

LOCAL SURCHARGES

INVERTED OVERPRINT ERRORS – “6” ONLY INVERTED

This error was found in one position on the first six sheets of black and red surcharges to be printed and was then corrected. All copies were secured by W.G.Aikman, who sent them to his family members in New Orleans and Scotland. A maximum of six copies of each can therefore exist. Mint copies do not exist. At least one black copy has been removed from its original envelope.



ex Hart (1978)

19 February 1892. “6” **in black** on “10 CENTS” on fourpence mauve. Two examples, one showing error “6” only inverted, on registered cover from Belize to New Orleans showing large firm’s receiving datestamp in red. The postal rate was 12c comprising six cents postage plus six cents registration fee.



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ex Tucker (1973) & Richards (2005)

19 February 1892. As above, but with “6” **in red** on “10 CENTS” on fourpence mauve.

LOCAL SURCHARGES

INVERTED OVERPRINT ERRORS – “6 and BAR” INVERTED

It has been claimed that two panes of thirty were overprinted in red and one pane in black. The variable surcharge positions on the examples below suggest that more panes may have been produced, but the scarcity of the stamps suggests that only a small number exist. Mr W.G.Aikman secured most of the copies and the majority of these were used to his family and friends in USA and UK. One cover is known in a different handwriting (to Bermuda), but this may also have originated from Aikman.

Overprinted
in Black



ex Tompkins (2006)



Overprinted
in Red



ex Tucker



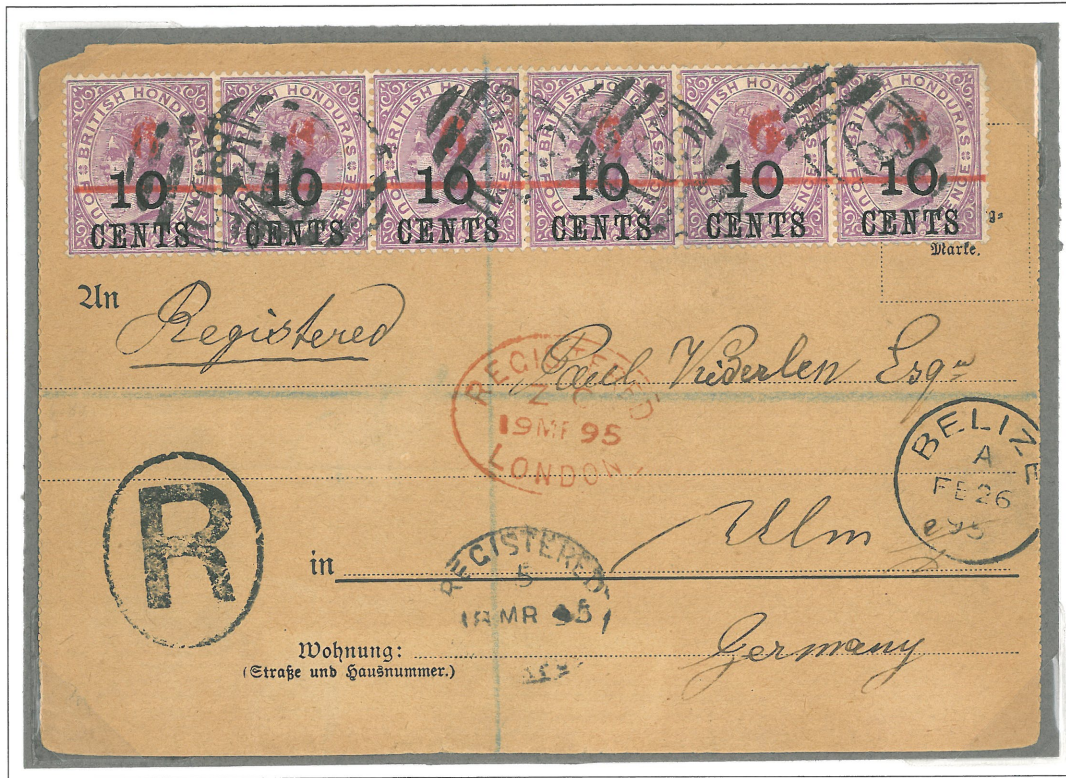
The mint copies of the inverted red surcharge were
initialled in black ink by WG Aikman on the reverse.



ex Jaffé
(2006)

6 April 1892. “6 and bar inverted”: examples of both the red and the black overprint errors on registered cover from W.G.Aikman (address on reverse) to Stanley Gibbons in London. The postal franking is correct, comprising six cents postage + six cents registration fee. Liverpool transit datestamp of 20 April 1892.

LOCAL SURCHARGES



26 February 1895. Registered letter-card to Germany bearing a strip of six "6 and bar" on "10 CENTS" on fourpence mauve stamps, comprising the first row of the pane. Stamps cancelled with a black K65 obliterator. The card also has a Belize "R in oval" registration mark, Belize datestamp (26 February 1895), black oval Liverpool registration datestamp (18 March), a red oval London registration datestamp (19 March) and, on the reverse, an Ulm Station receipt datestamp. As both postage and registration were six cents each, the card is patently philatelically overfranked.

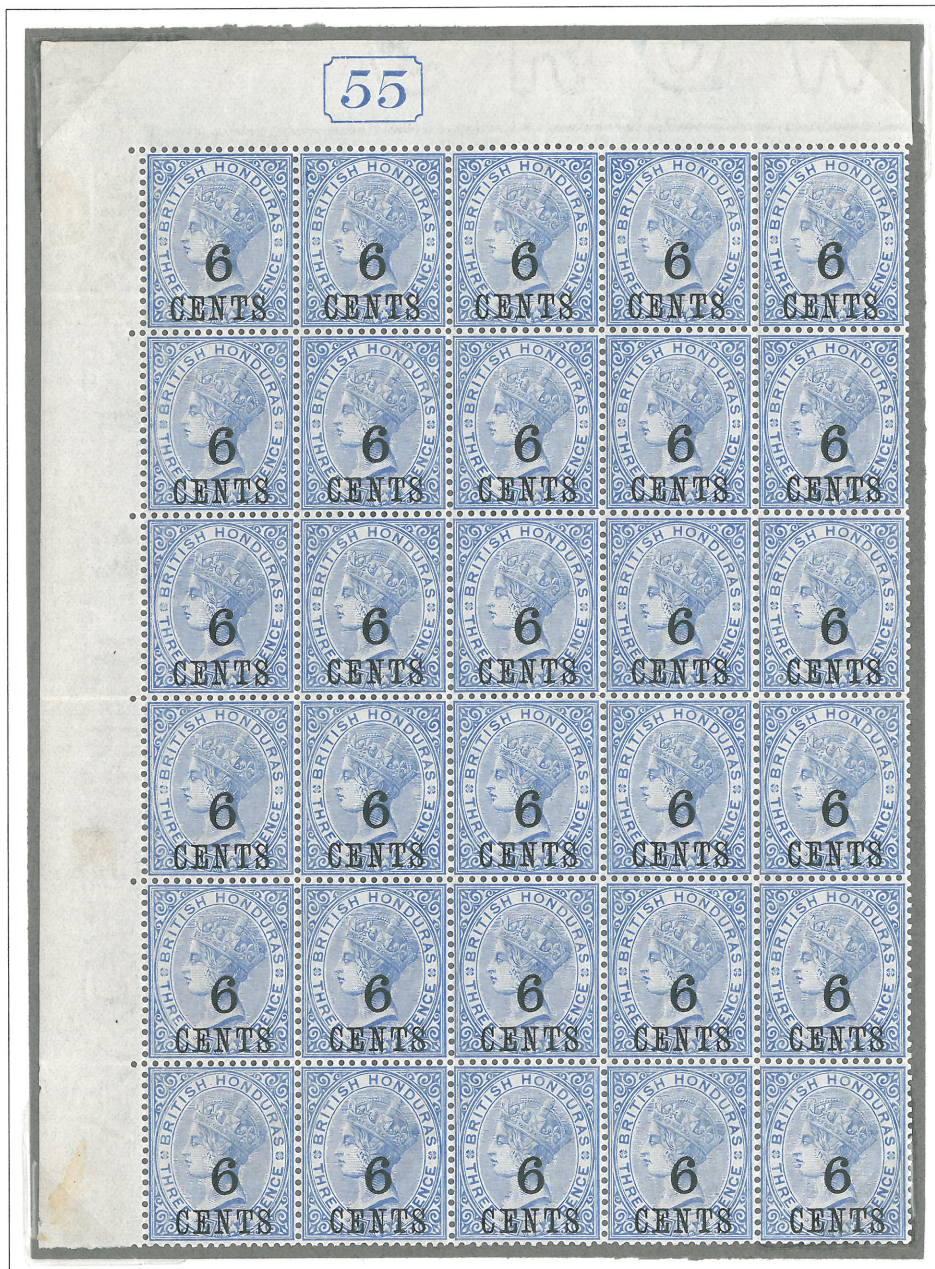


9 May 1892. "6 and bar" in black on "10 CENTS" on fourpence mauve bisected diagonally (for the three cents internal letter rate?). Authority was never granted for bisection of this issue.

THE DE LA RUE "6 CENTS" SURCHARGE

On 13 January 1891 the Crown Agents asked De La Rue to supply threepence stamps in blue overprinted "6 CENTS" for the new Empire letter rate. The threepence stamps were specially printed for this exercise – they were unissued without surcharge. This was a cheaper option than designing a new six cents stamp. 75,600 stamps and 400 Specimens were invoiced on 17 February. Printed in panes of 60 (6 X 10).

April 1891. "6 CENTS" on threepence ultramarine. Watermark crown CA. Perf 14.



Break in "S"



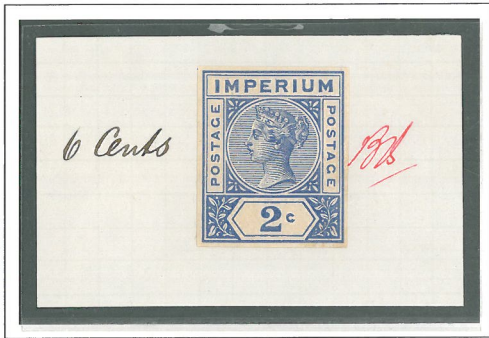
Surcharged in panes of sixty. The surcharge plate was produced from a horizontal six unit master with a tiny break in the "S" of the second unit. Hence this variety is present in the second stamp of each row in the sheet.

SIX CENTS FOREIGN LETTER RATE

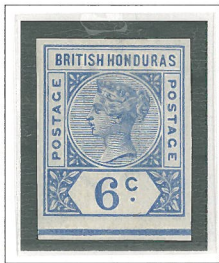
On 9 March 1891 De La Rue received a requisition for 6c stamps from the Universal Postage Keyplate. 60,000 stamps and 400 Specimens were invoiced on 16 June. Few were sold as the demand was met from stocks of the locally surcharged issues. 57,240 of the 60,000 were eventually destroyed in 1909.

1891 (July). Watermark crown CA. Perf 14.

ex Sussex (2002)
and Richards
(2005)



1891. IMPERIUM COLOUR TRIAL for the 6c duty, from an Appendix sheet dated "March 13, 1891", prepared as a colour scheme for British Honduras. Printed in the accepted colour of ultramarine. Initialed at right. (ex De La Rue archives (V09-0307))



1891. PLATE PROOF with cut down lower margin.

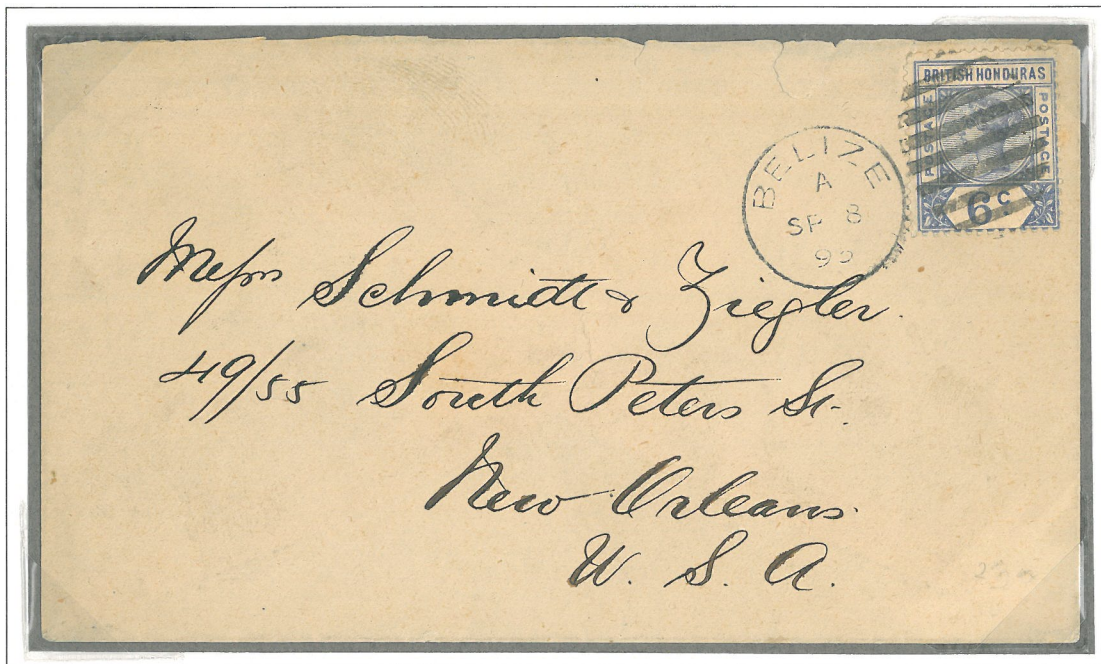


ex Tucker (1973),
Harper (2009) and
Foxley (2014)



Broken "M"
(Row 7/5)

UPU Specimens

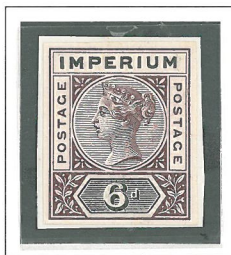


7 September 1893. Letter sent from Stann Creek to USA. Six cents adhesive cancelled with the Stann Creek oval of bars (type O-5). Type DC-1 Stann Creek datestamp on reverse. Struck in transit through Belize (8 September) and on arrival in New Orleans (11 September). The foreign letter rate was six cents from 1891 to 1895.

The twenty-five cents duty was ordered on 8 December 1897. 120,000 stamps and 750 Specimens were invoiced on 16 February 1898 and the stamps issued later the same year. Used stamps are scarce, indicating that there was little need for them. 72,000 stamps were later overprinted "REVENUE", and 43,200 of these were offered as 'remainders' by the Crown Agents in 1909.

"IMPERIUM" COLOUR TRIAL

This trial is from the 15 December 1897 submission. It is printed with a 6d duty plate from Die II in deep purple and black. Affixed to small piece. The 15 December submission also included four other colour combinations, including a slate & ultramarine trial from Die I. The final issued colours were red-brown and green, one of the trial combinations.



ex Sussex (2002)

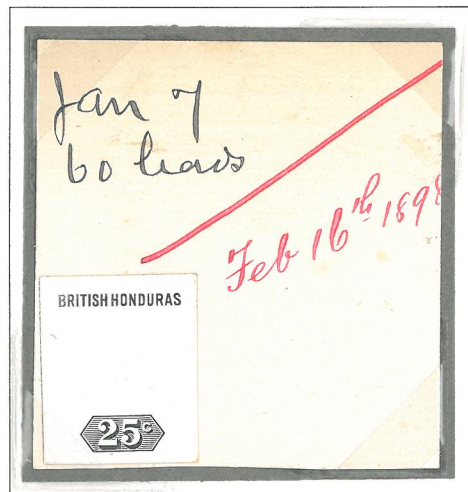
ex De La Rue archives
(V09-0308)

DIE PROOFS

Full die proof and cut-out lead proof for the twenty five cent duty. The lead proof from the Striking Book is dated 7 January (the date of striking as evidenced by the die proof at left) and February 16 1898 (the date of invoicing).



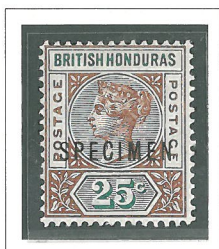
ex Hart (1978), Barnstone (1980) and Richards (2005).



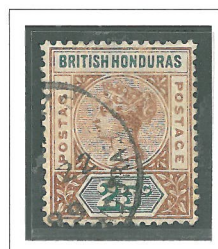
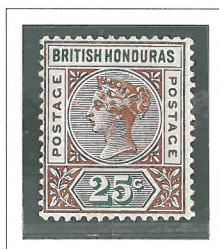
ex Hart (1978), Barnstone (1980), Sussex (2002) and Richards (2005).

ISSUED STAMPS

1898. Watermark crown CA. Perf 14.



UPU Specimen



THE UNIVERSAL UNIFIED KEYPLATE

The Universal Postage keyplate (inscribed "POSTAGE / POSTAGE") was replaced with the Universal Unified keyplate (inscribed "POSTAGE / & REVENUE") for British Honduras stamps issued from 1899.

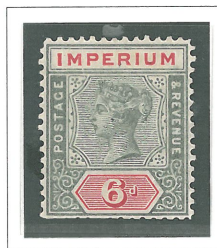
ESSAY

Imperforate essay in dull green with printed country name "BRITISH HONDURAS", and with the "50c" duty plate *hand-painted* in carmine and Chinese white. Affixed to small piece.

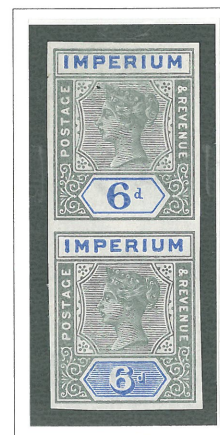


ex Sussex (2002)

IMPERIUM PROOFS



Imperium proofs in the issued colours of the 50c (green and carmine). Perf 14. Unwatermarked. This colour combination was also used for the Gold Coast 1889 20/- and 1898 2/-.



Imperium proofs in the issued colours of the \$2 (green and ultramarine). Imperf. Wmk Crown CA. This colour combination was also used for the Leewards 1890 5/-, the 1896 Sierra Leone 2/- and the St. Vincent 1899 5/-.

DIE PROOF

Dated Sept 20 1899, the date of striking.



ex Tucker (1973) and Richards (2005)

THE UNIVERSAL UNIFIED KEYPLATE

COLOUR TRIALS

Colour trials from the Universal Unified Keyplate were prepared from the one cent duty plate, although the issued one cent stamps were never printed from this keyplate. The accepted colours below (for the dollar values) are taken from a page dated 2 August 1899 ex De La Rue records.

(a) Accepted colours.



All ex De La Rue archives
(V09-0306)

Green and Carmine

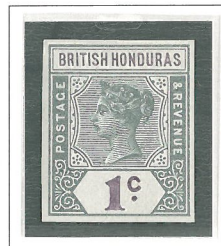


Green & Ultramarine



Green & Black

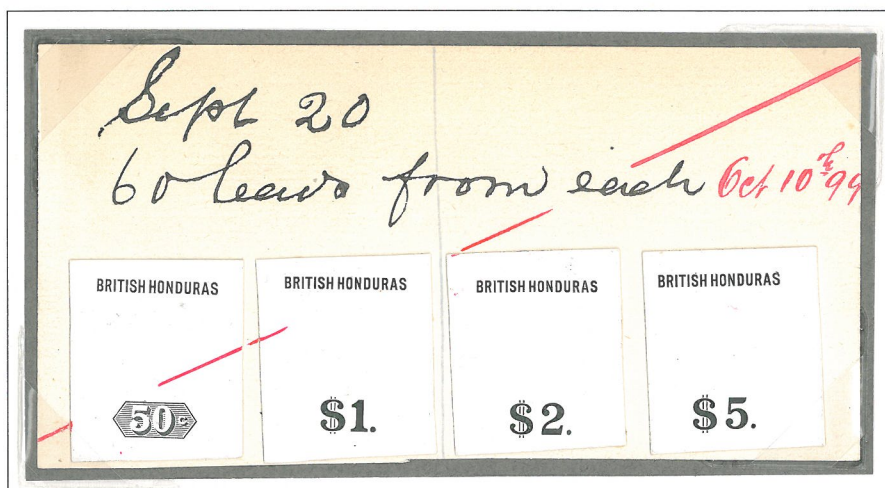
(b) Rejected colours.



Both ex De La Rue archives
(V09-0306)

LEAD PROOFS

Dated Sept 20 (the date of striking, as evidenced by the full die proofs) and Oct 10 99 (the date of invoicing).

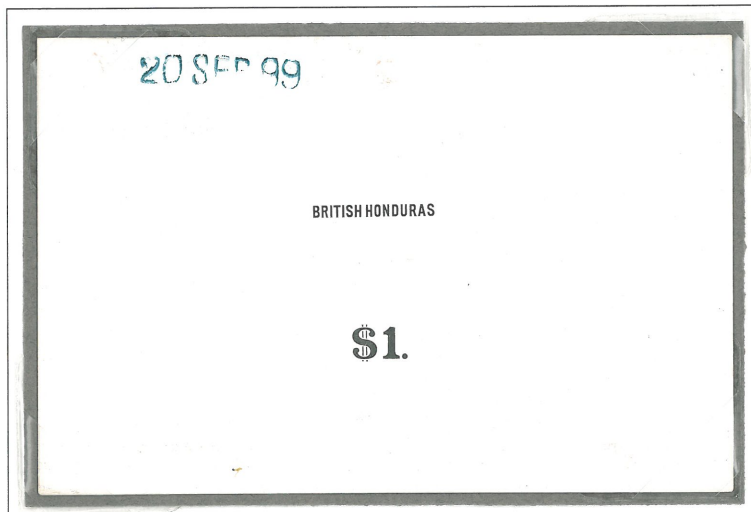


ex Hart (1978), Barnstone (1980), Sussex (2002) and Richards (2005)

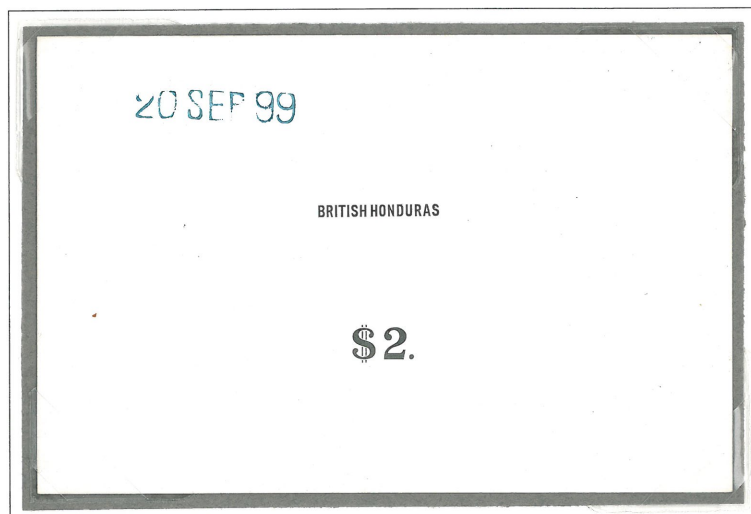
THE UNIVERSAL UNIFIED KEYPLATE

DIE PROOFS

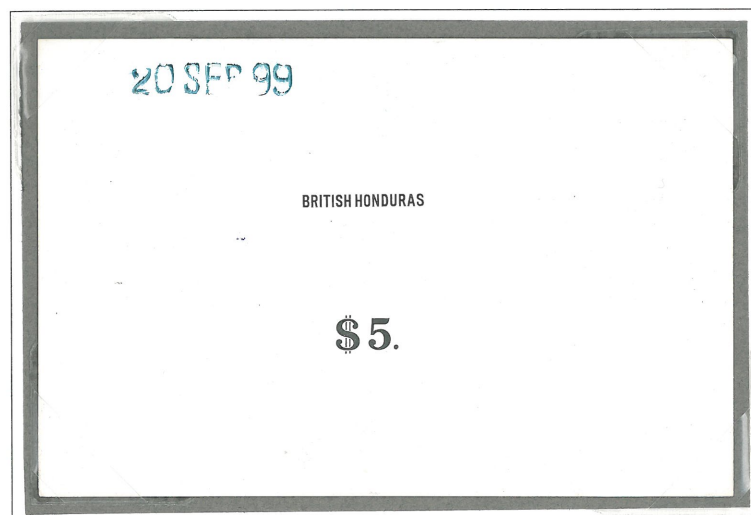
Dated Sept 20 1899, the date of striking.



ex Tucker (1973) and Richards (2005)



ex Tucker (1973) and Richards (2005)



ex Tucker (1973) and Richards (2005)

Stanley Gibbons report that the 50c was issued in March 1898 and the dollar values in December 1899. However De La Rue records indicate that all four duties were invoiced on 12 October 1899. The quantities were: 50c 60,000 (31,680), \$1 24,720 (8,880), \$2 12,000 (3,760), \$5 12,000 (10,320) along with the usual 750 Specimens. The numbers in brackets indicate the numbers offered for sale as remainders in 1909. It is believed that none found a buyer.

1899 (December). Watermark crown CA. Perf 14.

(a) UPU Specimens



(b) UPU Specimens with additional "ULTRAMAR" overprint for issue to Portuguese Colonies.



(c) Issued stamps.



FORGERIES (on genuine stamps!)

(a) Madame Joseph Forgeries (Type 74)

In 1954 Derek Worboys published a listing with illustrations of several hundred forged cancellers from a collection he purchased from Mr. Clive Santo. Clive's father, George, had purchased the cancellers from an estate of a rogue dealer, who had died some years earlier. These cancellers had been produced by a 'Madame Joseph', probably a nom-de-plume, from the mid 1930s to the 1960s (the most recent is dated 1967), and had been used to forge fine used copies of stamps from heavily mounted or unused stamps by a London stamp dealer. Although 'Madame Joseph' was never brought to book for the preparation of the cancellers, it is suspected that many other dealers and collectors have used the 'cancellers' to produce desirable items for their collections and for their stock.

Genuine QV keyplate high value definitives cancelled with 'Madame Joseph' zincograph forged postmark type 74.
Each of the stamps is back-stamped "Madame Joseph FORGED CANCEL"



Type 74 forged postmark

(b) Stamps from other Colonies

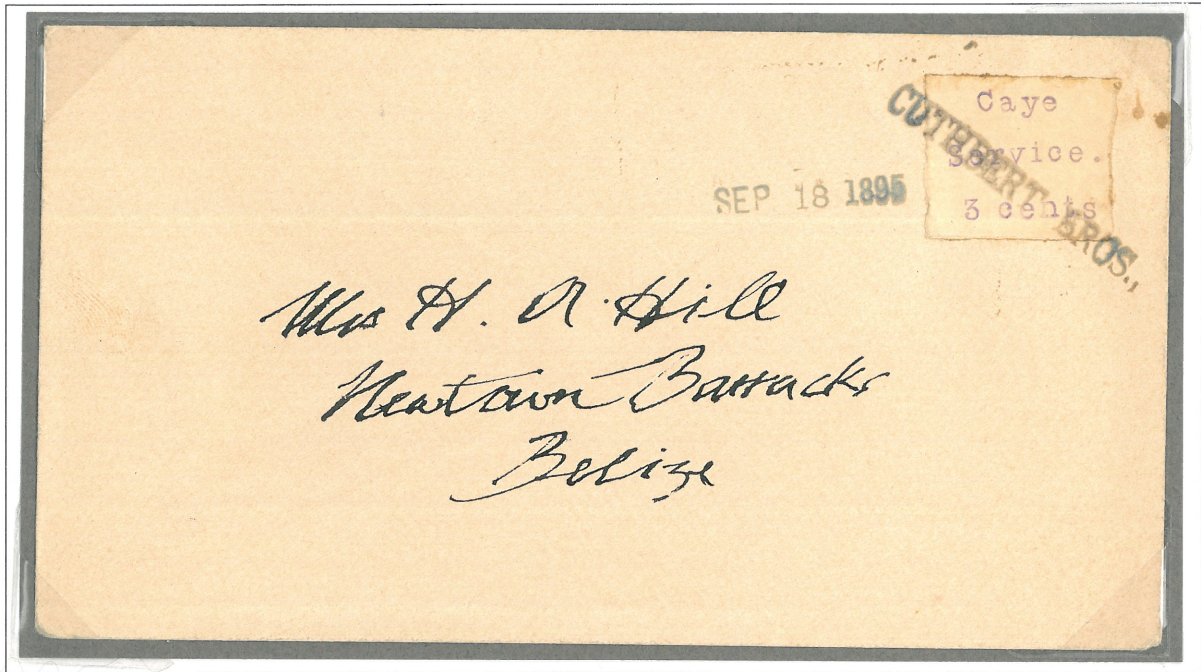
Genuine stamps from other Colonies printed on the Universal Unified keyplate with the country and duty bleached out and a new (British Honduras) duty plate printed in its place. These forgeries always appear to be a little washed out.



THE CUTHBERT BROTHERS CAYE SERVICE LOCAL

In 1894 a wealthy Belize merchant Sydney Cuthbert, who had built a luxury home on St. George's Caye in 1882, bought a steam yacht to transport his friends to Belize City and back. Many locals made use of this service to transport mails between GPO Belize and the Caye. Cuthbert introduced the local stamps to collect a contribution (three cents per letter) towards the costs. Initially it was planned to feature a vignette of St. George, but this was too expensive, and it was decided to use the simple design shown below. The stamps were cancelled with the company handstamp of Sydney and Morton Cuthbert.

1894. Typewritten on horizontally laid paper. Imperf.



18 September 1895. Cover sent from St George's Caye to Belize bearing 3c Caye Service local cancelled with Cuthbert Brothers company stamp and dated alongside.



Cuthbert Bros. company stamp applied to the reverse of a 10 January 1902 cover from Belize to Guernsey.

©



1895. Piece bearing 3c Caye Service local used in combination with 5c British Honduras adhesive for onward postage. Five cents was the international letter rate from 1895.

Two other examples are recorded of the Caye Service local used in combination with postage stamps. One is in the Royal collection (used to England) and the other is a front used to Jamaica (ex Addiss collection, 1991)