

REVIEW

THE PHILATELIC
VOL. 2
NO. 2
REVIEW



50p

GREAT BRITAIN

DEFINITIVE SETS

		U/m	M/m			U/m
QUEEN VICTORIA				1939-48	High values (6v.)	£323
1887-				1941-42	Light colour (6v.)	£ 1.10
1900	Jubilee (14v.)	-	£165		Ditto, watermark inverted (3v.)	£ 5.50
KING EDWARD VII					Ditto, watermark sideways (3v.)	£ 9.00
1902-10	De La Rue (0) (15v.) ½d. x 2, 4d. x 2	£225	£135	1950-51	New colours (6v.)	£ 2.00
1905-10	De La Rue (c) (9v.)	£225	£135		Ditto, watermark inverted (5v.)	£ 7.00
1911	Harrison (perf. 14) (5v.)	£65.00	£45.00		Ditto, watermark sideways (4v.)	£ 1.00
1911	Harrison (perf. 15 x 14) (5v.)	-	£40.00	1951	"Festival" high values (4v.)	£95.00
1911-13	Somerset House (8v.)	£100.00	£70.00	QUEEN ELIZABETH II		
KING GEORGE V				1952-54	Tudor (17v.)	£60.00
1911-12	Downey Head series (12v.)	£24.00	£17.00		Ditto, watermark inverted (5v.)	£13.00
1912-24	Royal Cypher (14v.) 9d. x 1	£72.50	£45.00		Ditto, watermark sideways (3v.)	£ 1.75
	Ditto, watermark inverted (5v.)	£16.00	£11.00	1955	Waterlow "Castles" (4v.)	£195
1913	Multiple Cypher (2v.)	£235	£145	1955-58	Edward (17v.)	£110
1918	Bradbury "Seahorses" (3v.)	-	£295		Ditto, watermark inverted (7v.)	£ 5.75
1924	Block Cypher (12v.)	£80.00	£50.00		Ditto, watermark sideways (5v.)	£ 5.75
	Ditto, watermark inverted (3v.)	£ 1.75	£ 1.35	1957	Graphite (6v.)	£ 7.50
	Ditto, watermark sideways (4v.)	-	£55.00	1958	1st De La Rue "Castles" (4v.)	£575
1934	Photogravure, large format (2v.)	95p	60p	1958-65	Crowns, ordinary (17v.)	£ 3.50
	Ditto, watermark inverted (2v.)	£115	-		Ditto, watermark inverted (7v.)	£47.00
1934-35	Ditto, intermediate format (4v.)	£10.00	£ 6.00		Ditto, watermark sideways (7v.)	£ 6.00
	Ditto, watermark inverted (3v.)	£32.00	£22.00	1958-61	Graphite (8v.)	£50.00
1935-36	Ditto, small format (11v.)	£44.00	£27.50		Ditto, watermark inverted (5v.)	£45.00
	Ditto, watermark inverted (3v.)	£12.00	£ 7.00	1959	2nd De La Rue "Castles" (4v.)	£110
	Ditto, watermark sideways (4v.)	-	£65.00	1959	Phosphor-graphite (8v.)	£45.00
1934	Re-engraved "Seahorses" (3v.)	-	£350	1960-67	Crowns, phosphor (17v.)	£ 2.50
KING EDWARD VIII					Ditto, watermark inverted (6v.)	£15.00
1936	K. E. VIII (4v.)		U/m	1963-68	Ditto, watermark sideways (6v.)	£ 9.00
	Ditto, watermark inverted (3v.)		35p		1st Bradbury-Wilkinson "Castles" (5v.)	
			£ 5.50		2/6 x 2	£10.00
KING GEORGE VI				1967	Machin gum Arabic (9v.)	£ 3.00
1937-47	Dark colours (15v.)		£18.50	1967-70	Ditto, P.V.A. (16v.) 4d. x 2, 8d. x 2	£ 5.00
	Ditto, watermark inverted (5v.)		£80.00	1967-68	Bradbury-Wilkinson no watermark	
	Ditto, watermark sideways (5v.)		£40.00		"Castles" (4v.)	£ 6.00
				1969	Machin high values (4v.)	£10.50
				1970	Ditto, Decimal high values (4v.)	£ 4.50
				1971	Machin Decimal gum Arabic (7v.)	£ 2.45

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the PHILATELIC REVIEW

Volume 2

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Editor: Mike Jackson

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Gavin Littaur's Postal History exhibit was the most fascinating display I have seen for a long time. It was the second time Mr. Littaur had been awarded the Silver Mailcoach, and the first time it has been won twice by the same person. As he states in the catalogue, his exhibit dealt with "the development of the private and public posts in Great Britain, showing early letters from 1513 and postal markings in use during the seventeenth century, with special emphasis on Royal letters and Dockwra handstamps." Included in the exhibit were the signatures of Henry VIII, Elizabeth I, James I and Charles I. A letter from Oliver Cromwell helped to illustrate the Civil War period, along with a letter which was smuggled into England by the Royalist underground post. Several Bishopmarks were shown, including the only known example of its first day of use (19 April 1661) in private hands. Later postmarks included two of the four recorded original Dockwra handstamps. These were used for the first London Penny Post.

The Phillips Great Britain Trophy was awarded to Alain de Cadenet for "G.B. King George V—A study of essays in print, pen and ink, photographic form for the proposed issues to contain a Downey Head in 1910-12. Followed by a similar study of the trials for the 4d. to 8d. values with either coinage or medal heads inserted that were to be issued during 1913." Among the many items which I had not seen before were two large pen and ink drawings on card by Bertram Mackennal, dating from November 1910, both incorporating Boadicea in the design. Also, (and these were my favourites!) there were four beautiful original stamp-sized bromides of Mackennal designs for the frame, all of which showed the unmistakable influence of Art Nouveau.

Ewart Sanders gained the Post Office Trophy with a very comprehensive display of the four commemorative issues of George V, which he described as "The first British commemorative issues, the 1924/25 Wembley with

interesting coils and cancellations. The P.U.C. issue is notable because of the amount of research done recently. The Jubilee issue will always be in the foreground due to the unusual Prussian Blue."

The Harmer Classics Trophy went to John Forbes-Nixon for his excellently presented "study of the Twopence Blue adhesive covering the first four plates 1 to 4: May 1840 - March 1855." Every item in the exhibit was a selected copy in beautiful condition, and one of the outstanding pieces was a superb used block of six of the 1840 twopence plate 1, used for six ounce weight franking. I especially liked a study of the wear and repair of the T row of the 1841 plate 4, S.C. Imperf. and Perf. 16 and 14. Seven states were arranged on the page in a vertical format to align the TC stamp in the various strips and pieces. Unfortunately, one had to lie full-length on the floor to view the bottom sheets of the display!

Mr. A.J. Lowe received a Silver-Gilt award for his exhibit "The development of the 2d. postage from 1840 to 1971 as illustrated by stamps, proofs, trials and essays with slight assistance from other values. Part 1—mainly the 19th Century." There was some beautiful material, including hand painted essays and Die Proofs for the Head and Duty of the 2d. Jubilee stamp.

I feel I must comment on Mr N.E. Lyon's exhibit of "the issues of K.G.V. from the unsuccessful Downey Head types, the Mackennal design that replaced them, and the introduction of the first postage dues." This was very nicely presented, but on many of the sheets on display, the range of Georgian shades was represented by USED examples. Assuming that the majority of these specimens had been immersed in water at some time, correct identification of shades would be almost impossible in many cases. Mr. Lyon did have a nice block of the ½d. Die 1B with a set of previously unrecorded plate markings.

Jim Hanson gained a well deserved Silver Medal for his "display of the halfpenny and penny values from 1912-1924 with a comparison of shades, and some of the many varieties to be found during this period." As well as a superb range of shades, many with control, and varieties, there was a corner block of 24 of the 1d. imperf. overprinted CANCELLED, and showing the 'Q' for 'O' flaw on stamp 1.4.

Both of these last two exhibits had been allocated the very WORST position in the exhibition, considering that they both contained studies of SHADES! No-one wants to feel that he needs a torch to view his display properly, but with the appreciation of subtle differences in colour, the very best lighting is required. It is all the more annoying when this lack of thought about the requirements of the exhibits has been pointed out before. Tony McCleery's entry of shades in last year's Stampex was in exactly the same dark corner.

Unfortunately, there is not room to mention every G.B. exhibit, even though there were many more excellent entries. I would, however, like to go out of my way to comment on Mr. D.J.Nethercleft's thematic entry; "Navigators of the Western and Eastern Hemispheres." I know that this has nothing to do with G.B. Philately, but nevertheless, I would like to say that had I been Mr. Nethercleft, I would have been extremely disappointed at the award he received (a Diploma). His 9-sheet frame was planned to present a large map, in the manner of a nine-piece jig-saw puzzle, with the variously chosen stamps laid out in their relevant geographical positions. I presume that it was too 'Arty' for the judges, but I do not think that Mr. Nethercleft was justly rewarded for his effort and his ingenious and obviously competent result. I appreciate the difficulties facing the judges, and would generally not disagree with their awards, but occasionally one disagrees strongly enough to comment.

M. J.

BOOK REVIEW

THE STONEHAM CATALOGUE OF BRITISH POSTAGE STAMPS 1840—1977

Published by Stoneham Publications Limited, Stoneham Park, Eastleigh, Hampshire SO5 3HT. Price £3.50.

This new catalogue affords the GB collector with a comprehensive listing of British stamps in one volume. As well as including the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man, there are also lists of gutter pair sets, booklet panes, first day covers, presentation packs and Post Office picture cards, all of which are so popular with today's collectors. The demand for unmounted mint has been answered here by introducing a three column system of pricing.

The pricing itself seems very carefully worked out and up to date. The catalogue has been priced by experts in the trade, based on current market values, and it is this, coupled with the comprehensive scope, that will encourage people to use it. However, whilst I am sure that many GB collectors will find this new catalogue of great use, I do feel that because this new listing does not follow the well-established listings of the Gibbons' catalogues, its efficiency is somewhat undermined. To take the George V shade listings as an example, the fact that they have been listed in order of their market value, and not in the 'logical' order of Gibbons' Specialised catalogue, has created a certain amount of confusion. I also found the listing of varieties to be confusing, but this can probably be solved by putting the price after the description of the variety, and not on the line above, after the name of the 'basic' stamp.

M.J.

Extracts from the Contract for supply of Adhesive Stamps etc. of Waterlow & Sons Limited with His Majesty's Postmaster-General. Dated 2nd April 1925.

SPECIFICATION No. 2

ADHESIVE UNIFIED (POSTAGE AND REVENUE) STAMPS IN ROLLS.

The stamps to be printed on paper which will be supplied by the Controller, Post Office Stores Department. For rolls joined at every 20th or 12th stamp, the paper, which will be of similar make to the approved specimen "mill" sheet (marked "P1") except that it will be watermarked "all over" with Royal Ciphers in Roman capital letters, will be in reels 43½ inches wide or in reels 43½ inches and 21¾ inches wide respectively, as determined by the Controller. For continuous rolls the paper will be supplied in reels 37 inches wide or in reels 37 inches and 19 inches wide respectively, as determined by the Controller.

The paper for joined rolls to be gummed, calendered and non-curved, and other-wise dealt with in every respect so as to comply with the provisions of the second paragraph of specification No. 1 for "Adhesive Unified Stamps in Sheets."

The good paper to be fully equal in all respects to the approved specimen (marked "P1"); to be efficiently plate-glazed.

The paper for continuous rolls to be gummed, efficiently surfaced and non-curved. The 37 inch reels to be slit and all reels to be finally trimmed evenly on both sides to a width of 18 inches, and weighed, labelled and sealed.

The plate-glazing and surfacing respectively to be such as will give thoroughly satisfactory printing results.

The printing plates will be supplied by the Controller.

For joined rolls, the printing plates will be as described in specification No. 1.

For continuous rolls, the dimensions of the printing plates, etc., will be as follows:—

Method of Delivery of Roll.	Outside Dimensions of Half Plate.	Dimensions of printing Surface of Half Plate.	Number of Stamp Pieces on each Half Plate.	Width of middle Margin i.e. between Two Half Plates.
Top end	in.	in.		in.
Lower end	10.5 by in.	9.4375 by in.	90	1.6625
	7.6375	7.1375		
Left side	10.5 by 8.0062	9.5375 by 7.5375	96	.925

The stamps in rolls to comply with the provisions of specification No. 1 so far as they apply except that in the case of continuous rolls for delivery left side first the watermark may be at right angles to the vertical direction of the stamp.

The stamps for joined and continuous rolls to be printed on Wharfedale printing machines and Grover's reel printing machines respectively.

The contents, dimensions and method of delivery of the rolls to be as follows:—

Description	Denominations	No of stamps per roll	Internal diameter of core (approx)	External diameter of rolls (approx)	Method of delivery
Unified Stamps in rolls.					
<i>D</i>	½d.	960*	1¼"	2½" to 2¾"	Lower end first.
<i>G</i>	½d.	480*	½"	1⅝"	Top end first.
<i>P</i>	½d.	480†	½"	1⅝"	Left side first.
<i>Kermode</i>	½d.	960* 1,920	¾" ¾"	2⅜" 3¼"	Top end first.
<i>B</i>	1d.	960*	1¼"	2½" to 2¾"	Lower end first.
<i>E</i>	1d.	480*	½"	1⅝"	Top end first.
<i>O</i>	1d.	480†	½"	1⅝"	Left side first.
<i>Kermode</i>	1d.	960* 1,920	¾" ¾"	2⅜" 3¼"	Top end first.
<i>K</i>	1½d.	960*	1¼"	2½" to 2¾"	Lower end first.
<i>L</i>	1½d.	480*	½"	1⅝"	Top end first.
<i>N</i>	1½d.	480†	½"	1⅝"	Left side first.
<i>Q</i>	2d.	960*	1¼"	2½" to 2¾"	Lower end first.
<i>R</i>	2d.	480*	½"	1⅝"	Top end first.
<i>T</i>	2d.	480†	½"	1⅝"	Left side first.

* In joined rolls, joins to be at every 20th stamp.

† In joined rolls, joins to be at every 12th stamp.

The rolls to correspond generally with the approved dummy specimens marked "S20" to "S23." The method of reeling and of joining the lengths of stamps in joined rolls to be in accordance with specimens. The stamps to be tightly and evenly wound and their edges to be neatly slit on each side through the middle of the perforations. To be joined to cores in a similar manner to the approved specimens marked "W7" to "W10."

The rolls to be sealed by means of a printed paper band, tape in a continuous length and wax seal. The paper band to be of approximately the same colour as the stamps in the roll; one end of it to be affixed to the first stamp and the other to the outside of the roll.

The rolls of 480, 960 and 1,920 stamps to be delivered in parcels of 250, 125 and 125 rolls respectively. To be enclosed in straw boards and two wrappings with description label. Each parcel to be tied securely lengthwise and twice crosswise with tape in a continuous length; the ends after being tied to be secured by means of a seal.

The good rolls to be delivered in separate parcels from the waste rolls or waste stamps in sheets; each parcel to be clearly marked with details of the contents.

The paper bands, tapes, seals, strawboards, wrappings and labels to be similar to the approved specimens marked "W11" to "W41."

Specimen rolls to be furnished by the Contractors for approval before bulk production is proceeded with.

POSTAL HISTORY

THE SUNDAY SUN

J. Forbes-Nixon

Letters were accepted at all Branch Offices and the Chief Office of the General Post on Sundays but were held over until the Monday.

No special action was taken over ordinary letters but signed Free letters with the manuscript Sunday date had to be specially dealt with to explain any possible delay to those having this privilege and in 1832 a handstamp was introduced shortening Sunday to SUN with a literal sun imitation in its design as the example in Figure 1. It seems the handstamp must have been constantly replaced and remade as there are varying sizes and number of scallops and themselves form an interesting collecting study.

After 10th January 1840 with mail prepaid and the Free privilege removed, it would seem logical to suppose that the use of the Sunday SUN stamp would cease but on a smaller scale its use persisted on paid letters perhaps for some different function or a dying habit, but exactly why it is not certain.

Strangely, a similar very much smaller 13mm diameter sanserif SUN stamp was in use from about 1857 to 1866 and this appears not to have been used on Inland mail at all but only by the Foreign Branch possibly to explain a day's delay on foreign transit mail. They are known struck in red, black and blue whereas their larger cousins were always only in red and whereas the earlier Free frank SUN stamps are fairly common the Foreign Branch small types are decidedly scarce.

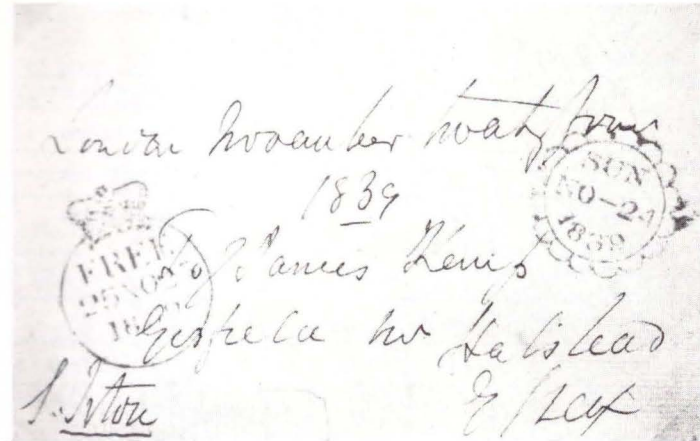


Fig.1

An example of this later SUN stamp, which is in blue, is shown in Figure 2 on a letter emanating from Valparaiso Chile, via Panama and London to le Havre France. The only transit marks are the G.B. hexagonal accountancy mark and the Foreign Branch small SUN stamp for 13th August 1865.

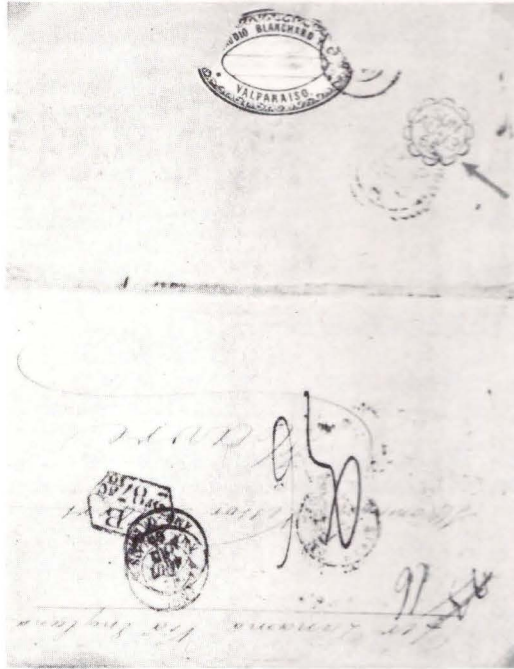


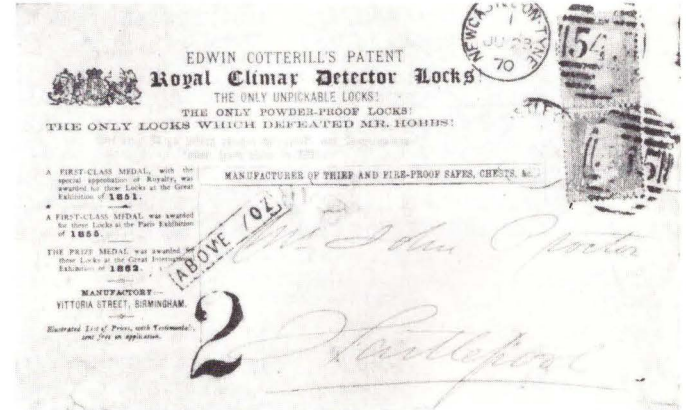
Fig.2 -

A Victorian Advertising Envelope

Mr. Edwin Cotterill seemingly knew his craft as a locksmith and safe-maker and was proud of it. A string of medals went his way from 1851 to 1862 and the accolade Royal Climax Detector Locks has definite erotic overtones!

Who was Mr. Hobbs? Was he the Guy Fawkes or Houdini of the day? The mind boggles. And if all this was not enough the postage was insufficient, attracting a lovely boxed ABOVE (manuscript 1) OZ and handstamp 2 of Newcastle.

J.F-N.



ELIZABETHAN CASTLES

Shade Classification

David Barker

Using the Gibbons' shade classification as a starting point and with the use of the 'Methuen Handbook of Colour' and King George V Royal Cypher reference set, the following shades may be identified. These variations are readily apparent in mint condition and a true specialist could take this classification even further. The best way to learn to identify the differences is to handle a large number of specimens, perhaps from the stock book of a friendly dealer.

2/6 values

The 2/6 values all seem to vary around the black-brown and sepia-brown shade band with light, dark and dull shades of each. Many are clearly different but it may prove a complicated task—and one I have not yet attempted—to relate shade to plate numbers in the later printings due to the profusion of the plates employed. I have a genuine used single of the De La Rue Crowns watermarked 2/6 value apparently printed in black only, similar to the £1 values, but have neither seen nor heard of any similar copies to substantiate its authenticity. (Any suggestions?)

5/- values

Waterlow:

- (1) Deep rose carmine
- (2) Rose carmine

1st De La Rue:

- (1) Deep rose

2nd De La Rue: Cream Paper:

- (1) Scarlet-vermilion
- (2) Scarlet
- (3) Deep scarlet*

White paper:

- (1) Scarlet-vermilion
- (2) Deep scarlet-vermilion

Bradbury, Wilkinson, Crowns: (1) Red (minor variations), Plates 1 and 2

(2) Deep Brownish Red, Plate 3

(3) Brownish Red, Plate 4

Bradbury, Wilkinson, No Wmk.: (1) Brownish Red, Plate 4

(2) Pale brownish-red Plates 5(?) and 6

10/- values

Waterlow:

- (1) Ultramarine
- (2) Pale ultramarine

1st De La Rue:

- (1) Ultramarine
- (2) Dull ultramarine

2nd De La Rue, Cream Paper:

- (1) Blue
- (2) Pale Blue

Whiter paper:

- (1) Blue
- (2) Deep Prussian blue*
- (3) Steel blue

Bradbury, Wilkinson, Crowns:

- (1) Bright ultramarine

Bradbury, Wilkinson, No Wmk.: (1) Deep intense bright ultramarine (early?)*

(2) Bright ultramarine

£1 values

Of the £1 values the Waterlow is the deepest shade of black, the De La Rue impressions duller and the Bradbury, Wilkinson are brighter and occasionally slightly suffused although shade variations on this value are of limited and minor significance.

*Hard to find, possibly scarce.

BOOKLETS

Booklet Perforation

I have recently come across these two booklet items, both of which relate to the perforation. The first is the 1d Die 1B booklet pane (or part pane) which is 'imperforate at top'. This has been caused by an incomplete downstroke of the combhead. It is obviously the very first 'beat' of the machine, as the 'cutting line' can be seen just on the margin. This line was repeated at all four corners of the uncut booklet sheet, so its presence always indicates a corner stamp. I have seen a similar variety on a 1d Die 2 control block, where again the first beat has not pierced the paper.

The second item, a pane of the 2d Royal Cypher Die 1 (SG Spec. NB10), shows a doubling of the first eight horizontal perforation holes of the left hand stamps. A clearer example of this, a single with selvedge, was illustrated in the GB Journal, Vol. 1, p. 27, and subsequently referred to in my articles; Booklet Perforation—A Puzzling Case, GB Journal, Vol. 13, p. 58; and George V: Booklet Perforation "Type B3", Philatelic Review, Vol. 1, p. 49. This doubling arose as a result of the difficulty encountered by the perforating machine in coping with the narrow central gutter of the uncut booklet sheet, which was less than half the width of a stamp image. In order to cross this gutter, eight pins of the combhead would encroach into the next half of the sheet. When the machine was adjusted to align the combhead with this second half, these eight holes would have been doubled, which is exactly what has happened with the example illustrated. The fact that this variety does not seem to be very common, and that this type of perforation was achieved without doubling on many printings, indicates that it may represent the beginning of the use of this type, before the printers had solved the problem.



Advertisements in Booklets

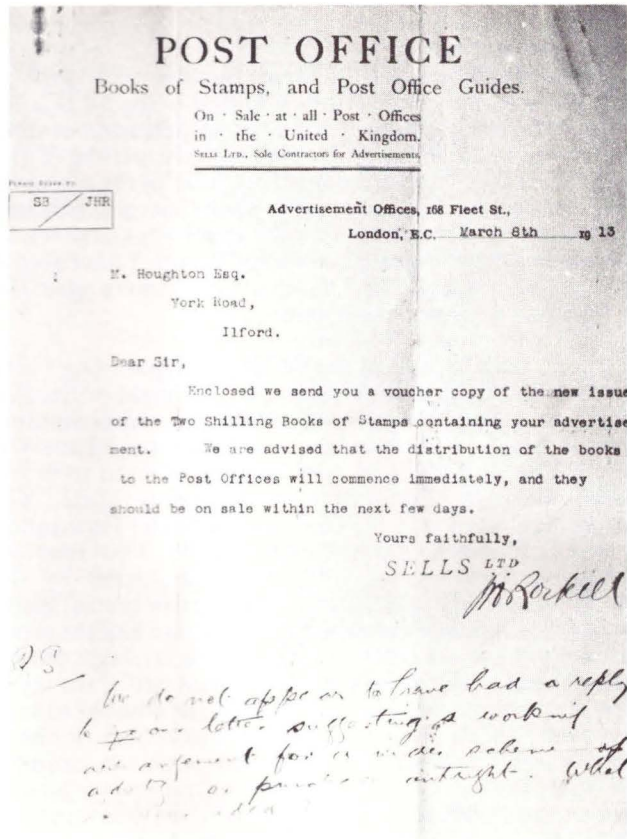
Advertisements were introduced with the first booklets to contain Georgian stamps, which appeared in August, 1911. Tenders had been invited from a large number of advertising agencies for the advertising rights in the booklets, the contract finally going to Sells' Advertising Agency. By 1912, the Post Office were selling around three million booklets per year, so there was great potential in using them as a medium for advertising.

Illustrated is a letter from Sells Ltd. to a Mr. Houghton, which accompanied a voucher copy of the new two shilling booklet. From the information contained in the letter, we can assume that this particular booklet (SG B11, no. 9) was issued during the second week of March, 1913. The booklet cover, cancelled voucher panes and the relevant advertisement are also illustrated.

The recording of dated cancellations on voucher booklet panes is obviously useful in determining the approximate date of issue of any given booklet. Unfortunately, voucher booklets are invariably broken up, and rarely appear accompanied by a useful letter of the sort described above. However, the following is a list of voucher panes from the early Georgian booklet issues, by no means complete, and merely recording examples seen;

Downey Head ½d and 1d. Die 1B Voucher Panes			
Wmk.	Cancellation	Date	Booklet
Crown	LONDON CHIEF OFFICE, E.C. (Double ring)	Undated	B7 or B8
Simple Cypher	LONDON CHIEF OFFICE, E.C. (Single ring)	3 July 1912	B9?
Simple Cypher	LONDON, E.C. (Double ring)	7 Jan 1913	B10?
Simple Cypher	LONDON, E.C. (Single ring)	5 Mar 1913	B11, no. 9

It is believed that these four cancellations exhaust the number of different types used on these issues, but there should be quite a few more dates to add to this short list.





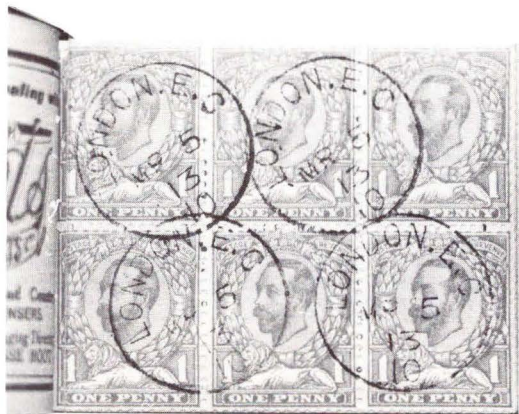
Cancelled panes

9  **EIGHTEEN 1d. and TWELVE ½d. Stamps.**
PRICE 2s. 0d.

RATES OF POSTAGE.

Inland Letters.	Not exceeding 4 oz. 1d. : for every additional 2 oz. ½d.		
Inland Parcels.	1 lb. 3d.	5 lb. 6d.	9 lb. 9d.
Not exceeding	2 .. 4d.	7 .. 7d.	10 .. 10d.
Foreign Letters.	3 .. 5d.	8 .. 8d.	11 .. 11d.
	To British Possessions generally, and Egypt, and U.S.A., 1d. per oz.		
	Colonial Letters. To other places. 2½d. for first oz., 1½d. for each additional oz.		

The booklet cover



BY ROYAL LETTERS PATENT.

Modernise your fireplace
 by using

HOUGHTON'S ADJUSTABLE GRATE

You can FIX IT YOURSELF to any Fireplace. It gives TWICE the HEAT with HALF the usual amount of COAL. A cheerful fire, Clean and Safe. Write for full particulars—

DEVON & CO.,
 132, Queen Victoria St., E.C.

Telephone—Bank 825.
 Telegrams—"Sufism, London."

10/6

Houghton's advertisement

GEORGE V NOTES

Georgian Varieties

Brigadier G.A.Viner O.B.E. has written to me concerning two varieties which were illustrated in the last issue;

Dear Sir,

I enjoy the Philatelic Review so where I find I have examples of various varieties reported in it I feel I should let you know, for the record.

Page 11 "1912 Georgian 'Plug' repairs?". I have an identical example of the third (right hand) illustration which suggests the variety is constant.

Page 13 "1912—24 1d. Royal Cypher Broken Cross on Crown". I have two examples of the top illustration; a) 1d. (Coinage Head) wmk. Royal Cypher Type II used with the base frame line normal. b) Block Cypher wmk. (1924) Single mint with A24 control. The base frame line under O of Penny is weak. As this is the only example I have seen, I do not know whether the "weakness" is constant.

Yours Sincerely,
G.A. Viner

A Caricature of the 1d Downey Head

Illustrated is what is believed to be a caricature of the 1d Downey Head stamp by John Redmond. It appears to have been photographically reduced from a pen-and-ink drawing to approximately stamp-size, and is in sepia. Further information about this, and the artist, would be received most gratefully.



Plate Flaws and Plate Identification

On stamps printed by typography (or letterpress), plate flaws assume a special importance. The relevance of these flaws, and their nature, has been extensively researched by Mr. Tony Wiseman FRPS,L, and he has published many articles on the subject in various publications including the GB Journal and The Stamp Lover.

The examples illustrated here are what I would call typical of the flaws found on the typographed issues, ie. they are WHITE flaws. A typographic plate imparts the ink to the paper from the tops of the raised portions of the plate, and so any damage to the plate would normally result in this printing surface being degraded. Coloured flaws are far less common, as such flaws can only be effected by adding to the printing surface, rather than taking away.

The importance of flaws becomes apparent when the plating of the typographed issues is attempted. An excellent example of the straightforward usefulness of flaws in plate identification is shown in figs. 1 and 2;

1d. Die 1B-Plate 16 Flaws: 20.10 Broken ribbon, 2mm below E of REVENUE; 20.11 White flaw in front of lion's chin.

Both flaws can be found on a control strip of three, but the identification of the plate has up to now required a very large piece which showed the cut in the 17th rule of the left hand side of the sheet. The 'broken ribbon' flaw seems to be constant; the 'lion's chin' flaw is usually there, but I have found a couple of examples without it.

Another major aid to plating, and which is especially relevant to the plating of control singles and small pieces, is the type and position of the control. I have found that wherever I have a large plated piece (eg. a bottom row

showing the relevant plate markings in the marginal rule), I can match control singles confidently. I would like to point out, however, that most plates underwent several printings, in the sense that these plates can be found with either different control pieces, or the same control piece but in different positions. In either case, something was done which interrupted the printing process, causing the plate to be removed or moved in relation to the control. This latter case could also have been the movement of the control, rather than the plate, and in such a case, the division of the two 'states' or positions of the control, into two 'printings' is probably not valid. Despite the difficulty in deciding what does or does not signify a 'printing', the evidence of the controls does afford the specialist with clues as to the life history of a plate.



Fig.1



Fig.2

1912-24 4d Royal Cypher—'Spot in frame' variety

Our publishers have shown me this variety, and also the 1½d broken frame, opposite. The 4d variety takes the form of a white spot near the bottom left corner. The plate is not known, but the position is R 2.5.



1924-34 1½d Block Cypher—'Broken Frame' variety

This variety shows extensive damage to the top left frame of the stamp. It is stamp number 4 from a booklet pane with inverted watermark, showing no bars in the margin. This positions the pane as belonging to the right hand side of the uncut booklet sheet. I have seen two similar examples, which suggests that it is constant.



GB AUCTION PRICES

CAVENDISH

14th January

1841 1d Red, strip of six, close at one corner otherwise large margins lightly cancelled "no 12 in cross".

Est £75 £145

1858/78 1d plate 177, corner block of nine, full margins with plate number and inscription, unused, large part gum, some creasing.

Est £70—£80 £60

1847/54 1/- Embossed, very good used pair, frame touched at left, otherwise large margins.

Est £65 £140

1867/83 5/- Rose, plate 1, a superb used example, clear C.D.S.

Est £40 £60

1882 £1 Brown-lilac, anchor wmk., SG 136. Extremely fine used - an exhibition copy.

Est £750 £780

1882 White paper £5 orange, unmounted mint.

Est £2,000 £2,500

1878 6d plate 16, bright mint. SG 147.

Est £50 £62

1955/58 De La Rue 2/6 - £1, unmounted mint. SG 536a/539a.

Est £380 £470

ROBSON LOWE LTD

19th January

1841 1d Red-Brown, plate 167, a mint block of fifteen, HG-JK, almost full gum, three vertical creases HK-IK cut into at right.

Est £350 £1,000

1875 a die proof on glazed card (92 x 60mm) of the Queen's head with circular uncleared background, dated "Aug 5th 1875" and endorsed "DLR's Original".

Est £100 £185

1885 2d and 3d cut down die proofs mounted on a single card, the essays with corner letters BH-HB and printers name, card endorsed "Sept 27" and in red "Expl".

Est £60 £155

1894 a slightly cut down die proof on glazed card of a head plate without value similar to the design of the Jubilee 2d value, handstamped "4 SEP 94" and "before/hardening".

Est £50 £105

1915 De La Rue 2/6 yellow brown, 5/- carmine and 10/- ultramarine, each in a horizontal corner pair overprinted "SPECIMEN", 2/6 and 5/- with marginal endorsements "New specs from last printing" and dated "2 June 1917".

Est £600 £1,000

Wm. CARSON

4th February

The Line Engraved Twopence Postage Stamp of GB by Dendy Marshall, with set of plates I-VI of the 2d.

Est £20 £40

British Postage Stamp Varieties Illustrated, by Alcock & Meredith.

Est £8 £10.50

British Postal Stationery, by Huggins.

Est £5 £26

1924 Block Cypher 2d sideways watermark U/M.

Est £60 £82.50

HARMERS OF LONDON

7th—8th February

"The Stamp Collectors Magazine", 1863-74 with additional 1874.

Est £50 £160

"The Philatelist". Vol 1 to 10, 1867-76 uniformly bound in green, these include (from Vol 5) The Spud Papers complete with forgeries (133).

Est £250—£300 £675

"The Philatelic Record" Vol 1 to 17, February 1879 to December 1895.

Est £50 £100

"The Postage Stamps of Great Britain" Part 4, the issues of King George V, published by the R.P.S.

Est £25 £31

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1840 1d Black plate 1b lettered FC. A very fine used four margin copy with a clean strike of the black M.C. SG 2. **£48.00**

1840 1d Black, plate 2, lettered CC. A superbly used four large marginal example with a beautiful clear strike of the red M.C. SG 2. **£125.00**

1840 1d Black, plate 10, lettered GI. A superb used four margin copy with a neat black M.C. SG 2. **£110.00**

1841 1d Orange-brown plate 75, lettered LK. A fine used example of the rare "Union Jack" re-entry. B.P.A. certificate. SG 12ba. **£145.00**

1841 2d Blue plate 3 lettered JE. A superb used four margin example with a very fine strike of the numeral 12 in M.C. SG 14i. **£55.00**

1841 2d Violet-blue plate 4, lettered BJ. A very fine used four margin example on thicker lavender tinted paper. SG 15aa. **£145.00**

1870 ½d Rose-red, plate 5, lettered Q1-RJ. A superb mint well centred block of four. SG 48. **£85.00**

1870 1½d Rose-red, plate 3, lettered RA. A superb mint original gum example. SG 51. **£50.00**

1857 4d Rose-carmine, watermark large garter. A fine mint example with some gum, excellent colour. SG 66. **£175.00**

1880 2/- Brown, plate 1, lettered TC. A fine used example of good colour, well centred with good perfs. SG 121. **£265.00**

1878 10/- Greenish grey, plate 1, lettered FA. A superb C.D.S. used example dated at Glasgow 21st April 1882. SG 128. **£345.00**

1881 3d Rose, plate 21, lettered DG. An unmounted mint copy well centred. SG 158. **£75.00**

1884 2d Lilac, lettered AF. A very fine mint copy, well centred with good perfs. SG 189. **£30.00**

1891 £1 Green "Jubilee", lettered KD. A very fine mint single, well centred with good perfs. SG 212. **£875.00**

1902 De La Rue 1d deep green plate proof. A fine four margin example on thin white card. **£175.00**

1904 De La Rue booklet cover essay. A design similar to the issued booklet in chocolate on pale green. **£95.00**

1911-12 Downey Head ½d green die 1b multiple cypher watermark. An unmounted mint imperf. marginal single from the trial printing on Basted Mills paper. This trial printing from the first die was made by Harrison & Sons from plate 8. **£175.00**

1912 Downey Head ½d yellow-green, die 2, crown watermark. A lightly mounted mint example with the variety "no cross on crown and broken frame". SG Spec N4c. **£35.00**

1912 Downey Head ½d green, die 2, multiple cypher watermark. A superb mint control (B12) strip of three from the rare Somerset House printing. Perf. margin. SG Spec NC 105a (P). **£250.00**

1911 Downey Head 1d carmine-red, die 1a, crown watermark inverted. A lightly mounted mint marginal example of this rare variety. SG Spec N7c. **£575.00**

1912 Downey Head 1d scarlet, die 2, crown watermark inverted. A rare lightly mounted mint control (B 12) pair. SG 341. **£275.00**

1911-12 Slater and Palmer 6d essay for colour. A very fine example in Ruby black, reference no. SP 92. S.G. fig. 11. **£135.00**

1912-24 Royal Cypher ½d deep blue—"Myrtle"—green. A top marginal unmounted mint stamp with part "offset" on reverse. R.P.S. certificate. SG Spec N14(15). **£100.00**

1912-24 Royal Cypher ½d green. A lightly mounted mint control (L16) block of six, showing the variety "ruffled hair". SG Spec N14h. **£175.00**

1912-24 Royal Cypher ½d green. An unmounted mint control block of eight (E 14) showing the scarce variety "stitch watermark" across four stamps and clearly visible in margin. **£45.00**

1912-24 Royal Cypher 1½d red-brown. A lightly mounted mint control block of six with the letter K missing from the control number. SG Spec NC 356a (1). **£85.00**

1912-24 Royal Cypher 2d intense bright orange. An unmounted mint marginal single with R.P.S. certificate. SG Spec N19(9). **£895.00**

1912-24 Royal Cypher 2½d indigo-blue. A lightly mounted mint control single (O 20) with R.P.S. certificate. SG Spec N21(14). **£345.00**

1924 Block Cypher 1½d red-brown, booklet pane of six. An unmounted mint pane showing an outstanding frame break on stamp no. 4. SG Spec NB 14a. **£75.00**

1924 Block Cypher 4d grey-green, printed on the gummed side. A fine mint example of this rare variety. SG 424a. **£575.00**

1925 Wembley. The set in vertical coil join pairs. Unmounted mint with good perforations. SG 432-3. **£125.00**

1929 P.U.C. 1½d. An unmounted mint horizontal pair with one stamp showing the "1829 for 1929" variety. SG Spec N Com 7c. **£90.00**

1929 P.U.C. 1½d with watermark inverted overprinted "CANCELLED" type 33, and punched. Unmounted mint. SG spec N Com 7a. **£55.00**

1934 Photogravure 1½d red-brown, large format, "broken frame". A superb mint control strip of three (V34 cyl 38.) with the variety unmounted. Unlisted by S.G. from this cylinder. SG Spec N51b. **£25.00**

1936 2/- blue booklet number 358. Contains advert pane number 143. 1d pane has watermark inverted. The booklet has been stapled together and shows no sign of the normal stitching holes. Complete and in fine condition. SG B43. **£85.00**

1938 3/- scarlet booklet with watermarks inverted. All panes overprinted "CANCELLED", type 33, and punched. Stamped "17 JUL 1939" on front cover. Complete and in fine condition. SG Spec B49. **£150.00**

1940 June 5/- buff booklet number 1. Watermarks inverted throughout. Contains the difficult 2d and 2½d dark colour values. All panes have good perforations. Complete and in fine condition. SG B52. **£400.00**

1952 2½d Carmine-red with Tudor watermark. A vertical strip of three showing paper join some 20mm wide. Unmounted mint. SG 519. **£24.00**

1959 2½d Graphite booklet pane of six with watermark inverted. Unmounted mint with good perforations. SG Spec SB59a. **£190.00**

1961 Graphite 3d deep lilac with misplaced lines clear of perforations. Unmounted mint. SG 592a. **£75.00**

1961 Green phosphor set of nine values. Unmounted mint marginal blocks of four. **£100.00**

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