

Transvaal

The 1879 one
penny overprinted

V. R.

Transvaal



The 1879 one penny overprinted V. R. / Transvaal

**A reminder of
what came before**

A reminder of what came before



In 1869 Adolph Otto of Güstrow (Germany) supplied the Zuid Afrikansche Republiek with stamps and a pair of printing plates (2 x 40 electros) for the values 1d, 6d and 1s. The stamps were issued 1 May 1870.

A reminder of what came before



Viljoen

Borrius

Davis

Celliers

Over the next seven years four local printers supplied the republic with stamps printed from the Otto plates.

A reminder of what came before



On 12 April 1877 the British annexed the Boer Republic and named the country Transvaal. Stamps were promptly overprinted in all capitals:

V. R. / TRANSVAAL.

A reminder of what came before



Only three month later the font for the overprinting was changed and stamps were printed on coloured papers originally obtained for printing of revenue stamps.

V. R. / Transvaal

A reminder of what came before



In December 1877 Celliers turned to orange paper for the printing of the one penny stamps.

There were three deliveries of the 1d on orange paper:
December 1877, January 1878 and April 1878.

A reminder of what came before



The third delivery (April 1878) was overprinted
V. R. / **Transvaal** (setting VIII) using partly
Roman type for **V. R.** and partly ***Italic type*** for ***V. R.***

A reminder of what came before



Roman **V. R.**

Italic *V. R.*

Left pane (L1-40) & right pane R1-13

Right pane positions R14-40

A reminder of what came before

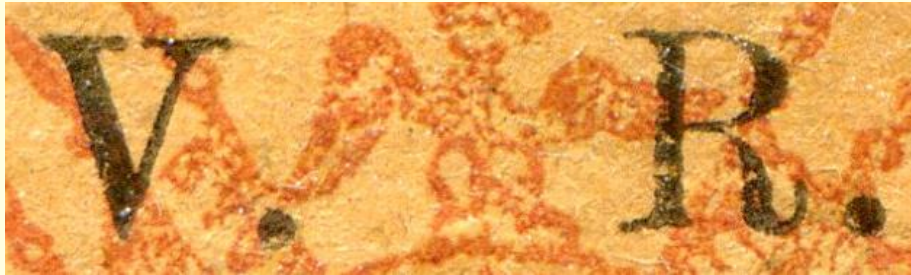


On 26 August 1878 Queen Victoria stamps were issued and overprinting of ZAR arms stamps ceased. But supplies of the QV 1d soon ran short and new supplies of reprinted and overprinted stamps were required.

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The ‘small V. R.’ overprint
(also known as ‘small T’ overprint)
of 1879

The small V. R. overprint of 1879



Roman V. R. set. IV, V and VIII



Small V.R. set. XIV

675 double sheets (54,000 stamps) were overprinted “V. R. / Transvaal” in a setting of 80. The letters ‘V’ and ‘R’ of the overprint were of a smaller font than previously used and the two letters were set closer together.

The small V. R. overprint of 1879



The font used for the word 'Transvaal' is the same as used in previous initial capital overprint issues. For instance the badly damaged 'al' is re-found in the small VR overprint setting XIV in position L15 on the 1d.

The 1879 one penny overprinted V. R. / Transvaal



....also called 'small T overprint' issue
after a **small raised initial T** found in the
overprint in positions R16, R24, R32 and R40.

The small V. R. overprint of 1879



The one penny was printed on two colours of paper: Orange paper (35% - 480 sheets of 40) and yellow paper (65% - 870 sheets of 40).

The small V. R. overprint of 1879

The stamps were first printed on orange paper.

The sequence of the paper used can be confirmed by the development of varieties in the basic stamp; for instance as seen on positions L26 and R37.

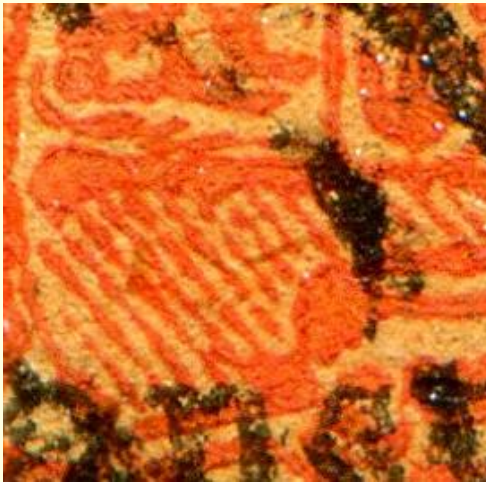
The small V. R. overprint of 1879



Position L26

- Orange paper copies show no varieties in the lower left corner.
- Yellow paper copies show a square foreign object that obscures Z. and part of A of Z.AFR.

The small V. R. overprint of 1879



Position R37

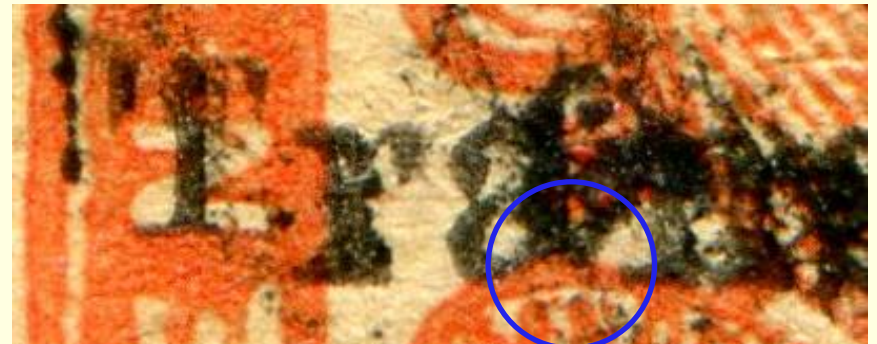
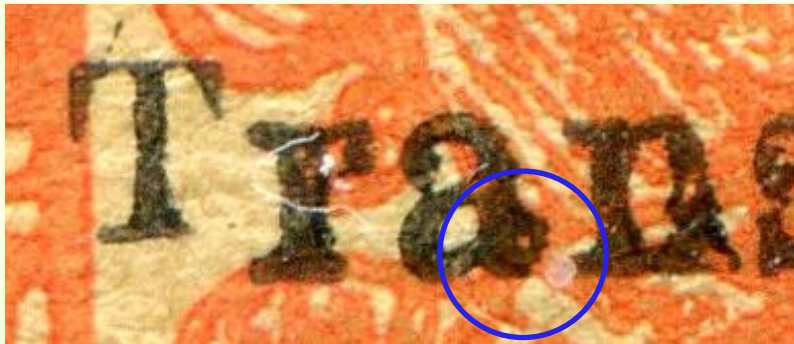
- Orange paper copies show no spots in the diagonal hatching left of the wagon.
- Yellow paper copies show three spots in the diagonal hatching left of the wagon.

The small V. R. overprint of 1879

The stamps on yellow paper were overprinted first.

The sequence of the overprinting can be confirmed by the development of overprint varieties as seen on position R40.

The small V. R. overprint of 1879



Overprint in position R40 (raised T)

- Only yellow paper copies are found with a normal first a in Transvaal.
- Both yellow and **orange** paper copies are found with a dented first a in Transvaal.

The small V. R. overprint of 1879

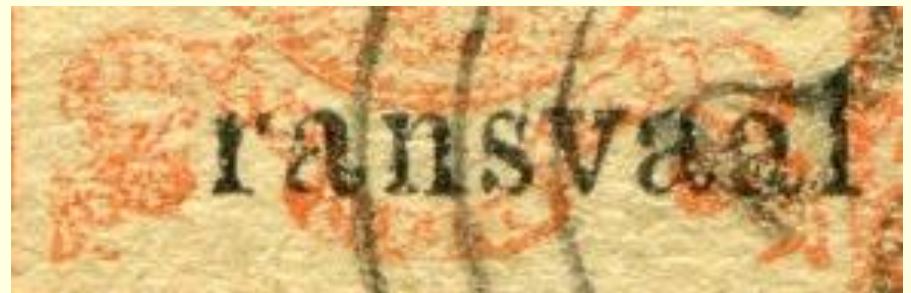
A few selected items

Selected items



Position L40 showing respectively widely and normally spaced 'an' of Transvaal.

Selected items



Missing T of Transvaal
a unique stamp from position L9.

Selected items

Second largest known unused unit of the orange paper one penny is a block of four. (largest known unit is a block of eight).

(positions L20-21/28-29).



Selected items

Largest known used unit of both the orange and the yellow paper one penny is a strip of three.

(Both strips are from positions R1/R9/R17)



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The end

of a small corner of
ZAR / Transvaal philately