

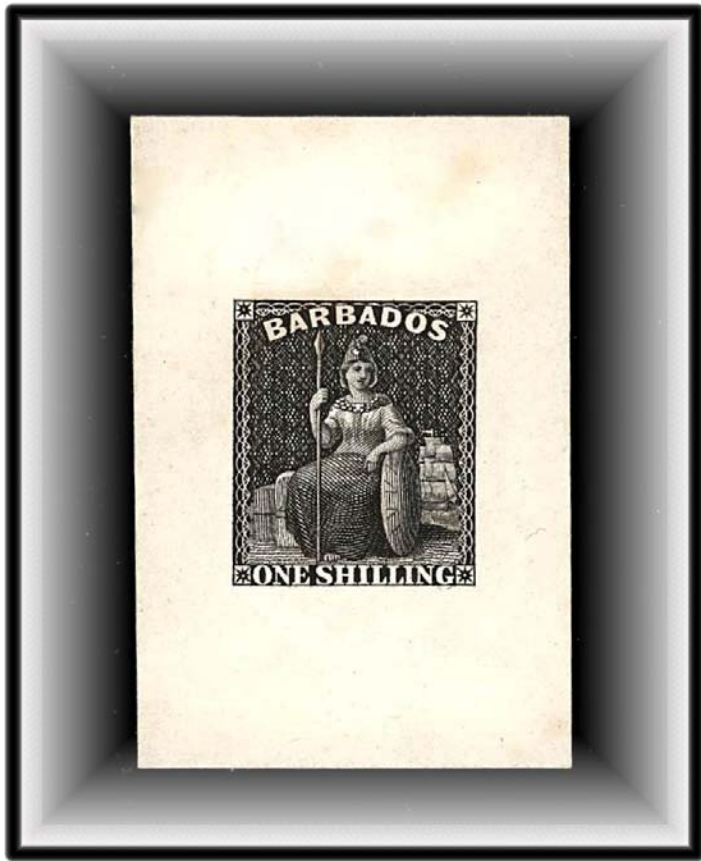


BARBADOS: The Britannia Shillings

By M. Fitz Roett

This presentation highlights details pertaining to the Britannia shilling stamps of Barbados. It contains material prepared by both Perkins Bacon and De La Rue.

Item 1: Die Proof printed on card.



The 1/- denomination was issued for the compulsory pre-payment of the double packet charge to England. The first consignment consisted of stamps printed in both brown-black and black shades.

The 1/- die was made via a roller transfer taken from the undenominated die. Both the die and printing plate were manufactured in September, 1858.

Item 2: 1/-. Brown-black



A nicely used block of six: the largest recorded

Item 3: 1/-. Black on cover

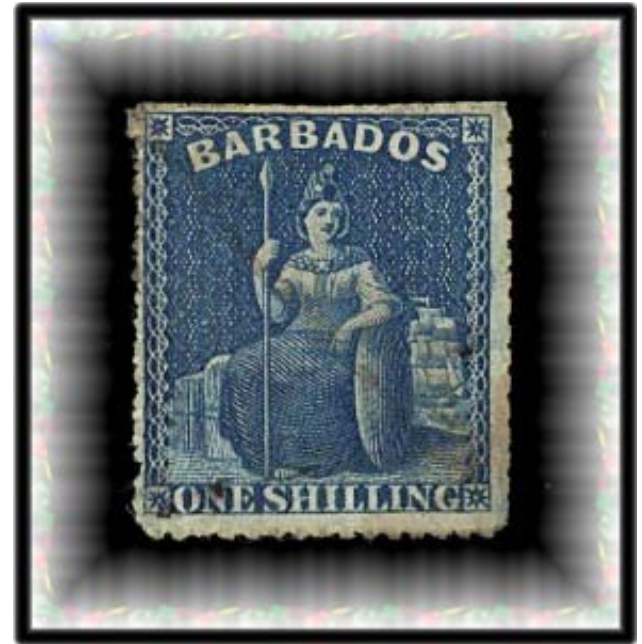
Effective April 1, 1863, the packet rate to the United Kingdom was increased to 1/- per 2 oz. letter.



Cover addressed to England dated May 9, 1863, and franked with a corner copy of the 1/- Black. Assessed 1/- 2 oz. letter.

Item 4: 1/- . Printed in Blue

The first perforated consignment of the 1/- denomination was erroneously printed in blue, the colour of the (1d.).



Incredibly, this blunder was not discovered until the stamps arrived in Barbados. Most of the consignment was destroyed -- about 15 examples survived.

Item 5: 1/-. Brown-black (1863)



The first consignment of perforated 1/- stamps was invoiced in late 1863.

Nice unused block of fifteen shown above.

Item 6: 1/-. Black (Imperf. between horizontal pair)



This is a particularly elusive variety with only five pairs and a block of four recorded. The variety probably arose from one vertical set of pairs in a single sheet.

Item 7: 1/-. Black (Imperf. block of four)



This is a recent discovery. The perforation marks can be clearly seen but the block is imperforate and is printed on unwatermarked paper. Trial? The perforation marks were added in April, 1863.

Item 8: 1/- Black (1870)



In 1870, Perkins Bacon first used star watermarked paper to prepare Barbados stamps.

A nice unused block above.

Item 9; 1/-. Black (1871 bootheel cancel)



A different numeral cancel was allocated to each of eleven parishes.

St. Lucy cancels used #11, as shown above.
One other St. Lucy cover is recorded.

Item 10: 1/- Black (1873)



This was the last printing of the 1/- denomination by Perkins Bacon.

Unused block of 12 -- the second largest recorded.

Item 11: 1/-. Violet (Aniline) (1876)



The first Perf. 14 De La Rue printing of the 1/- denomination was printed in aniline ink. It is a rather elusive stamp in unused condition -- about a dozen copies have been recorded.

Item 12: 1/-. Dull Mauve

Dull mauve was the last De La Rue printing of the 1/- value, the one that brought the Britannia shilling saga to an end. Only one plate was ever used in preparing 638,310 stamps over a 23-year period.



The larger of two recorded blocks is shown above. The multiple is printed in a redder shade than is usually found.