

A Study of the 4d Rectangular Stamp. "Rural Huts"
Vic Sorour. Witwatersrand Philatelic Society.

The introduction of a series of pictorial stamps to replace the King's Head issue was contemplated as early as September 1922. In 1923 essays of four different designs and in various colour combinations were submitted to the Union Government by Harrison and Sons Ltd. of London. The subjects of these Harrison essays as well as two others submitted by De La Rue, were adopted with considerable modification, for six values of the new series. Two contracts were placed for production in London with Waterlow and Sons Ltd. for the ½d, 1d and 6d denominations and with Bradbury Wilkinson and Co. Ltd. for the remainder. On the 1st of January 1926 the ½d, 1d and 4d triangular stamps were issued. The 4d was issued on the 1 May 1926. The remainder appeared in March 1927, together with a new 4d value in rectangular form to supersede the triangular ones, which had been found unsuitable for modern requirements. There were two issues of these London Rotogravure printed stamps using Plate (1) and Plate (2) respectively. These stamps were then printed by the Government Printing Works in Pretoria using rotogravure. Group 1 which was unhyphenated was issued in November 1932 from Cylinder (1). Issue 2 appeared in 1936. Cylinder 19 was used. These rotogravure produced stamps had a very long life and were eventually replaced by Group 2 stamps which were hyphenated in August 1952. They were on sale until the release of the Animal Definitive Series on 14 October 1954. The following pages show the results of a study of the 4d rectangular stamps with the purpose of identifying the various Groups, Issues and varieties.

Summary of the 4d Rectangular.

London	Issue 1. Group I perforations.	March 1927
	Issue 2. Group II or III perforations.	March 1927
Pretoria	Group 1. Unhyphenated	
	Issue 1.	November 1932
	Issue 2.	1936.
	Group 2. Hyphenated.	
	Issue 3.	August 1952

The London pair with INVERTED watermark (page 6) is scarce. It is thought that only 2 sheets exist.
The PAPER JOIN (page 9) is also a very scarce item.

Key to the Identification of the 4d Stamp.

Step 1.
Is "SUIDAFRIKA" hyphenated?



If "SUID-AFRIKA" is **hyphenated**, the stamp belongs to **Group 2**.
If "SUIDAFRIKA" is **not hyphenated**, go to **Step 2**.

Step 2.
"SUIDAFRIKA" is not hyphenated
Look at the **right scroll**.



London, Scroll shaded. Pretoria, Issue 1, Scroll solid. Pretoria, Issue 2, Scroll with crooked line.

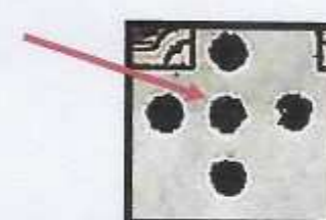
4d

London
Issue 1



Shaded scroll. These stamps are **London** because the scroll is shaded. **Issue 1** can be identified by:

The perforations are evenly spaced at the corners of the stamp. The left margin is imperforate, and the right margin is perforated. The top and bottom margins have a solitary perforation at the end of each vertical row of perforations.



Evenly spaced perforations.

4d

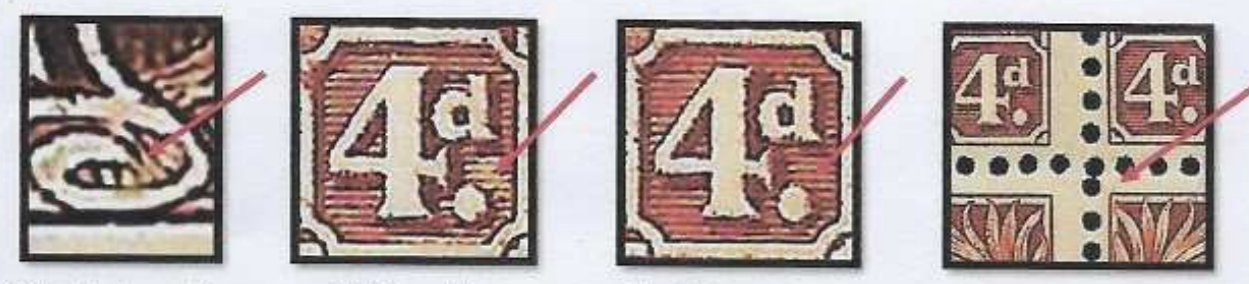
London
Issue 2. Group II Perfs.



Shaded scroll. Light patch. No light patch. Group II Perfs. These stamps are **London** because the scroll is shaded. **Issue 2** can be identified by: Every Afrikaans inscribed stamp, except for those from the top two rows, has a light patch (V1) just above the stop in the right-hand value tablet. Group II Perfs can be identified by: Two perforations close together near the bottom of the stamp. The bottom margin is perforated through. The side margins have a single perforation. The top margin is imperforate.

4d
London

Issue 2. Group III Perfs.



Shaded scroll. Light patch. No light patch. Group III Perfs. These stamps are **London** because the scroll is shaded. **Issue 2** can be identified by: Every Afrikaans inscribed stamp, except for those from the top two rows, has a light patch (V1) just above the stop in the right-hand value tablet. **Group III Perfs** can be identified by: Two perforations close together near the top of the stamp. The bottom margin is imperforate. The side margins have a single perforation. The top margin is perforated through. Note the **guideline** in the bottom left corner piece, indicating that it comes from the right half of the original 240 stamp sheet.

4d.

London.4

Issue 2. Group III Perfs. Varieties



After transferring the images in the first two rows of Issue 2, the Afrikaans die developed a defect in the line above the stop in the right-hand value tablet, this shows up a light patch.



Stamps with inverted watermark are not common in the London Pictorial Series. They are only found in the 2d value and the 4d value, Issue 2, Perf Group III.

4d

Pretoria

Group 1. Issue 1. Upright Watermark.



Solid scroll. These stamps are **Pretoria, Group 1** because: The scroll is solid. The top and bottom margins are the size of a stamp. They are **Issue 1** because: The arrows are large. The first stamp in the sheet is English inscribed. Stamps with an **upright watermark** are much less common than those with inverted.

4d

Pretoria

Group 1. Issue 1. Inverted Watermark.



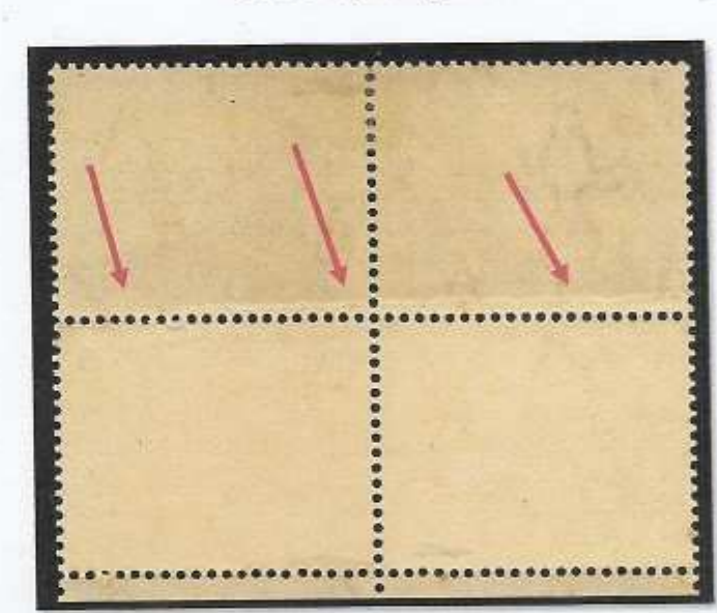
Solid scroll. These stamps are **Pretoria, Group 1** because: The scroll is solid. The top and bottom margins are the size of a stamp. They are **Issue 1** because: The arrows are large. The first stamp in the sheet is English inscribed. Stamps with an **upright watermark** are much less common than those with inverted.

4d.

Pretoria

Issue 1. Inverted. Varieties.

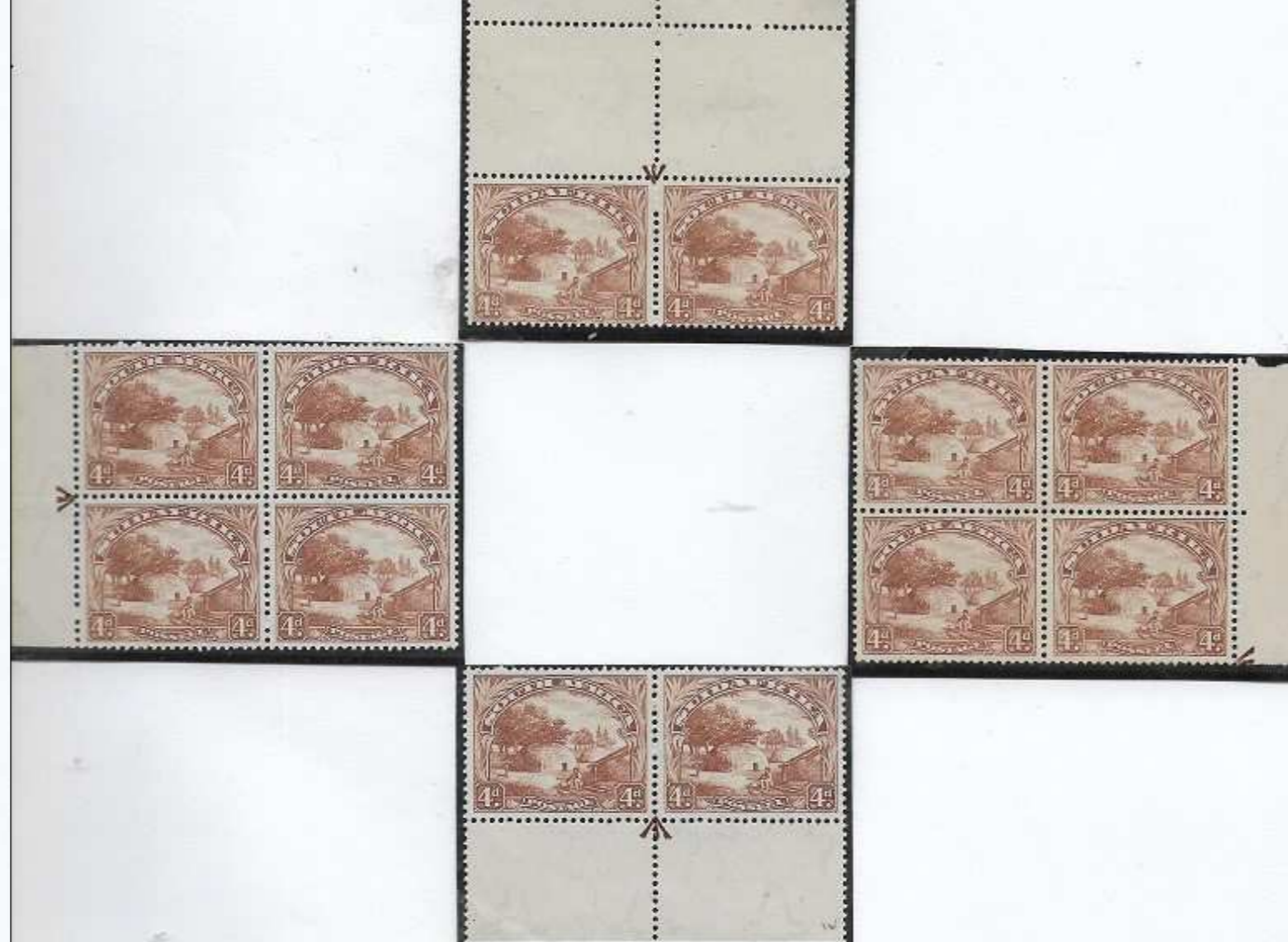
V7. Paper join.



4d.

Pretoria

Group 1. Issue 2. Inverted Watermark.



These stamps are **Pretoria, Group 1** because the top and bottom margins are the size of a stamp and are perforated. They are **Issue 2** because the scroll has a curved line. The arrows are small. The first stamp in the sheet is Afrikaans inscribed. Only the earliest printing had the **watermark inverted**. These stamps are much scarcer and are usually a paler shade of brown.

4d.

Pretoria

Group 1. Issue 2. Upright Watermark.



Identification information is the same as the previous page, inverted watermark.

4d.

Pretoria. Issue 2. Varieties.

V6. "Ghost Arrows"



Ghost Arrow Left margin. Row 17. Ghost arrow right margin. Row 17. Also, Ghost sheet numbers. Although the arrows are small, they were fairly deeply etched with the result that Ghost Arrows frequently appear in two different positions on the side margins.

4d.

Issue 2. Varieties.



4d.

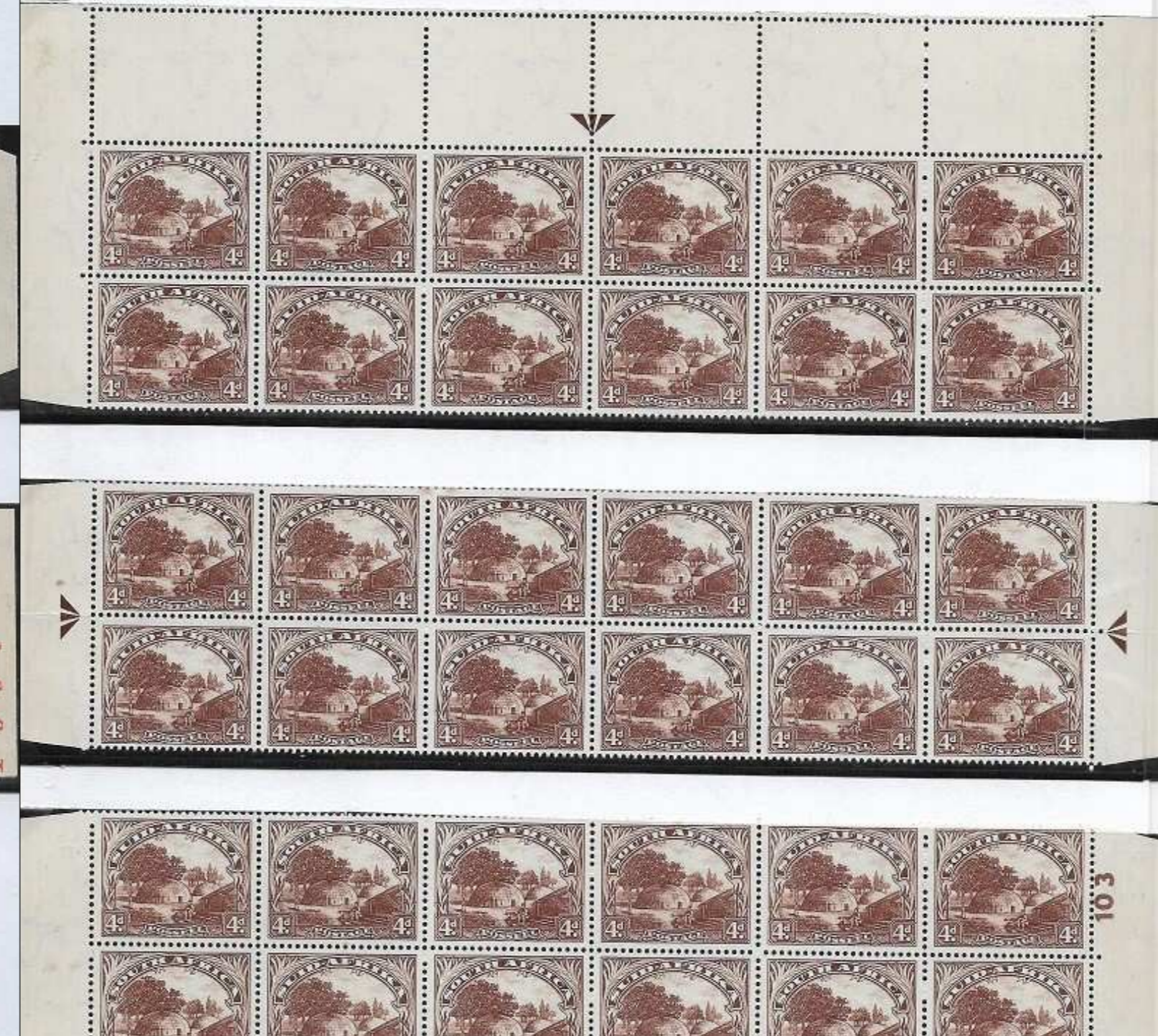
Issue 2. Sheet Numbers.

Four figure sheet numbers appeared on the right margin, first in black, then blue and finally red. As the first printing of Issue 2 had the watermark inverted, the black sheet numbers are found with inverted and upright watermark.



4d.

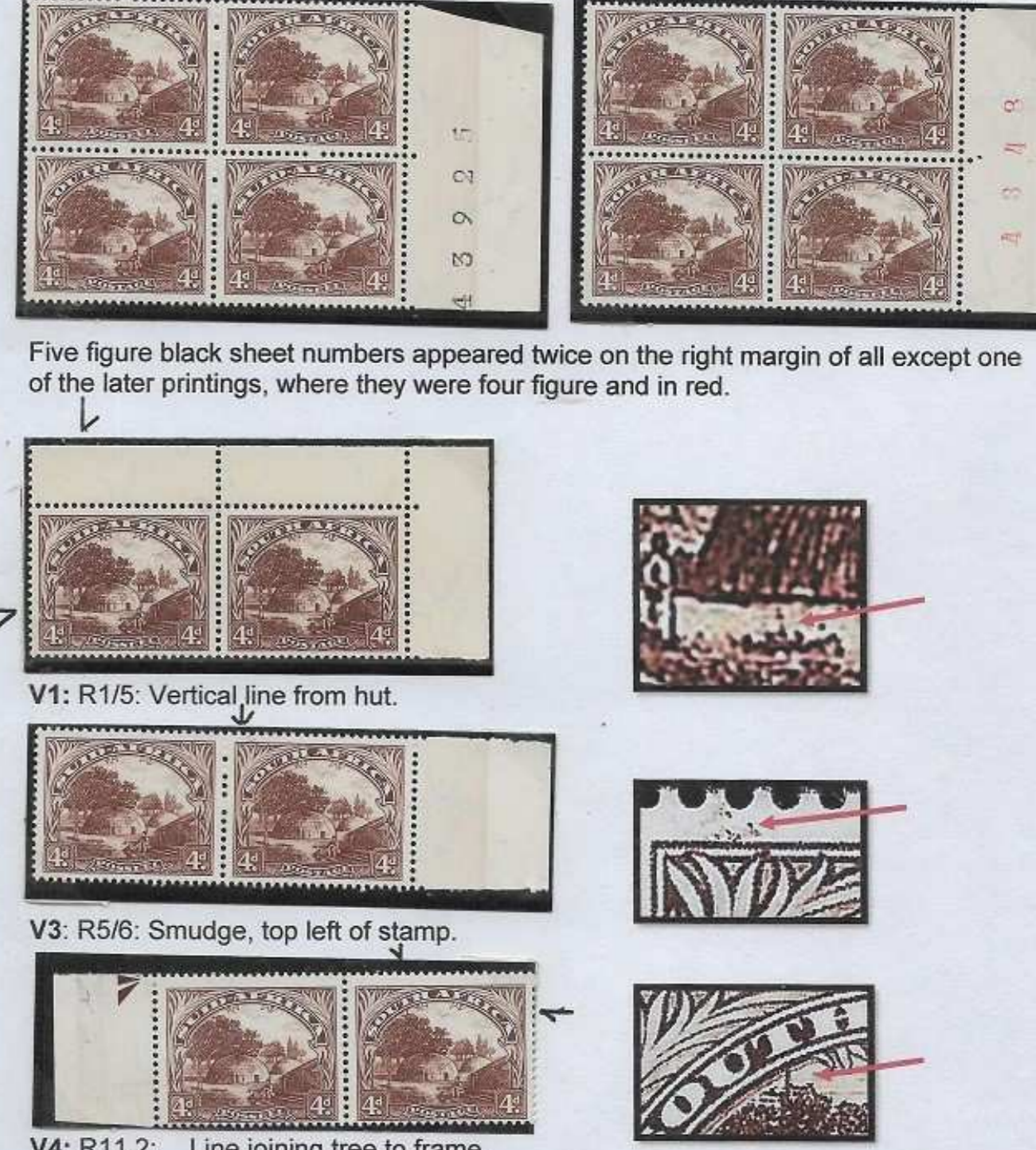
Issue 3. Upright Watermark.



4d.

Pretoria. Group 2. Issue 3.

Sheet Numbers and Varieties.



Five figure black sheet numbers appeared twice on the right margin of all except one of the later printings, where they were four figure and in red. V1: R1/5: Vertical line from hut. V3: R5/6: Smudge, top left of stamp. V4: R11/2: Line joining tree to frame.

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The subjects of these Harrison essays as well as two others submitted by De La Rue, were adopted with considerable modification, for six values of the new series. Two contracts were placed for production in London with Waterlow and Sons Ltd. for the ½d, 1d and 6d denominations and with Bradbury Wilkinson and Co. Ltd. for the remainder.

On the 1st of January 1926 the ½d, 1d and **4d triangular stamps** were issued. The 6d was issued on the 1 May 1926. The remainder appeared in March 1927, together with a new **4d value in rectangular form** to supersede the triangular ones, which had been found unsuitable for modern requirements.

There were two Issues of these London Recess printed stamps using Plate (1) and Plate (2) respectively. These stamps were then printed by the Government Printing Works in Pretoria using rotogravure. Group 1 which was unhyphenated was issued in November 1932 from Cylinder (1). Issue 2 appeared in 1936, Cylinder 19 was used. These rotogravure produced stamps had a very long life and were eventually replaced by Group 2 stamps which were hyphenated in August 1952. They were on sale until the release of the Animal Definitive Series on 14 October 1954.

The following pages show the results of a study of the 4d rectangular stamps with the purpose of identifying the various Groups, Issues and varieties.

Summary of the 4d Rectangular.

London

Issue 1. Group I perforations.	March 1927
Issue 2. Group II or III perforations.	March 1927

Pretoria

Group 1. Unhyphenated	
Issue 1.	November 1932
Issue 2.	1936.
Group 2. Hyphenated.	
Issue 3	August 1952

The London pair with INVERTED watermark (page 6) is scarce. It is thought that only 2 sheets exist.

The PAPER JOIN (page 9) is also a very scare item.

Key to the Identification of the 4d Stamp.

Step 1.

Is "SUIDAFRIKA" hyphenated?



Unhyphenated



Hyphenated

If "SUID-AFRIKA" is **hyphenated**, the stamp belongs to **Group 2**.
If "SUIDAFRIKA" is **not hyphenated**, go to **Step 2**.

Step 2.

"SUIDAFRIKA" is not hyphenated
Look at the **right scroll**.



London.
Scroll shaded.



Pretoria, Issue 1.
Scroll solid.



Pretoria, Issue 2.
Scroll with crooked line.

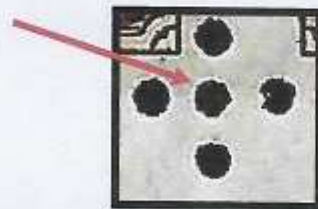
4d

London

Issue 1



Shaded scroll



Evenly spaced perforations.

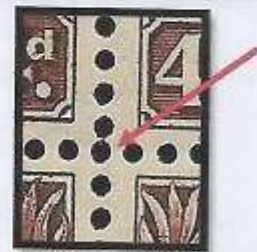
These stamps are **London** because the scroll is shaded.

Issue 1 can be identified by:

- The perforations are evenly spaced at the corners of the stamp.
- The left margin is imperforate, and the right margin is perforated.
- The top and bottom margins have a solitary perforation at the end of each vertical row of perforations.

4d

London
Issue 2. Group II Perfs.



Shaded scroll.

Light patch.

No light patch.

Group II Perfs.

These stamps are **London** because the scroll is shaded.

Issue 2 can be identified by:

Every Afrikaans inscribed stamp, except for those from the top two rows, has a light patch (V1) just above the stop in the right-hand value tablet.

Group II Perfs can be identified by:

Two perforations close together near the bottom of the stamp.

The bottom margin is perforated through. The side margins have a single perforation. The top margin is imperforate.

4d

London

Issue 2. Group III Perfs.



Shaded scroll.

Light patch.

No light patch.

Group III Perfs.

These stamps are **London** because the scroll is shaded.

Issue 2 can be identified by:

Every Afrikaans inscribed stamp, except for those from the top two rows, has a light patch (V1) just above the stop in the right-hand value tablet.

Group III Perfs can be identified by:

Two perforations close together near the top of the stamp.

The bottom margin is imperforate. The side margins have a single perforation. The top margin is perforated through.

Note the **guideline** in the bottom left corner piece, indicating that it comes from the right half of the original 240 stamp sheet.

4d.

London.4

Issue 2. Group III Perfs. Varieties

V1. No light patch



After transferring the images in the first two rows of Issue 2, the Afrikaans die developed a defect in the line above the stop in the right-hand value tablet, this shows up a light patch.

V2. Inverted Watermark



Stamps with inverted watermark are not common in the London Pictorial Series. They are only found in the 2d value and the 4d value, Issue 2, Perf Group III.

4d

Pretoria

Group 1. Issue 1. Upright Watermark.



Solid scroll.



Large arrows.

These stamps are **Pretoria, Group 1** because:

The scroll is solid.

The top and bottom margins are the size of a stamp.

They are **Issue 1** because:

The arrows are large.

The first stamp in the sheet is English inscribed.

Stamps with an **upright watermark** are much less common than those with inverted.

4d

Pretoria

Group 1. Issue 1. Inverted Watermark.



Solid scroll.



Large arrows.

These stamps are **Pretoria, Group 1** because:

The scroll is solid.

The top and bottom margins are the size of a stamp.

They are **Issue 1** because:

The arrows are large.

The first stamp in the sheet is English inscribed.

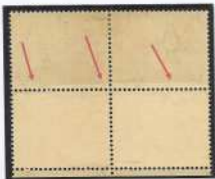
Stamps with an **upright watermark** are much less common than those with inverted

4d.

Pretoria

Issue 1. Inverted. Varieties.

V7. Paper join.



4d.

Pretoria

Group 1. Issue 2. Inverted Watermark.



Scroll with curved line



Small arrows

These stamps are **Pretoria, Group 1** because the top and bottom margins are the size of a stamp and are perforated.

They are **Issue 2** because the scroll has a curved line.

the arrows are small

the first stamp in the sheet is Afrikaans inscribed.

Only the earliest printing had the **watermark inverted**. These stamps are much scarcer and are usually a paler shade of brown.

4d.

Pretoria

Group 1. Issue 2. Upright Watermark.



Identification information is the same as the previous page, inverted watermark.

4d.

Pretoria. Issue 2. Varieties.

V6. "Ghost Arrows"



Ghost Arrow Left margin. Row 17.



Ghost arrow right margin. Row 17
Also, Ghost sheet numbers.

Although the arrows are small, they were fairly deeply etched with the result that Ghost Arrows frequently appear in two different positions on the side margins.

4d.

Issue 2. Varieties.



Large brown smudge above arrow.



Perforations through the stamps.

4d.

Issue 2. Sheet Numbers.

Four figure sheet numbers appeared on the right margin, first in black, then blue and finally red. As the first printing of Issue 2 had the watermark inverted, the black sheet numbers are found with inverted and upright watermark.



Black. Inverted.



Black. Upright.



Blue. Upright.



Red. Upright.

4d.

Issue 3. Upright Watermark.



15

4d.

Pretoria. Group 2. Issue 3.

Sheet Numbers and Varieties.



Five figure black sheet numbers appeared twice on the right margin of all except one of the later printings, where they were four figure and in red.



V1: R1/5: Vertical line from hut.



V3: R5/6: Smudge, top left of stamp.



V4: R11.2: Line joining tree to frame.

