

**WESTERN AUSTRALIA
1885-1910
½ d GREEN SWAN**

**WATERMARK CROWN CA (SG 94)
AND CROWN OVER A (SG 138)**



ERRORS, FLAWS, VARIATIONS AND ANOMOLIES

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

1885 - 1910

½ d GREEN SWAN

WATERMARK CROWN CA (SG 94) AND CROWN OVER A (SG 138) ERRORS, FLAWS, VARIATIONS AND ANOMALIES

The first printing from 1885 was by De La Rue on paper watermarked 'Crown over CA' (indicated by "D") and the second from 1910 by The Commonwealth Stamp Printing Branch on paper watermarked 'Crown over A' (indicated by "C").

As these 2 issues were printed from the same plate, the distinction between the printers and the paper is not relevant to this study.

The De La Rue printing is superb and clear. The Swan is magnificent!
The stamps produced by The Commonwealth Stamp Printing Branch by comparison appear much cruder and more heavily inked.

This is the first investigation into anomalies in these issues

Flaws, errors, variations and anomalies can arise for a variety of reasons and can be divided into 3 main categories

PLATE FLAWS These are consistent and repeated examples arising from some deformation on the printing plate of which more than one example has been identified.

* including plate wear, cracks or scratches.

* Variations between stamps on the plate caused during the application transfer roller

These are identified by being printed in **bold type**

GROUP TWO consist of those which appear to be permanent malformations of the plate but have yet to be confirmed by 2 or more examples

These are identified by being in normal type

TRANSCIENT OR ONE OFF FLAWS

These include anomalies caused by dust or dirt on the plate, paper or in the ink or by paper movement during printing

Some of these can be quite spectacular but are only temporary even if they are occasionally repeated.

These anomalies are printed in *italics*

Identifying the position of the stamps on the plate from individual stamps is impossible, however from the limited number of blocks of stamps and partial plates available, identification of the position of some of these flaws can be made.

These stamps were printed in 4 panes of 10 stamps wide by 6 stamps deep and each pane can be identified as

UPPER LEFT pane UL
LOWER LEFT pane LL
UPPER RIGHT pane UR
LOWER RIGHT pane LR

Regrettably no complete pane is known to exist however Brian Pope's display "Halfpenny Postage Stamps of Western Australia 1884-1912" includes some blocks of stamps coming from identifiable panes.

Brian Pope also possesses a block of 12 from the Upper Left pane (BPP12..)

In addition in the Western Australian Museum archives, partial sheets exist originally from the Bromfield Collection which can also be identified as being from specific panes.

The Willis Collection (which was sold in June 2015) includes a complete upper right pane and a block of 18 from a lower pane (WCP18..)

Flaws etc identified from these sources have been added to those I have already described and shown with reference to the source i.e Brian Pope's Presentation (BPP) or WA Museum Archives (WAMA) together with identification if possible of the pane and the position of the stamp on that pane. (e.g Upper left pane second row 9th stamp, UL2/9)

From a relatively small sample of individual stamps examined and from Brian Pope's presentation, from the WA Museum archives and from blocks in the Willis Collection, the following have been identified and have been listed according to the position on the stamp.

OUTSIDE FRAME LINE

INSIDE DOUBLE OVAL FRAME LINES

VERTICAL FLORAL DESIGNS

TRIANGULAR CORNER DESIGNS

THE SWAN

BACKGROUND SHADING

"WESTERN AUSTRALIA" AND FRAME LINES

"POSTAGE ONE HALF-PENNY" AND FRAME LINES

This summary is limited by the number of stamps examined and would be enhanced by further study.

A SUMMARY OF ABBREVIATIONS

BOLD TYPE A Plate Flaw confirmed by more than one stamp

Normal type A possible /probable plate flaw requiring confirmation by an additional example

Italic A transcendent or one off flaw

D) Printed by DE La Rue from 1885 on Crown over CA watermarked paper

C) Printed by The Commonwealth Stamp Printing Branch from 1910 on Crown over A watermarked paper

UL Upper left pane

LL Lower left pane

UR Upper right pane

LR Lower right pane

BPP12 From a block of 12 in Brian Pope's presentation

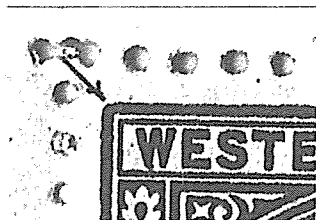
WCP18 From the Wills collection

WAMA Western Australian Museum Archives

In the following summary the examples shown without photocopies are because the WA Museum does not permit such copies.

Where diagrams/photocopies are shown but no stamps are because the stamps are not available to me.

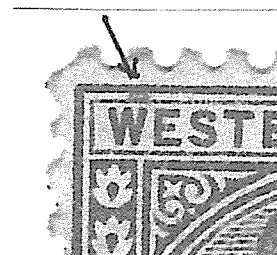
OUTSIDE FRAME LINE.
Clockwise from top left



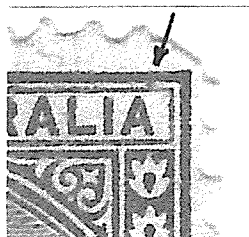
- 1) C) NORTH WEST CORNER
FRAME LINE ROUNDED
BPP PAGE 13, BLOCK 3 UL 1/1
ALSO PAGE 'FRAGILE' UR 4/9



- 2) TOP FRAME LINE
DOUBLED



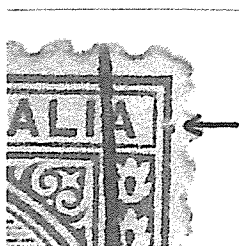
- 3) C) OUTER FRAME LINE
JOINED TO 'WA' FRAME
LINE ABOVE 'W' OF
WESTERN
WAMA UR 4/9



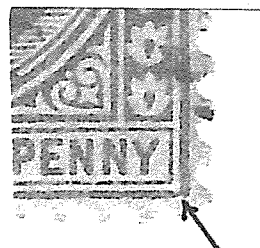
- 4) Outer frame line joined to
WA frame line above 'R' of
Western. (WAMA UR 1/7)

- 5) C) Outer frame line
joined to WA frame line
above and to right of last
'A' of Australia

- 6) Outer frame line
disturbed (WAMA UR 2/7)



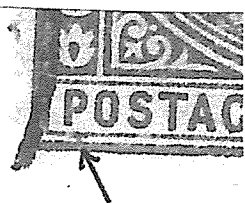
- 7) Break in right side frame
line 2mm from top



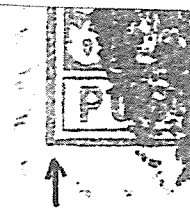
- 8) D) SUBSTANTIAL THINNING OF BOTTOM
LINE AT FAR RIGHT CONFIRMED BY BPP 12 4/10



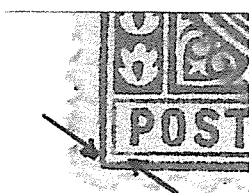
- 9) C) BOTTOM LINE DOUBLED (BPP PAGE 15 STAMP 3.



10) C) Outer frame line joined to 'Postage' frame line under 'PO' of Postage

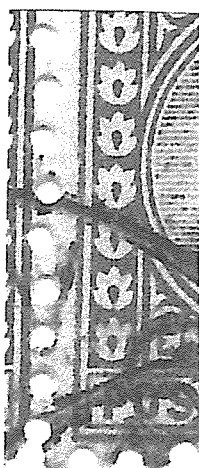


11) D) THINNING OF BOTTOM LINE AT FAR LEFT. (BPP PAGE 5 STAMP B)



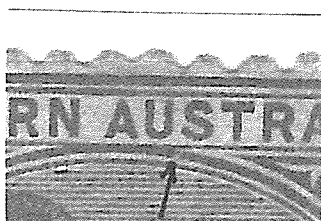
12) OUTER FRAME LINE AND 'POSTAGE' FRAME LINE THINNED IN SW CORNER (WAMA UR 2/1 BPP PAGE 6 BLOCK UL 5/1)

13) Left upright thinned at base WAMA LL 3/8

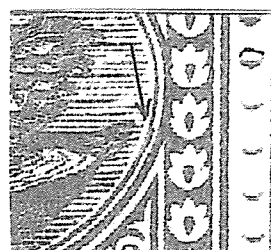


14) C) Left side upright thinned for lower half

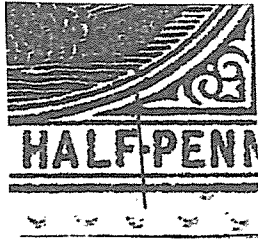
INSIDE DOUBLE CIRCULAR FRAME LINES



1) C) Break in outside frame line under U S of Australia



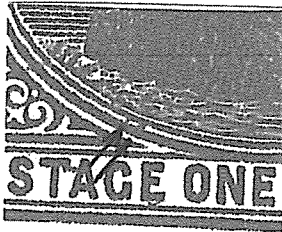
2) Spur or thickening of inner frame line level with swans tail (BPP 12 5/9)



- 3) Green dot between lines
above 'P' of Penny
BPP page 13 block 4 LR 2/9



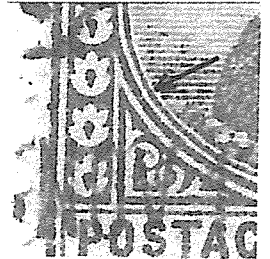
- 4) 2 green anomalies above
'F P' of Half penny
WAMA LL 2/2
- 5) C) Blob on frame line
above 'H' of
half penny



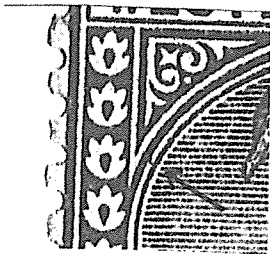
- 6) Lines joined twice above
"GE" of Postage
BPP page 6 block 2 UL 2/1
BPP page 13 block 3 UL 2/1



- 7) Lines joined to design
above 'EO' of Postage One
BPP page 'FRAGILE' UR 5/10



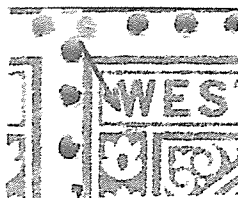
- 8) C) Break in outer line
level with base of 3rd
bottom flower
(Willis Block of 18 1/2)



- 9) Lines joined at left level with the end of swans beak
BPP page 14 block 2 stamp 1

VERTICAL FLORAL DESIGNS

Left side from top

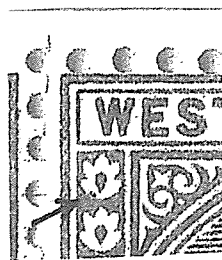


- 1) Green 'spider' above top
Pattern
BPP page 13 block 4 LR 5/10



- 2) C) Top of left floral design
joined to WA frame line

- 3) Green rain at top
BPP page 6 block 2
UL 2/1



4) Top flower joined to frame line

WAMA "perfinned OS' LR 3/1

5) small green dot in top flower

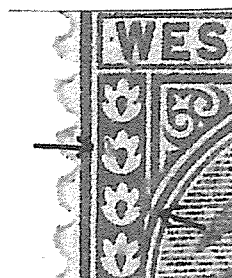
BPP page 6 block 2 1/4



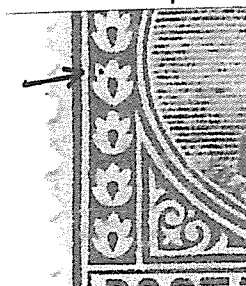
6) D) White dot in green blob in top flower



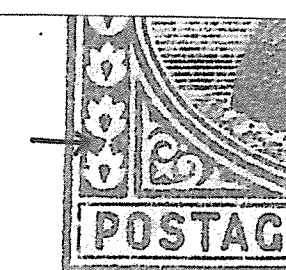
7) C) Nick out of left side at base of top flower



8) GREEN INSECTS ON 2ND & 3RD TOP FLOWERS
BPP PAGE 6 BLOCK 2 UL 1/1

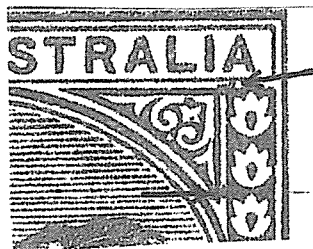


9) C) Green speck on 4th bottom flower



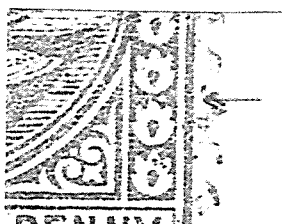
10) Bottom 2 flowers joined

Right side from top

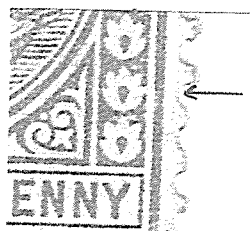


11) Design joined to NE triangular design in 2 places and joined to WA frame line below last "A" of Australia
BPP page 6 block 5 UL 6/3

12) White blob at right between 4th top and 4th bottom flower WAMA UR 2/9



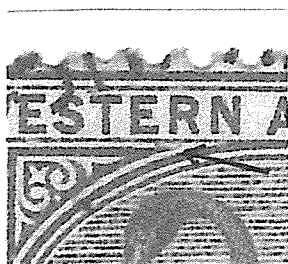
13) D) White dot between
2nd & 3rd bottom flowers



14) 2nd bottom flower joined to frame line

CORNER TRIANGULAR DESIGNS

Clockwise from top left



1) C) NW corner design, upper
right point extends



2) D) NW corner design
central star joined to lower
curl
and cut across upper
horizontal frame line



3) NE corner design
break across top line



4) C) NE corner design, lower
central dot is joined to
upper curl



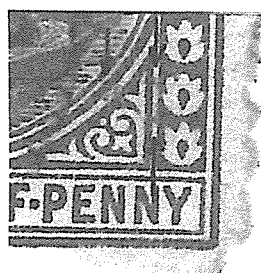
5) NE corner design contains
green spot
BPP page 6 block 5 UL 6/3



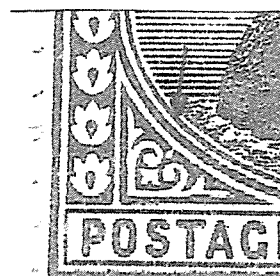
6) C) NE corner design
small green dot



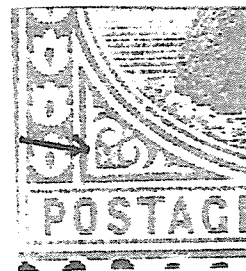
7) SE corner design has green
Flaw in central star



8) green snow around SE
design



9) SW corner design the dot
runs into the inside circle
BPP 'fragile' page UR 4/8



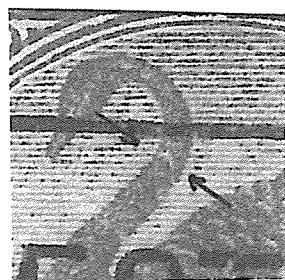
- 10) SW corner design, top of pattern joined to left vertical floral pattern
WAMA LL 6/3

- 11) DISTURBANCE IN SW CORNER
DESIGN WAMA UR 2/7

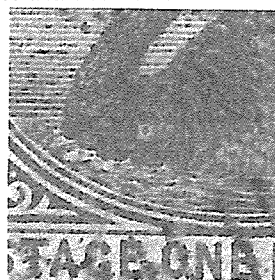
THE SWAN



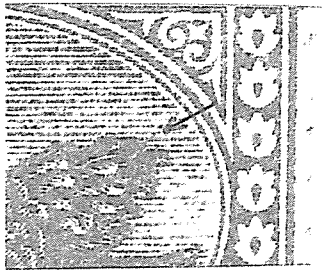
- 1) D) Green slash across swans head just behind the eye
2) Bite out of inside of swans neck level with the eye (WAMA LL 4/10)
3) Disturbance on back of swans neck (WAMA UR 2/7)



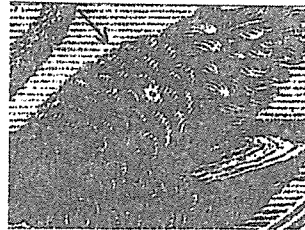
- 4) Green line across swans neck
5) Mushroom growing out of front of swans neck
WAMA LL 2/1
6) White blob on front of swans body. WAMA UR 3/4



- 7) White flaw on lower neck (WAMA UR 5/4)
8) White flaw with green dot in the middle on front of swans body
9) White flaw enclosing a green dash on swans body below the crook of the neck
WAMA LL 2/1



10) EXTRA FEATHER ON TOP BACK OF SWANS WING (WAMA UR 3/7)



11) White flaw on swans wing BPP page 6 block 5 UL 5/3



12) Green spot on white section of swans wing above 'P' of Penny (BPP page 6 block 5 UL 5/2)

11

BACKGROUND SHADING

Background shading includes a number of examples of green spots in a number of different positions.

Most of these are 'one offs' but have been included just in case they can be duplicated or confirmed as flaws

In front of swan



1) Green spot between end of swans beak and neck (WAMA UR 1/10)

2) Green spot 4 lines below swans beak (WAMA LL 2/1)

3) Green spot at extreme left of shading level with tip of swans beak. (BPP page 13 block UL 5/9)



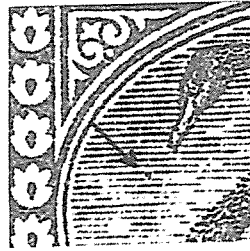
4) Break in 3rd line of Shading inside loop of swans neck (WAMA LL 4/10)

5) C) DOT IN CURVE OF SWANS NECK BPP page 13 block 2 LR 6/9 & WAMA UR 6/9

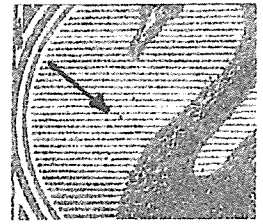
6) Green dot to left of the bottom of swans beak (BPP page 6 block 2 UL 2/2)



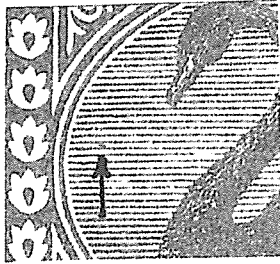
7) Green dot below and left of swans beak between lines 3 & 4 under beak



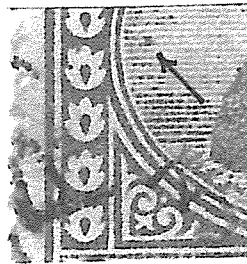
8) Green dot below and left of swans beak between lines 4 & 5 under beak (BPP 'Fragile' page UR 5/10)



9) Small green dot below swans beak (BPP page 6 block 2 UL 1/1)



10) Green dot to left of swan (BPP page 6 block 2 2UL 2/1)



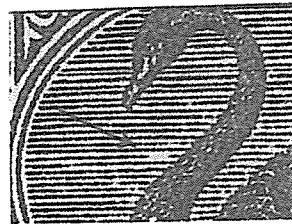
11) C) Green dot to left of swan level with top of 4th bottom flower (WAMA UR 6/7)



12) C) Green dot to left of base of swans neck



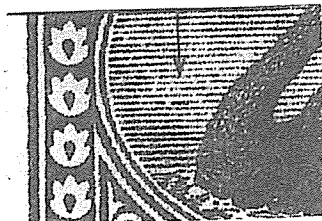
13) C) Green dot near inside circular frame line in front of swans breast



14) **BREAK IN SHADING LINE IN FRONT OF SWANS NECK UNDER SWANS EYE, 8 LINES BELOW SWANS BEAK.**
(BPP page 6 block 2 UL 2/1
" block 5 UL 5/1
" " UL 6/1)



15) Green dot to left of swans beak under 'S' of Western (BPP page 6 block 5 UL 5/3)



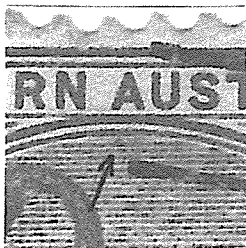
16) C) **DASH IN FRONT OF 4TH BOTTOM FLOWER**
(WAMA UR 4/7, BPP page 6 Block 5, UL 5/2 & 6/1)

BACKGROUND SHADING

Above swan



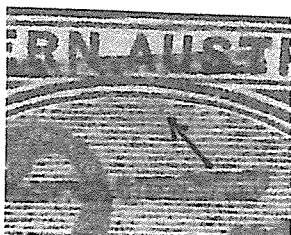
- 17) GREEN DOT JOINING
LINES 2 & 3 UNDER 'R N'
OF WESTERN
(BPP page 6 block 2 UL 1/1,
page 13 block 3 UL 1/1)



- 18) C) Green dot joining
lines 1 & 2 under left leg
of 1st 'A' of Australia



- 19) Green dot on line 1
under 'A U' of Australia
BPP page 6 block 2
UL 1/1



- 20) Green dot above and
behind swan between lines
2 & 3 under 'A U of Australia



- 21) C) 3 green dots above
Swans wing under 'TRA'
of Australia

- 22) Dot above swans back
below 'U S' of Australia.
(BPP page 13 block 2
LR 5/9)



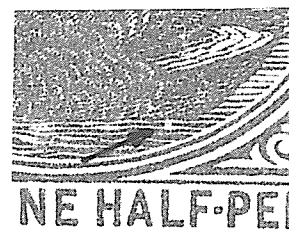
- 23) Green dot above swans
wing under 'U S' of Australia
(BPP 'fragile' page UR 5/9)

BACKGROUND SHADING

Below swan



- 24) Green insect in water
behind swans tail

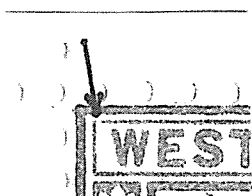


- 25) White flaw in water
above 'H A' of Half
(WAMA UR 2/3)

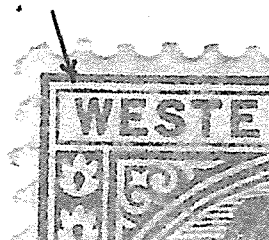
- 26) White flaw in water
above 'L' of Half
(BPP page 6 block 3
UL 2/10)

"WESTERN AUSTRALIA" AND FRAME LINES

From left to right



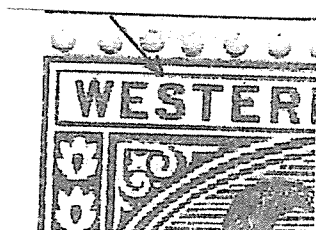
- 1) Frame line broken in NW Corner
(BPP page 6 block2 UL 1/1)



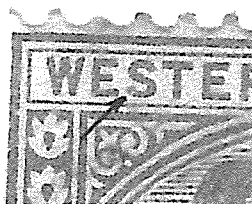
- 2) Weak left upright of 'W' of Western



- 3) D) Fly speck on lower frame line under 1st 'E' of Western

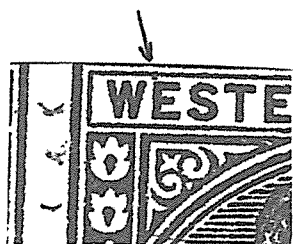


- 4) Small dot in 'S' of Western
(BPP 'fragile' page UR 6/9)

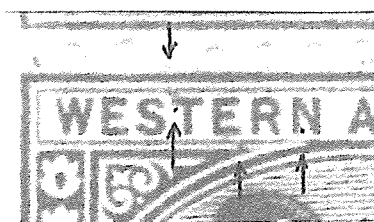


- 5) D) White flaw on lower loop of 'S' of Western

- 6) Frame line joined to corner triangular pattern under 'S' of Western (WAMA LL 4/1)



- 7) Green dot above upright of 1st 'E' of Western
(BPP page 13 block 4 LL 3/10)



- 8) D) Oblique above 'T' of Western
also Dot below left cross bar of 'T' of Western
also Full stop under 'N' of Western
also green dot between lines under 'E R' of Western



- 19) Top arm of 'E' of Western slopes up
(BPP page 13 block 4 LR 2/9)

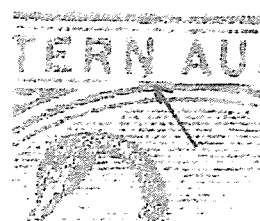
- 10) 2nd 'E' of Western joined to top frame line
(WAMA UR 1/6)



- 11) C) GREEN TAIL ON UPRIGHT OF 'R' OF WESTERN
(WAMA LL 1/8)



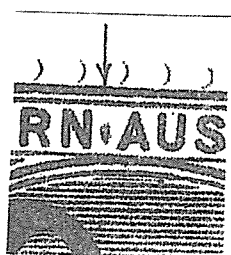
12) D) Short diagonal leg of 'R' of Western thinned at top



13) Blob on frame line above upright of 'R' of Western (WAMA UR 1/8)

14) GREEN CRESCENT MOON ON BOTTOM OF 'N' OF WESTERN.

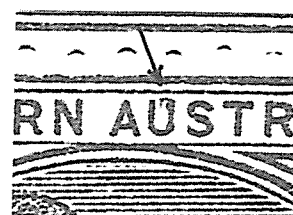
(WAMA UR 3/9)



15) Dot between 'N' of Western and 'A' of Australia. (BPP page 6 block 2 UL 1/1)



16) Bulge on frame line above left arm of 'U' of Australia (BPP page 14 block 2 Stamp 1)



17) Green spider in 'U' of Australia (BPP page 13 block 4 LR 6/10)



18) Nick in right upright of 'U' of Australia



19) Dot above 'S' of Australia

20) 'S' of Australia joined to frame line (WAMA LL 3/2)



21) D) Tapered and bent leg of 'T' of Australia



22) Tail on base of 'T' of Australia (WAMA LL 3/1)

23) Misshapen crossbar of 2nd 'A' of Australia



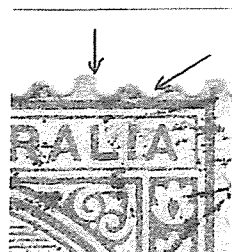
24) Cut across left leg of 2nd 'A' of Australia



25) D) Deformed left leg of 2nd 'A' of Australia



26) Blob on frame line above and to right of 'L' of Australia (BPP page 15 stamp 4)



27) D) TOP OF 'L' OF AUSTRALIA SHAVED OFF



28) Frame line joined to NE triangular design under 'L' of Australia



29) Malformed horizontal leg of 'L' of Australia, and thinning of upright at base (BPP 12 5/9)

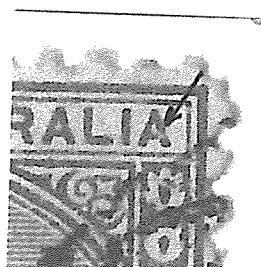


30) D) distortion of cross bar of last 'A' of Australia



31) Tail on bottom of right leg of last 'A' of Australia

32) Break in left leg of last 'A' of Australia (WAMA perfined OS LR 1/1)

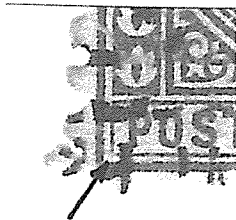


33) C) White flaw on right leg of last 'A' of Australia

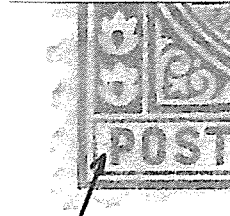


34) GREEN WIGGLE BETWEEN LAST 'A' OF AUSTRALIA AND FRAME LINE (BPP page 6 block 2 UL 1 / 2 , page 13 block 3 UL 1 / 2)

'POSTAGE ONE HALF-PENNY' AND FRAME LINES
Left to right



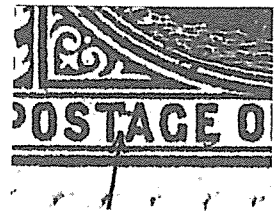
1) D) Break in frame line
S W corner



2) D) Thickening of upper
part of upright of 'P' of
Postage



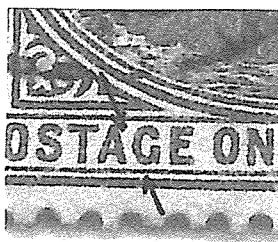
3) FRAME LINE THICKENED
UNDER 'P' OF POSTAGE
(WAMA UR 6/10)



4) White flaw on left side of
'O' of Postage
(WAMA LR perfinned OS 5/6)

5) Green dot between 'T A'
of Postage
(BPP page 6 block 2 UL 2/1)

6) 'T & A' of Postage joined
(BPP page 13 block 3
UL 2/1)



7) D) 'G' of Postage shaved
off.



8) D) GREEN DOT INSIDE
'G' OF POSTAGE



9) Green flaw running
through 'E' of Postage



10) Apostrophe after 'E' of
Postage
(BPP page 13 block 4 LR 5/10)



11) White flaw on diagonal of
'N' of One



12) Curved white flaw
across 'N' of One



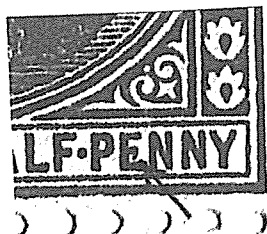
Down



Up

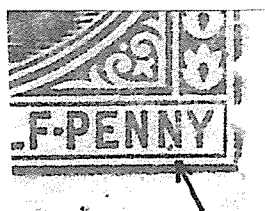
- 13) D) cross bar of 'A' of Half distorted and on angle
(BPP page 6 block 3 UL 2/10)

- 14) Upright of 'F' of Half distorted
(WAMA UR 1/5)



- 15) C) Green icicle hanging from
Middle arm of 'E' of Penny
(BPP page 13 block 2 LR 6/10)

- 16) Acute on top of right upright of 2nd 'N'
of Penny (WAMA LL 3/9)



- 17) Green dot under 2nd 'N' of Penny