

The Graham Cooper Sale

A personal review by Neil Grover

The Graham Cooper sale of King George VI Commonwealth issues contain some import and illusive Malta items. There were eight lots in all made of general collections and lesser plate flaws, plate and imprint blocks then ending with three 1½d green varieties from the 1948-53 Overprint Issue. Only one lot (619) remained unsold, bidding was brisk on the two main accumulations lots 618 and 621 were primarily listed as a printing reference for each value and included most of the more common varieties but did have

a couple a nice items worth mentioning..

Lot 618

I thought it was amusing that the lot image showing a page of individual printing references also included the well-known 2s6d tablet flaw. (Fig.1)



Fig. 1

Row 6, Stamp 6.



This lot also had an unlisted and un-noted by me cross flaw on the 6d at Row 6, Stamp 6. (Fig.2)

Fig. 2

Lot 621

There was a reference to a 'cracked plate' on the 1d Grey occurring on Plate 4, Row 2, Stamp 9.. this happens to be the same position of the better documented retouch frame line - I will be checking my copies soon! (Fig.3)



Fig. 3

1948.

Extra print of overprint in margin.



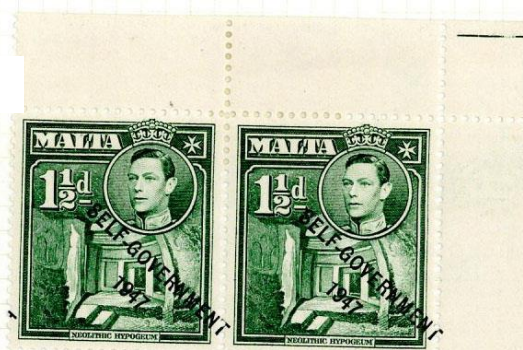
Fig. 4

There was a marginal example of the 2d Red with ghosted overprint in margin, previously noted on the 2d Ochre as well (Fig.4)

Also a couple of nice examples of misplaced overprint on the 1½d Green Issue (Fig.5)



Fig. 5



So the main interest was in Lots 623, 624 and 625. The first two lots were examples of the 1½d Green fully omitted overprint (SG237ba) and the third was a partial overprint. The catalogue stated that about ten examples of SG 237ba exist (I thought 6 or 7?) and although I know partial overprints exist I don't think anyone has tried to quantify them but I would hazard a guess they are possible rarer than the fully overprinted examples. Bidding for lots 623 and 624 came in roughly around the final realisations with lot 624 getting more of a run and turning the pre estimate values around as the most sort after copy. Lot 625 opening at £800 generated well above estimate and somewhat of a surprise but I guess highlights the fact that not many of these exist !

Once again if any one reading this article can send me scans of any other full or partial omissions I would be most grateful.

Lot: 623

1½d. green, variety **albino overprint**, neatly cancelled by virtually complete Valletta 4 May 1954 double-ring datestamp; one shortish perf. at foot as usual for all examples of this very rare variety. R.P.S.. Certificate (1984). S.G. 237ba, £18,000. Est. £6,000 - £8,000

SOLD £4,800



Lot: 624

1½d. green, variety **albino overprint**, neatly cancelled by part Valletta double-ring datestamp; a couple of shortish perfs. as usual for all examples of this very rare variety. B.P.A. Certificate (1973). S.G. 237ba, £18,000. Est. £5,000 - £6,000

SOLD £5,500

Lot: 625

1½d. green, variety **part albino overprint** showing just "self-go/1947", neatly cancelled by part Valletta double-ring datestamp and tied on small piece. A very rare and unusual variety indicating the way that the albino overprint may have occurred. Est. £800 - £1,000

SOLD £3,500

