

REVIEW

FOR THE GREAT BRITAIN COLLECTOR



THE FIRST POSTCARD WITH ADHESIVE?

In this issue

- B.P.E. 1981
- EARLY USE OF POSTCARDS
- CHROME-PLATED STAMP BOOK CASES
- K.G.V — FLAWS AND VARIETIES
- INDEX TO VOLUME 5

75p

GREAT BRITAIN

DEFINITIVE SETS

		u/m	m/m		m/m
QUEEN VICTORIA				1939-48	High values (6v.) £225.00
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1900	Jubilee (14v.)	£485.00	£165.00		Ditto. watermark inverted (3v.) £9.00
					Ditto. watermark sideways (3v.) £16.50
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	Ditto. watermark inverted (2v.)	£115.00	—	1958-65	Crowns, ordinary (17v.) £7.50
1934-35	Ditto. intermediate format (4v.)	£13.00	£7.50		Ditto. watermark inverted (7v.) £50.00
	Ditto. watermark inverted (3v.)	£50.00	£35.00		Ditto. watermark sideways (7v.) £7.00
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	Ditto. watermark sideways (4v.)	£100.00	£75.00	1959	2nd De La Rue 'Castles' (4v.) £155.00
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	Ditto. watermark inverted (3v.)		£8.00		Ditto. watermark sideways (8v.) £20.00
KING GEORGE VI				1963-68	1st Bradbury-Wilkinson 'Castles' (5v.)
1937-47	Dark colours (15v.)		£24.00		2/6 x 2 £18.00
	Ditto. watermark inverted (5v.)		£85.00	1967	Machin gum Arabic (9v.) £3.50
	Ditto. watermark sideways (5v.)		£75.00	1967-70	Ditto. P.V.A. (16v.) 4d. x 2, 8d. x 2 £5.00
				1967-68	Bradbury-Wilkinson no watermark 'Castles' (4v.) £9.00
				1969	Machin high values (4v.) £14.00

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the PHILATELIC REVIEW

Volume 5 No. 4

Edited by Mike and Jan Jackson

October 1981

CONTENTS

B.P.E. 1981

JUST LOOK WHAT YOU'VE BEEN MISSING!

THEN THERE WAS THE POSTCARD!

John Forbes-Nixon

REFLECTIONS ON PANES — 11

Sam Lawrence

K.G.V — FLAWS AND VARIETIES

INDEX TO VOLUME 5

Cover: The earliest postcard with adhesive? — see page 56

B.P.E. 1981

49 This year's British Philatelic Exhibition, now in its third year at
55 its new permanent home at the Wembley Conference Centre,
56 suffered from not having a Saturday opening. This was through
no fault of the organisers, but due to the Exhibition being new to
the waiting list for dates; it has had to accept what was available. It
looks as if there will be a Saturday opening next year, which means
60 that many potential visitors, unable to attend during the week, will
be able to visit the Exhibition, and that this will make all the
62 difference to the standholders, for whom participation means
considerable financial outlay.

64 1981 is the 70th anniversary of the issue of the Downey Head
stamps, and as many of our readers will be aware, these issues were
the subject of a recent stamp booklet. The miniature sheet issued by
the Exhibition also features two unissued Downey designs — for
the 3d and 4d values.

The National Postal Museum put on a special display to
commemorate the event. Included in the display were the dies used
to produce the miniature sheet. Proofs and trials of issued and

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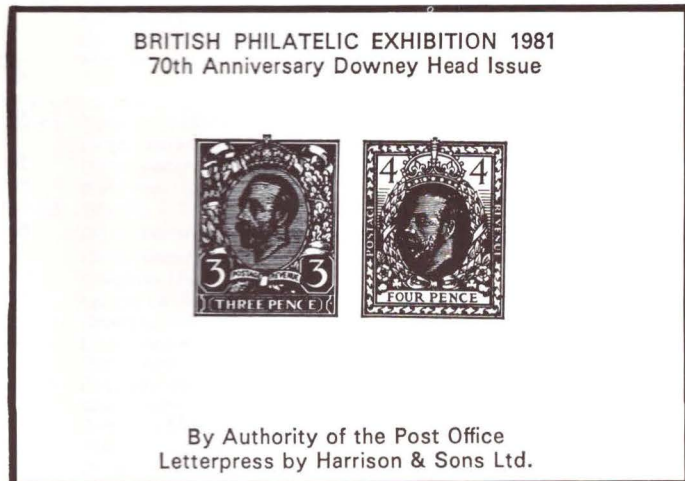
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unissued values kept company with some complete proof sheets. One of these, of the 1d Die 1A, was headed "First Master Plate". Now, as this proof was in fact from philatelic plate 3, official plate 7/23, to label it a "Master Plate" proof is misleading. It is a proof from a *working* plate.

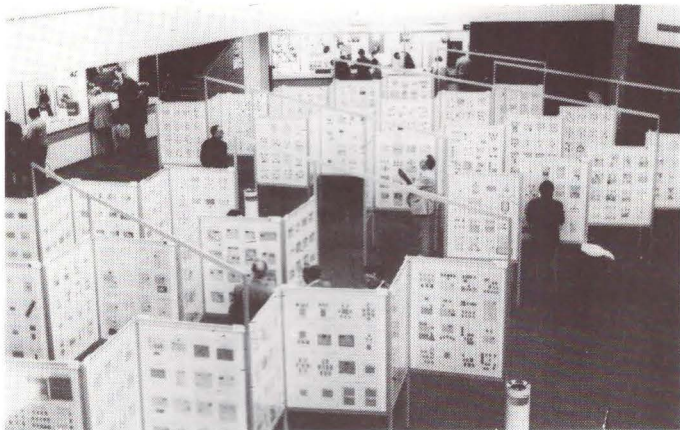
Also on display was a complete perforated sheet of the ½d Die 1B from a booklet plate. As can be seen from the illustration of the bottom of this sheet, the perforation type is B1. Also of interest are the two thin rules at either side of the bottom row. These are evidently to act as guillotine guide lines. A printer's marginal marking can be seen to the right of the bottom row, and two extra rules at the bottom of the sheet. As mentioned in a recent issue of the *Philatelic Review*, I have seen these on many K.G.V proof sheets in the British Library. Previous supposition that they cancelled watermarked paper seems to have been laid to rest by their presence on this booklet sheet.

Moving on to some of the National competitive exhibits, the Windsor Plate for the best in the class was won by E. A. B. Mattsson with "Great Britain 1840-1841" — a well-presented study of the black plates used for the red printings. J. E. Thompson's exhibit of "Phosphor Variations" made very effective use of simple perspective diagrams. Mrs. V. Ashworth made her mark as a first time entrant with "Development of Machine Cancellations"; entries by Geoff Mansell and A. R. G. Devan dealt with the 1924-25 Wembley Exhibition; K. Tonkin entered a study of the Q.E.II Bradbury Wilkinson high values. These and other exhibits in the National class made a visit to the Exhibition well worthwhile for the G.B. collector.

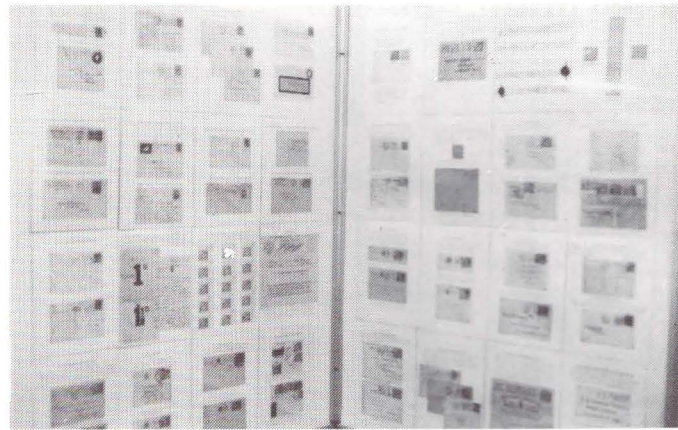
M.J.



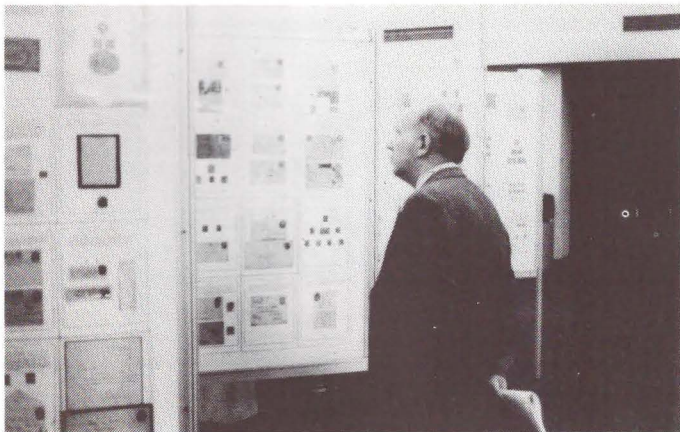
Miniature sheet issued by the Exhibition.



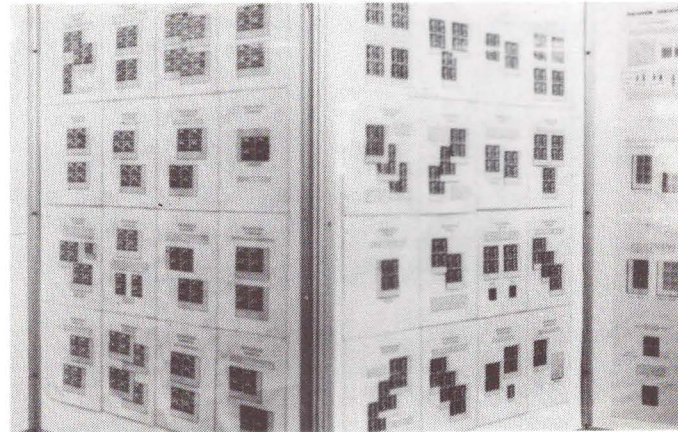
B.P.E. 1981.



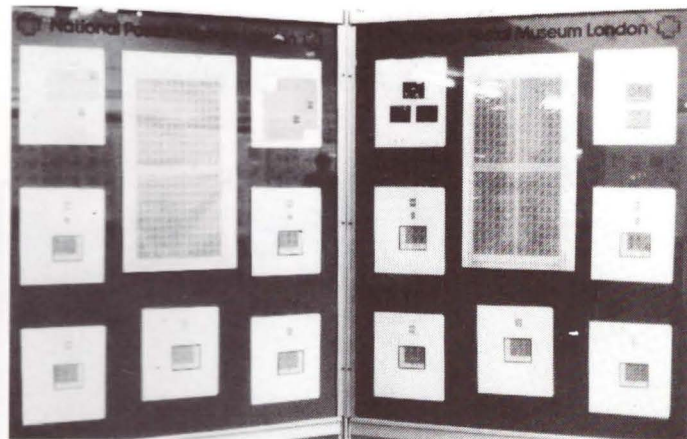
Geoff Mansell's Wembley Exhibition exhibit.



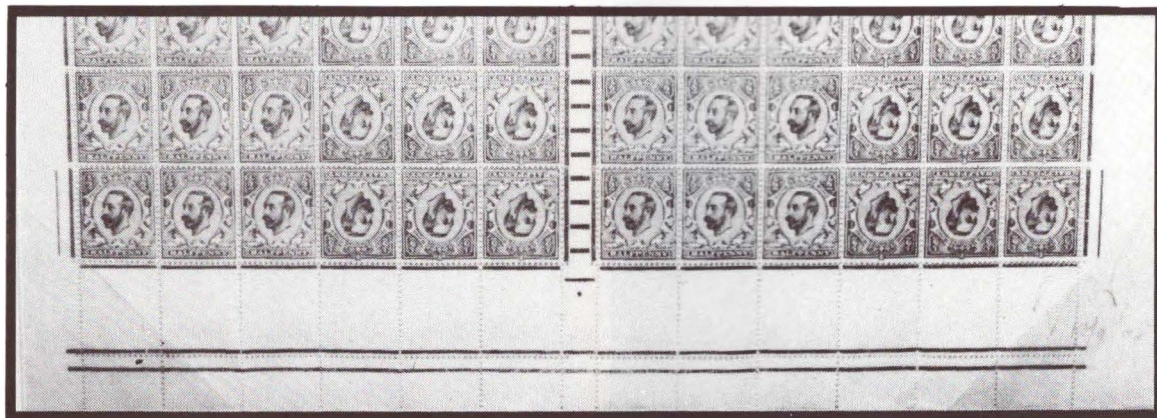
B.P.E. 1981.



K. Tonkin's Q.E.II Bradbury high values.



Two views of the National Postal Museum's display.



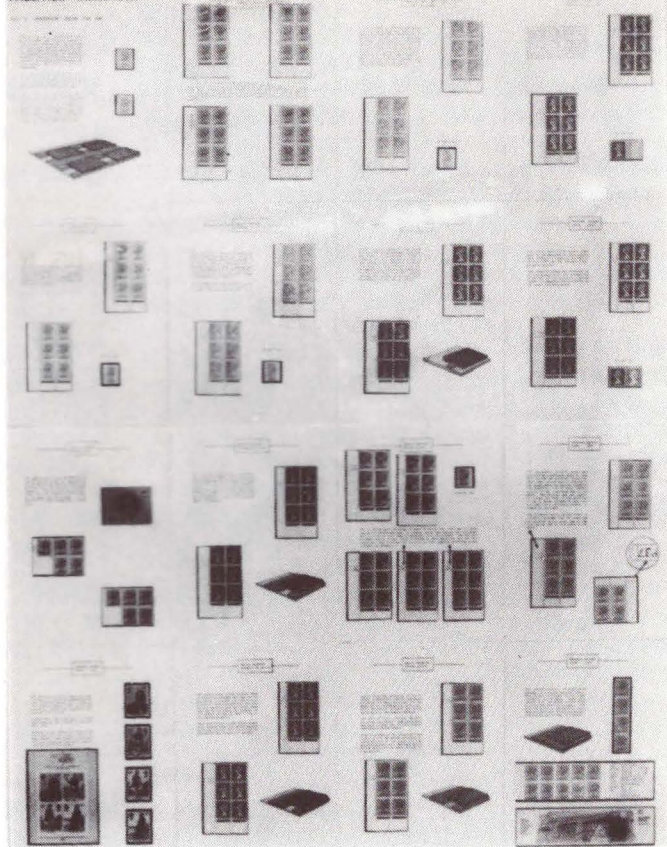
Bottom of a 1/2 Die 1B Booklet Sheet showing two extra marginal rules — from the N.P.M.'s display.

HALLEY PRINTING
Second series

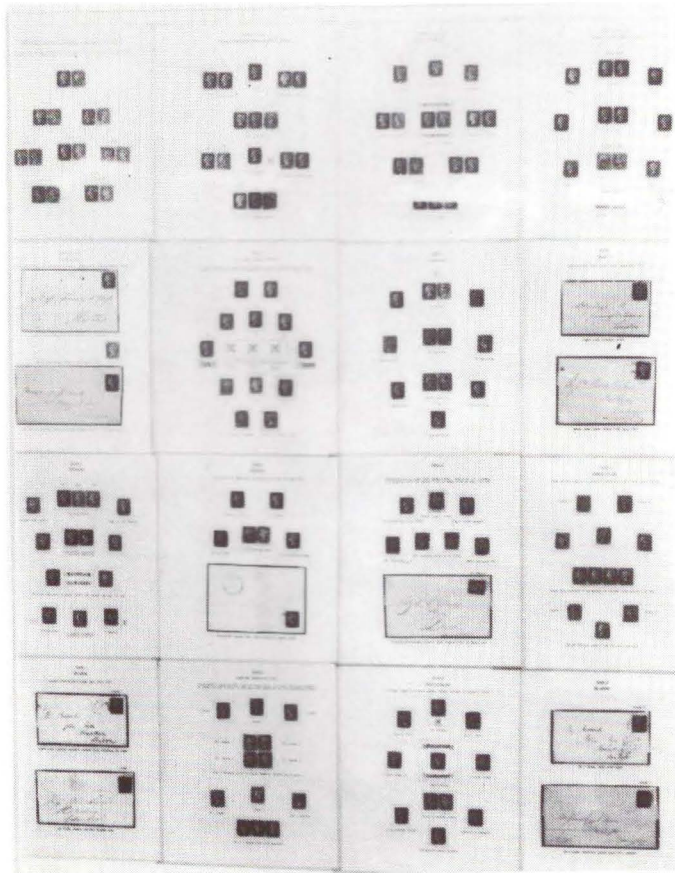
Using a centre phosphor Sand stamp
we modified a new phosphor cylinder
made a cylinder 29. This 7p
is the only version of a centre
phosphor which the phosphor is under
the stamp. It is acceptable to the
Automatic Letter Facing equipment due
to the fact that the hand passes
through the centre of the head where
density of the ink is reduced.



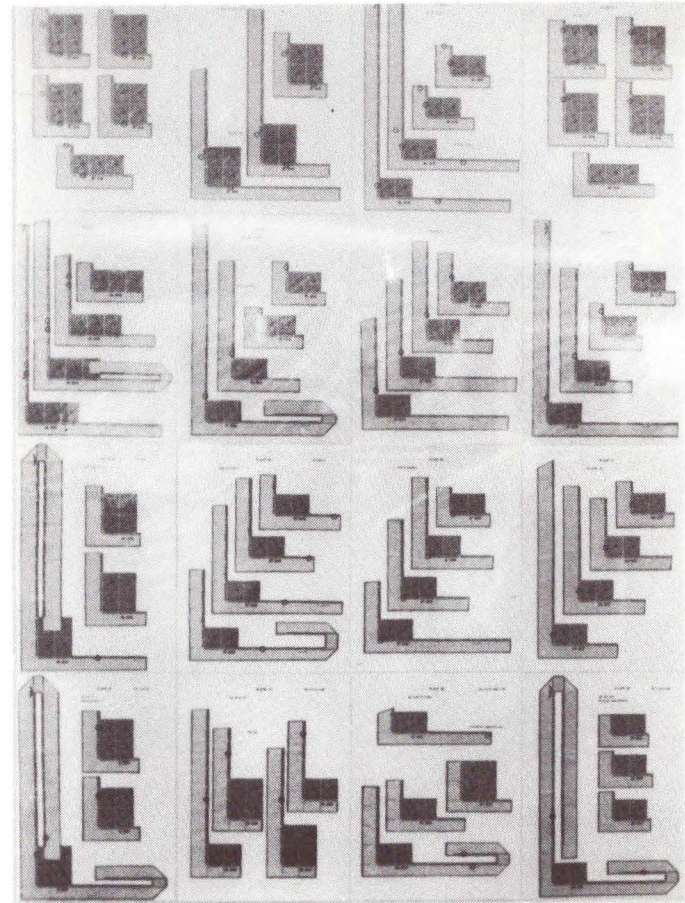
PHOSPHOR VARIATION:



A sheet and frame from J. E. Thompson's "Phosphor Variations".



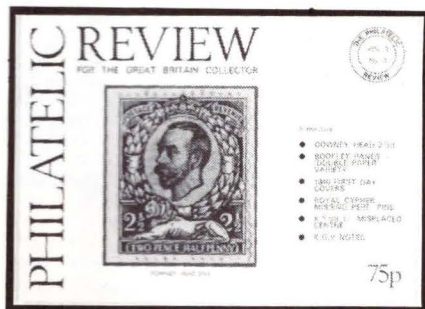
A frame of E. A. B. Mattsson's "Great Britain 1840-1841" which won the Windsor Plate.



A frame of Mike Jackson's plating study of the K.G.V 1 1/2d Block Cypher issue.

JUST LOOK WHAT YOU'VE BEEN MISSING!

- Vol. 5 No. 3 Downey Head 2½d; Booklet Panes — 'double paper' varieties; 1840 First Day Covers; Royal Cypher missing perforation pins.
- Vol. 5 No. 2 New K.G.V plates; Sterling Machin 5d Tête-Bêche; N.P.B. Dublin; K.G.V Sheets in the British Library; £1 Castles.
- Vol. 5 No. 1 The Mulready; P.O.W. Mail; Downey Head perf. 14; Used Stamps from Rolls; Machin Booklet Panes.



- Vol. 4 No. 4 Photography for the Philatelist; 3d Wilding Tête-Bêche; Postal History — 1d Lilac Bisected.
- Vol. 4 No. 3 London 1980; Downey Head ½d 'Cracked Plate'; Penny in the Slot franking; Booklets.
- Vol. 4 No. 2 Booklet Panes; Downey Head 'Cracked Plate'; Military Mail.
- Vol. 4 No. 1 Postal History — Postal Rate to California; 'Cancelled' Booklet Panes; British Explorers.

- Vol. 3 No. 4 'Allowed and Disallowed'; Downey Head Somerset House Controls; K.E.VII varieties.
- Vol. 3 No. 3 British Polar Explorers; Registered Mail; Booklet Panes I(½v) cuts; K.G.V ½d green shades.
- Vol. 3 No. 2 K.G.V ½d green shades (part 1); 'Last Day Covers'; Plate Flaws on the K.G.V Downey Head issues; K.E.VIII 2½d cylinder 2 no-dot.
- Vol. 3 No. 1 Decimal Machins; Royal Mail; K.E.VII Booklet Panes; K.E.VII 4d bi-coloured — duty plate flaws.
- Vol. 2 No. 4 Downey Head Perf. 14; Unpaid and Underpaid Mail; Machins — the Development of Phosphor.
- Vol. 2 No. 3 Booklets — extract from the 1925 contract; Decimal Machins; The Real Cost of Postage; Cloth-covered handstamps.
- Vol. 2 No. 2 Stampex 1978; Rolls — extract from the 1925 contract; The Sunday Sun Handstamp; Q.E.II Castles — shades; Booklets — Advertisers' Voucher Copies; Plate Flaws and Plate Identification.
- Vol. 2 No. 1 Q.E.II Castles; Extract from the 1925 contract; Unusual Victorian Handstamps; K.G.V Notes.
- Vol. 1 No. 4 The Introduction of Stamps in Rolls — part 3; Reformed Parliamentary Mail.
- Vol. 1 No. 3 Amphilex 77; The Introduction of Stamps in Rolls — part 2; K.G.V Booklet Perforation; London Postmarks.
- Vol. 1 No. 2 Stampex 77; Late Use of the Maltese Cross; Early K.G.V Paper Trials — part 2; The Introduction of Stamps in Rolls — part 1.
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THEN THERE WAS THE POSTCARD!

John Forbes-Nixon

The collecting of postcards is becoming more and more popular due mainly to the ready availability and the many themes and ways they can be sought — be it for the pictures, postmarks or place of origin.

Strangely Great Britain was against their use as it was thought most improper that all and sundry should be able to read personal correspondence. It fell to Austria on 1 October 1869 to issue the World's first official postcard with an imprinted stationery stamp. Fig. 1 shows an Austrian card of the first type used on 5 July 1870.

Exactly one year later on 1 October 1870 Great Britain followed suit with the lilac halfpenny stationery postcard (printed by Messrs. De La Rue & Co.) allowing the address to be written on one side and the message on the other. It was not permitted to affix one's own adhesive stamps. Fig. 2 shows a 'first day' British postcard.

Figure 3 shows what the writer challenges is the earliest postcard with adhesive. A penny black is affixed to a circular embossed card showing Queen Victoria's head on the one side and just an address to

a Miss Jane Cole, 2 Orchard Terrace, Torquay, and was posted at Totness on 23 November 1840 according to the c.d.s.

This card appears to have been delivered without surcharge though private cards with adhesive stamps added to cover postage were not officially allowed until 1 September 1894 and a copy of the Post Office Circular of Tuesday 28 August 1894 is shown in fig. 4 relating to this new

privilege of private postcards. Fig. 5 shows such a card used from Usk on the first day with a ½d vermilion adhesive. On the reverse the sender refers to this new forthcoming event though is at variance with the Post Office Circular as to the actual official minimum size allowed!

Surely a fascinating area for collecting especially when tracing developments from the beginning.



Fig. 1.



Fig. 3.

POST OFFICE



CIRCULAR.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 28, 1894.

No. 1045.

Private Postcards.

On and after the 1st of September next the public will have the privilege of sending through the post, as postcards, private cards bearing halfpenny adhesive stamps.

The regulations provide that the cards must be composed of ordinary cardboard not thicker than the material used for the official postcard. The maximum size, having regard to the variety of form, must correspond as nearly as may be to the size of the ordinary inland postcard now in use. The minimum size must not be less than $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches by $2\frac{1}{2}$, and the cards must not be folded. With regard to the address side, the rules differ very little from the rules which relate to the official cards. The new warrant gives rather more latitude than is permitted by the warrant which it supersedes. On the address side, which must bear the postage stamp, the sender may add the words "Immediate," "Forward," "Local," and also may attach by gum or paste a small label as at present. Nothing else may be attached on the address side except a postage stamp and on the reverse side nothing but a receipt stamp. The arrangements of course apply to Reply Postcards.

The word "Postcard" on the address side is not objected to.

The infringement of any of these Rules will render the Cards liable to letter postage.

Fig. 4.

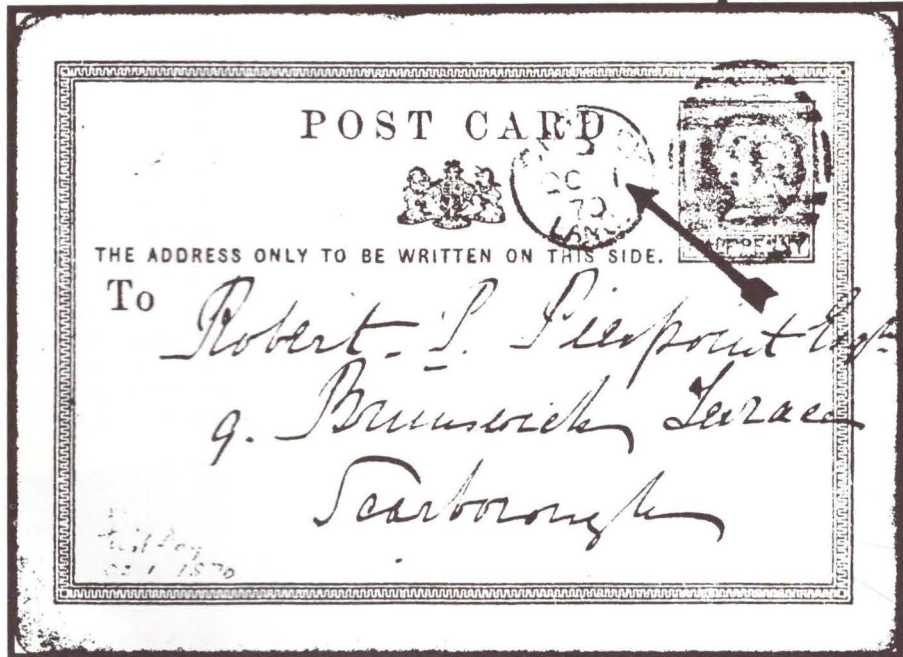


Fig. 2.

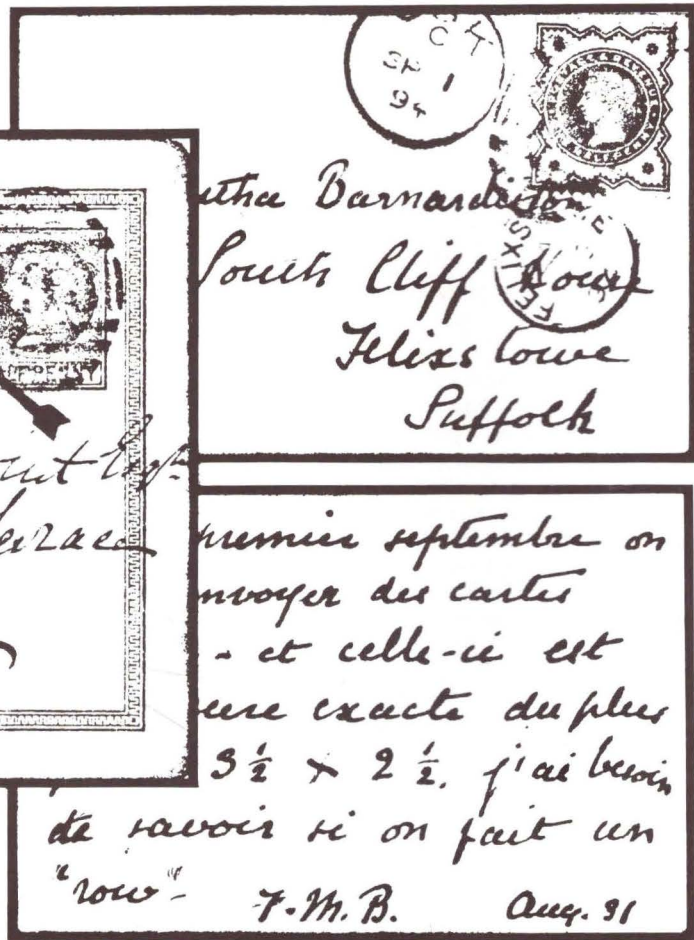


Fig. 5.

REFLECTIONS ON PANES — 11

Sam Lawrence

Anyone like myself who has been collecting stamps since pre-historic times (actually for around 35 years) is bound to have seen, bought, pinched, won, been left, collected or otherwise acquired, many an odd bod.

Because I was born with only half a brain I have never been interested in the stamps of Queen Victoria. I put this down to the fact that as a lad the local tuckshops usually sported a few tatty album leaves in their windows covered in Penny Blacks, Reds and Twopenny Blues. To all those now going green I will have to turn the knife a little more and inform them that although the tatty copies were priced at ½d the good copies were priced up to 3d, not an inconsiderable price in those days. So I am firmly of the opinion that that is what put me off collecting the stamps of Queen Victoria.

My collecting instincts were really aroused when the Wembley set first went on sale in 1924. I remember it took me ages to assemble the few coppers that were necessary to get this set and even then I would not accept used copies; they had to be mint. So as far as Sam Lawrence is

concerned he knows the precise date he became a stamp collector; April 23rd 1924.

Working my way through adolescence, marriage, fatherhood, a trifling matter called W.W.2 and sundry other things, such as starting afresh after demob., home building, etc., we come to the real start of my present day collection. When the pressures mentioned above had subsided somewhat I was able to put together quite a respectable collection of 20th Century G.B. which naturally enough had to contain all the booklet panes that exist in this field.

About 15 years ago I entered into what has become my burning passion; the collecting and study of the booklet panes of G.B. Curiously I never was interested in the complete booklets as such; I always felt that I was more interested in the contents than the wrapper!

However, I have always added to my collection of panes such complete booklets or other items that I felt necessary to show off some particular facet or other. It was with this thought in mind that the following farrago was written.

A few years ago, passing what was laughingly called an antique shop, but was in actual fact a glorified cupboard with a few bent pots and some fly-blown bits of non-identifiable rubbish, I noticed in one corner of the window the item marked Fig. 1. It is chrome plated and as I had spent my adolescence during the period when everything in sight was chrome plated, I was

au fait with the *idea* of the thing, if not with the *item*, which was completely new to me. As it still had its original instruction leaflet it was quite obviously a stamp book cover or holder. More than likely, it was intended for purely feminine usage, as in those days most everything my lady had had been chromed; nail file, scissors, tweezers, etc. I went into the shop and was promptly assailed by a very pleasant lady who, after recovering from the shock of actually having a potential customer in the place, proceeded to take me (metaphorically I can assure you) through her childhood, adolescence, marriage, etc., and why she happened to be in her shop at that particular moment. I waited my opportunity and as she paused for breath after one long episode in her somewhat chequered career, asked her if she minded me seeing what I had come into the shop for.

I only had to handle the item to know that here was something I had to have. Strangely enough, there was no haggling (very strange indeed for an antique shop!). I asked her simply "how much?", as the item was unpriced. Quite as simply she said "Is 10p alright?". I said magnanimously "Of course!" and saved the passing out bit for when I had staggered home. And so I thought that would be the end of the matter and I had been lucky to have found what I then thought was a one-off item.

A year or so later, whilst in a south coast town that shall be nameless, but has more

retired colonels per square mile than anywhere else on earth, I spotted three more of these covers in the window of a real antique shop. On asking the prices (once again these items were unpriced) I was given a price of a fiver for the tattiest and more for the other two which were in a better condition. Making my excuses I left, but was more than compensated when visiting an itinerant antique fair some time later, when I bought the item labelled Fig. 2 for about £2.50. Fig. 3 I acquired soon after for about £3. Fig. 4 shows what the inside of these booklet containers looks like, most are chromed inside, but one however has a gilt finish within. I also have one or two

others, with different town crests for which I suppose I paid around £2/3 each and I should imagine that around these figures is the going rate these days for these items, subject of course to condition.

All the above may or may not be of interest to the reader, but as collectors we need something more and that is the history of these items, so here goes as far as the information I have takes us.

It is more than likely that these items were produced before the last war, in the heyday of everything chromed. They were obviously produced firstly as items for use, but evidently, with the addition of the town

crests, they later were sold as souvenirs of holidays spent in these towns, of the 'Present From ----' genre, on a par with the chrome spoons which carry the town crests and are still sold and collected to this day.

It is unlikely that they survived later than the mid 1950's, the one carrying the Coronation logo shows that they were being sold in some quantity at the time, as the manufacturers would not turn a 'dead' line into a Coronation souvenir. Apart from the registered number, no other markings appear on the covers, so there are no manufacturers to whom one may write for further information. There appears to be so many minor differences in the design of

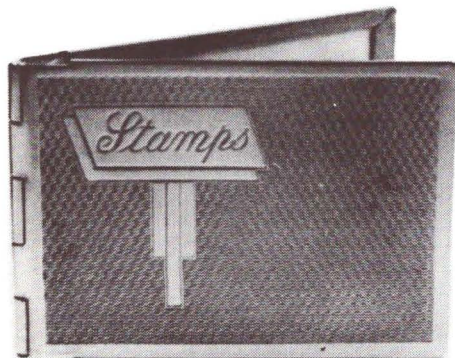


Fig. 1.



Fig. 2.

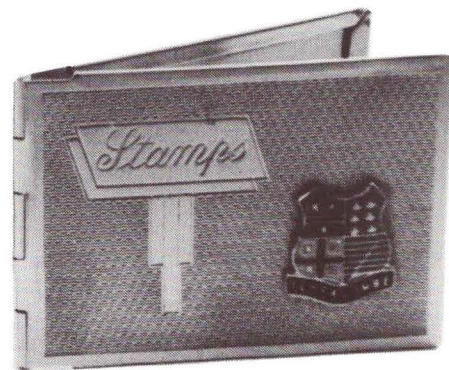


Fig. 3.

each cover that one is forced to the conclusion that more than one manufacturer was involved in the production of these items.

If anyone can shed any further light on these items, especially on the dates of their introduction and demise, I would be obliged. Especially, I would appreciate any help in how I may turn the registered number into the first link of a chain that would increase my knowledge of what is a fascinating addition to my collection of booklets and panes.



K.G.V — FLAWS AND VARIETIES

The following six items were kindly loaned to me by Jim Hanson:

Royal Cypher ½d — Printing flaws

These two stamps show a white circle on the back of the King's head. I don't think they are the same flaw; they look like the result of bits of dirt on the plate. (cf. two examples on 1½d Block Cypher illustrated in the GB Journal, vol. 17, p. 114. These look different, too.) The bottom example is on the control stamp, control Q 21, plate 55.

Royal Cypher 1d — Plate flaw

This striking constant plate flaw, a gash in the back of the King's head, occurs on the tenth row. The next stamp (not illustrated) in the row has a tiny flaw above AG of POSTAGE. Mr. Trevor Harris, of Hendon, has kindly shown us three single examples of this flaw.



Royal Cypher 1½d — Plate flaw

This frame break in the top left side looks as if it might be constant.

Royal Cypher 2d Die 2 — Printing flaw

This damage to the top of the crown may be a result of poor make-ready, rather than damage to the plate. This example is on a control block of six, and a single has also been seen. Plate 2, control U 23, stamp 19.3.



Royal Cypher 3d — Printing variety

This lower interpane block of four has a blotchy appearance, somewhat reminiscent of varnish ink varieties. The figure 3 written on the gutter in purple may or may not be significant. Other examples have been seen. One likely cause could be poorly mixed ink.

Royal Cypher 8d — Plate flaw

This single has a break under T of EIGHT which looks constant.



INDEX TO VOLUME 5

BOOKLETS

Reflections on Panes

- 9—1½ V-cut variety
- 10—Double paper varieties
- 11—Metal Stamp Book Covers

CORRESPONDENCE

EDITORIAL

KING EDWARD VII

K.E.VII Notes

KING GEORGE V

Downey Head Perf. 14

Downey Notes

Downey Head 2½d

George V Notes

K.G.V — Flaws and Varieties

K.G.V Notes

K.G.V Sheets in the British Library

New 1912-24 Royal Cypher Plates

Royal Cypher — Missing Extension Perforations

Used Stamps from Rolls

MISCELLANEOUS

B.P.E. 1981

More on Photography

Just Look What You've been missing!

POSTAL HISTORY

Additional Rates of Postage on Certain Letters

A Postman's Feathered Friends

First Day Covers

- 8 'If at First You Don't Succeed . . .'
- 36 'Not a Happy Place to Spend the Festive Season!'
- 60 N.P.B. Dublin
- 30, 48 'Place the Labels . . .'
- 17, 33 Post Office Boobs!
- The Tale of the Mulready Again
- Then there was the Postcard!

QUEEN ELIZABETH II

A £1 Castle Query

Sterling Machin 5d Tête-Bêche

Wilding Essays

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- 41 *Janet Holdeman* 4
- 11 *Mike Jackson* 11, 26
- Sam Lawrence* 8, 18, 36, 48, 60
- Bob Palmer* 20, 41
- 49 *Jack Preston* 29
- 1 *H. J. Russell* 48
- 55 *P. A. Strong* 48

GREAT BRITAIN FINE STAMPS

1840 1d. Black plate 4 lettered HJ. A fine used four margin example with red M.C. S.G. 2. **£45.00**

1840 1d Black plate 5 lettered SI. A fine used four margin example with black M.C. S.G. 2. **£55.00**

1840 1d Black plate 6 lettered DI. A fine used four margin example with red M.C. S.G. 2. **£49.50**

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**

1841 1d Red-brown lettered AK. A fine used example with excellent strike of the no. 2 in M.C. S.G. 8m. **£19.00**

1841 1d Red-brown lettered AD. A superb used four margin example with black no. 3 in M.C. S.G. 8m. **£30.00**

1854 2d Blue perf 16 and 1855 2d blue perf 14, both plate 4 and in matching pairs lettered BB-BC. Fine used pairs. S.G. 19 and 23. **£65.00**

1857 1d Pale rose lettered DH. A very fine lightly mounted mint example well centred with good perfs. S.G. 39. **£25.00**

1858-79 1d Rose-red plate 83 lettered BH. A very fine mint example. S.G. 43. **£120.00**

1858-79 1d Rose-red plate 99 lettered DG-EH. A very fine mint block of four, well centred. S.G. 43. **£65.00**

1858-79 1d Rose-red plate 105 lettered HL. A very fine lightly mounted mint example. S.G. 43. **£45.00**

1858-79 1d Rose-red plate 115 lettered MD. A very fine lightly mounted mint example. S.G. 43. **£70.00**

1858-79 1d Rose-red plate 133 lettered HG. A very fine lightly mounted mint example. S.G. 43. **£80.00**

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

1870 1½d Rose-red plate 1 lettered MK. A superb lightly mounted mint original gum example, well centred with good perfs. S.G. 51. **£145.00**

1881 2½d Blue plate 22 lettered NB. A very fine mint example with R.P.S. certificate. S.G. 157. **£135.00**

1881 3d Rose plate 21 lettered SD. A very fine lightly mounted mint example well centred with good perfs. S.G. 158. **£155.00**

1880 2d Pale rose. An unmounted mint example. S.G. 168. **£49.50**

1883-84 1½d Lilac lettered LK. An unmounted mint example well centred with good perfs. S.G. 188. **£35.00**

1883-84 2d Lilac lettered BM. An unmounted mint example well centred with good perfs. S.G. 189. **£65.00**

1883-84 3d Lilac lettered OA. An unmounted mint example. S.G. 191. **£65.00**

1887 "Jubilee" 10d dull purple and carmine. A fine mint example with the scarce constant variety "coloured blob in left O". S.G. 210. **£55.00**

1902 De La Rue ½d yellowish green. A very fine mint horizontal marginal pair with perforation distortion resulting in marginal being imperf at right. S.G. 218. **£35.00**

1902 De La Rue 1d scarlet, watermark inverted. An unmounted mint booklet pane of six showing the constant variety "white mark in top frame line". Good perfs. S.G. Spec. MB5a. **£35.00**

1912 Downey Head ½d green, die 1b, watermark simple cypher reversed. An unmounted mint example of this rare variety. Perfs trimmed at foot. S.G. Spec. N3c. **£75.00**

1912 Downey Head ½d green die 2, simple cypher watermark reversed. A lightly mounted mint control (B 12) single. S.G. Spec. N5c. **£45.00**

1911 Downey Head 1d carmine, die 1b plate proof. An unmounted mint imperforate single on experimental chalky paper. **£60.00**

1912 Downey Head 1d scarlet die 1b crown watermark. An unmounted mint booklet pane of six with full perfs. S.G. Spec. NB4. **£100.00**

1912 Downey Head 1d scarlet die 2 crown watermark. A fine mint top right corner strip of three showing an outstanding offset on reverse. S.G. 341. **£55.00**

1912-24 Royal Cypher 1d scarlet, watermark inverted. An unmounted mint booklet pane of six with full perfs. S.G. Spec. NB7a. **£7.50**

1912-24 Royal Cypher 2d orange die 1. An unmounted mint marginal strip of five showing complete "POSTAGE" watermark. S.G. Spec. N19yb. **£45.00**

1912-24 Royal Cypher 2½d bright blue watermark reversed. An unmounted mint control (G 15) block of six. S.G. Spec. N21c. **£75.00**

1912-24 Royal Cypher 8d black/yellow-buff. A lightly mounted mint example overprinted "SPECIMEN" type 26. S.G. Spec. N28s. **£85.00**

1924 Block Cypher ½d Green, watermark inverted. An unmounted mint control (B 24) strip of three. S.G. Spec. N33a. **£8.50**

1924 Block Cypher 1d scarlet. An unmounted mint example overprinted "CANCELLED" type 24. Scarce. S.G. Spec. N34w. **£15.00**

1924 Block Cypher 10d turquoise-blue inverted watermark. A fine lightly mounted mint example. S.G. Spec. N44a. **£395.00**

1934 Photogravure intermediate format ½d green watermark inverted. An unmounted mint booklet pane of six with perfect perfs. S.G. Spec. NB20a. **£125.00**

1913 G v R Watermarked paper used for "seahorse" printings. A small piece clearly showing two complete watermarks and "STA" of POSTAGE each watermark overprinted "CANCELLED" type 28. **£60.00**

1929 P.U.C. ½d-1½d watermark sideways. An unmounted mint set of three with good perfs. S.G. 434a-436a. **£165.00**

1936 King Edward VIII ½d green, watermark inverted. An unmounted mint booklet pane of six with good perfs. S.G. Spec. PB1a. **£30.00**

1936 King Edward VIII 1d scarlet, watermark inverted. An unmounted mint booklet pane of six with good perfs. S.G. Spec. PB2a. **£18.50**

1936 King Edward VIII 1½d red-brown, watermark inverted. An unmounted mint booklet pane of six with good perfs. S.G. Spec. PB3a. **£2.50**

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