

Memorandum.

Malta. 1922. £1.

by. Major L.V. Pogson.

Let us deal with the watermark sideways S.G. 135. Stated by Stanley Gibbons Catalogue to be the first printing.

The Specimen Only exists with mark sideways.

Front or face of stamp has White background.

Reverse. It appears that the Carmine Red is aniline and shows through, but under the lamp does not give aniline reaction.

S.G. 135. The First Printing was as the specimen. Many mint copies exist. When used this printing is difficult to separate from the second printing except by the "white" background of the face.

The Second Printing.

The face. Background toned; this toning shows in the sky, near horizon in vignette, also outside frame lines and on perforations.

Reverse. White. The carmine red does not show through.

S.G. 136. Watermark upright.

Two distinct shades exist of this stamp.

(A) Highly toned face with white back.

(B) Faintly toned face with the back showing the carmine faintly.

Queries. S.G. 135. Proportion of first to second Printing.

S.G. 136. Any information.

Regret I cannot assist much with the "£1" query as I can see little difference between printings; Second printing of 135 seems to be a darker deeper red but I can see little sign of aniline in any of them so no wonder there is no reaction under the lamp.

C.W. Meredith.

The following from my press - cutting scrap book may be of interest to member Pogson:-

(L) From "Stanley Gibbons Monthly Journal" date unfortunately cut off.'

Dear Sirs,

On reading over the article in you M.S. on the "Stamps of Malta, 1922-26" by Capt. H.W. Jessop, I notice he mentions the following : "There were four printings of the £1. stamp".

This is quite correct, and as he does not describe the different printings, in case you do not already know these, I append a list.

1st. Wmk Sideways, Red colour shows through paper on back, the sky in background is white. I have in my collection seven mint and six used (two shades).

2nd. Wmk. Sideways. Paper at back all white. Sky in background a rosy tint. I have two mint and two used copies. These are the only ones I have seen, so take it that the second print is much scarcer than the first.

3rd. Wmk. Upright same design dark shade of red.

4th. As above, but lighter shade.

Yours faithfully T. Brown."

(2) From "Stamp Collecting" 8th. August 1942.

Malta £1. Printings.

"Sir,

Further to my letter, I have yet another odd item of interest re Maltese stamps.

It is not generally known that there are two distinct printings of each of the £1. Melita stamps, S.G.135 and 136.

I have waited until I could be certain that they could be readily distinguished but I have now found all the necessary confirmation.

S.G.135. First Printing. - Colour, black and deep carmine - red; paper white.

The red colour shows through clearly on the back of the stamp. This is very scarce especially used.

S.G.135. Second Printing. - Colour, black, and deep carmine - red; paper

surface is rosy, but the back is white. The red colour does not show through on the back.

These two stamps are very marked in differences and can be easily distinguished.

S.G.136. First Printing:- Colour, black and bright carmine-red; paper tinged rosy on surface. Colour barely shows on the back.

S.G.136. Second Printing:- Colour, black and bright carmine-red; paper tinged rosy on surface. Colour shows through clearly on the back. This is scarcer than the 1st. printing.

The two colours of each are clearly distinguishable (apart from anything else) by the shade, which is very marked. It appears to me that the bright carmine-red shade in S.G. 136 is a type of aniline dye, which accounts for the colour on the back, which is more pronounced than in the deep carmine-red shade of S.G. 135.

I should say, fair prices for the four are as follows :-

S.G. 135.	1st. printing	60/-	90/-
	2nd. "	45/-	55/-
S.G. 136.	1st. printing	35/-	40/-
	2nd. "	30/-	35/-

I hope this is of interest.

H. Bramsdon (F/Lt.)

Malta July 14th. 1942.

In my collection I have the following :-

1. Single, with wmk. sideways; Red colour shows at back, uncoloured part of the design is not tinted.
2. Lower R/Hd. Corner block of four with wmk. sideways margins; Colour does not show at back, uncoloured part of the stamp and the marginal paper round the block is rose tinted.
3. Lower R/Hd Corner block of four with margins with wmk. upright; Colour does not show at the back, the uncoloured part of the stamp is tinted but not as deeply as No.2.
4. Upper R/Hd Corner block of 4 with margins and wmk upright; Colour shows at

back, marginal paper appears to be very slightly rose tinted, but this is not apparent on the stamps.

The sheet seems to have been made up of 80 stamps in 10 horizontal rows of 8. The entire sheet (or pane) is enclosed by two red (jubilee) lines 12 mm's from the stamps and 4 mm's apart. There is also a guide cross in red and black between each pair of stamps in the vertical margins. It is probable that a similar cross occurs in the centre of the horizontal margins, but as I have never seen a block with margins from this position I cannot be sure of this.

I am not in a position to say which of my pieces is from which printing. I confirm your description of the "specimen" being identical with my number 1. and we can assume that this is the first printing. Which makes my number two. second printing. Now what we want are dated copies of 136 to fix which of the varieties was issued first. I have never seen dated copies of any of these stamps. I feel sure that this stamp was printed from two dies, one for the figure, and one for the rest. On my number 2. block the figure is printed so low that the sandal touches the white line of the frame round the word Malta, whilst at the top of the stamp, an uncoloured space above the helmet gives the appearance of a halo. Has any member die proofs of the figure for the £1. value, which by the way is 22 mm's high, measuring from the top of the helmet to the lowest point of the sandal. The figure on the pence values is 2 mm's taller!

H.S. Damsell.

I find the .? difference between S.G. 135 & S.G. 136 is the deeper shade of SG # 136 - to S.G. 135. I have two copies of a roll of Carmine - Scarlet shade on a slightly bluish paper. Both stamps look exactly the same in front and only on one of them does the red come through at the back. I have also a corner pair of S.G. 135 again in the lighter red shade but on a distinctly rosy paper.

All my copies of S.G. 136 are various shades of medium to very deep carmine lake, the colour coming through on the back on all stamps and all being on rosy paper

S. Cann.