

REVIEW

FOR THE GREAT BRITAIN COLLECTOR



STERLING MACHIN 5d TÊTE-BÊCHE

In this issue

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- £1 CASTLES

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GREAT BRITAIN

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	Ditto, watermark inverted (3v.)	£50.00	£35.00		Ditto, watermark sideways (7v.)				£7.00
1935-36	Ditto, small format (11v.)	£85.00	£40.00	1958-61	Graphite (8v.)				£85.00
	Ditto, watermark inverted (3v.)	£20.00	£13.00		Ditto, watermark inverted (5v.)				£80.00
	Ditto, watermark sideways (4v.)	—	£95.00	1959	2nd De La Rue "Castles" (4v.)				£295.00
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	Ditto, watermark inverted (3v.)		50p		Ditto, watermark inverted (10v.)				£150.00
			£10.00		Ditto, watermark sideways (8v.)				£24.00
KING GEORGE VI				1963-68	1st Bradbury-Wilkinson "Castles" (5v.)				
1937-47	Dark colours (15v.)		£30.00		2/6 x 2				£26.00
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				1967-68	Bradbury-Wilkinson no watermark "Castles" (4v.)				£14.00
				1969	Machin high values (4v.)				£18.00

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the PHILATELIC REVIEW

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Edited by Mike and Jan Jackson

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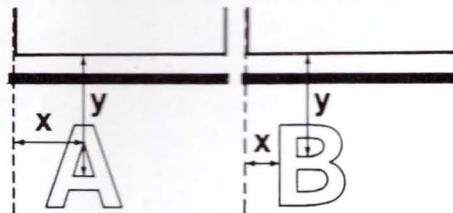
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EDITORIAL

After more than four years without an increase, rising costs have forced us to raise the price of the Review to 75p.

We hope our readers will still find the Review a worthwhile publication, even if it is (as yet unavoidably) still biased towards the reign of George V! If anyone has any comments, remarks or articles on GB topics, we would be only too pleased to hear from them.



After much thought, I have decided to adopt the system of control measurement shown in the diagram, for the Downey Head controls. I reproduce it here for reference. More about this will be published in due course.

M.J.

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STERLING MACHIN 5d TÊTE-BÊCHE

Sam Lawrence

As can be seen from the accompanying photograph, the sterling Machin 5d, listed as UB19 in the S.G. Specialised Catalogue Volume 3, has turned up in the tete-beche form. So far I have made no attempt to get this error catalogued, but no doubt it will be treated as was the 3d Wilding tete-beche variety (see Philatelic Review, Volume 4 Number 4) and ignored by catalogue editors.

The story of my acquisition of this block is rather a mundane one. I received a telephone call from a dealer, from whom I had purchased many items for my collection, offering me this block. When I queried its authenticity the dealer offered me two letters which show quite clearly the origin of this particular block.

The first letter was addressed to the Philatelic Bureau in Edinburgh, and dated 12 February 1980. It reads;

"May I have your advice on a number of stamps in my possession which Stanley Gibbons suggest may have been an irregular issue.

The stamps are in a block of 24 (6×4). They are blue 5d denomination and arranged in two equal tete-beche halves. They were purchased for full value in normal business hours and in the normal course of events across the counter of Richmond Way Post Office, London by me on 26 August 1970.

I am considering selling the stamps, but first should be grateful if you would let me know whether you have any reason to believe that the Post Office has a better title than I to them.

Any general advice on the stamps would be most welcome".

The Philatelic Bureau replied;

"I am sorry but I am unable to comment on the block of stamps you have other than that the Post Office does not knowingly offer for sale stamp irregularities.

As you purchased the stamps they are yours to dispose of as you wish. I regret that a more helpful reply is not possible".

My acquisition occurred during the summer of 1980, but later in the year I was asked by the widow of an old collector friend of mine to dispose of my friend's collection on her behalf. This I did, and whilst sorting through the many albums in this collection I came across a mountain of cuttings from different philatelic journals. One of these was a cutting from the now

defunct 'Stamp Weekly' dated 10 September 1970. This is in the form of an interview with the dealers Pat Bullivant and Derek Worboys. Briefly, the story according to the article goes as follows.

The two dealers acquired some of these errors which supposedly formed part of a big robbery in High Wycombe (the home town of the printers, Harrison and Sons). Luckily for the two dealers however, they were quite certain where the stamps they were handling had come from. They had been bought over the post office counter, for postal use, by among others a lawyer and a senior civil servant. The letter acquired by me seems to bear this out. In spite of the confidence in the items they were handling, the two dealers got in touch with the special burglary section of the G.P.O., the Philatelic Squad at Scotland Yard and their trade society, the P.T.S. to ensure that they were entitled to handle these errors and sell them to their collector customers both here and abroad. Bear in mind that Derek Worboys is a dealer specialising in the major errors of Great Britain and the Commonwealth.

On legal advice they would have done this and every pair sold would bear one of their pencilled initials or the Derek Worboys guarantee. Further to this, when I saw the gentlemen at London 1980 they told me that they had had a session with the High Wycombe police and although they could prove the authenticity of the items

they could not offer them for sale as the legitimate owner had been advised by the police and had by now declined to let the dealers sell on his behalf.

It is not difficult to see how these errors could quite legitimately come onto the market. If as was admitted by the Post Office, a large robbery at their stores had denuded them of what was at the time the stamps required for the first class postage rate, this had to be made good in a hurry. So what was more natural than sending along a consignment of sheets destined for stitching into stamp books? After all, as far as the counter staff were concerned the sheets contained the same 240 stamps as their normal counter sheets, albeit that half were upside down!

Is this the real reason of the appearance on the market of this error. Or are we left with yet another philatelic mystery?



NEW 1912-24 ROYAL CYPHER PLATES

Bob Palmer

Introduction

The typographic issues of George V have until recent years been in the philatelic doldrums. Following much contemporary study, which was far from complete, the issues slipped into comparative obscurity, with little new work being carried out upon them. The studies carried out by Mike Jackson into the Downey Head issues show just how incomplete this early work was. Similarly detailed studies into the other Georgian typographic issues will also lead to many new discoveries.

One of the key areas of research is into the plating of pieces which show printer's identification markings. Beaumont & Stanton and Gibbons specialist catalogue contain lists of these identification marks, which were made on the marginal rules of the electrotype and thus enabled the printers to distinguish which plates were being used. The plate numbers attributed to these markings are purely arbitrary and have been used, with only slight modification, since the results of the original studies were published. In these investigations the controls used with each plate is critical as they enable the life and usage of the plate to be ascertained.

Three types of discovery can be made in the field of plating:

1. Unrecorded printer's marks remote from the control, which probably remain a mystery until found with the control attached.

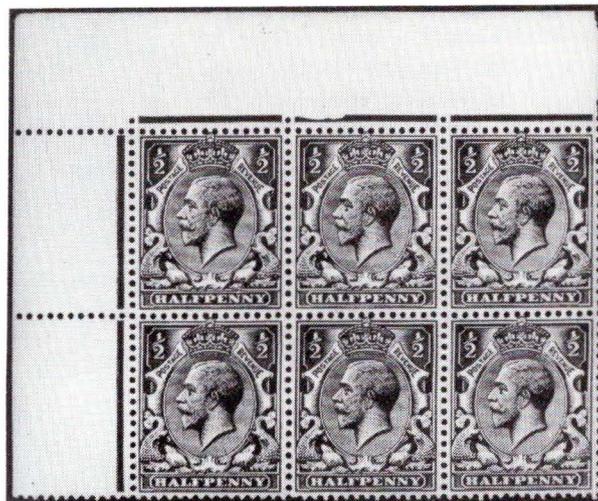


Fig. 1.

2. Unrecorded printer's marks found with the control still attached.
3. Known plate markings but with unrecorded control usage.

The 1912-1924 Royal Cypher issue is a particularly good hunting ground for such finds, and this article attempts to illustrate ones made by the author over the past year.

Type 1 — Unrecorded Markings Without Control

Three rather prominent 'isolated' printer's identification markings have come to light over the past year. All three will probably remain unplated as the chances of finding them still attached by margin or stamps to previously recorded markings, or to the control, is very unlikely, particularly for the 2½d.

½d TOP RULE STAMP 2 (Fig. 1)

Showing a double scoop out of the top of rule.

1d RIGHT HAND RULE ROW 2 (Fig. 2)

An elongated nick with irregular dot on outer edge of the rule.

2½d RIGHT HAND RULE ROW ? (Fig. 3)

A deep scoop ⅓rd way down the outer edge of the rule.

Type 2 — Unrecorded Markings with Control

This type is basically an extension of type 1. Discovery of this type is particularly rewarding as they are by far the most difficult to find. The example found recently was even more surprising as it is so close to the control, occurring on a ½d block of six (Fig. 4). These markings on plate 84 (as I have christened it) are an unusual three cuts and dot marking on the left hand side marginal rule row 19. The control is G 15 perforated through the bottom margin and is printed in Gibbons shade 9, 'Dull-Yellow-Apple green'.



Fig. 2.

Type 3 — Recorded Markings with Unrecorded Control.

These discoveries are most easily found on the 1d value, where due to the majority of marks being away from the control any control block larger than six could yield positive results.

1d PLATE 105 WITH CONTROL M 19 (Fig. 5)

An example of such results is an M 19 strip of 4 with a dot breaking the top of the 9th rule under P, the marks of plate 105. According to the specialist listings plate 105 exists with control K 17, K 18 and L 18. Therefore is this is a new control on plate 105 and not another state of 105 one would expect to find M 18 as well as M 19.

It is interesting to note the 22 new 1d plates added to Beaumont & Stanton's list of 99 plates.

1d PLATE 77a WITH CONTROL L 18 (Fig. 6)

Another unrecorded control usage is control L 18 with plate 77a. Previously it had only been recorded with K 18.

2d PLATE 5b WITH CONTROL O 19 (Fig. 7)

Control O 19 has a previously recorded usage with only two plates; 3 and 4, and although the item is only a strip of 3 it is clearly not plate 3 or 4. The absence of any markings leads one to believe it must be from either one of the plates not showing marks on such a strip or a new plate. When one examines the controls used with the known plates it must be noticed that plate 5b was used continually through the J 17 to Q 20 periods with the exception of M 18 and O 19. This points to the fact that O 19 was probably used with plate 5b and M 18 is still awaiting discovery.

2½d PLATE ? WITH CONTROL H 16 (Fig. 8)

H 16 appears to have only been used with plate 5 but the illustrated example does not show plate 5 identification markings unless they are for some reason not visible on this strip of 3.



Fig. 3.



Fig. 4.



Fig. 5.



Fig. 7.



Fig. 6.

L 18

½d PLATE 51a? WITH CONTROL L 18 (Fig. 9)

An unfortunately tatty ½d bottom two rows with control L 18 and inverted watermark also shows no visible markings which would suggest it to be from either plate 51a, 53a, 56, 57a or 58. Of these plate 51a must surely be the strongest candidate of origin, particularly as L 18 is the missing control in the recorded sequence of usage, K 17, K 18 and M 18.

Conclusion

There is no doubt that the present listings are far from complete and concentrated study will produce satisfying rewards to those who undertake the advancement of this area of Philately.



Fig. 8.

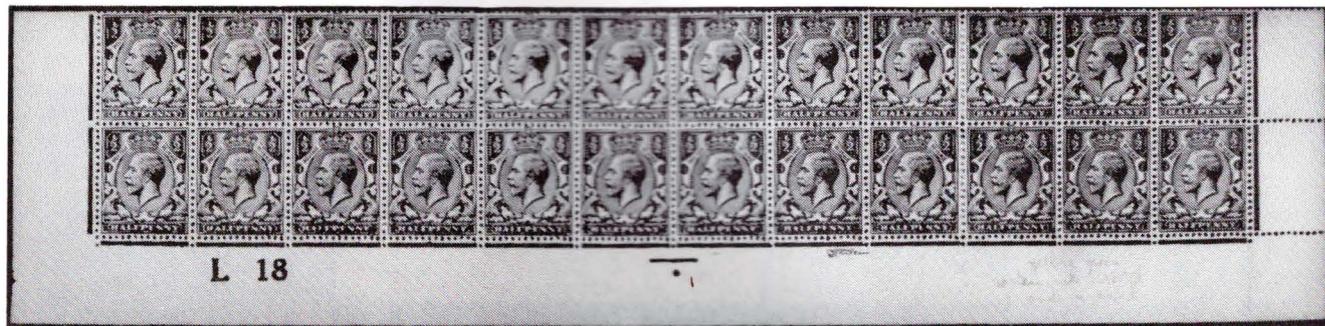


Fig. 9.

'IF AT FIRST YOU DON'T SUCCEED...'

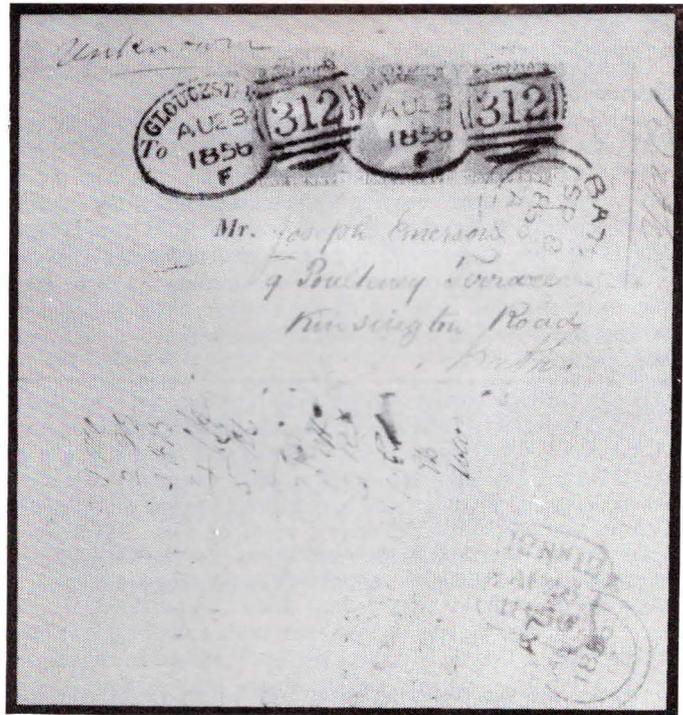
John Forbes-Nixon

A registered Notice of Objection to a person on the Voter's List obviously had to be delivered as an important letter.

It seems that originally even the post town had been omitted as it appears that 'Bath' has been added in a different hand. This may be the clue for the ensuing saga.

Not for the want of trying was the letter not delivered as it seems a total of twelve walks were tried and each post official initialled the reverse as being unable to locate the addressee!

Mr Joseph Emerson's adode it seems was never located; I wonder if he exercised an illegal vote and turned the balance of power?



K.G.V SHEETS IN THE BRITISH LIBRARY

Mike Jackson

The following notes are based on the proof sheets in the Inland Revenue archives. This collection is housed in the Philatelic Department of the British Library and includes several hundred proof sheets of K.G.V issues. Many of these are black proofs, evidently taken at the Mint to check new plates. Often there are two proofs; one having microscopic (or even invisible!) flaws marked up and the other (later) sheet showing a 'clean' print from the same plate. Although these sheets are dated and numbered (with the official plate number), there are no distinguishing marks to enable them to be matched to issued sheets. Further, there is no way of knowing if a plate that was proofed in black was ever used to print issued stamps.

However, sheets having controls (implying they were proofed by Harrison's or Somerset House) do show distinguishing marks, and it is these sheets which are of direct relevance to the plating of the issued stamps. The following lists observations which I made on the Downey Head sheets and which have a direct bearing on the plating of these stamps from a collector's point of view. Many sheets appear to have been lost, which may mean that the correlation of the philatelic plate numbers with the official numbers will never be complete.

½d Die 1A

Included are the following sheets, all with control and plate markings (except the two with 'no marking').

<i>Official No.</i>	<i>Philatelic No.</i>	<i>Markings</i>
2/2	?	No marking*
4/4	?	No marking*

5/5	7	Dot (breaking left) 18th right, 13½ mm
6/6	6	Half dot (left) 17th right, 13½ mm
7/7	2**	Cut 20th right, 11 mm
9/9	4	Cut 19th right, 8¾ mm

* Both plates could qualify as philatelic plates 1 or 9.

** This sheet had various flaws marked up, and especially the two flaws SG Spec N1c and N1d. This plate is listed as plate 8 in the catalogue but is in fact plate 2.

Note: Plates 8 and 9 in the fifth edition of the specialised catalogue were added in an attempt to make sense of what had been seen of issued sheets. The proof sheets listed above offer new information, but the picture is still incomplete and more material will have to be seen before a more satisfactory plate listing can be achieved.

½d Die 1B

Included are four sheets with control. There wasn't time to compare the control settings with my own pieces. The markings do not correspond with the list in the catalogue, again emphasising the incompleteness of the listings, and the need to see more material.

<i>Official No.</i>	<i>Philatelic No.</i>	<i>Markings</i>
20/62	?	Cut 18th right, 10½ mm
22/64	?	No marking (NB — same plate as the next)
22/64	?	Cut 18th right, 11½ mm; cut 20th right, 8½ mm
24/66	?	Cut 20th right, 10¾ mm

1d Die 1A

Included is one plate showing extensive damage to the control stamp and surrounding area. This sheet is accompanied by a letter dated 18th July 1911 explaining that the control piece had come loose! The details are as follows:

<i>Official No.</i>	<i>Philatelic No.</i>	<i>Markings</i>
19/35	10	Cut 19th right, 10½ mm; left of 11th cut away; ¼ cut under Y of 12th*

* Note: The ¼ cut under 12th has not been recorded before and suggests a late printing from this plate, assuming that good sheets were printed from this state (10b?) before the control went on the rampage!

1d Die 1B

Included are three sheets, representing the three plates used at Somerset House. All have control A.11.

<i>Official No.</i>	<i>Philatelic No.</i>	<i>Markings</i>
39/101	9a	(Has the scoops in pillars)
40/102	15a*	
44/106	3a	

* This is the first printing of this plate — see GBJ, 16, (4), 70, 1978 and *Philatelic Review*, 3, (4), 53, 1979.

½d Die 2

Included are three sheets, the last two of which are the Somerset House printings with control B.12.

<i>Official No.</i>	<i>Philatelic No.</i>	<i>Markings</i>
63/172	16a	Dot under FP of 1st; dash under HALFP of 2nd; dot under NN of 12th
64/173	9	Dot 15th left, 20½ mm (so far unrecorded); minute dot 20th left, 6 mm
73/182	a*	No marking

* See the article in the *Philatelic Review* — reference above.

Note: Most of the early K.G.V ½d and 1d plates (and possibly other values) starting with some of the Downey Head Die 2 and

going well into the Profile Head issues, show two thick extra marginal rules below the control at the bottom of the sheets. These are usually guillotined off, and only in the last few years has their existence on ½d Die 2 sheets been discovered. Plate 63/172 (above) has these lines. So far, only a trace of a line has been seen on an issued ½d Die 2 piece — from philatelic plate 13. A trace of a second extra rule has been seen on a 1d Royal Cypher bottom row.

1d Die 2

Included are the following two sheets from the Somerset House printings:

<i>Official No.</i>	<i>Philatelic No.</i>	<i>Markings</i>
69/143	?	(Control B.12. Probably plate 6a, but this will have to be checked against issued controls)
73/147	8a	(Control B.11)

I think there is a strong possibility that these plates were never used by Harrisons for production, a thought expressed by Tony McCleery in the first issue of the *Philatelic Review*. A proof sheet from one of these Somerset House plates was used to terminate the issue of the 1d Die 2 stamps so it seems unlikely it was ever used by Harrisons. The same may apply to the ½d Die 2 plates and would explain the complete lack of evidence to suggest otherwise.

I would stress the incomplete nature of these notes. Time is at a premium especially when working on collections other than your own. I do, however, think that I have gathered most of the information of immediate relevance to the plating of the issued Downey Head stamps, although further work will no doubt reveal more. The collection awaits the methodical cataloguing of the sheets, and where applicable, may also require controls and registration pieces photographing for comparison with issued pieces.

Finally, I would like to thank Mr. R. F. S. West, the *Philatelic Superintendent* at the British Library, for his help and courtesy.

N.P.B. DUBLIN

John Forbes-Nixon

The obliterations for the Newspaper Branch in London, Edinburgh and Glasgow are well known and for the most part reasonably common and obtainable.

In the experience of the writer this is certainly not the case for the Dublin N.P.B. Fred Dixon, the specialist in Irish postal history, discovered the evidence of the existence of a series of 186-in-diamond handstamps with a small 1 to 9 inserted in the upper portion of the design, used at the Dublin N.P.B. Figure 1 is a sketch indicating the format of these obliterations.

Figures 2 and 3 show examples used on the United Service Gazette for 1877 cancelling 1870 ½d stamps and showing the numbers 2 and 4.

Later the duty of these handstamps was changed and they can be found on registered mail.

They form an interesting postmark variety to look out for and it would be a nice research item to hear from readers who have examples of these to assess their true scarcity.



Fig. 2.

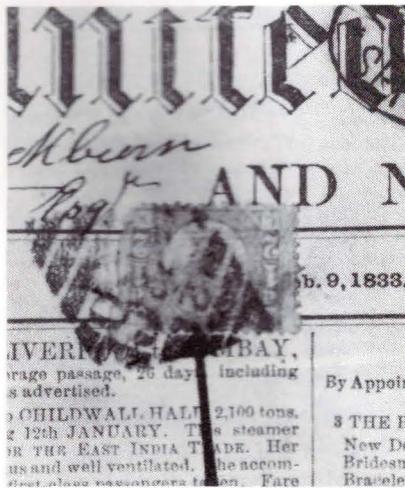


Fig. 1.

Fig. 3.

A £1 CASTLE QUERY

Jack Preston

The part sheet of £1 'Castle' stamps illustrated was submitted to the B.P.A. expert committee as a possible proof sheet, but was returned with no definite conclusions. It was thought perhaps it was a De La Rue trial printing from a Bradbury Wilkinson plate but it is difficult to see how that could have come about.

The part sheet must be from a Bradbury Wilkinson plate because of the plate no. 1A in the bottom margin. A Bradbury perforator was used, the vertical perforation measuring between 11.9 and 12.

Under ultra-violet light, the various printings can be described as follows:—

£1 De La Rue — first paper (Multiple Crowns). Paper is brown with very little grey and has no mottled effect. No fluorescence.

£1 De La Rue — second paper (Multiple



Crowns). Paper is brown/grey and mottled front and back. No fluorescence.

£1 Bradbury Wilkinson (Multiple Crowns). Paper is greyish. Mottled back and front. No fluorescence.

£1 Bradbury Wilkinson (No wmk). Paper fluoresces bright back and front.

2/6 Bradbury Wilkinson on experimental chalk surfaced paper. Paper appears white but is less white on back.

On the part-sheet in question the paper appears nearly white on the front. The back shows slight mottling and is brown/grey.

The conclusions are that the face of the paper has been surfaced and treated, indicating it is from the very small printing made just before the introduction of non-watermarked paper. This printing is believed to have been made on the same stock which provided the base for the chalk surfaced printing of the 2/6d. Another possibility is that it could be a paper trial of some sort; the left-hand rough edge to the sheet is rather odd.

Acknowledgement: The 'Castles' High Values by R. F. Allen, Stamp Collecting. This series of articles began in the issue of 25th January 1979. Special reference is made to Part VIII, 17th May 1979, page 791.

CORRESPONDENCE

The following letter has been received from one of our North American readers, Mr Michael M. Anderson, Newfoundland, Canada:

The note by Sam Lawrence on the method used in the preparation of $1\frac{1}{2}v$ booklet panes was very interesting. However, I am sure that, apart from myself, other readers would like to know if there is any means of distinguishing genuine $1\frac{1}{2}v$ panes from those cut later with a pair of scissors as it has worried me that anyone can, in the latter way, produce this kind of pane. Such panes carry a higher price than uncut panes so that the temptation to manufacture them is obvious.

GEORGE V NOTES

$1\frac{1}{2}d$ Photogravure Paper Join

This issue's puzzle picture is of a piece shown to us at Stampex by Mike Burrows. It is a paper join on a photogravure $1\frac{1}{2}d$ large format — the illustration showing the doubling of the paper.

The photograph was taken on our publisher's stand at Stampex, with an Olympus OM-2 set to automatic, hand-held and with a +10 dioptre close-up lens.



1d Royal Cypher with Extra Marginal Rules

Extra marginal rules on the ½d and 1d Royal Cypher issues are well known, but here is evidence of there being two rules. In fact, as mentioned elsewhere in this issue, there are many proof sheets of these values in the British Library showing two full rules.



1d Royal Cypher with 'Black Eye'

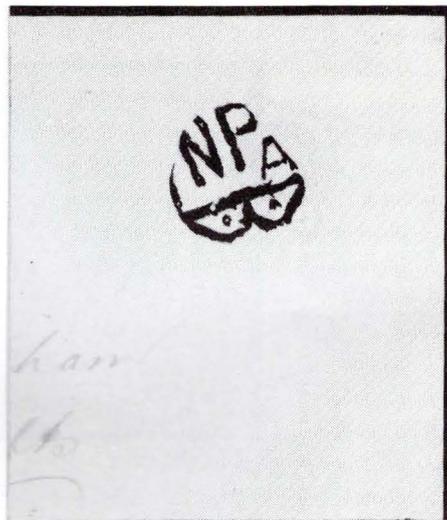
Our publishers have shown me this amusing variety on a 1d Royal Cypher stamp. Coloured flaws such as this are far less likely to be constant than white flaws, but there could be others around.



POST OFFICE BOOBS!

John Forbes-Nixon

One of the News Paper Branch cancellations used 16th April 1875 with sexist overtones!



GREAT BRITAIN FINE STAMPS

1840 1d Black plate 6 lettered GH. A fine used four margin example with red M.C. S.G. 2. **£60**

1840 2d Blue plate 2 lettered DE. A very fine used four margin example with a good strike of the 1844 type cancel in black. S.G. 5. **£165.00**

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1841 1d Pale red-brown (worn plate) lettered IH. A very fine mint four margin example. S.G. 9. **£55.00**

1858-79 1d Rose-red plate 170 lettered SJ-KK. A very fine mint original gum block of four. S.G. 43. **£40.00**

1858-79 1d Rose-red plate 183 lettered ML. An unmounted mint example. S.G. 43. **£10.00**

1858-79 1d Rose-red plate 184 lettered AC. A very fine mint example. S.G. 43. **£8.00**

1869 2d Blue plate 13 lettered PK. A very fine lightly mounted mint original gum example. S.G. 46. **£55.00**

1869 2d Blue plate 14 lettered JI. An unmounted mint original gum example. S.G. 46. **£65.00**

1869 2d Blue plate 15 lettered DK. A very fine lightly mounted mint original gum example. S.G. 46. **£55.00**

1870 1½d Rose-red plate 3 lettered LA. A very fine lightly mounted mint original gum example. S.G. 51. **£65.00**

1873 3d Pale rose plate 20 lettered CC. A fine mint example well centred with good perfs. S.G. 144. **£145.00**

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1884 1½d Lilac lettered MC. A very fine mint example. S.G. 188. **£25.00**

1884 2½d Lilac lettered KK. A very fine mint example. S.G. 190. **£20.00**

1884 3d Lilac lettered EF. A very fine mint example. S.G. 191. **£45.00**

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1887 "Jubilee" 6d purple/rose-red. A lightly mounted mint example overprinted "SPECIMEN" type 9. S.G. 208. **£12.00**

1902 De La Rue 1d pale green plate proof. An imperforate single on thin white card. S.G. 219. **£12.50**

1902 De La Rue 1d deep green plate proof. An imperforate single on thin white card. S.G. 219. **£12.50**

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1904 De La Rue ½d yellowish green in pair with "St Andrews" cross attached. Lightly mounted mint with good perfs all round. S.G. 218a. **£65.00**

1904 De La Rue 2/0½ red booklet no. 1. A very fine complete booklet. S.G. Spec. B1. **£75.00**

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1911 Somerset House 6d Royal purple. A lightly mounted mint example. S.G. 295. **£22.00**

1910 circa De La Rue specimen stamps depicting George IV head in oval frame surrounded by oak leaves and rose and crown above and SPECIMEN below. An unmounted mint imperforate example in red. **£12.50**

1910 circa De La Rue specimen stamps depicting George IV head in oval frame surrounded by oak leaves and rose and crown above and SPECIMEN below. An unmounted mint imperforate example in blue. **£12.50**

1912 Downey Head ½d yellow-green die 2, multiple cypher watermark. A superb mint control strip of three (B.12) printed at Somerset House and with a spectacular double perforation. A great rarity. See Beaumont and Stanton page 45. S.G. 347. **£395.00**

1911 Downey Head 1d carmine die 1b crown watermark. A lightly mounted mint control (A.11) single with the variety "scratch to right of left figure 1". S.G. Spec. N8k. **£25.00**

1912 Downey Head 1d scarlet, die 2, multiple cypher watermark. A fine mint example with the variety "no cross on crown". S.G. 350a. **£65.00**

1913 Somerset House printing of the Perkins Bacon 1879 Tender essay. A superb imperforate example in blue, probably an ink trial. **£7.50**

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1912-24 Royal Cypher 1½d red-brown, watermark inverted and reversed. An unmounted mint control (W.23) strip of three. S.G. Spec. N18d. **£15.00**

1924 Block Cypher 1½d red-brown, watermark inverted. An unmounted mint control (A.24) strip of three. S.G. Spec. N35c. **£8.50**

1924 Waterlow, block cypher 2/- blue booklet no. 4. A fine complete booklet containing advert NB15yc. S.G. Spec. B26. **£35.00**

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1937 1d Scarlet watermark inverted. An unmounted mint booklet pane of six with full perfs all round. One stamp with corner crease. S.G. Spec. QB10a. **£95.00**

1937 Coronation 1½d maroon with the "ray flaw". An unmounted mint control strip of three A37 cyl. 24. S.G. Spec. Q Com 1a. **£2.50**

1937 Coronation 1½d maroon with the "ray flaw" corrected. An unmounted mint control strip of three A37 cyl. 19. S.G. Spec. Q Com 1b. **£1.45**

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