

Cyprus

The Victorian Issues

1880 - 1896

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Acknowledgements

Collecting and displaying stamps takes up a considerable amount of our spare time. Admittedly it is fun and worthwhile for the hours of pleasure it gives to all philatelists. However, this would not have been possible without the support of loved ones and close friends that makes this hobby all the more enjoyable. These people need to be acknowledged and remembered. I feel that this is not only their right but a way for me to show my appreciation for their continuing encouragement over the past 50 years.

First and foremost to my mother, who although not a philatelist herself, has always encouraged me and my brother to collect stamps. Bringing home from the office little pieces of envelopes with these magical pieces of paper from all over the world, she taught us how to immerse them in water, peel them off the paper, dry them, separate them by country and place them in albums in chronological order.

My wife and four children, who have put up with me for the past 27 years. Although not a keen philatelist herself, my wife Christiana, has always appreciated the artistic and educational side of stamps and has on numerous occasions offered her advice on the arrangement of my exhibits.

My very good friend James Bendon, who has always been an inspiration and was always very kind on offering solid advice ever since we met all those years ago in Cyprus.

The various philatelic societies of which I am a member, have proven to be an invaluable source of information to the research and development of my collections.

Last but not least, a number of people who over the years have been my philatelic friends and on more than a few occasions have discussed with me various aspects of philately. These are too many to mention but some names need to be recorded: Christopher Podger, Robin Davies, Ron Watson, Nikolas Garillides, Argyris Karamitsos, Pantelis Leousis, Alexandros Galinos, Nikos Rangos, Michalakis Colocassides, Alex Ioannides, Yiannis Pipis, Stefanos Stefanou and many others.

Akis Christou
February 2016

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Introduction

The strategic positioning of Cyprus in the Eastern Mediterranean, proved to be a major source of attraction for numerous conquerors and rulers throughout its turbulent history. This influence becomes transparent upon examination of the island's postal history. The Lusignans (1192-1489) followed by the Venetians (1489-1571) which were in turn succeeded by the Ottoman Empire for a span of just over 300 years (1571-1878) during which the Austrian post office played a key role. The British Empire took over Cyprus from the Ottomans in 1878 and a more organised postal system came into effect almost immediately. This was a similar system to the one already in place in other colonies at the time. British stamps were used widely with numerical barred cancellations to distinguish the various geographical areas.

The major change in Cyprus' postal history occurred under British rule when the decision was made to hand the postal administration over to the local government in 1879, something that did not materialise until April 1st, 1880. Initially, a selection of stamps (six in total) that were in use at the time were overprinted with the word "CYPRUS", thus giving birth to Cyprus' first issue. Being a colony, the island followed suit along with the rest of the British Empire in the production of the subsequent issues, replacing the Monarch's head in the key plate with the one who was on the throne at the time. The denominations of the stamps however, were those that most suited the needs of the local administration.

The display progresses chronologically and tries to cover every aspect from the design process of the stamps, production, errors, varieties and postal usage. The story of the Victorian stamps of Cyprus is undoubtedly related to the British influence on the Island. The issues span from 1880 to 1896.

The major reference has been WTF Castle's 3rd edition book "Cyprus stamps and postal history 1351 - 1986" as well as numerous auction catalogues and other collections. A second publication with useful information regarding the overprinted issue has been "Stanley Gibbons' Great Britain Volume 1 Queen Victoria - Specialised stamp catalogue 13th Edition." Useful information was also found by studying the Royal Collection at St. James's Palace, the Taplin Collection, as well as the Crown Agencies and Crown Colonies record books housed at the British Library in London. Information regarding the De La Rue issues was studied at the British Postal Museum in London at the Mount Pleasant post office depot.

The 1881 provisional overprinted issue

On the 1st of April, 1880, the provisional overprinted issue was put into circulation. De La Rue was commissioned to overprint the six most common values used on the island, since 1878, with the word "CYPRUS". The typography method was used to overprint the stamps in black sans serif capitals. The operation was applied in July 1879 and the stamps were withdrawn from circulation on the 30th of June 1881.

When the British developed the postal system, six values were chosen for the overprint from the wide variety of denominations that were being used in Cyprus since 1878; namely, the ½d, 1d, 2½d, 4d, 6d and 1 shilling.

The ½d stamp was overprinted on plates 12, 15 and 19. Plates 174, 181, 184 (the rarest), 193 & 196 (that were never used), 201, 205, 208, 215, 216, 217, 218 & 220 were used for the overprint for the 1d value. The 2½d denomination had the word "CYPRUS" printed on it on plates 14 and 15. Reports that plate 9 was also used have failed to produce any samples. The larger denominations that were used for the provisional issue were plates 16 for the 4d, 16 for the 6d and 13 for the 1 shilling stamp.

After the withdrawal of these stamps from circulation, the remaining stock was sold to Stanley Gibbons in London for the amount of £250.00. The face value of these stamps was £3.425,80. The consignment included a small amount of postal stationery. A number of these stamps were sold in Great Britain and were actually used for postage. Three examples of these can be seen in the display.

For all values of the issue, stamps with a face value of one pound were overprinted with the word "SPECIMEN" for each denomination, making the 6d and especially the 1 shilling rare. These were not distributed by the UPU.

Some of the most important errors and varieties in Cypriot philately are known in this issue and all of these have to do with the overprint operation. The ½d plate 15 double overprint, the 1d plate 208 double and missing overprints and the 2½d inverted watermark varieties are recorded in the most credible stamp catalogues. Errors and varieties have also been inherited from the printing of the British stamps themselves, such as the reversed watermark on the 1d value and the broken pin perforation error.

A plethora of constant varieties exist on the smaller denominations. These are considered too specialised to gain catalogue status. The fact that new varieties are reported from time to time, presents an excellent opportunity for the collector to explore further.



The six stamps of the Provisional Overprinted Issue with the "SPECIMEN" overprint. Only one pound's worth of specimens were produced for each value. These were not circulated within the UPU.

Frame 1

The 1881 provisional overprinted issue - ½d value

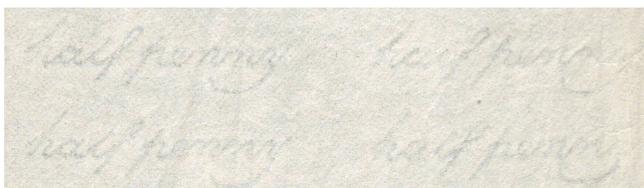
The ½d value was the lowest denomination of the first issue of stamps used in Cyprus. Its purpose was to cover the local needs for inland printed matter and to make up the correct rates that could not have been produced from the other denominations. In some cases these were used as they were readily available at post offices or in the hands of the person writing the correspondence.

The development of the stamp comes from the 1870 line-engraved half-penny issue of Great Britain. Out of the 15 Plates produced, only three, plates 12, 15 and 19 were overprinted with the word "CYPRUS". Plate 19 is the rarest as only two sheets of 480 stamps each are known to have been overprinted.

Covers with the ½d stamps are not common. Most of the covers recorded have the plate 15 stamp affixed to them. Only four covers are recorded with plate 19. Three have one stamp along with two 1d stamps to make up the foreign letter rate of 2½d and one with two plate 19 stamps on a registered cover, displayed in this exhibit. No cover has been recorded so far with a stamp from plate 12.



Proof in black taken from the hardened dye (3 June 1871), after the original was engraved by Frederick Heath.



Watermarked paper with three impressions of the "half penny" as used in the Great Britain stamps, spanning over three horizontal stamps.

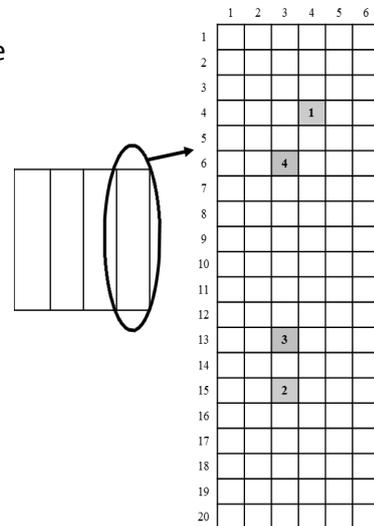


The Great Britain stamps development process from the imprimatur form (for plates 12, 15 & 19), having been printed into stamps and then further overprinted with the word "CYPRUS".

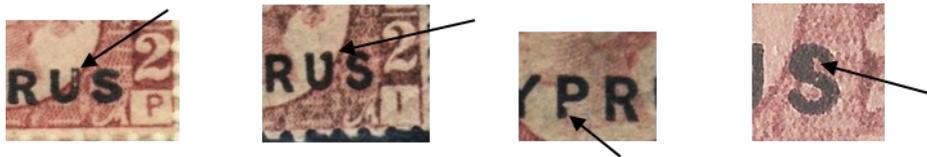
Frame 1

The 1881 provisional overprinted issue - ½d value

The overprinting process was performed in four distinct operations each of 120 subjects in 6 rows X 20 columns. The illustration below shows the difference in height between the overprints in two adjacent operations (between rows "NR-NS").



The illustration above shows the difference in height between the overprints in two adjacent operations (between rows "NR-NS").



Constant varieties occurring at specific positions four time per sheet as per the overprinting operation are the "Elongated U", "Blob on U", "Blob on P" and "Filled S".



The plate 19 stamp is the most rare of the three plates overprinted as only two sheets are believed to have been used as not more than two stamps have been recorded with identical check letters. The cover shown is the only recorded example having two plate 19 stamps. Postmarked 1 September 1880, Limassol to Alexandria, paying the total rate of $4\frac{1}{2}d$ ($=1d + 2 \times 1\frac{1}{2}d + 2\frac{1}{2}d$), $2\frac{1}{2}d$ for the foreign letter rate and $2d$ for the registration fee.

Frame 1

The 1881 provisional overprinted issue - ½d value

The double and shifted overprints are undoubtedly the most important errors in Cypriot Victorian philately. These are result of the shifting of the printing plate or paper during the first of the four overprinting operations of a plate 15 sheet of stamps. They resulted in the shifting of the overprint in columns two to six and the doubling of the overprint on the seventh column, the first column of the second printing operation.



*Type I partial double
overprint from column "G"*



*Shifted overprint from
columns "B-F"*



*Type II partial double
overprint from column "A"*



*The only local cover recorded with two ½d stamps ever recorded
postmarked Larnaca 29 January 1881 to Nicosia.*

Frames 2 & 3

The 1881 provisional overprinted issue - 1d value

The 1d value was the second denomination to be overprinted. It was used primarily for the internal postal rate for letters. It was also used to make up other more complex rates with other denominations.

The stamp comes from the 1864 line-engraved one-penny stamp of Great Britain. From the large number of plates used for the GB stamp, only 13 were overprinted "Cyprus" from plate numbers 174, 181, 184, 193, 196, 201, 205, 208, 215, 216, 217, 218 and 220 were used. Only one sheet was produced from plates 184, 193 and 196. Plates 193 and 196 were never used as they were presented for auction intact by Robson Lowe. Plates 174, 181 and 220 are considered rarer than the remaining ones. However, the exact number of sheets printed for each plate is not known.

Covers with the 1d stamp - used to pay for the local rate - are scarce. Combination covers using two 1d stamps and one ½d stamp are also known for paying the foreign letter rate.

The unique sheets from plates 193 and 196 were part of the decoration of the Collector's club in New York for several years. They then became part of the J.C. North collection that was auctioned by Robson Lowe on 2 May 1956. Initially, the sheets were offered as thirty-five lots of identical blocks and the plan was to sell them at least 5% over the hammer price of the separate lots as complete sheets. This however did not materialise and the sheets were split and sold as blocks.



Local cover from Paphos to Nicosia bearing the 1d stamp

Plate 174 is one of the rarer plates. The strip of three with plate number is the only one recorded although from the check letters known, it is certain that more than 3-4 sheets have been produced as this plate can be found on the first of the "HALF-PENNY" surcharges.



Frames 2 & 3

The 1881 provisional overprinted issue - 1d value



Plate 184 is the rarest of all plates, with no more than 13 used samples and three mint ones recorded. The stamps were sold in Limassol as most of the surviving used copies suggest. Only one copy is recorded as having been used in Paphos.

Plate 208 Double and Missing Overprints. One sheet from plate 208 was misplaced during the two overprint operations. The first operation covering the bottom of the sheet was correctly performed covering the bottom twelve rows of the sheet. The second operation missed the top row entirely, resulting in the top row not getting the overprint and the thirteenth row getting it twice. Out of the twelve possible examples of both varieties, eleven have been recorded from the missing overprint type and seven from the double overprint type.



Plate 218 double overprint is more of a shifted overprint than a double as it is catalogued. It appears only at the bottom half on one sheet. The strip on the left only shows the double or shifted overprint on the bottom stamp where the bottom half of the sheet begins, thus supporting the theory that only stamps from the bottom half have this error. Along with the fact that this variety has not been recorded on any stamps from the top half of the sheet and that no duplicate check letters has been recorded, this suggests that it only occurred on one half of a sheet.

Numerous other errors and varieties occur in this value, some inherited from the British issue, such as the broken pin variety and the reversed watermark that can only be seen on the margin of the sheet as in the example on the left. All of these errors, as well as the ones that occur on the "CYPRUS" overprint, can be seen in detail on the display, noting their positions that are constant on the sheets. Errors also occur on the "CYPRUS" overprint itself.

Frame 4

The 1881 provisional overprinted issue - 2½d value

The 2½d value was primarily used to pay the foreign letter rate. It is the most common of all six values to be found on cover.

The stamp comes from the 1876 surface printed issue stamp of Great Britain. Only two plates were overprinted "CYPRUS" from this denomination, namely 14 and 15. Although plate 9 has at times been reported to exist, no examples of this plate have ever been recorded.

Covers with the plate 15 stamp are scarce and full sheets of both plates are common as large numbers of these stamps were sold as remainders.



Inverted watermark variety on Plate 15 has been considered only to have been from one sheet only. Recent research has revealed that at least two sheets of this error must exist as two stamps, with identical check letters, have recently been certified by the RPSL expert committee.

Numerous constant varieties exist, that are constant at specific positions on the sheets at both the upper and lower panes. These are too many to mention in this presentation and more research is required on this stamp in order to reveal more of its secrets. The most notable variety of these is the "large thin C" that is located at positions BK and JK on the upper and lower panes respectively.



The 2½d stamp on a pre-registered cover postmarked with the barred "975" Limassol cancellation to Egypt, paying the foreign letter rate.

Frame 4

The 1881 provisional overprinted issue - 2½d value



The ½d and the 1½d stamps from the 1887-1900 Great Britain Jubilee issue along with one 2½d stamp from the Cyprus overprinted issue on a registered cover, postmarked Swanage, 22 November 1894 to Germany. 2d paying the overseas rate and the remaining 2½d the registration fee.



Two 1d stamps for the registration fee and one 2½d stamp paying the foreign letter rate postmarked Larnaca, 20 April 1880 to Germany.

Although the two covers have the same total value of stamps, the registration fee and the foreign letter rate over the course of the 14 years between the two letters has reversed.

Frame 5

The 1881 provisional overprinted issue - The high values : 4d, 6d and 1 Shilling

The three high value stamps of the issue , 4d, 6d and 1 shilling stamps, come from the surface printed issues of Great Britain. Plates 16 were used for the 4d and 6d and plate 13 for the 1 shilling stamp.



4d "SPECIMEN" block of 30. Out of the 60 stamp overprinted specimen, this is the largest block in existence as the largest other multiple recorded is a strip of three.



6d "SPECIMEN" block of six.

Frame 5

The 1881 provisional overprinted issue - The high values : 4d, 6d and 1 Shilling



Mint block of eight of the 6d denomination.

The largest multiple recorded for this value.



1 Shilling pair. Out of the 2.880 stamps issued, 1.222 were sold as remainders. The pair SK-SL is one of two pairs that have been recorded. The other pair "JI-JJ" was offered for sale in the 1960, Richardson sale at Robson Lowe, and has not been seen since.

Frame 6

1881 HALF-PENNY on the 1d provisional overprinted issue stamp, surcharged 18mm

The continuous request from stamp dealers in the UK severely exhausted the stocks of stamps of the ½ denomination. In February 1881, the first of the surcharges -16mm in length- was issued, printing the words "HALF-PENNY" on the 1d stamp using lithography.

The overprint that was 2½mm high in black sans-serif capitals was applied on ten of the thirteen 1d plates, namely 174, 181, 201, 205, 208, 215 (rare), 216, 217 (rare), 218 and 220.



Two stamps with the "SPECIMEN" overprint exist, the second one residing in the Royal collection.



A large number of errors and varieties exist with the most notable being the missing "Y" variety, better known as the "HALF-PENN" variety at positions "BG" and "LG" on the top and bottom half of each sheet respectively. Even rarer is the existence of the letter "Y" at the same positions, indicating that the break in the plate that resulted in the error occurred sometime in the beginning of the surcharging process.



The other recorded variety is the double surcharged (looking more like a shifted print error). This error only exists on plate 220.

Due to the printing process, the overprint resulted in various errors at several positions on the sheet. Some are constant and others can be found at various positions on the sheets, the most notable of these being the "double hyphen", "HALF-PENXY", "HALF-PENHY", the small second "N" in "PENNY", etc.

Frame 6

1881 HALF-PENNY on the 1d provisional overprinted issue stamp, surcharged 18mm



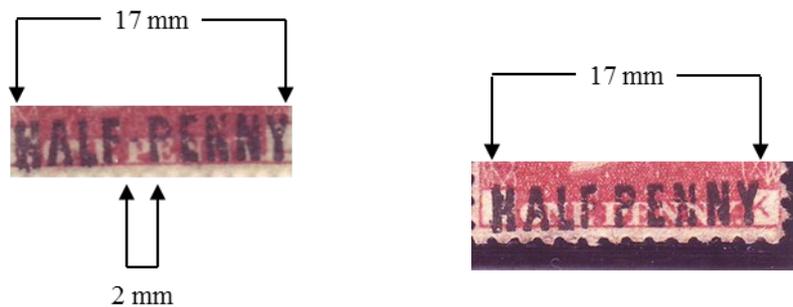
Only a handful of covers are recorded with this stamp an one half-penny pre-printed post card with an additional half-penny plate 201 stamp, making the 1 penny post card rate to the UK. The card was send from Larnaca, 29 May 1881 to London.

Frames 6 & 7

1881 HALF-PENNY on the 1d provisional overprinted issue stamp, surcharged 16-16½mm, 17mm, 13mm and 30 Paras

17mm Surcharge

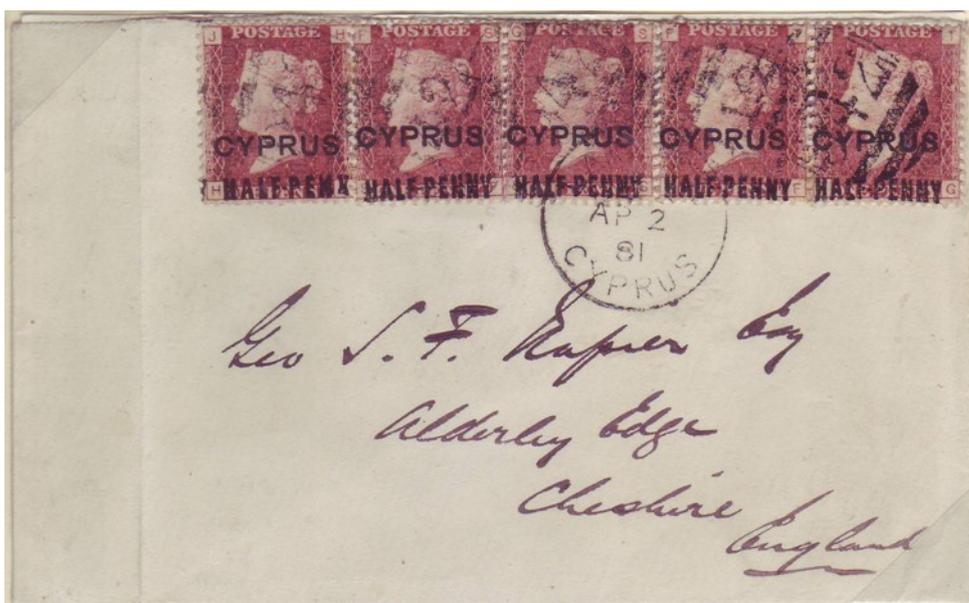
Between February and April 1881, a 17mm surcharge was applied to plates 201 and 216 only. The words "HALF" and "PENNY" were separated by 2mm instead of 1mm. Another variant exists with all the letters of the surcharge spread over 17mm at equal distances between them.



16-16½mm Surcharge



Plates 201, 216 and 218 (only one used known) have been recorded with this surcharge. The only recorded error on the stamp is the double print of the surcharge on both plates (see left image). Only one cover has been recorded with this stamp.



Two pairs of the 201 plate stamp (16-16½mm) and one 17mm stamp paying the 2½d foreign letter rate. Cancelled Larnaca, 2 April 1881 to England. The handwriting on the cover has been attributed to the postmaster general at the time, J.A.Bulmer.

Frame 7

1881 HALF-PENNY on the 1d provisional overprinted issue stamp, surcharged 16-16½mm, 17mm, 13mm and 30 Paras

13mm Surcharge

between May and June 1881 on plates 205, 215, 217 and 218. Double, treble and even quadruple surcharges have been recorded with the later of dubious status. Only one cover has ever been recorded with this The final of the surcharges was applied at the Government printing office in Nicosia stamp.



Double and treble overprints



Wrapper from Larnaca, 25 July 1881, to Livorno, Italy with three HALF-PENNY, 13mm, stamps. Additionally the 1d makes up the 2½d foreign letter rate.

Frame 7

1881 HALF-PENNY on the 1d provisional overprinted issue stamp, surcharged 16-16½mm, 17mm, 13mm and 30 Paras

30 PARAS Surcharge

The need for a reduced rate for soldiers and sailors was the major reason for the 30 Paras surcharge. Another reason was that the Die I, CC watermark issue did not have a stamp of this denomination. Four plates were overprinted; 201, 216, 217 and 220.

Several minor varieties exist but the most significant is the double overprint with inverted surcharges that are found on plates 216 and 220, with plate 216 being extremely rare with only three examples known to have survived.

Only one complete cover is known to exist with this stamp and a second one that is torn.



Plate 216 and 220 stamps with the double surcharge, one inverted variety.



Cover postmarked Larnaca, 2nd October 1881 with two 30 Paras stamps and one ½pi from the Die I, CC watermark issue to make up the 2 piastres foreign letter rate to Ohio in the United States.

Frame 8

1881 Die I - CC Watermark Issue

On 1 July 1881, the first definitive issue of Cyprus was placed into circulation. Using the Cyprus key plate, which was subsequently used until 1923 for the Cyprus stamps, it consisted of five denominations. The ½, 1, 2, 4 and 6 piastres were the denominations that were suited best for the needs of the postal rates at the time. As described previously, the 30 Paras stamp was also considered part of this issue as there was not a 30 Paras stamp issued with the CC watermark.

There were no UPU specimens for this issue and the specimens that exist have been locally applied by the receiving authority in Cyprus and no more than three sets have been recorded. Similarly these stamps are also known with a cancelled hand stamp. Two complete sets of imprimaturs have also been recorded.



Hand painted essays of the 1880 issue. The two and six piastres denominations with the Colony's name and value hand painted. A set of these essays for all values form part of the Royal Collection.



The five stamps from the printed sheet as final proofs (imprimaturs) for checking purposes by the receiving authorities.

Frame 9

1882-1886 Die I - CA Watermark Issue



The 30 Paras and 12 piastres stamps were the two new values that were added to the five that made up the second definitive issue. The 30 Paras was to cover the soldiers' rate and the 12 piastres mostly for parcels. Furthermore, the 12 piastre was the first Cyprus stamp to be distributed by the UPU with the "SPECIMEN" overprint.



The emerald and dull green shades of the 1/2 Piastre stamp.

The 1/2 piastre stamp was printed in two colours, emerald green and dull green, the former being rare as the vast majority of these stamps was subsequently used for the 1/2 on 1/2 surcharges.

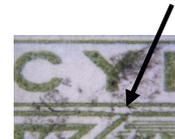
Three varieties have made catalogue status from this issue. The detached triangle variety is one that can be seen in other colonies using the same key plate. It exists in all values of the issue except the 12 piastres and occurs in row three, column three. The second variety is the damaged "US" in "CYPRUS" occurring on the 30 Paras stamp. This variety can be seen on other issues as well. Both of these varieties can be seen on the next page on cover. Relatively recently, the 1/2 piastre has been recorded with an inverted watermark.

Frame 9

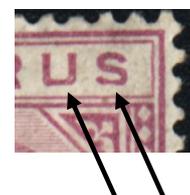
1882-1886 Die I - CA Watermark Issue



The 2 and 4 piastres stamps on a pre-registered cover paying the triple weight rate to an overseas destination, postmarked Kyrenia 18 May 1891 to Athens. The 4 piastres stamp showing the detached triangle variety. One of two covers recorded showing the variety.



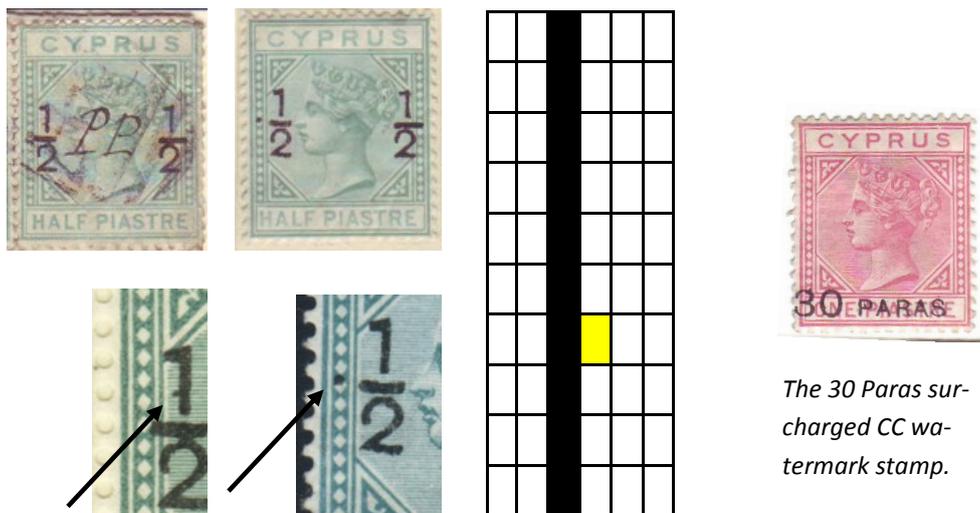
Two 30 Paras and a 1/2 piastre stamps on cover paying the foreign letter rate of 2 piastres postmarked Famagusta 15 September 1891 to Washington D.C. . The middle stamp showing the damaged "US" variety occurring at row 3, column 3 on both panes of the sheet.



Frame 10

1882-1886 Small and large fraction surcharges.

In May 1882, half piastre stamps of both the Die I issues were overprinted with two $\frac{1}{2}$ piastre fractions. This was done in order to avoid confusion with this and the 2 piastres stamps looking very similar. Additionally, a large number of the 1 Piastre stamps was also overprinted with a "30 PARAS" surcharge in order to cover the need for the denomination, for the fifteen days required for the supply of the new issue to arrive in Cyprus.



The 30 Paras surcharged CC watermark stamp.

The $\frac{1}{2}$ piastre stamp shows a spur on the right "1" on all stamps in column 3. Also there is a dot to the left of the left fraction at position at row 7, column 4.



Two CC watermark, with the $\frac{1}{2}$ on $\frac{1}{2}$ surcharge paying the soldiers' rate of 1 piastre on cover postmarked D47, the military camp at Troodos, September 18, 1882 to England.

Frame 10

1882-1886 mall and large fraction surcharges.

In April 1886, a new overprint was applied on both the CC and CA stamps. This was in the form of larger fractions than before with the spacing between them being 6 and 8mm. Both the CC stamps are rare with the 6mm having only 2-3 stamps recorded.



Four 6mm fraction apart stamps paying the foreign letter rate.
The second stamp showing the large 2 at right variety.

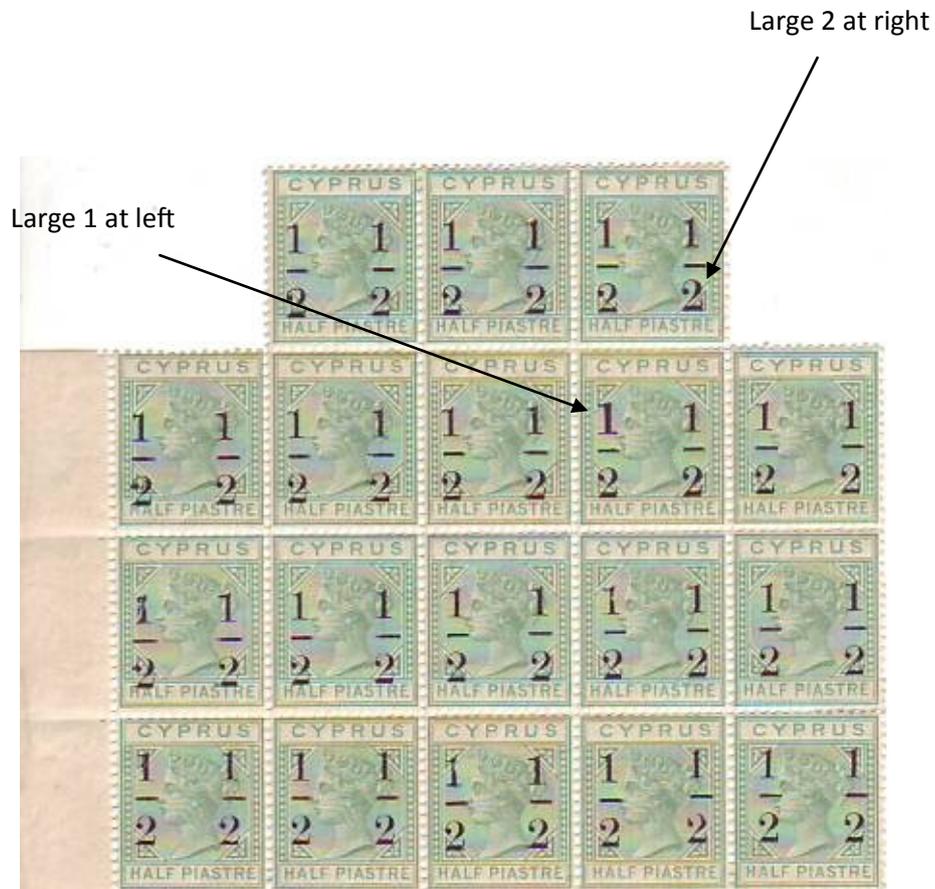


One of two recorded covers with the 8mm apart large fractions, paying the foreign letter rate of 2 piastres to Germany.

The top 30 Paras stamp, showing the dethatched triangle variety.

Frame 10

1882-1886 mall and large fraction surcharges.



The largest block of the large fractions recorded to date, holds the key to the plating of the varieties of this stamp. The watermark of the paper on the side panel of the block reads the letters "AGEN". This pin points the exact location of at least two of the varieties on the sheet.

Frame 11

1892-1894 Die II - CA Watermark Issue.

The third definitive issue was placed in circulation between the years 1892 and 1894. The seven stamps of the issue were of the same denomination as those of the previous issue. The major recorded error from this issue is the damaged "US" in "CYPRUS" that can be found on the 30 Paras stamp in row 5, column 5 of both panes.



No official UPU specimens were issued for the third definitive set. A small number of sets were hand-stamped with the CY1 Samuel type "SPECIMEN" as these were presented to the postal authorities of Cyprus.



A parcel post label showing a rare usage of the 12 piastre stamp

Frame 12

1894-1896 Die II - CA Watermark Issue , Bi-Colour

The Sterling Essays

The need to produce high value stamps to cover the evolution of postal rates that were required at the time, initiated the thought to issue stamps in sterling currency. Essays were prepared but the issue never materialised.



Octagonal Cyprus Key Plate essay in yellow with the country and the 1 shilling denomination hand painted in carmine.



The three sterling essays inscribed "POSTAGE / & REVENUE"



5 shilling artist's sketch in carmine, endorsed for colour, the predecessor to the adjacent essay.



"POSTAGE-POSTAGE" key plate perforated essay in carmine with "CYPRUS" and the 5s denomination.



The three sterling essays inscribed "POSTAGE / POSTAGE"

Frame 12

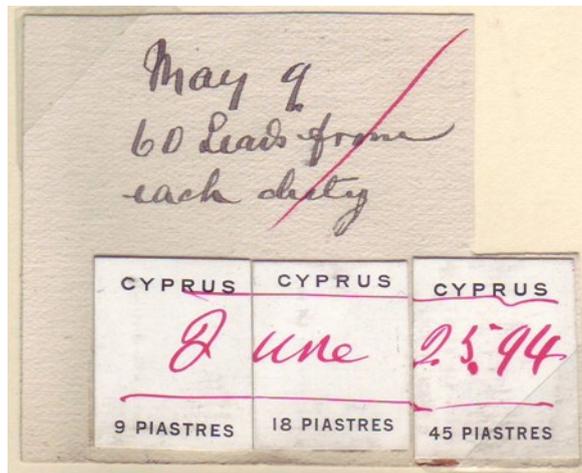
1894 Die II - CA Watermark Issue

The High Values

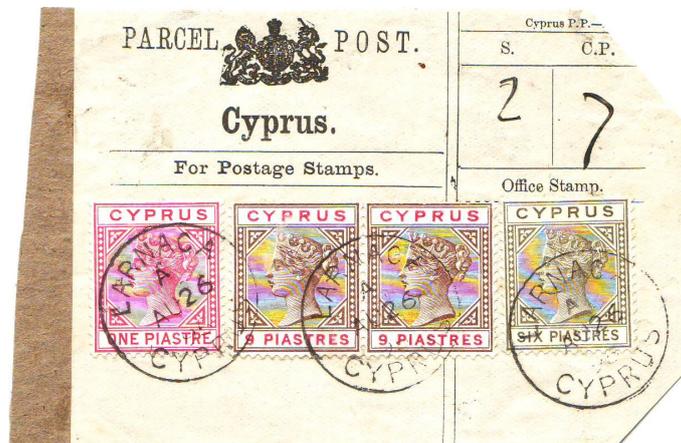
The bi-colour issue was presented in two stages. The three new high values were circulated first in 1894. These were the 9, 18 and 45 piastres.



*The three high value essays with hand painted country and value tablets.
Two sets of these essays are known to exist.*



1894 duty plate die proofs, "9 PIASTRES", "18 PIASTRES" and "45 PIASTRES" from the De La Rue proof books, endorsed "May 9, 60 leads from each duty", with "June 25 94 across the three proofs. Unique.



Parcel label dated 26 August 1895 with two 9 piastres stamps from the bi-colour issue and two from the 3rd definitive issue. One of three recorded parcel labels from the Victorian era of Cyprus.

Frame 12

1894 Die II - CA Watermark Issue

The Low Values

These were printed in 1896 and were the second and final stage of the issue. The values were the same as the ones in the previous two issues as the postal rates remained unchanged.



The set above is from the De La Rue archives. These are the approved colour schemes for the issue as per the denominations that are written to the left.



The left 30 Paras stamp showing the damaged "US" variety on a cover paying the 2 piastre s foreign letter rate from Limassol to Canada.

