

Pioneer Plates

An occasional series of “First Print Log” items have appeared on this site and in the journal, Flagstaff. These are observations of Windsor Castle diagnostic flaws or other indications of the vignette plate number occurring on first day (or thereabouts) covers or in specimen stamps, on the assumption that they must have been from the initial printing for the territory concerned. (Presumably, the relevant-dated Ceylon booklets would have also qualified if this territory had had more than one printing).

Given plate pairing, it is hardly surprising that more than one plate should appear amongst the entries in the table below. Perhaps more significantly, multiple plates are involved in the specimen issues, (a mere six or seven sheets?), as evidenced by a recent Stanley Gibbons offer list. (Instances are indicated by a + sign in the table).

Can you contribute data to the, as yet, sparsely-filled table? Whether it is about plate pairing or other printing information, the table may eventually provide some sort-after evidence.

Territory	1st value	2nd value	3rd value	4th value	No. of plates for specimens
Antigua	Rv2A		Rv2B		
Ascension		Wv5	Wv2A		
Bahamas		Rv2A	Rv2B		
Barbados	Wv1	Wv3		Wv1	
Basutoland	Rv2B	Rv2A, 2B	Rv2B, 4/	Rv4/	
Bechuanaland		Bv1, 2		Bv3	
Bermuda	Wv7		Wv7	Wv2A	
Br Guiana	Rv4/, 4	Rv2B	Rv2A	Rv4/,4	
Br Honduras		Bv6	Bv10	Bv1	
Br Solomon Islands					
Cayman Islands					
Ceylon		Rv4/			
Cyprus		Wv9			
Dominica		Rv4		Rv4	
Falkland Islands	Bv5	Bv5,6		Bv6, 8A	
Fiji		Rv2A		Rv2A, 4	
Gambia	Bv8, 2, 5	Bv3	Bv1, 2	Bv3	
Gibraltar	Bv1, 3	Bv1	Bv1	Bv1, 2, 3	2d = 2 plates used

Gilbert & Ellice Is	Bv8A		Bv6	Bv8	
Gold Coast	Bv1, 3		Bv4	Bv2, 4	
Grenada	Wv2A	Wv5			
Hong Kong		Bv1			
Jamaica	Bv5	Bv1 +	Bv3, 1	Bv1, 4	1½d = 3 or 4 possible
Kenya U & T		Rv2A,2B	Rv2B,2A	Rv2B	
Leeward Islands				Wv2A	
Malta	Bv1	Bv2, 1	Bv2, 3		
Mauritius	Rv2A	Rv2A	Rv2A, 2B	Rv4	
Montserrat	Wv4		Wv4	Wv4	
Newfoundland	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	
Nigeria		Wv2A	Wv9		
N. Rhodesia	Rv2A		Rv2A		
Nyasaland	Wv7	Wv7	Wv2	Wv2A	
St Christopher & N	Wv2A	Wv3			
St Helena	Rv2A	Rv2A			
St Lucia	Rv2B,2A	Rv2A	Rv2B	Rv4?	
St Vincent		Wv5			
Seychelles	Bv6	Bv6	Bv6	Bv1	
Sierra Leone	Bv1	Bv3	Bv1	Bv1, 3	
Somaliland		Wv2A +	Wv2A +	Wv2A +	2a, 3a, 1r = 4 max possible
Straits Settlements			Wv1		
Swaziland	Bv5	Bv1	Bv1, 3	Bv1	
Trinidad & Tobago	Bv1			Bv8A	
Turks & Caicos			Wv2A	Wv2	
Virgin Islands	Wv2A		Wv2A	Wv2A	

AJA - Augmented June 2009, February 2015, October 2015, December 2015, April 2017, June 2017, November 2017, April 2018, July 2018, July 2019, September 2019