

NAURU OVERPRINT

- KING GEORGE V NINE PENCE PRINTINGS

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ABSTRACT

The NAURU overprints on the King George V profile definitives of Great Britain were issued from 1916 to 1924. Unlike the other KGV profile values overprinted NAURU, the Nine Pence stamp did not satisfy any regular letter rate. Hence covers with single use of 9d on cover are very scarce, however, they can be seen on other covers in combination with other values which were posted to philatelic collectors and dealers during that period.

Its dark base color, agate or brownish black, obscures both overprint and cancellations hence overprint flaws are overlooked and unnoticed. All printings used a single base plate.

INTRODUCTION

Control pieces of all known Nine Pence "NAURU" overprinted have 'H 16'. T.P. Davis (1949) reported that there was only one shade of color, as there was one printing. "Kudu", in the *Strand Stamp Journal* (1956), showed that the lack of the "NAUPU" variety on the 9d was due to only printing from "H 16" and not 'I 16'. Further studies reveal that the statements were inaccurate. The H 16 Controls were available in Nauru by October 1916. This is seen on the new finding of the 9d with upper selvedge which was not known.

IMPRIMATURS AND REQUISITION DETAILS



This is from The British Postal Museum and Archives (BPMA, formerly National Postal Museum, NPM) holds registration panes for official reference. They have the under printed National Postal Museum Imprimatur hand stamp. Date of overprint is 1915. It was auctioned as surplus on 26th April 1984 through Robson Lowe in London.

The British Postal Museum data for the 9d batches are as follows:

9 d Batches	Requisition Date	Quantity	Assigned Control
Second Batch	5 Sep 16	10,000	H 16 (83 lower panes)
Third Batch	17 Jun 17	6,000	H 16 (50 Lower panes)
Fourth Batch	1 Nov 17		20,000 ?? (167 Upper panes)

REQUISITION / DUTY RECEIPT FOR NAURU OVER-PRINTED STAMPS (SECOND BATCH)



1916 Crown Agents' Inspector slip completed when the shipment of stamps was received from the printer for distribution to Nauru Post Office. Requisition / Duty receipt No. 87/1916 for United Kingdom Postage & Revenue stamps overprinted 'NAURU' as secured by Somerset House. Requisition of 85 112 / 120 sheets of 240 stamps of 9d stamps signed by W. Anderson, Crown Agents' Inspector dated 5 October 1916. Label endorsed "United Kingdom Postage & Revenue Overprinted "Nauru" as received from Somerset House.

SECOND BATCH - CONTROL "H 16" - LOWER PANES ONLY



Requisition: 10,000 stamps on 5 September 1916. 83 Lower panes with control.

Plate number: Plate 1c. Only plate listed in SG4K

Nauru Overprint: Dull grey black, tin letter and heavy embossing.

Partly perforated on the left side and imperforated at the bottom selvage.

THIRD BATCH - CONTROL "H 16" - LOWER PANE ONLY



The appearance is same as the second batch except the borders are not perforated.

Requisition: 6,000 stamps. 17 January 1917. 50 lower panes.

Plate number: Plate 1c.

Nauru overprint: Similar to the second batch. Black but the letters are thicker. Overprint is low and appears to compress the letters.

FOURTH BATCH - CONTROL "I 17" OR "J 17" - UPPER PANE ONLY (NO CONTROL)

Requisition: 20,000 stamps. 1 November 1917. 167 upper panes.

Controls: None since overprinted on the Upper pane only.



Overprint is low and appears to compress the letters



Recorded Usage: A registered cover posted from Nauru on 7 AUG 19 to Switzerland bears a 9d stamp with the upper selvage. The 9d on the envelope is the only recorded stamp from the upper selvage Row 1, Col 6.

Stein – *British King George V Definitive* (BKGV), page 147, states that “No top row stamps with upper selvage reported”. On page 149, under Identification Notes, it states that “The upper panes sent to Nauru apparently had the top selvages removed.” The statements noted above are contradictory.

Previously, the stamp with the pillar attached was the single reported proven example (Stein - BKGV pg. 148)



SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

On the basis of the stamp affixed on the cover it can be concluded that the upper row for 9d existed for the Fourth Batch. Further, based on the typewear of the overprint, in my opinion it is from the Batch "J 17". Any information on the 9d Nauru overprinted from the upper row of the panes will be greatly appreciated.

References

Nauru 1915 to 1923, Keith Buckingham, 2005

British King George V Definitive, Overprinted for Nauru, Robert C. Stein, 2018

Great Britain Volume 2, KE VII to KG VI, Stanley Gibbons, 1979

The marginal mark at the centre of the sheet. The 'T' mark proves that it is the 6th stamp on Row 1 (the dot ensures correct registration of the sheet in the perforating machine). The variable typewear - leg of 'A' broken and arch of top of 'R'. Type wear found in Control 'J 17'.



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Other items shown: Kiosk stamp varieties, Forgeries, Repairs, Production flaws, Inverted print, Misperforations.