender, which could not compete with the cheaper new technology of reproducing electros in an electrolytic bath. As a result even though this was the favoured design, the tender was not accepted.

John Mitchell should be credited as the designer of the Emblems issue, this hand painted essay is essentially the original design.

Ex. Rundell, Purves,
Perry, Barelli.
Perry Certificate 181648



Enlargement of
bottom left Emblem.

This is the most important of the developmental artefacts, in the genesis of the Emblems issue, it is essentially the same composition as the issued stamps, particularly in regard to incorporating small emblematic corner designs.

The emblems in the top two corners have been taken from the flag of Melbourne, a square rigged sailing ship and a hanging fleece. The lower left corner shows a sheaf of wheat. The bottom right corner is very interesting, when enlarged, it can be seen as a rudimentary drawing of a baby cot, at the right end there are the two legs, there are vertical slats on the cot's side and there is the shaped top edge of the top rail.

Calvert was given the task of adapting Mitchell's design, Calvert moved the square rigged sailing ship to the top right corner, the hanging fleece was replaced with a sheep and cow. The sheaf of wheat was replaced with drawing instruments and the baby cot was replaced with gold mining equipment.

Progressive Die Proof, Engraved by Samuel Calvert.

Ex. Rundell, Purves,
Perry, Barelli.
Perry Certificate 185395



There are only 7 die
proofs known, four of
which are in the Royal
collection.

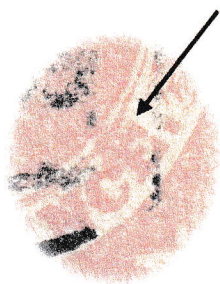


Enlarged copy of reverse
showing a hand written
notation in pencil
'proposed/stamp/1857'

Progressive die proof by Samuel Calvert, with inscriptions not yet entered, printed in grey-black on thin wove paper. The diagonally lined background inside the oval has a wider spacing than in the finished design.

A light impression of a finger print can be seen in the right margin, another can be seen in the lower margin. These fingerprints are contemporary to the impression of the die this makes one wonder is it possibly Samuel Calvert's fingerprint.

Calvert Private Contract Period Plate Proof of Second Setting.

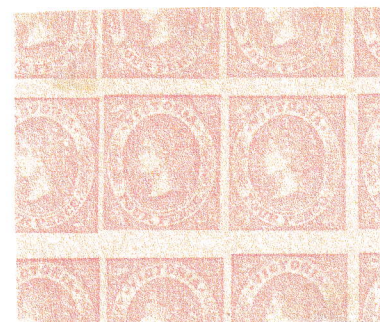


Flaw 7 Colour area
joining tops of CE.
Position B25.

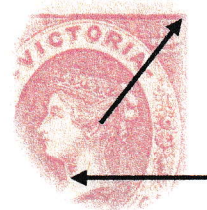


Pale Rose

The printing on the back is in the same direction as the front, but half a stamp height out of position. The plate position of this block is, B19-21, and B25-27 with B25 being Flaw No. 7. Ex Calvert Estate, Perry.



Reduced copy of reverse.

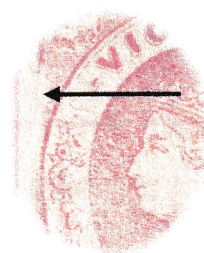


Flaw 5.1 Extra
colour in TRC and
in front of lower
part of neck.
Position A7.



Dull Rose

Double printed on the back, rotated 90° and 180° in relation to the front. The plate position of this block is, A1-3, A7-9 and A13-15 with A3 being Flaw No. 1, and A7 being Flaw No. 5.1. Ex Calvert Estate, Perry.



Flaw 1
Missing section
of left border.
Position A3.



Reduced copy of reverse.

These Printer's Plate Proofs, are from the second setting with the electros spaced to suit the Star Watermark paper, which was originally produced for the Queen on Throne stamps. As every sheet of watermarked paper must be accounted for, the proof prints of the make ready were done on un-watermarked paper. To save money both sides of the un-watermarked paper were used, on some occasions double printed.

Calvert Private Contract Period

Star Watermark Paper, Vermilion, Imperforate



Flaw 29.1
Top border
is thin from
left corner.
Setting 1.



Flaw 29.1



Unused



Flaw 29.1



Flaw 29.1
Top border
is thin from
left corner.
Setting 1.

Star Watermark Paper, Brown-vermilion, Imperforate



Unused

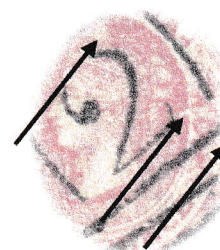
Equal largest
piece known in
Brown-vermilion.



RPSV Certificate 5705. A fault in central unit and some creasing.



Flaw 6



Flaw 6
White area above the
Diadem, line in from
oval and a dot at the
top of the spandrel.
Setting 1.

This is the first 4^d stamp issued in Victoria, on July 1st 1855 the intra Colony postal rate was reduced from 6^d to 4^d creating the need for a 4^d stamp. The 4^d Emblems was issued on January 26th 1857 to fill this need. Printings in this first contract were in three distinct colours, Vermilion, Dull Red and Dull Rose. Purves gives the quantities printed as approximately, 750,000 Vermilion, including the Brown-vermilion.

Calvert Private Contract Period
Star Watermark Paper, Brown-vermilion, Imperforate



Folded entire sent from Geelong to London.

Also on this entire are two 2^d Imperforate Grey Lilac on Good Quality Wove Paper, paying the double rate to London. Handwritten "Per Simla & Overland" plus London arrival PAID / ED / 3 AU 3 / 1857 in red. Backstamped GEELONG / Crown / MY * 27 / 1857 / VICTORIA and MELBOURNE / H / M.... Carried on the "Simla", departing Melbourne May 31st 1857, arriving Suez July 12th 1857, then "Scamander" departing Alexandria July 14th 1857, arriving Southampton August 1st 1857. Ex Perry, Barelli. Perry Certificate 185328.

Star Watermark Paper, Dull Red, Imperforate



Registered cover sent from
 Cathcart to Switzerland.

Also on cover pair 6^d imperf woodblocks, pair and 2 singles 1/- imperf octagonal, all tied by BN 93 Cathcart. Handstamped Crown / REGISTERED plus LONDON / BO / DC 10 / 57 / PAID & PD in circle and CHARGÉ

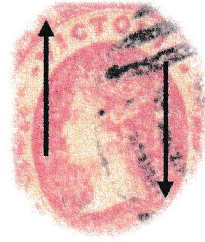
Back stamped CATHCART / [crown] / OC 5 / 5[7] / VICTORIA plus MELBOURNE / OC 7 / 18[57] / VICTORIA also [xxxxx] / 15 / DIC / 1857 / S and a partial BASEL / 15 / [xxx] 57 / [xxx] ON

Carried on the Emeu, which run aground on a coral reef in the Red Sea, after being refloated and repaired, the Emeu continued it's voyage to Suez.

Calvert Private Contract Period Star Watermark Paper, Dull Red, Imperforate



Flaw 16.1
White area above
I, white dot on edge
of oval above E.
Position C15.
Setting 2.



Flaw 16.1

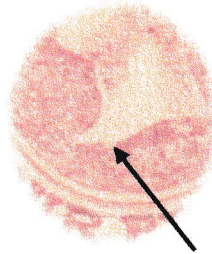


Stamps 1 & 4 have an ironed out vertical crease. RPSV Certificate 5735

Star Watermark Paper, Dull Rose, Imperforate



The largest know used multiples are only four stamps.



Flaw 22
White area at
base of neck.
Position C19.
Setting 2.



Flaw 22



Diena Certificate 9562/54



Largest known Unused multiple of 4^d on Star Paper. This was originally a strip of 3, but the left stamp was damaged, the damaged section was removed. There is a horizontal crease and black marks on the reverse. Ex Perry, Barelli. RPSV Certificate 5775.

The Vermilion ink used on the earlier printings of the 4^d Emblems proved to be unsuitable for the fine engraving on Calvert's electros. As a result all the electros needed to be cleaned, to do this the electros must be removed from the forme, to be individually cleaned. Then each electro was returned to the forme, in whichever sequence they came, thus setting 2 came to be. Purves gives the quantities printed as approximately, 500,000 Dull Red and 750,000 Dull Rose.

Calvert Private Contract Period

Star Watermark Paper, Vermilion, Rouletted $6\frac{1}{2}$ to $7\frac{1}{2}$ Single Wheel



Sides Only Rouletted



Top Only Rouletted



Star Watermark Paper, Dull Red, Rouletted $6\frac{1}{2}$ to $7\frac{1}{2}$ Single Wheel



Sides Only Rouletted



Left Only Rouletted



Star Watermark Paper, Dull Rose, Rouletted $6\frac{1}{2}$ to $7\frac{1}{2}$ Single Wheel



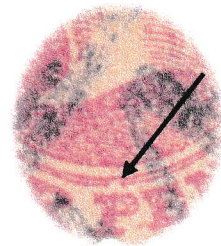
Sides Only Rouletted



Top and Bottom Only Rouletted



Sides Only Rouletted



Flaw 21
Break in oval
line above P.
Position D16.
Setting 2.

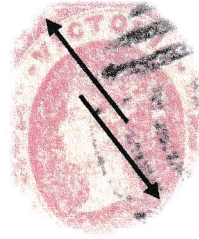
In August 1857 the Post Office purchased 2 rouletters, a single wheel Rouletter and a multi wheel Raymond Rouletter to be used at the GPO, by sales clerks. These 2 rouletters were never used in combination, but frequently the stamps were only rouletted in one direction. The single wheel rouletter with a gauge of $6\frac{1}{2}$ to $7\frac{1}{2}$ was simply a toothed wheel, mounted at the end of a handle, similar to a modern pizza cutter. Because of the effort to roulette the stamps they were rarely used as a pair, also by August almost all of the Vermilion, had been used and so very few were rouletted.

Calvert Private Contract Period

Star Watermark Paper, Vermilion, Rouletted $7\frac{3}{4}$ to 9 Multi Wheel

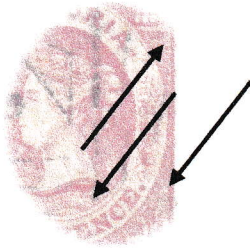


Flaw 16.1
White area above
the I, white dot
on edge of oval
above E.
Setting 1.



Sides Only Rouletted

Star Watermark Paper, Dull Red, Rouletted $7\frac{3}{4}$ to 9 Multi Wheel



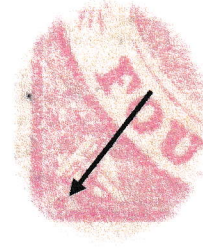
Flaw 14
Line under Ship, shading right
of E, sharp line on neck and
dots in shading under neck
Position C8. Setting 2.



Unused
Sides Only
Rouletted



Double
Roulette at left.
Sides Only
Rouletted



Flaw 31(i)
Colour dot in shading just
in from BLC.
Position C13. Setting 2.

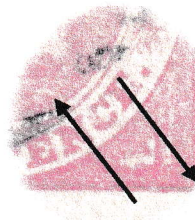


Sides Only
Rouletted

Star Watermark Paper, Dull Rose, Rouletted $7\frac{3}{4}$ to 9 Multi Wheel



Flaw 23
White line
under neck and
blunt BRC.
Position C22.
Setting 2.



Sides Only Rouletted



Top & Bottom
Only Rouletted

On August 17th 1857 a multi wheel Raymond Rouletter with a gauge of $7\frac{3}{4}$ to 9 was purchased at a cost of £11, for use by the GPO sales clerks, who often only rouletted in one direction. This rouletter was described by David Hill as having 7 circular steel cutters $1\frac{1}{4}$ inch dia. having 44 teeth of $\frac{1}{16}$ inch about $\frac{1}{50}$ inch apart, there were also 2 sets of shifting washers $\frac{5}{8}$ and $\frac{3}{4}$ inch thick and a 2 inch thick cutting board. This device would be rolled over the sheet like a rolling pin. The gaps between the teeth of the circular steel cutters were cut by hand and so the tooth length varied, specially the last 1 or 2 teeth where the engineer had trouble matching up the first and last tooth, on occasions you will see 2 very short roulette cuts.

Calvert Private Contract Period
Star Watermark Paper, Dull Red, Rouletted 7 to 9



Cover sent from Melbourne to New York

Also on this cover is a 2/- Imperf Woodblock in Dull Blueish Green. Tied by MELBOURNE / H / OC 15 / 1857 VICTORIA plus London transit mark in Red PAID / 1857 / 9 DE 9 / AJ and arrival 10 / DEC / 25 / N.YORK PM PK^T also English Accounting Mark 1/4 in red. Manuscript per "Simla" / Via Suez / Malta / England.

Backstamp, oval MELBOURNE / H / OC 15 / 1857 VICTORIA

Star Watermark Paper, Dull Rose, Rouletted 6½ to 7½

Cover sent from Melbourne to Dublin Ireland.

Also on this cover is a 1^d Yellow-green Rouletted 7 to 9 on Star wmk Paper and a 1^d Yellow-green Imperf on Star wmk Paper. All are tied by Barred Oval 1 of Melbourne, there is also hand written, Per "European" Dec 15.

As was common practice both the rouletted stamps are rouletted vertically only.

Backstamps, MELBOURNE / D / OC 15 / 1857 / VICTORIA and Arrival Backstamp DUBLIN / 8 A / FE 7 / 1858

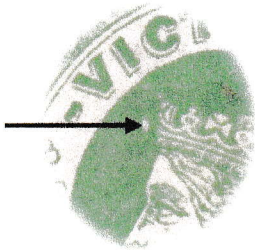


There are less than 6 covers known with 1^d Rouletted Star Watermark paper and less than 4 covers known with 4^d Rouletted Star Watermark paper, so having both on this one cover, is quite outstanding.

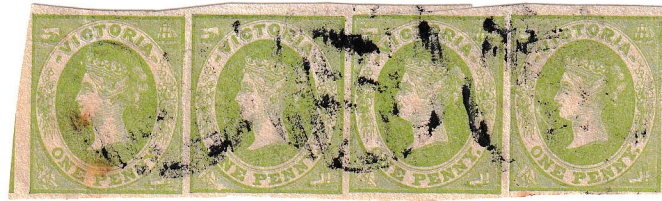
Ex Molnar.

Calvert Private Contract Period

Star Watermark Paper, Yellow-green, Imperforate

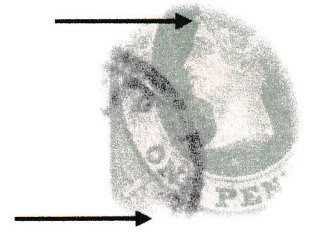


Flaw 12 Dot near Crown. Setting 1.



Flaw 12

Flaw 13



Flaw 13 Dot at top of forehead and a white area above border. Setting 1.



This has a cleaned manuscript cancel.
RPSV Certificate 4521.



Unused



Ex. Perry, Barelli. RPSV Certificate 5701.

Star Watermark Paper, Deep Green, Imperforate



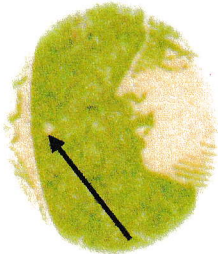
Unused



Unused, there is a scissor cut between stamps 3 & 4, plus a thin spot on 4 and some soiling/staining. Ex. Harvey, Perry, Barelli. RPSV Certificate 5736.



Unused



Flaw 20
White dot near oval, level with mouth.
Setting 1.



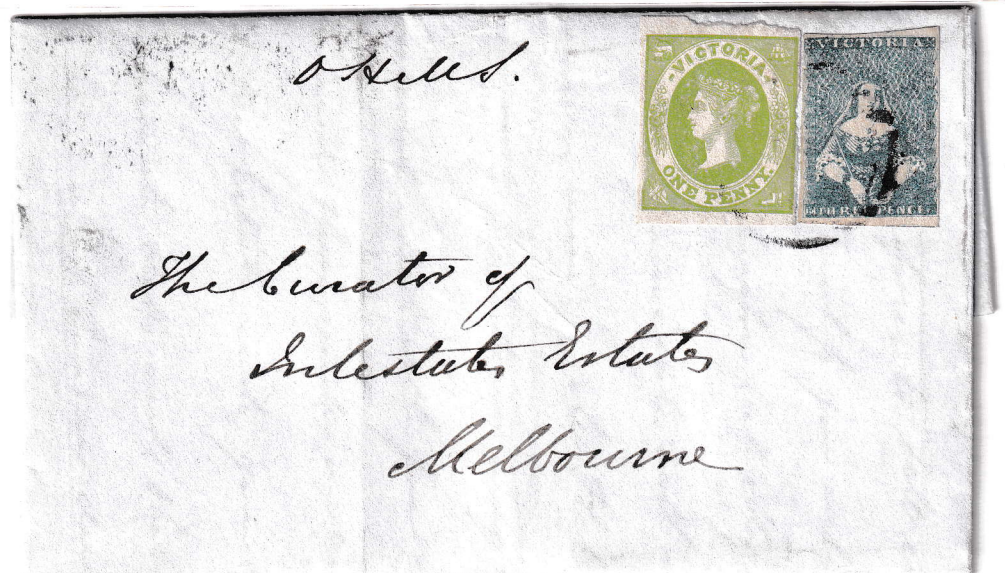
The sizing had started to break and allowed the ink to soak into the paper, this is Gossamer print.

After seven years of use, it was time to replace the 1^d Half Length, the 1^d Emblems was issued on February 2nd 1857. These 1^d stamps were required to pay the postal rate for newspapers. The early printings of the 1^d Emblems were issued imperforate, as they were printed before introduction of rouletting as a means of separating stamps. There were 2,001,600 of the 1^d Emblems printed on star watermark paper, only a small proportion of these were printed in the Deep Green.

Calvert Private Contract Period
Star Watermark Paper, Yellow-green, Imperforate

Tied by a faint Barred Numeral 89 for Amherst. An official letter addressed to 'The Curator of Intestate Estates', in reference to David Hogg dying intestate, while in a partnership with Donald Fletcher, the letter has a list of the assets owned by the partnership including a store and stock on hand.

Backstamp oval MELBOURNE / A /
FE * 4 / 1858 / VICTORIA



Entire sent from Amherst to Melbourne.

Also on the cover is a Greenish Blue 3^d Half Length, paying the new 4^d Intra-colony rate.

Star Watermark Paper, Dull Rose, Imperforate



Tied by Barred Numeral 5 for Ballarat. Also a British Circular Handstamp PAID / 1858 / 15MR15 / BR in red. London Handstamp PD within an oval in red. Circular Handstamp ANGL. / 16 / MARS / 58 / AMB. CALAIS B.

Backstamps, oval BALLARAT / Crown / JA 12 / 1858 / VICTORIA, oval MELBOURNE / C / JA*14 / 1858 / VICTORIA and a French Circular xxx / 16 / MARS / 58 / (9).

Ex Geitenbeek.

Cover sent from Ballarat to Paris.

Also on the cover is a Dull Orange Six Pence Woodblock Imperforate Position 23, paying the correct rate of 10^d for a ¼ ounce sent to France via London.

Calvert Private Contract Period

Star Watermark Paper, Yellow-green, Rouletted $7\frac{3}{4}$ to 9 Multi Wheel



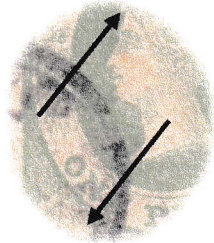
Unused
There are only a few unused examples known.

Flaw 12
Dot near Crown.
Setting 1.



Sides Only
Rouletted

Sides Only
Rouletted



Flaw 13
Dot at junction of forehead and diadem, also a white area at tip of the T square.



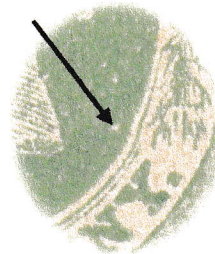
Deep
Green

Star Watermark Paper, Yellow-green, Rouletted $6\frac{1}{2}$ to $7\frac{1}{2}$ Single Wheel

Unused
Sides Only
Rouletted.
There are only a few unused examples known.



Flaw 15
White dot in shading behind neck.
Setting 1.



Top Only
Rouletted

Early in August 1857 the Post Office purchased a single wheel Rouletter, with a gauge of $6\frac{1}{2}$ to $7\frac{1}{2}$ and then on August 17th 1857 a multi wheel Raymond Rouletter was purchased, this had a gauge of $7\frac{3}{4}$ to 9. These rouletters were used by the GPO sales clerks who often only rouletted two sides of the stamps. These 2 rouletters were never used in combination. Very few 1^d Yellow-green were rouletted, the majority of which were rouletted with the multi wheel rouletter, making the 1^d single wheel roulette a very hard to find stamp.

Star Watermark Paper, Yellow-green, Perforated 12 by Robinson

Unused



There are only 2 unused examples known Perforated 12. There are approximately 24 examples known Perforated 12. After it had become normal practice to perforate all sheets of stamps, a few sheets printed on the Star Watermark Paper were found and were subsequently perforated by Robinson. RPSV Certificate 5702.

Calvert Private Contract Period

Advertised and Unclaimed Mail

Castlemaine Local Cover.
Advertised and Unclaimed.

Pair of 1^d on Star watermark paper in
yellow-green, imperf stamps tied by
BN 3 Castlemaine as well as being
tied by two strikes of the unframed
oval handstamp ADVERTISED /
AND / UNCLAIMED.

Backstamp, oval CASTLEMAINE /
Crown / JY 21 / 1857 / VICTORIA.



Star Wmk Paper, Yellow-green,
Rouletted 7¾ to 9, showing
ADVERT[ISED] / AND /
UNCL[AIMED]



Castlemaine Local Cover.
Advertised and Unclaimed.

Pair of 1^d on Star watermark paper in
yellow-green, imperf stamps tied by
BN 3 Castlemaine the unframed
oval handstamp ADVERTISED /
AND / UNCLAIMED is completely
on the stamps.

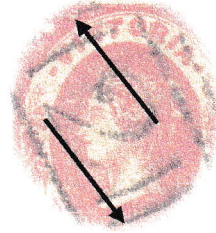
Backstamp, oval CASTLEMAINE /
Crown / JY 21 / 1857 / VICTORIA.

Mail addressed to a Post Office, required the recipient to arrive at the Post Office and enquire if there is mail for him, some never did arrive to collect their mail. Many would move on looking for better prospects and others to leave debts behind. It is interesting that both covers are the same colour and size, also posted on the same day, this raises speculation someone was trying track down people who owe him money.

Calvert Private Contract Period

Gossamer Prints

Star Watermark Paper, Vermilion, Imperforate



Flaw 13.1
White area above
the I and a white
line above the P.
Setting 1.



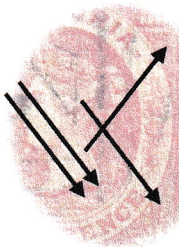
Star Watermark Paper, Brown-vermilion, Imperforate



Star Watermark Paper, Dull Red, Imperforate



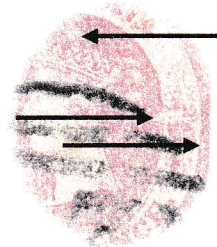
Star Watermark Paper, Dull Rose, Imperforate



Flaw 14
Line under Ship, shading right of E,
sharp line on neck and dots in shading
under neck. Position C8. Setting 2.



Unused



Flaw 6.
White hole in shading above crown, white
area into shading from the oval, white dot at
top of spandrel. Position B7. Setting 2.

These are Gossamer Prints not Offsets. Calvert complained that the conditions, in which this paper had been stored, caused deterioration of the size on the face of the paper, allowing penetration of the ink into the paper. He was so displeased with the paper that on April 17th 1857 he sent a letter to the Postmaster General, complaining about the uneven surface of the paper, on April 24th 1857 he was given permission to source a more appropriate paper that he would purchase at his own expense.

Calvert Private Contract Period
Gossamer Prints
Star Watermark Paper, Yellow-green, Imperforate



Star Watermark Paper, Deep Green, Imperforate



Unused



Unused



Star Watermark Paper, Rouletted 7 to 9.



Dull Red

On August 17th 1857 the Post Office purchased 2 rouletters to be used by G.P.O. counter staff. This experimental technology was slow and tedious, with the added problem of changing from vertical to horizontal rouletting, required dismantling the whole thing and reassembling again. As a result most stamps were only rouletted in one direction.



Dull Rose



It is quite easy to see the difference between an Offset and a Gossamer Print. An Offset by nature of it's forming, will always be a little out of register with the impression on the face, whereas a Gossamer Print will always register exactly with the impression on the face, plus the ink of the handstamp will also show clearly on the reverse. There were 2,001,600 of the 1^d Emblems printed onto the star watermark paper, given that their intended use was the 1^d newspaper rate, there is a much lower survival rate than other values, making the 1^d Gossamer Prints quite scarce.