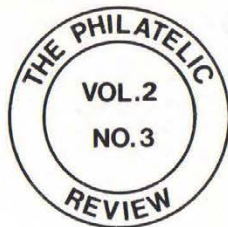


# REVIEW



50p

# GREAT BRITAIN

## DEFINITIVE SETS

QUEEN VICTORIA		U/m	M/m			U/m
1887-				1939-48	High values (6v.)	£350
1900	Jubilee (14v.)	-	£165	1941-42	Light colour (6v.)	£ 1.10
KING EDWARD VII					Ditto, watermark inverted (3v.)	£ 5.50
1902-10	De La Rue (0) (15v.) ½d. x 2, 4d. x 2	-	£165	1950-51	Ditto, watermark sideways (3v.)	£ 9.00
1905-10	De La Rue (c) (9v.)	-	£165		New colours (6v.)	£ 2.00
1911	Harrison (perf. 14) (5v.)	-	£50.00		Ditto, watermark inverted (5v.)	£ 7.00
1911	Harrison (perf. 15 x 14) (5v.)	-	£40.00	1951	Ditto, watermark sideways (4v.)	£ 1.00
1911-13	Somerset House (8v.)	-	£85.00		"Festival" high values (4v.)	£125
KING GEORGE V				QUEEN ELIZABETH II		
1911-12	Downey Head series (12v.)	£24.00	£17.00	1952-54	Tudor (17v.)	£60.00
1912-24	Royal Cypher (14v.) 9d. x 1	£72.50	£45.00		Ditto, watermark inverted (5v.)	£13.00
	Ditto, watermark inverted (5v.)	£16.00	£11.00	1955	Ditto, watermark sideways (3v.)	£ 1.75
1913	Multiple Cypher (2v.)	-	£145	1955-58	Waterlow "Castles" (4v.)	£220
1918	Bradbury "Seahorses" (3v.)	-	£295		Edward (17v.)	£110
1924	Block Cypher (12v.)	£80.00	£50.00		Ditto, watermark inverted (7v.)	£ 5.75
	Ditto, watermark inverted (3v.)	£ 1.75	£ 1.35	1957	Ditto, watermark sideways (5v.)	£ 5.75
	Ditto, watermark sideways (4v.)	-	£60.00	1958	Graphite (6v.)	£ 7.50
1934	Photogravure, large format (2v.)	95p	60p	1958-65	1st De La Rue "Castles" (4v.)	£700
	Ditto, watermark inverted (2v.)	£125	-		Crowns, ordinary (17v.)	£ 3.50
1934-35	Ditto, intermediate format (4v.)	£10.00	£ 6.00		Ditto, watermark inverted (7v.)	£47.00
	Ditto, watermark inverted (3v.)	£32.00	£22.00	1958-61	Ditto, watermark sideways (7v.)	£ 6.00
1935-36	Ditto, small format (11v.)	£44.00	£27.50		Graphite (8v.)	£50.00
	Ditto, watermark inverted (3v.)	£12.00	£ 7.00		Ditto, watermark inverted (5v.)	£47.50
	Ditto, watermark sideways (4v.)	-	£65.00	1959	2nd De La Rue "Castles" (4v.)	£195
1934	Re-engraved "Seahorses" (3v.)	-	£350	1959	Phosphor-graphite (8v.)	£47.50
KING EDWARD VIII				1960-67	Crowns, phosphor (17v.)	£ 3.00
1936	K. E. VIII (4v.)		U/m		Ditto, watermark inverted (6v.)	£17.50
	Ditto, watermark inverted (3v.)		35p	1963-68	Ditto, watermark sideways (6v.)	£11.00
			£ 5.50		1st Bradbury-Wilkinson "Castles" (5v.)	
KING GEORGE VI					2/6 x 2	£20.00
1937-47	Dark colours (15v.)		£18.50	1967	Machin gum Arabic (9v.)	£ 3.00
	Ditto, watermark inverted (5v.)		£80.00	1967-70	Ditto, P.V.A. (16v.) 4d. x 2, 8d. x 2	£ 5.00
	Ditto, watermark sideways (5v.)		£40.00	1967-68	Bradbury-Wilkinson no watermark "Castles" (4v.)	£15.00
				1969	Machin high values (4v.)	£15.00

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# the PHILATELIC REVIEW

Volume 2 Number 3

Editor: Mike Jackson

July 1978

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## BOOKLETS

In this issue we begin a series of short articles on booklets, contributed by Mr. S. Lawrence, and entitled 'Reflections on Panes'. The first deals with the 1929 P.U.C. 1½d. 'Q for O' variety, and questions the assumption that this variety has an upright watermark as its 'norm'. As Mr. Lawrence points out, the sheets looked the same from whichever way they were seen, a situation which might have created a certain amount of confusion. The orientation of the booklet plates themselves could have been done easily by the numbers which were on the plate, but which did not appear on the printed sheets. It is possible that booklet plates were considered 'reversible' by the printers, and that they did not mind too much which way up they were on the press. (Not very likely, perhaps, in view of the care taken during stamp production, although a parallel is seen in the perforation of letterpress issues, where there appears to be no preference for the direction of feed). One final point arising from Mr. Lawrence's article: Assuming any registration sheets to be on unwatermarked paper, then as soon as they were lifted from the plate, their correct orientation lay precariously in the hands (literally) of the printer as he moved away with the sheet.

-M.J.

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**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. 3**

#### **ADHESIVE UNIFIED (POSTAGE AND REVENUE) STAMPS IN BOOKS.**

The stamps to be printed on paper which will be supplied by the Controller, Post Office Stores Department. The paper, which will be of similar make to the approved specimen "mill" sheet (marked "P2"), except that it will be water-marked "all over" with Royal Ciphers in Roman capital letters, will be in reels 44½ inches wide or in reels 44½ inches and 22¼ inches wide respectively, as determined by the Controller.

The paper to be gummed, calendered and non-curved; to be cut into "mill" sheets 22½ inches by 22¼ inches, examined by the contractors and sorted into three classes, viz.—good, papermakers' waste and contractors' waste respectively. The paper to be put up in sealed reams each containing exactly five hundred sheets and bearing description labels. The three classes of paper to be enclosed in separate parcels. Any paper torn from the reels to be placed in bags; the bags to be weighed, labelled with description and gross and net weights, and sealed.

The "good" paper to be fully equal in all respects to the approved specimen (marked "P2").

The paper to be efficiently plate-glazed so as to produce a thoroughly satisfactory printing surface.

All materials other than the watermarked paper to be provided by the Contractors.

The outside dimensions of the stamp printing plates which will be supplied by the Controller are about 22.15 in. by 10.95 in. and the outside dimensions of the printing surface of each plate (excluding the border lines) are 20.8375 in. by 9.8875 in.—the stamp pieces being arranged 264 set in four strips each of 22 x 3 pieces, with binding margins the pieces in alternate strips being inverted in accordance with the specimen sheet of stamps marked "S24." In the case of plates for panes bearing four stamps and two advertisements, the stamp pieces will be arranged 176 set in four strips each 22 x 2 pieces.

The stamps in the books to be printed on Wharfedale printing machines and to comply with the provisions of Specification No. 1 for "Adhesive Unified Stamps in Sheets" so far as they apply. The sides of the panes of stamps to be neatly cut through the middle of the perforations.

The supplies of books to be in accordance with the specimens marked "S25", "S26" and "S26A" respectively, approved by the Postmaster-General for general guidance and signed by the Contractors. To be fully equal to them in printing, finish, quality of paper for the covers and interleaves, and all other respects. The stitching subject to its being equal in strength to that of the specimen may be either of thread or of wire.

The paper for the covers to be to the approved specimen marked "P3," to be cartridge body, 60 lb. double crown 480; to be double coated with red, blue or other colour, sized and varnished on one side and single coated with yellow colour on the other side.

The paper for the interleaves to be to the approved specimen marked "P4" weight 33 lb. double crown 480.

The colour of the outside of the covers, the number of panes of stamps, and the number of interleaves for each edition of books to be as follows:—



Colour of covers.	Stamps.			Number of Interleaves.
	Denomination.	No. of panes.	No. of stamps on each pane.	
Red	1½d.	3	6	} As required by Controller
	1d.	1	6	
	½d.	1	6	
Blue	1½d.	4	6	Do.
Blue	1½d.	1	6	} Do.
	1½d.	1	*4	
	1d.	1	6	
	½d.	1	6	

\*Advertisements, about 21 mm by 17 mm to be printed, in any colour desired by the Controller, on each of the other two stamp spaces on this pane.

or as may be required in these respects by the Controller in writing, from time to time.

Proofs of advertisements to be supplied as and when required and no advertisement to be printed until the Contractors receive proofs approved in writing by the Controller. The several advertisements to appear in such positions on the covers, interleaves and stamp spaces as the Controller may direct.

The books to be banded firmly in packets of 10 and made up in parcels of 20 packets, *i.e.*, 200 books. To be delivered in

packages each containing 20 parcels and 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 books to be delivered in separate packages from the waste books or waste stamps in sheets; each package to be clearly marked with details of the contents.

The printed packet bands, parcel wrappers and labels, package wrappers and labels, tape and seals to be similar to the approved specimens marked "W42" to "W48."

Proofs to be furnished by the Contractors for approval before the printing of the first bulk supply is proceeded with.

# MACHINS

## DECIMAL MACHINS

David Barker

### Introduction

The period since decimalisation has seen numerous developments in the field of definitive stamps as the Post Office sought, sometimes in vain, for the most acceptable combination of paper, gum and phosphor coating. Recent press advertisements, for example for a 2½p F.C.P./P.V.A.D., Type 1, band left, might seem to indicate that a degree is required for an in depth appreciation of these Machin stamps. This is not so.

The modern period has witnessed important experimentation in the field of stamp production on a par with the early trials of the George V Downey Heads and Coinage and Medal Head issues, and the graphite-phosphor developments of the late fifties, and, as such, these stamps deserve serious study. The problem today is to distinguish between items worthy of a place in any collection and such dubious offers as 'faint all-over phosphor wash' which can in fact be temporarily produced by rubbing two stamps together face to face. The following short series of articles seeks to explain and clarify various aspects of the modern, and sometimes much maligned, area of 'decimal Machins'.

### Paper and Gum

Two types of paper are generally recognised, namely the original coated paper (O.C.P.) which was used for the

sterling Machin definitives, and the fluorescent coated paper (F.C.P.) which superseded it in late 1971 since it reacted more clearly under the Post Office ultra-violet sorters and took the printer's ink more effectively under electro-static assistance. Polyvinyl alcohol gum (P.V.A.) was used for all stamps when they were introduced, but gum arabic (G.A.) was used for the multi-value coil stamps which, due to pressure on time, were perforated by the Swedish rotary perforator which was unsatisfactory with the polyvinyl alcohol gum. However, this perforator had to be used to maintain supplies of perforated sheets and so remaining stocks of gum arabic were used to produce ½p, 2½p, 3p, 4p and 6p values.



*The three types of gum: 1. G.A., 2. P.V.A., 3. P.V.A.D.*

Gum arabic may be distinguished by its very shiny and often fractured nature from the faintly yellowish polyvinyl alcohol gum. In 1973 greenish dextrin was added to the polyvinyl alcohol gum and this (P.V.A.D.) is now standard on all British stamps. Only two errors have been made during these changeovers and they are the well documented and scarce 3½p O.C.P./P.V.A.D. and the 6½p F.C.P./P.V.A.

All gum and paper combinations — O.C.P./G.A., O.C.P./P.V.A., F.C.P./G.A., F.C.P./P.V.A. and F.C.P./P.V.A.D. — represent a basic start to a full decimal study. Thus a genuine story can be developed showing the evolution of Post Office experimentation. In the next issue I hope to outline where these experiments began to go seriously wrong — namely in the field of phosphor application.

## BOOK REVIEW

**STANLEY GIBBONS GREAT BRITAIN SPECIALISED STAMP CATALOGUE VOLUME 2 — KING EDWARD VII TO KING GEORGE VI — FOURTH EDITION, 1978.**

**Published by Stanley Gibbons Publications Ltd., 391 Strand, London. WC2R 0LX. Price £5.50**

The publication of a new edition of any of the Gibbons Specialised volumes is always an eagerly awaited event in the realms of GB philately, and the recent publication of the fourth edition of volume 2 should certainly not disappoint

any serious GB collector.

The two major areas of revision are the Edward VII listings and background notes, largely due to the efforts of Mr. W. A. Wiseman, F.R.P.S., L. and Dr. R. W. Powell; and the illustration and description of the George V die proofs, based upon the researches of Viscount Alain de Cadenet.

A tremendous amount of work has been done on the Edward VII issues over the past few years, and it has been possible to correlate printings with the official plate numbers, at least on the 1½d, 2d, 2½d, 5d and 9d values. The Edwardian controls have been priced for corner pairs, which serves two purposes: a) the perforation type can be ascertained, and b) the side of the mill sheet from which the stamps came can be identified. As is shown, this information regarding the 'handedness' of the plates has been helpful in the plating studies.

The illustration of the progressive stages of the Downey, Coinage and Medal Head die proofs make a fascinating addition, as do the photographs showing the development of the seahorse high value master die.

The rolls have at last taken their rightful place and joined the lists, and there is a more comprehensive treatment of the cancelled booklet panes, together with an appendix illustrating the various cancellations known.

Virtually every topic throughout the catalogue has been revised, expanded and repriced, and although there are several, perhaps inevitable, minor errors in the listings, and the prices for proof material seem rather high, it remains a remarkable piece of work, especially when considered as only 1 volume of a 4 vol. work. The publishers and editorial staff, and Mr. Rex Phillips in particular, ought to be well pleased with themselves.

-M.J.



# BOOKLETS

## REFLECTIONS ON PANES No. 1

S. Lawrence

The booklet panes of the P.U.C. issue of 1929 have recently been occupying my attention, in particular the 1½d. pane with the 'Q for O' variety. Listed as SG NCom 7d, this pane is known with both upright and inverted watermark, and comes from the 2/- booklet of the P.U.C. issue . . . or does it? Perhaps it comes from the 3/- booklet of the same issue. Does anyone really know?

According to Dr. J. Alexander (GB Journal, vol. 15, p. 125), this stamp appears on row 20, stamp 7. However, with inverted watermark, the stamp appears on row 3, stamp 6, if the plate was made up of 22 rows of stamps, as the plate for the advertisements panes of the same issue was.

As the stamps were sheet printed, it was easy enough for a number of sheets to be fed into the presses 'upside' down. The same thing also happened during booklet production, but due to the se-tenant arrangement of the panes, the final result was the same. The sheets carry no marks (as do the later photogravure sheets) as to which is north and south.

It has been suggested by our editor that even if the original registration sheet was available for inspection, this would prove nothing because we could not be sure that *this* sheet had been fed in correctly. There can be only one answer. Failing more information, or the original plate itself being still around, we must assume that with a registration sheet

great care would have been taken, in view of the importance of the matter.

As this pane with upright watermark is now appearing in auction at over the £300 mark, it is very relevant to collectors of G.B. booklet panes as to the relative value of the inverted pane to the upright pane.



P.U.C. 1½d pane with inverted wmk. showing the 'Q for O' variety on stamp No. 4.



## THE REAL COST OF POSTAGE

H. Dagnall, M.A.

### Introduction

The Post is an organisation which, throughout its long history in the United Kingdom, has provided a social service of great benefit to the nation, and one which has had a tremendous influence on the lives of individuals. Philatelists, in concentrating primarily on postal matters, tend to overlook the very close essential connection between their study and that of social history; it is the object of this article to present one aspect of how the post affected the lives of the people who used it.

The reduction of the minimum inland letter postage rate to a uniform one penny and the subsequent issue of the 'Penny Black', both linked with the name of Rowland Hill, are such familiar facts that it is difficult to realise what they meant in terms of real cost at the time. Whenever the subject of modern postage rates is mentioned, there is usually somebody ready to say — Why can't we bring back Rowland Hill's penny postage? But the practicability of any such proposal is based on a false assumption. Those who indulge in this wishful thinking would seek to re-introduce one part of his reform — uniform penny postage — without being able to re-introduce the economic structure existing at the time. They fail to realise that the penny post of 1840 was definitely not the equivalent of a penny post today. Letters of 1840 were fully prepaid by means of a stamp which bore the words ONE PENNY but, as will be shown, that stamp had cost the purchaser — if he or she was a wage earner — the equivalent today of twenty-five new pence. In other words, the result of Rowland Hill's reform should be thought of today as a uniform 25p post.

In this article the changes in the minimum British letter postage rates will be examined and related to 1978 values. As all readers can testify, the value (or spending power) of money varies from year to year with a continuing downward trend. At the same time there is an upward trend in wage rates which goes some way to compensate for the drop in money values.

As a result of these changes, it is difficult to compare prices in different years, but they must be taken into consideration if the real cost of an article is to be distinguished from its marked price. To do this I have related postage rates to the average weekly income of an average wage earner, so before going any further I must define the terms 'average worker' and 'average earnings'.

Rowland Hill was primarily a social reformer and his interest in social matters arose from his desire to raise the educational standard of the working-class. Indeed, one of the advantages he put forward in support of cheap postage was that separated members of working-class families could keep in touch with one another and so increase the bond of family life. Adopting this lead, I have taken the 'average worker' to be one who could read and write and who, therefore, can be presumed to be in an occupation demanding a certain skill. Determining the average weekly income for this class of worker for the period 1840 onwards is not difficult. Workers in various occupations had begun to be organised and wage rates were, to a certain extent, standardised. A. L. Bowley ("Wages and Income in the United Kingdom since 1880") and the London and Cambridge Economic Service give an index figure for weekly earnings in semi-skill trades and these have been taken as the basis of my calculations. Some of the figures I have checked against records of actual wages paid and they are in fair agreement, except for the period 1914-1924 covering World War I and

the ensuing slump and period of industrial unrest; I have therefore omitted this period as untypical.

adjust the quoted figures proportionally, any change will not affect the relative cost.

The minimum letter postage rate is shown in column 4 and in column 5 I have listed the approximate number of appropriate stamps that could be purchased out of the weekly wage. Finally, in the last column are the figures to which the article has been leading up — the real cost of postage. It shows that (excluding postcards) there has been one period only (about ten years 1956-66) when the cost has been lower than today.

### 1840 onwards

The result is shown in Table I where (in column 2) the average weekly income (column 3) is expressed as a percentage of the average wage in 1978, which is taken to be £50. If you disagree with this latter figure, it is an easy matter to

TABLE I

Year	Index 1978 = 100	Average weekly wage	Postage	Ratio Stamps/wage	REAL COST
1840	1.65	16s 6d	1d	200	25p
1850	1.87	18s 8d		220	23p
1860	2.19	£1. 1.10		260	19p
1870	2.25	£1. 2.6		270	19p*
1880	2.25	£1. 2.6		270	19p
1890	2.60	£1. 6.0		310	16p
1900	2.94	£1. 9.5	1½d	350	14p
1910	2.94	£1. 9.5		350	14p
			2½d		
1925	6.12	£3. 1.3		490	10p
1930	5.97	£2.19.8	3d	480	10p
1940	8.05	£4. 0.6	7p	380	13p
1950	13.4	£6¾		650	7½p
1960	22.6	£11½		920	5½p
1978	100	£50		715	7p

\* From October 1870 the postcard allowed a short message to be sent for the equivalent of 9½p—still a relatively higher price than today's first class post even.





#### **THE UNIFORM 25p POST!**

*Penny Black used on the second day of issue; May 7th 1840 (Photo courtesy of Arthur Ryan & Company).*

#### **Before 1840**

When we similarly attempt to examine the cost for the years prior to 1840, difficulties are encountered. Wage index figures are quoted only from the year 1795. Before then wage rates in different trades varied widely, and those paid in one part of the country bore little relation to those paid in other parts. At the beginning of the 17th century in particular, much of the wage was paid in kind, in the form of fuel, candles, living accommodation etc., and any estimate of the

average monetary income would only give a false picture of living conditions.

When dealing with postage costs another factor must be taken into consideration: most of the comparatively few letters that were sent by post were commercial ones. People who could write were in a minority, consequently up to 1795 I shall confine myself to giving a rough picture of how the postage rates were related to certain specific wages and the cost of commodities, rather than trying to relate them to today's cost.

Before December 1839 the rates varied with distance, so I shall take a few examples only. The complete rate scales can be found in several books dealing with the postal history of the period and I leave it to the reader, if he wants to, to delve deeper into it based on the information I have given.

In 1653 farmers of the Post were allowed to charge:

Less than 80 miles	2d
More than 80 miles	3d
England to Scotland	4d (in 1660 increased to 5d).

In 1680 Dockwra began his very successful Penny Post in London, subsequently taken over by the Government and, until it became the Twopenny Post in 1801, local letters in London cost only 1d.

To appreciate what these rates meant at the time, compare them with:

In 1660 the salary of a Postmaster was £40 per annum.

In 1667 this was reduced to £20.

In 1684 a Warwickshire document records the wages paid to an artisan as 1s, free mason 1s 4d, and to a plasterer 8d per day.

In 1711 rates were increased owing to the need to finance the War of the Spanish Succession which had begun in 1702. The preamble to the Act does not attempt to hide this aim: 'Whereas the several rates of postage may in many parts, but little burthen to the subject, be increased, and other new rates granted, which additional and new rates may, in some measure, enable your Majesty to carry on and finish the present war . . .'

Some rates under this Act were:

Under 80 miles	3d
Over 80 miles	4d
London to Edinburgh	6d

The war had likewise also increased the cost of both wages and goods:

In 1700-1710 the wage rate for artisans was quoted as 1s 6d and 2s per day.

Textile prices had risen by 30% from 1680.

The end of the Seven Years War led to some minor alterations in the rates for short distances in 1765:

Labourers in 1768 earned 7s per week and spinning and weaving operatives 8s 7d, while the highest wage of all was paid to colliers, 15s per week. In that year bread was 1¼d per pound, butter 6½d, cheese 3¾d and meat 3½d.

The demand for more revenue continued and John Palmer's proposals to speed up the carriage of mails also included the suggestion that there would be no objection to raising the rates as well. Accordingly in 1784 we find:

Under 80 miles	4d
Over 150 miles	6d
London to Edinburgh	7d

By this time other values had risen:

In 1787 the salary of the Postmaster of Isleworth was £400 per annum.

Commodity prices had risen 400% since 1740.

The Napoleonic War had begun in 1793 and Pitt had to obtain more revenue. This he did in the Budget Act of 1796 by increasing duties and taxes on many items, including postage:

60 to 100 miles	6d
Over 150 miles	8d
London to Edinburgh	8d

Extensive borrowing by the Treasury demanded more money to pay the interest and the Chancellor (Addington) turned once again to the Post Office:

50 to 80 miles	6d
80 to 120 miles	7d
230 to 300 miles	10d
London to Edinburgh	1s

In 1805 Pitt added one penny to the rates of 1801, and in 1812 the Chancellor of the Exchequer (Vansittart) raised the postage rates to their highest point:

50 to 80 miles	8d
80 to 120 miles	9d
230 to 300 miles	1s
London to Edinburgh	1s 2d (plus ½d mail coach toll after 1813)

From 1795 a real cost table, similar to that of Table I can be given. This Table II gives as example of actual and real costs, three rates, namely those for single letters travelling 55 and 130 miles, and from London to Edinburgh. The high real cost is surprising and shows what a tremendous reform the introduction of uniform penny postage was (see Table I).



TABLE II

Year	Index 1978 = 100	Average weekly wage	Today's equivalent of 1d	55 miles		130 miles		London — Edinburgh	
				Actual cost	Real cost	Actual cost	Real cost	Actual cost	Real cost
1795	1.03	10s	40p	4d	160p	6d	240p	7d	280p
1805	1.44	14s	29p	7d	200p	9d	260p	1s 1d	380p
1815	1.77	17s	24p	8d	190p	10d	240p	1s 2½d	350p
1825	2.02	£1	20p	8d	160p	10d	200p	1s 2½d	290p
1835	1.56	15s	26p	8d	210p	10d	260p	1s 2½d	380p

### Conclusion

The Post Office provides a service for the community, and throughout its long history it has increasingly become an important — indeed essential — adjunct to the daily life of the individual. The charges it makes for its services — charges which have usually been forced on it by the Treasury — have often been the subject of complaint (and I suppose always will be). In this article I have presented the true cost of postage in a way which, I hope, will lead to greater appreciation of the human side of postal history.

# POSTAL HISTORY

## CLOTH COVERED HANDSTAMPS

**John Forbes-Nixon**

The tedium of date stamping mail and cancelling adhesives by hand must have been enormous, and it was not until 1857 that the first tentative experiments for machine cancellation were made, and years after this before adoption of any satisfactory system.

A postal clerk could achieve only two or at the most three strikes before having to re-ink the handstamp. There is evidence that at certain places the handstamps were wrapped in cloth, whereby a return to the ink-pad would only be required after eight or ten strikes and the resultant strike would clearly show the texture of the cloth on the imprint.

Did this cloth covering have official blessing in the form of an experiment, or was it just the result of initiative of individual postal clerks to save time and trouble?

Clearly the most common use was that of an arrival circular dated backstamp, and Evesham used this practise regularly from 1869 to 1882 at least, whilst the writer also knows of Birmingham (4/7/1872), of Tewkesbury (20/7/1871), for Shrewsbury (27/12/1863) and for the Glasgow Sorting Tender (12/7/1884) though this last was known to use cloth covered stamps over a long period. Fig. 1. shows an Evesham arrival backstamp for 11 May 1879.

Rarer is the duplex cloth covered cancellation to deal with the adhesives themselves and Fig. 2. shows the 134 Bristol

duplex used on two one penny reds on 13 September 1869 with the texture of the cloth clearly showing. This Bristol "experiment" is known only from August to October 1869.

Readers may be interested in sending in details of any examples known to them so that some pattern can be formulated respective of time-scale, location, backstamps and duplex obliterations. The results could then be published at a later date.

Acknowledgement: Andrew Walton's  
Evesham collection



*Fig. 1.*





Fig. 2.

### YESTERDAY'S OPPORTUNITIES!

Page one of Walter Morley's 1897 Great Britain Specialised catalogue shows the value of the one penny black. Sixpence each for a very fine copy, £6.00 for a reconstructed sheet of 240 stamps yet for varieties such as blue paper 20/- (40X ratio over basic stamp) and double letter 50/- (100X ratio)! Philatelists as against investors perhaps?

J.F.-N.

# WALTER MORLEY'S Catalogue and Price List of the Stamps of Great Britain.

SECOND EDITION .. .. . 1897.

## POSTAGE.

1840.		Unused with gum. s. d.	Unused no gum. s. d.	Fine Used Copies. s. d.	Fair Used Copies. s. d.
<b>The Line Engraved Series.</b>					
rd.	black, wmk. Small Crown, unperf. . . . .	20	0	6	0
"	obliteration red Maltese Cross..	—	—	0	6
"	" " black " "	—	—	0	8
"	" " blue " "	—	—	60	0
"	" " violet " "	—	—	40	0
"	" " marone " "	—	—	5	0
"	" " brown " "	—	—	10	0
"	" " orange " "	—	—	7	6
"	" " carmine " "	—	—	1	6
"	" " magenta " "	—	—	2	6
"	" " vermilion " "	—	—	4	0
"	" " double-lined Cross	—	—	15	0
"	" " dot in centre of Cross	—	—	10	0
"	" " number and cross..	—	—	—	—
"	" " " Too Late " in red	—	—	—	—
"	" " " Penny Post " ..	—	—	—	—
"	" " with 1844 cancel	—	—	—	—
"	" " with pen & ink. do.	—	—	—	—
"	" " bleuté paper ..	—	—	20	0
"	" " impression from worn plate ..	25	0	10	0
"	" " hair-line through value ..	—	—	21	0
"	" " double letters in left corner T-L	—	—	50	0
"	" " with inverted watermark ..	—	—	20	0
"	" " pairs, with red cross cancel ..	—	—	5	0
"	" " " black " "	—	—	5	0
"	" " on original letter sheet, red cross	—	—	2	6
"	" " " black " "	—	—	2	6
"	" " reconstructed sheet (240 stamps)	—	—	£6	—
"	" " wmk. Large Crown (1864), official reprint	—	—	—	—

186, West Green Road, Tottenham, London, N.

# GEORGE V NOTES

## 1912 1d Die 2, Wmk. Crown — 'Broken Cross on Crown'

This trio of curiosities is from successive sheets from a printing run which suffered from an attack of overinking. Less striking, but perhaps more significant, is the break to the right of the cross on the crown, which can be seen on all three examples. This indicates a certain amount of constancy, although I have not found this flaw on any other examples from this plate (plate 13).



## 1912-24 9d (agate) Royal Cypher — 'Retouched letters'

The thickening of the letters TAGE of POSTAGE may be the result of a retouch to the plate.





# GB AUCTION PRICES

## LONDON STAMP EXCHANGE AUCTIONS

10th March

1840 The page of 1d blacks 11 singles & 2 pairs all with large margins except one with frame touched.

Est £350 ..... £1,250

1840 2d Blue plate 2, superb horizontal pair with red crosses.

Est £200 ..... £1,300

1841 1d Red, strip of three on cover with "Dorchester" town cancellation with additional "More To Pay" also two singles "Dorchester" and "Lyme".

Est £100 ..... £550

1850 Archer perf. an exceptionally fine cover with pair of 1d alphabet 1, blue "Ashburton" postmark.

Est £150 ..... £750

1870 1½d Rose-red error of lettering OP-PC. A fine used example.

Est £100 ..... £225

1880 2/- Brown plate 1, S.G. 121. A sound used copy.

Est £100 ..... £260

1882 £5 Orange, SG 137. A superb used copy, perfect in all respects.

Est £500 ..... £1,000

1911 Downey Head ½d green, perf 14. Fine used on postcard.

Est £100 ..... £180

## STANLEY GIBBONS AUCTIONS

30th—31st March

1862—64 4d Bright red, overprinted "SPECIMEN" type 5 strip of three part marginal inscription, o.g.

Est £165 ..... £260

1882 £5 Orange, SG 137. A S.W. corner example, very fresh, two light creases, otherwise superb o.g.

Est £2,000 ..... £3,000

1874 3d Rose, plate 15, an exceptional block of four, superb large part o.g.

Est £175 ..... £475

1902 2½d Perforated colour trials in four different shades of blue in pairs, without gum and somewhat soiled.

Est £125 ..... £360

1914 ½d very yellow (Cyprus) green. SG 355, fresh bottom marginal copy, o.g.

Est £750 ..... £1,500

## HARMERS OF LONDON

3rd—4th May

1840 Rainbow Colour Trials 1d in dull blue on undipped white wove paper, a horizontal pair from right of sheet, very fine.

Est £750—£1,000 ..... £900

1840 1d Black plate 1b, EA-EB, a small part o.g. Horizontal pair, large margins fresh colour and very fine.

Est £1,250—£1,500 ..... £2,900

1840 1d Black plate XI GF good to large margins, fine, tied by black MC cancellation on wrapper to Hartlepool, with Stockton and Newcastle dated markings of 1841 on reverse.

Est £950—£1,000 ..... £1,350

1858—79 2d Plate 12, a part o.g. horizontal pair, fine.

Est £400 ..... £575

1870 1½d Rose-red, plate 1, error OP-PC, small part o.g.

Est £1,500 ..... £1,750

1847—54 Embossed 10d brown, an o.g. copy from bottom-left of sheet, small to large margins other sides, good embossing and fresh colour, fine.

Est £700—£800 ..... £2,000

1912—22 ½d Cyprus green o.g. from left of sheet, fine.

Est £1,000 ..... £1,450

1935 Silver Jubilee 2½d Prussian blue. o.g., from top of sheet.

Est £1,600 ..... £1,800

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## OCTOBER

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**1840 1d Grey-black (very worn plate) plate 1A lettered EA.** A magnificent four margin example (huge at left) with the constant variety, smudge in A square. Red M.C. SG 3. **£165.00**

**1840 1d Black plate 2, lettered BA.** A very fine used four margin copy with the London no. 6 1844 type cancel in black. SG 2s. **£145.00**

**1841 1d Pale red-brown (worn plate) lettered TI.** A very fine mint four margin example. SG 9. **£48.50**

**1841 1d Red, lettered CF.** A superb used four margin single with an excellent upright strike of the no. 5 in M.C. SG 8m **£20.00**

**1841 2d Blue, plate 3, lettered MF.** A superb four margin example with a very fine upright strike of the no. 7 in Maltese cross. SG14i. **£185.00**

**1855 1d Red-brown die 2, wmk. large crown, perf 14 on blued paper lettered KK—L.L.** A fine mint block of four, three stamps with the variety "Gothic K". SG29. **£195.00**

**1855 2d Blue, plate 5, large crown, perf 14, lettered DC.** A fine mint example with excellent perfs. SG 34. **£255.00**

**1870 ½d Rose-red, plate 9, lettered SR.** A fine used example. SG 49. **£60.00**

**1856 1/- Pale green wmk. emblems.** A superb lightly mounted mint example with large part original gum. SG 73. **£195.00**

**1862 9d Bistre, plate 2, lettered SK.** A very fine mint example. SG 86. **£125.00**

**1870 6d Mauve, plate 9, lettered QB.** A superb lightly mounted mint copy of excellent colour. SG 109. **£135.00**

**1873 1/- Deep green, plate 7, lettered NK.** A fine mint example of good colour. SG 115. **£85.00**

**1873 6d Grey, plate 12, lettered TJ.** A very fine mint example of this scarce stamp. SG125. **£135.00**

**1876 3d Rose, plate 19, lettered MB.** A very fine mint single. SG 143. **£85.00**

**1876 1/- Plate 13 lettered BI.** A very fine imperf plate proof in black on white card. **£115.00**

**1874 6d Grey, plate 13, lettered IG.** A superb lightly mounted mint example with large part original gum. SG 147. **£90.00**

**1881 1/- Orange-brown, plate 13, lettered OL.** A fine mint example. SG 163. **£65.00**

**1883-84 2½d Purple on pink paper lettered LD.** A superb lightly mounted mint colour trial, perf. 14, without watermark. SG 190. **£125.00**

**1883 9d Dull green, lettered EF.** A fine mint example of excellent colour and good perfs. SG 195. **£185.00**

**1886 "Jubilee" 9d die proof in black of the head plate, die 1.** A fine example "before hardening" dated 10 JUN. 86. SG 209. **£155.00**

**1902 De La Rue ½d die proof in black on glazed card with 2mm margins.** **£135.00**

**1903 De La Rue booklet cover essay.** An unadopted design for the 2/0½d booklet in purple on salmon, with postal rates printed on the back. **£135.00**

**1911 Downey Head ½d green die 1A crown watermark.** A first day coronation, coloured souvenir postcard, dated June 22, 1911. Edward VII ½d green Harrison perf. 14 also attached. SG 322. **£65.00**

**1912 Downey Head ½d green and 1d scarlet die 2, multiple cypher watermark.** The two value is superb unmounted mint imperforate blocks of four. SG 346b and 350b. **£525.00**

**1912 Downey Head 1d scarlet, die 2, multiple cypher.** A lightly mounted mint pair, with the variety "crown missing in watermark". SG Spec N13h. **£45.00**

**1913 (circa) Harrison and Sons "Head" essay for sample booklets.** An unmounted mint complete pane of six in pale yellow-brown with diagonal green stripes. From the 1913 5/- experimental booklet. **£85.00**

**1912-24 Royal Cypher 1½d chocolate-brown, no watermark.** A lightly mounted mint block of four. Rare in multiples. SG 363a. **£325.00**

**1912-24 Royal Cypher 2½d indigo-blue on toned paper.** An unmounted mint example of this rare shade with R.P.S. certificate. SG 373. **£1,500**

**1913 Multiple Cypher 1d scarlet.** A very fine lightly mounted mint coil-join pair, good perfs. SG 398. **£185.00**

**1924 Block Cypher 1½d red-brown advert pane no. 74 inverted.** A fine mint block of four (two stamps and two labels) of the rare "Indian Rubber Sponge" advert in green. Good perfs. SG Spec NB15 ad. **£135.00**

**1934 Photogravure 1d scarlet, printed on the gummed side.** A very fine mint example, well centred with good perfs. SG 440b. **£335.00**

**1934 Photogravure 1d scarlet, large format, watermark inverted.** A superb mint corner control (V34 5R) block of four. SG Spec N48a. **£185.00**

**1937 2/- Blue booklet number 393. Contains 1½d advert. pane 156.** 1d and 1½d panes of six have watermarks inverted. Complete and in fine condition. SG B46. **£55.00**

**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**

**1953 5/- Buff front booklet cover type B.** An uncut tete-beche horizontal pair with the "Minimum Foreign Letter Rate" on the front. **£15.00**

**1954 June 2/6 Green advertisers voucher booklet containing two interleaving pages and perforated pane on plain cream paper script watermark "Harrison & Sons, London" inverted with "PLEASE POST EARLY IN THE DAY" printed in blue on the lower half.** A rare item in superb condition. SG F. 18 variety. **£95.00**

**1959 October 3/- Brick-red booklet with Graphite Lines.** Watermarks upright throughout. Above average perforations. Only 74,000 manufactured. Complete and in fine condition. SG MG3. **£210.00**

**1959 2d Phosphor-Graphite watermark error.** A superb used example. SG 605a. **£120.00**

**1956 7d St. Edward watermark.** An unmounted mint marginal block of four. SG 549. **£125.00**

**1961 2d one blue phosphor band at left.** An unmounted mint 29 no dot cylinder block of six. SG Spec S45. **£92.00**

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