

# REVIEW



50p

PHILATELIC

# GREAT BRITAIN

## DEFINITIVE SETS

QUEEN VICTORIA		U/m	M/m			U/m
1887-1900	Jubilee (14v.)	£245	£125	1939-48	High values (6v.)	£130
				1941-42	Light colour (6v.)	£ 1.10
					Ditto, watermark inverted (3v.)	£ 4.75
					Ditto, watermark sideways (3v.)	£ 7.50
KING EDWARD V11				1950-51	New colours (6v.)	£ 2.00
1902-10	De La Rue (o) (15v.) ½d. x 2, 4d. x 2	£195	£115		Ditto, watermark inverted (5v.)	£ 6.00
1905-10	De La Rue (c) (9v.)	£195	£115		Ditto, watermark sideways (4v.)	£ 1.00
1911	Harrison (perf. 14) (5v.)	£50.00	£32.00	1951	"Festival" high values (4v.)	£42.50
1911	Harrison (perc. 15 x 14) (5v.)	£30.00	£20.00			
1911-13	Somerset House (8v.)	£85.00	£50.00			
KING GEORGE V				QUEEN ELIZABETH 11		
1911-12	Downey Head series (12v.)	£17.50	£11.50	1952-54	Tudor (17v.)	£50.00
1912-24	Royal Cypher (14v.) 9d. x 1	£65.00	£35.00		Ditto, watermark inverted (5v.)	£14.00
	Ditto, watermark inverted (5v.)	£12.50	£ 7.50		Ditto, watermark sideways (3v.)	£ 1.75
1913	Multiple Cypher (2v.)	£165	£95.00	1955	Waterlow "Castles" (4v.)	£120
1918	Bradbury "Seahorses" (3v.)	£245	£155	1955-58	Edward (17v.)	£100
1924	Block Cypher (12v.)	£67.50	£35.00		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.)	-	£37.50	1958	Graphite (6v.)	£ 7.50
1934	Photogravure, large format (2v.)	65p	45p	1958-65	1st De La Rue "Castles" (4v.)	£335
	Ditto, watermark inverted (2v.)	£115	-		Crowns, ordinary (17v.)	£ 3.50
1934-35	Ditto, intermediate format (4v.)	£ 4.75	£ 3.00		Ditto, watermark inverted (7v.)	£45.00
	Ditto, watermark inverted (3v.)	£27.50	£18.50		Ditto, watermark sideways (7v.)	£ 5.50
1935-36	Ditto, small format (11v.)	£40.00	£22.00	1958-61	Graphite (8v.)	£50.00
	Ditto, watermark inverted (3v.)	£ 6.00	£ 4.00		Ditto, watermark inverted (5v.)	£40.00
	Ditto, watermark sideways (4v.)	-	£45.00	1959	2nd De La Rue "Castles" (4v.)	£75.00
1934	Re-engraved "Seahorses" (3v.)	£295	£175	1959	Phosphor-graphite (8v.)	£45.00
				1960-67	Crowns, phosphor (17v.)	£ 2.50
					Ditto, watermark inverted (6v.)	£ 6.00
					Ditto, watermark sideways (6v.)	£ 5.25
KING EDWARD V111				1963-68	1st Bradbury-Wilkinson "Castles" (5v.)	
1936	K.E. VIII (4v.)		35p		2/6 x 2	£ 7.50
	Ditto, watermark inverted (3v.)		£ 4.00	1967	Machin gum Arabic (9v.)	£ 3.00
				1967-70	Ditto, P.V.A. (16v.) 4d. x 2, 8d. x 2	£ 3.50
				1967-68	Bradbury-Wilkinson no watermark	
					"Castles" (4v.)	£ 6.50
KING EDWARD V1				1969	Machin high values (4v.)	£10.50
1937-47	Dark colours (15v.)		£14.50	1970	Ditto, Decimal high values (4v.)	£ 4.50
	Ditto, watermark inverted (5v.)		£60.00	1971	Machin Decimal gum Arabic (7v.)	£ 2.25
	Ditto, watermark sideways (5v.)		£40.00			

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**40 WHITELADIES ROAD, BRISTOL BS8 2LG. Tel: 35038**

# the PHILATELIC REVIEW

Volume 1 Number 2

Editor: Mike Jackson

April 1977

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Stampex 1977 arrived just in time for me to include some comments in this issue. Inevitably, the lure of the bar was just too strong for most people, and a very merry time was had by all! It was a good year for Great Britain specialists, especially those interested in the reigns of Victoria and George V.

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Several of the major awards went to Great Britain collections. Alain de Cadenet was awarded the Stanley Gibbons Silver Cup for an exhibit of archival De La Rue material which admirably illustrated the workings of the company through the 1880's. Tony McCleery was awarded the Phillips Great Britain Trophy for a combined eight-frame entry of the early Georgian low-value definitives from 1910 to 1922. The exhibit was in two sections; the first dealing with the Downey Head issues, and the second with the 'profile' head issues. These two subjects were extremely comprehensively dealt with, there being a great many items which are rarely seen, and a number of undoubtably unique ones. With collections of this calibre, it is virtually impossible to pick out one or two outstanding items from amongst so many gems, but I will make mention of two that struck me. The ½d. and 1d. Die 1B

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Published quarterly by Candlish McCleery Ltd., Price 50p.

Annual subscription (four issues): Inland £2.00. Overseas (sea) £3.00, (airmail) £4.00.

Editorial correspondence: 23 Craven Street, Melton Mowbray, Leics., LE13 0QT.

Advertisements enquiries: 40 Whiteladies Road, Bristol BS8 2LG. (telephone 0272 35038)

Downey Head panes in varnish ink are unusual and extremely rare, and there was a control block of the ½d. Die 1B trial on Cypher watermarked paper which has not been seen before.

Tony's study of these issues was continued in another entry, which was awarded a silver medal, of the 1912-1924 Royal Cypher shades. This was a very clear, unpretentious presentation of this most fascinating and rewarding subject, and an attempt to achieve the definitive reference for these stamps (no pun intended!). It is perhaps to Tony's credit that the shades stood out so well as they did, as the lighting on those particular frames was very bad, ironically on an exhibit to which good lighting was of paramount importance.

Still on the subject of shades, there were two other entries which involved themselves with this problem. Jim Hanson's study of the Royal Cypher 2½d. value was written up in neat handwriting that was extremely well done. Some superb examples of the rarer shades were to be found here. Rev. McPherson's entry of the 3d. violet, from its inception in 1912 through 1934, raised several points of great interest. It was immaculately presented, the writing-up being Letraset, which has got to be just about the most tedious and patience-demanding method available. Rev. McPherson has tackled the subject of shade differentiation with a very scientific and practical approach. To start with, he demonstrated the failure of a U.V. Spectrophotometer to differentiate between shades which are clearly apparent to the human eye. A method must therefore be found which utilises the eye as being a far better and more sensitive instrument. Rev. McPherson has made use of the Methuen Notation of Colours, a system which he cleverly illustrated in a very graphic diagram. He has used the solid colour of the marginal rule with which to make the comparison and identification with

the Methuen system, which appears to work very well. He has mounted his stamps on a grey background, following the sound argument that colours are best seen against a neutral ground.

There were four other entries dealing with the low-value definitive issues of George V; Dr. Cronk, with a study of the ½d. value from Edward to George, 1902-1922, Ewart Sanders, Mr. N.E. Lyon and Mr. J.H. Funnell. Three silver-gilt medals went to GB collectors; Dr. Monica Latto, for Line Engraved, Mr. P.F. Young for the 1d Lilac of 1881-1901, and Tony McCleery, in a diversion from George V, for a study of the ½d. and 1½d. line engraved issues of 1860-1880. Mr. I.T. Pickering had a display of the Maltese Cross Cancellations which not surprisingly received a gold medal (and the Harmer Classics Trophy). As far as I could see, there were only two GB exhibits featuring Elizabeth II, and one of these, belonging to Mr. I. Hine, won the Post Office Trophy. This was a study of the marginal markings on the Wilding issues.

This year saw the introduction of a new trophy for the best presentation; the National Philatelic Society Queen Elizabeth Silver Jubilee Trophy, bringing Stampex into line with the British Philatelic Exhibition. The award of these trophies has raised an interesting, and perhaps controversial point concerning the nature of presentation in the context of philatelic exhibitions.

It appears that there are two distinct ways of looking at the subject of presentation. The first way can perhaps best be defined as the choice, selection and arrangement in order of the material and writing-up to best develop the theme of the exhibit. This places great emphasis on the content, both in terms of the material and of the wording of the writing-up, and is mainly concerned with the ability of the

exhibitor to "tell a story" in the most coherent and suitable way.

These considerations seem to have been the ones used as the criteria for the selection of the exhibits which have been awarded the above trophies. The other side of the coin, however, deals with the appearance, and not the conceptual content of the exhibit. In this case, the criteria would be the choice of method and execution of writing-up, the standard and appropriateness of the visual layout, and the degree of professionalism in terms of graphic design. By these means, the selection of an exhibit for the award would place more emphasis on the appearance and execution of the visual presentation of the exhibit than for the selection for the other awards and medals.

Now, obviously the two approaches overlap to some extent, and it may be wrong to attempt to define each one with such clear-cut distinction, but it does seem to me that to most people, the term "presentation" evokes a sense of the visual, rather than the conceptual. It is certainly true that the exhibits that had the best and most attractive visual presentation did not receive the awards for the best presentation.

-M.J.

*An attractive souvenir postcard of the Coronation of King George V. It bears the Downey Head ½d. and 1d. Die 1A stamps, cancelled on Coronation Day, June 22 1911, the first day of issue.*



# POSTAL HISTORY

## Late Use of the Maltese Cross Obliterator

**John Forbes-Nixon**

The so-called Maltese Cross handstamp obliterator was devised to cancel the first adhesives from 6th. May 1840, and continued in normal use until the end of May 1844, when it was replaced by the new 1844 numeral handstamp.

For the first nine months the cancelling inks were basically of red shades; the official direction for the preparation of the "Red Stamping Composition" being;

1lb. Printer's Red Ink  
1 pint Linseed Oil  
Half-pint of the Droppings of Sweet Oil  
To be well mixed.

Small wonder the profusion of shades that resulted, to later collectors' delight!

The introduction in 1841 of the one penny red brought about an official change in the colour of the cancelling inks from red to black, on about the 15th. February 1841. It is therefore unusual to find red ink used much after this date.

The use of black ink continued until the Maltese Cross obliterator was superseded, just over three years later, but this is not the end of the story as this obliterator re-appears very occasionally as the cancelling stamp of small sub-post offices for a brief period.

Fig.1 shows a small envelope (of 1855) bearing a one penny stars (S.G.17) addressed to London which has been cancelled with the newly acquired Maltese Cross at Ivinghoe. On the reverse is the undated double arc village handstamp of Ivinghoe. Both of these stamps are in a lovely bright blue-green. Also the "parent" post town of Tring, three miles away, appears with the c.d.s. for 1st August 1855 but no further cancellation of the adhesive was carried out here. The letter was delivered in London on 2nd August 1855.



Fig. 1

Fig.2 shows a somewhat different permutation with a letter from the Orkney Islands dated 19th. May 1855. Posted at Westray on one of the northern islands to Kirkwell the capital on the main island 50 miles south, the adhesive (S.G.17) was cancelled at the receiving office with the Maltese Cross and the usual WESTRAY/PENNY POST applied to the back. On arrival at Kirkwell on 21st May 1855 the adhesive was again cancelled, this time by the Scottish rectangular 207 numeral obliterator. This practice is known through 1854 and 1855 but the reason for it is obscure.

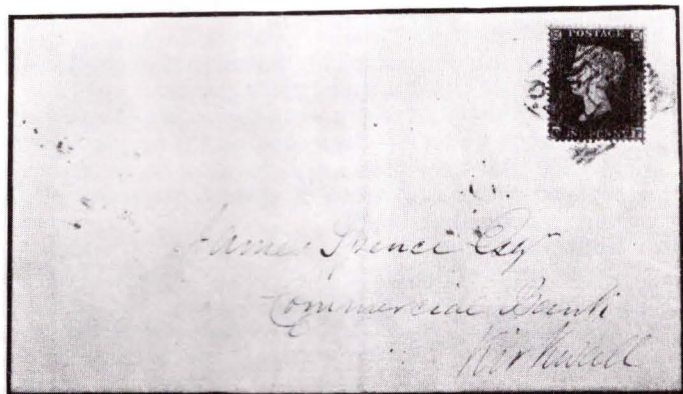


Fig.2

This double cancelling with a receiving sub-office using a Maltese Cross happened briefly in other places. Fig.3(a) shows an imperforate 1841 one penny red (S.G.8) double struck with the Maltese Cross and the Edinburgh Scottish 131 oblong 1844 obliterator and Fig.3(b) a similar example but with the English 530 oval 1844 numeral obliterator of Milnthorpe. Unfortunately, not being on cover, the sub-office application of the Maltese Cross cannot be traced.



Fig.3[a]



Fig.3[b]

The apparent re-issue of the Maltese Cross obliterator to certain small sub-post offices after more than ten years for a very short period of time poses a fascinating puzzle in retrospect. Was it an official policy or an expedient? It would be interesting to hear from readers on the matter.

# PAPER TRIALS

**Early George V Paper Trials for the lower value issues [Part 2].**

**Tony McCleery.**

## "DICKINSON" COATED PAPER

"Dickinson" coated paper with Imperial crown watermark was used for the 6d Edward VII SG 301/M34 (1 & 2) and was issued experimentally in March 1913. It is probable that a batch of R.D. Turner paper was sent to John Dickinson and Co. to be specially coated. It is a high quality paper with such a smooth surface to the naked eye that it can, on first impression, be mistaken for "chalky" paper. This paper is normally between 0.0032" and 0.0035" thick (this included the thickness of the gum, no un gummed paper is available for measuring since the margins are completely covered with gum as they are in the case of all Edward VII stamps). It is the same thickness as the R.D. Turner paper being used at this time and is not thicker as sometimes stated, although it looks and feels so. "Dickinson" paper can be identified in several ways:-

1. The watermark is much more difficult to see than in the R.D. Turner paper printed with this value at Somerset House.
2. The paper is whiter than that of R.D. Turner printed with this value at Somerset House. This can be seen easily by comparing the back of stamps printed on the differently finished papers.
3. Unlike the "chalky" papers, the surface of "Dickinson" coated paper does NOT react to the silver test.
4. When examined with a magnifying glass the surface appears rough and crusty. This can be seen most

easily by examining the surface obliquely, looking towards a point source of light. The tops of the crusty surface then reflect the light (much more than "chalky" paper).

5. No surface fibres will be seen even with the aid of a microscope, whereas they can be seen embedded in the surface of all "chalky" papers to a greater or lesser extent, depending on the amount of chalk coating which has been applied to the paper.
6. The ink which looks very even to the naked eye will, when seen under a microscope or strong glass, look mottled and the surface will be seen to be covered with an irregular pattern of minute crevasses which have remained un-inked.
7. Under an ultra-violet (quartz) lamp, "Dickinson" paper appears the same as some plate-glazed papers, i.e. whitish, but not dullish or dirty white like un-glazed papers, and not bright white or bright bluish white like most "chalky" papers.



## "EXPERIMENTAL" CHALK-SURFACED PAPER WITH GREENISH YELLOW REACTION UNDER THE ULTRAVIOLET LAMP:

The postmaster general Mr. (later Sir) Herbert Samuel must have been impressed by the Austrian stamps of the period which were being printed on chalk-surfaced paper, and enquired if similar paper could be used for the British stamps. It is believed that the "experimental" chalky paper was a result of his enquiry. Later, Mr. Seymour Bennett, head of the Stamping Department at Somerset House, actually obtained some Austrian paper - "Austrian enamelled paper" on which trials were also carried out but these are dealt with under a separate heading.

Two lots of paper with this type of chalk coating were produced and there are three known stamps/proofs printed on these papers:

1. Edward VII 6d Bright Magenta SG296, issued 31st October 1911, and the same stamp overprinted with Type 22 "Specimen".
2. George V Carmine-red Die 1A, "experimental" printing on chalk-surfaced paper. Control A.11., SG327b, issued late in 1911.
3. George V 1d Carmine Die 1B, imperf. plate proof, without control.

All react to the silver test.

The thickness of several examples of the paper is as follows:-

1. SG296 0.0037" - 0.0041"  
SG296 Specimen 0.0041"
2. SG327b 0.0040" and 0.0043" - there are two distinct thicknesses, but both appear the same except for this difference and the centring of the stamps - the thin ones are all centred well to the left and very low, the others are more central or to the right and can be easily distinguished.

### 3. 1d Die 1B plate proof 0.0043"

The first two stamps SG296 and 327b are listed by Stanley Gibbons as having imperial crown watermarks, and the plate proof is listed as having none.

The following is an interesting extract relating to 1d SG327b from The Postage Stamps of Great Britain, Part IV, by Beaumont and Stanton (published by The Royal Philatelic Society):-

"The head of the Stamping Department at Somerset House, Mr. Seymour Bennett, took some sheets of plain paper with crown watermark, which had been specially coated, and an experimental printing was made on these, but the coating was so thick that the watermark was invisible".

Now, this information could very well apply to the 6d Magenta and its "specimen" brother, because the watermark is virtually invisible when the stamp is viewed through the paper, with the aid of coloured light, or benzine. But it can be seen by looking obliquely across either the front or back surface of the stamp when holding it towards a light source. It also produces a good impression with the "Ramley" watermark detector. (See separate notes on Ramley watermark detection). However, the information does not apply to SG327b or the die 1B plate proof. I have examined numerous copies (including two corner blocks and a control block of six) of SG327b and the 1d die 1B plate proof and I am convinced that they are both printed on unwatermarked paper. In fact both are on the same lot of paper. This is supported by the fact that the grain of the paper can be seen quite clearly. If, as stated by Beaumont and Stanton, the coating was so thick that it made the watermark "invisible", then it follows that the grain would also be invisible. I have also examined, and compared with the aid of a microscope, the 1d plate proof from die 1B and conclude that SG327b and the plate proof are on identical paper, i.e. "experimental chalk-surfaced

paper". The colour change under the lamp is the same in both cases, as is the pattern of the fibre of the paper (which is embedded in the chalky surface) and the appearance of the gum on the back. Furthermore, the thickness of 0.0043" of the plate proof ties in with one of the two thicknesses of SG327b.

I have tried with all the usual methods to detect a watermark on SG327b and the plate proof without finding the slightest trace of one. I have also used the "Ramley" watermark detector (which produced a strong impression on the SG296, 6d Magenta), also without trace. But it did add further proof that the paper was used for both, as the impression obtained was unusually rough in both cases. Beaumont and Stanton state that "the late Charles Nissen saw sheets, or part sheets, of the printing (SG327b), all with Somerset House Control A.11. Each was marked in manuscript "A, B, C or D". The two different thicknesses which I have found must relate to different sheets, but this is the only difference which is apparent in the stamps. The Edward VII 6d Bright Magenta SG296 and its "specimen" are NOT on the same batch of paper as SG327b and the die 1B plate proof, although it is very similar it does have a watermark. This paper is almost certainly R.D. Turner crown watermarked paper which was specially coated.

Other differences are:

1. The colour change of SG296 under the lamp is greater than SG327b and plate proof. SG296 is much brighter and yellower;
2. When magnified the fibres of the paper which are embedded in the chalky coating are more numerous and coarser;
3. The back of SG296 is whiter and when magnified the gum has a different appearance.

All three stamps/proofs were printed in late 1911 at Somerset House, but I have not yet been able to establish the exact date of each.

There are some outstanding questions:

1. What paper was used for SG327b and die 1b plate proof and who manufactured it?
2. By whom and where was the paper for all three types surfaced?
3. What chemical was used that causes the greenish yellow colour emission when seen under the lamp?



*Control Block of SG 327b*

## "AUSTRIAN ENAMELLED PAPER"

Mr. Seymour Bennett obtained samples of "Austrian enamelled paper" from the Austrian authorities and two trials were printed on it. They were 1d George V Die 2 Carmine, no watermark, imperf. and 1d George V Die 2 Pale Carmine (F), no watermark, imperf. The paper is 0.0026/7" thick.

This paper looks like chalky paper at first sight, but it does not react to the silver test, and it does not have the normal bluish-white appearance under the lamp which is normally associated with chalky paper. However, when magnified, the surface of the stamps has a typically chalky appearance, with the ink being heavier at the edges of the inked parts, but it does not have the pit marks associated with the De La Rue chalky stamps of Edward VII.

Both stamps are of high quality; the carmine is quite a deep shade, and the pale carmine is comparatively pale and bright. However, the most remarkable feature of the pale carmine is the reaction of the ink under the lamp - it is outstanding and unlike any other G.B. stamp;\* this ink gives off a very bright pale scarlet emission, so brilliant that the stamp assumes a negative appearance. This comes about because the dull colour of the paper is exaggerated by the brightness of the scarlet and appears dark, so that the normally white places are dark, and normally pale carmine places are light (which is negative). It is the ink which is so unusual. It will permanently stain red the transparent plastic stock sheets and the position on album leaves behind a mounted stamp, in a very short time, and it also affects modern acetate hingeless album leaves. All the examples I have seen are pink on the back where the ink has suffused through. None of the above applies to the carmine stamp, the ink of which is quite fast.

\* Some of the early George V colour trials give a somewhat similar reaction under the lamp.

This paper has a very short fibre and, therefore, a stamp which is bent tends almost to break. Hence good examples of both shades are very rare.

From a piece of the wrapper in which these trials were kept, it is known that they were printed at Somerset House on a Wharfedale machine. The writing on the wrapper is that of Mr. Seymour Bennett, the paper is grey-brown and very heavy, and is also seen on other items known to have been produced by him. The plate used for both shades was 69/143.

## RAMLEY WATERMARK DETECTION

The Ramley Engineering Co. Ltd. mole grip watermark detector works in the following way: the stamp to be checked is laid, face up on a specially prepared plastic foil pack (filled with a very viscous compound) which is placed between the jaws of a mole grip which has been specially made by fitting 35.5mm x 80mm plates to the jaws. Pressure is applied and is evenly distributed over the full surface of the plates and hence evenly over the stamp and the plastic foil pack.

Due to the pressure, the plastic presses the foil into any irregularities in the thickness of the stamp, e.g. the watermark, and this leaves a positive impression on the foil which can usually be seen easily when removed from the jaws. There is an additional aid for light impressions - a quick-drying aerosol spray containing some fine metallic compound is sprayed over the impression, and, before it dries, the metallic element seems to subside from the watermark impression, leaving it in relief, and therefore it is seen slightly more clearly.

This method can reveal the most difficult watermarks and, it should be mentioned, does not in any way harm the stamp.

# ROLLS

## The Introduction of Stamps in Rolls [Part 1]

Mike Jackson

### Introduction

The issue of postage stamps in roll form was a significant step forward in the development of our postal services, providing as it did a labour-saving potential to both the Post Office and to the large number of firms who took advantage of automatic stamp affixing machines. The idea of stamps in rolls, however, is not a recent one, although the Post Office did not issue them until 1912. In the Treasury Competition of 1839, one of the four prizes of £100 went to the designer of a machine for issuing embossed 1d. stamps from a roll of 240 stamps.

### Events leading to the introduction of rolls by the Post Office

During the latter half of the nineteenth century, the Victorian penchant for inventing produced many ideas and designs for coin-operated stamp vending machines, some of which also dispensed paper, envelopes or postcards as well. 1884 seems to have been the year during which the Post Office officially involved itself in experiments with vending machines, erecting a trial machine at Cannon St. Station (1).

The first decade of the present century saw the well-documented (2) formation, by Mrs. Kermodé and friends,

of "The British Stamp and Ticket Automatic Delivery Co. Limited", which during this period hired out about a dozen vending machines to the Post Office for official trials. These trials mark the first serious acceptance by the Post Office of selling stamps in "coin-in-the-slot" vending machines.

The onus on the Post Office to produce rolls of stamps was two-fold however, as at about this time (1910), many large firms were already using privately manufactured rolls of stamps in commercial stamp affixing machines. These machines not only physically affixed a postage stamp to the envelope, but also counted them, affording the owners of the company a check on the stock of stamps - a move which cannot have been so eagerly welcomed by the firm's postal clerks, who would have undoubtedly been responsible for the previously "unaccountable disappearance" of small quantities of stamps!

The Post Office also experimented with a combination "vending-affixing" machine for a period of about three months in the winter of 1910. On 21 Sept 1910, they authorised an official trial, at Throgmorton Avenue B.O., E.C., of "Mr. C.A. Hunton's device" for selling and affixing postage stamps(3). This was Mr. Hunton's prototype machine, which he called the "Rex", and appears to have been the first (and probably the last) machine of its type to be tested by the Post Office. Its success seems to have

been somewhat limited, as it was removed on 10 January 1911. One wonders who manufactured the rolls of stamps that were presumably used in this experimental machine, and indeed in all of the trials previous to 1912, although it is known that the British Stamp and Ticket Automatic Delivery Co. supplied rolls to the Post Office for the tests on their machines described earlier.

The "Post Office Guide : 1st Oct - 31st Dec 1912" is the first edition to mention rolls, and an announcement which appeared in the "Post Office Gazette" of 10 Sept 1912 about the issue of rolls, clearly stated that they were for sale to the public, and that stocks would be held at about a dozen head offices(4). These rolls were lettered (A) to (H) and contained Downey Head Die 2, ½d. or 1d. stamps - the first official issue of stamps in rolls.

### Testing Labels

Quite a variety of testing labels of one sort or another were used in trials, or as samples. A general point to make is that many were probably just as important to rehearsing the manufacture of the rolls on the splitting and reeling machines as to the testing of vending or affixing machines.

Of the various types of roll testing labels I have seen, two stand out as being obviously pertinent to the 1912 introduction of rolls by the Post Office, the others either being later than 1912, or of indeterminate dates. I shall start by describing the two relevant labels first, and the rest later.

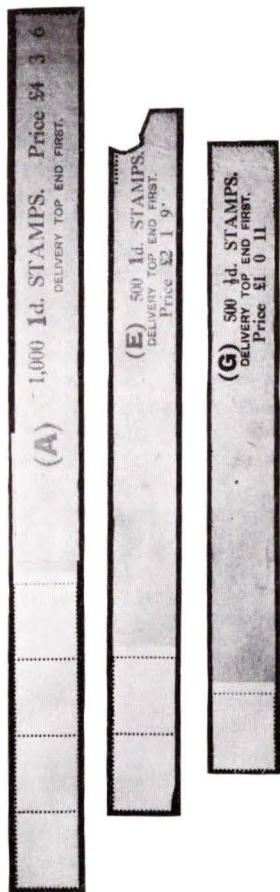
A. The label is plain, white paper with thick, yellowish gum (giving rise to quite noticeable gum-creasing on the face of the label), perf. 15 x 14 and wmk. "Cooper" in script (but not on every label). I have three examples of these labels joined to wrappers that are identical to

those of the issued rolls, showing that these labels were directly associated with the issued rolls, and produced by Harrisons.

B. White paper, overprinted diagonally "CANCELLED" in red or green, gummed, perf. 15 x 14 and wmk. Crown. The paper is identical to that used for the stamps, and the make-up of these trial rolls appears to be the same as for the first issued rolls, with the exception of the unwatermarked inter-pane gutter, which in the issued rolls was removed and an extra join put in. In these trial rolls, however, this unwatermarked "blank" is left in, but is not overprinted. It seems likely that they were produced by Harrisons, but I have not seen anything to confirm this.

The following labels are described as fully as possible, although in some cases, I have seen only short strips. Some of these types are from horizontally reeled rolls (for testing sideways delivery machines), the issued rolls for which did not appear until about 1920. However, as some of these horizontal labels appear to have been produced by De La Rue, probably before 1911, I have included them in this list to make it as complete as possible.

When Harrisons first gained the contract to produce postage stamps in 1911, they used a perforating machine of gauge 15 x 14, against the 14 x 14 gauge used up until that time by De La Rue. The decision to make stamps more easily separable along their horizontal sides coincides closely with the introduction of vertically reeled rolls of stamps in which this quality was desirable. As to whether they are directly connected is a matter for conjecture (see ref.4, p.118).



*Type A - examples joined to wrappers.*



*Type B - showing the un-overprinted inter-pane gutter.*

- C. Plain, white paper, gummed, perf.  $14\frac{3}{4}$  x 14, wmk. "EXTRA STRONG" in large open serified letters sideways down seven stamps, reeled vertically. (The perforation gauge suggests that they were produced by Harrisons).
- D. Plain, white paper, gummed, perf.  $15$  x  $14\frac{1}{3}$ , wmk. multiple "Harrison & Sons London" in horizontal script, approx. three lines to the height of one label, reeled vertically.
- E. Plain, white paper, gummed, perf.  $13\frac{3}{4}$  x 14, no wmk. appearing on a vertical strip of seven. (Perf. gauge indicates De La Rue).
- F. Plain, white paper, gummed, perf.  $14$  x  $14$ , no wmk., horizontally reeled. Joins every twelfth label, the joining tabs being cut into "flaps". (Almost certainly De La Rue).
- G. De La Rue's so-called "Minerva Head" labels, which are in fact the second type dummy stamps, bearing the helmeted head of Britannia (5). These labels were used for general testing purposes, eg. dummy booklets, and first appeared in 1891. Robson Lowe describes (5) a strip of 13 of these dummy stamps, stuck on an undated document, endorsed; "strip from reel supplied by Messrs. Harrisons for testing stamp affixing machines ....". As Robson Lowe points out, it is most strange that Harrisons used De La Rue labels for their tests.

Gummed, perf.  $13\frac{3}{4}$  x 14, with the design in scarlet. Horizontally reeled, with the joining tabs being cut into "flaps", as on label type F. On the example shown, a horizontal strip of six, the first (left-hand) label is type (c) (ie. solid shading behind the head) and is set-tenant with five examples of type (a) (no shading). For fuller details, see ref.(5).

H. Labels in various colours showing the head of T.R. Harrison, inscribed at the bottom; "Harrison & Sons, Printers, London, W.C.", gummed, perf. 15 x 14. I have vertically trimmed singles (indicating vertically reeled rolls) in the following colours; scarlet, dull purple, bistre, dull purple, bistre and bistre-brown. Also of interest is an example in scarlet, postally used on a piece with a Brighton machine cancellation for Mar 27 1913.



*Type G.*



*Type H.*



*Type J.*



*Type I*

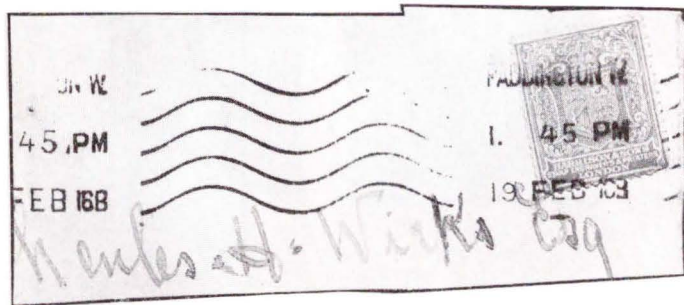
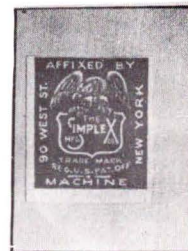


*Type H - postally used.*

I. Seated figure of Britannia, in chocolate brown, inscribed in tablet at base; "Harrison & Sons, Stamp Engravers & Printers, London", gummed, wmk. "Harrison & Sons London" in script, perf. 15 x 14. Vertically reeled.

J. Coat of Arms, in various colours, with inscribed tablet at base; "Harrison & Sons, Stamp Engravers & Printers, London", gummed, no wmk., perf. 15 x 14. I have examples in dull green, violet, light blue and rose. The two light blue examples I have are joined to a single in violet to make a vertical strip of three, and the example in rose is postally used on piece with a Paddington W. machine cancellation for 19 Feb 1916. Vertically reeled.

Also worth mentioning here are the various sample labels used by the various stamp affixing machine manufacturers, a selection of which are illustrated.



Type J - postally used.

Examples of stamp affixing machine manufacturers' sample labels.

References:

- (1) C.M. Langston & H.C. Corless, *Stamps of Great Britain Issued in Rolls and the Machines which use them*. Published by C.M. Langston, 1960.
- (2) Dr. Jean Alexander, *Who was Mrs. Kermode*. GB Journal, vol.13, pp122-123.
- (3) Post Office Records
- (4) Tony Wiseman, *Great Britain, the Introduction of Coil Stamps*. The Stamp Lover, vol.62, pp117-120.
- (5) Robson Lowe, *Britannia Dummy Stamps*. Philatelic Journal of Great Britain, vol.86, pp14-19.

[to be continued.]



# GB AUCTION PRICES

## ROBSON LOWE LTD.

21st, 22nd February.

1840 2d Mulready letter A92 used from London to Yarmouth, cancelled with a fair "10" in Maltese Cross, almost fine.

Est. £250.....£525

1840 2d Mulready envelope A198 from London to Norwich, cancelled with a superb "2" in Maltese Cross and "R.L." heavily repaired at back and other faults.

Est. £300.....£400

1841 2d Blue plate 3 GF-IJ minus GJ, a remarkable block, margins in all sides, with Maltese Cross cancellations, creases.

Est. £325.....£750

1855-57 Watermark emblems, 6d pale lilac, fine mint.

Est. £65.....£110

1873-80 2½ Rosy-mauve, plate 2, ERROR OF LETTERING, LH-FL, regummed and small fault at top left, centered to lower right.

Est. £1,000.....£1,100

1883-84 6d Green, a block, IE-JF, fine mint.

Est. £100.....£165

1934-36 Photogravure 1d scarlet, a control block (3 x 2) showing control V34, cylinder 5R no dot and perforator 2, variety inverted watermark.

Est. £200.....£360

## VESSEY [Croydon]

23rd February.

1865 4d Plate 13, fine o.g.

Est. £20.....£95

1877 4d Sage-green, plate 15, fine o.g.

Est. £25.....£85

1902-1910 De La Rue chalky paper 1½d, corner block of 32 unmounted mint. S.G. 224.

Est. £80.....£400

1902-1910 De La Rue chalky paper 5d, corner block of 8, mounted in the margins, S.G. 244.

Est. £45.....£230

1911-1913 Somerset House, 1½d bottom two rows, with 1912 date cuts. Mint.

Est. £35.....£150

1911-1913 Somerset House, 6d on Dickinson paper, lower marginal copy, unmounted mint. R.P.S. certificate. S.G.301.

Est. £45.....£90

1911-1912 Downey Head die 1A ½d bluish green, block of four, unmounted mint, R.P.S. certificate. S.G.323.

Est. £140.....£440

1911-1912 Downey Head ½d die B, imperf. block of six from the trial printing on Basted Mills paper (wmk. Multiple Cypher), unmounted mint. This trial printing from the first die was made by Harrison & Sons from plate 8 and the recorded half sheet carries the A11 control.

Est. £750.....£800

## STANLEY GIBBONS

2nd, 3rd, 4th March.

1841 2d Blue trial, void corners (15 Jan. 1841) on ungummed paper.

Est. £225.....£220

1867-80 2/- Brown (S.G. 121), plate 1, AH corner inscription copy, trifling blunt perfs. S.E. corner, two black gum specks, signed in pencil, and ink expertisation mark in wing margin, various pencil m/s in top margin and heavy hinge remainders, the stamp unmounted o.g. Quite spectacular example of this great rarity. Dr. Fulpius Cert. (1948).

Est. £1,000.....£1,850

1884 Wmk. crowns £1 (S.G. 185), OD, tone in one corner, superb, fresh o.g.

Est. £1,500.....£2,200

1911-1912 1d Red die 1B, plate proof imperf. marginal block of four on unwatermarked gummed paper, crease in S.W. corner. o.g.

Est. £200.....£240

1935 Silver Jubilee: 2½d Prussian blue (S.G. 456a), fine o.g. B.P.A. Cert

Est. £1,000.....£1,150

1840 "VR" 1d: (S.G. VI), LC, very fresh without gum, margins regular except a little close at top left, very slight toning through "ONE PE". B.P.A. Cert. (1975).

Est. £900.....£900

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**1884 2/6 Lilac, lettered LH.** A superb mint single, well centred, with good perforations. SG178 **£85.00**

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**1905 De La Rue 2/6 Slate Purple on chalky paper.** A very fine used example of excellent colour. SG Spec M49 (3) **£14.50**

**1911 Harrison 2d Bright Orange, perf. 15 x 14.** An unmounted mint block of four. SG286 **£34.00**

**1912 Downey Head ½d Green, die 2, simple cypher.** A very fine mint control (B13) block of four with type 2 watermark. Unlisted by SG **£30.00**

**1912 Downey Head 1d Scarlet, die 2, crown watermark.** An unmounted control strip of three (B11) perforated through margin and printed at Somerset House. SG Spec NC 104 **£5.00**

**1912-24 Royal Cypher ½d Blue/Green.** A mint control (B13) block of four, from the rare Somerset House printing not to be confused with the common 1918 printing. R.P.S. Certificate SG356 **£145.00**

**1913 Royal Cypher 2/- Red Booklet No. 22.** A very fine complete booklet, including the "new moon", flaw on the last ½d Green pane. Rare in a complete booklet. SG Spec B12 **£125.00**

**1912-24 Royal Cypher 2d Orange die 2.** An unmounted mint booklet pane of six, with inverted wmk. Excellent perforations. SG Spec NB11a **£45.00**

**1912-24 Royal CYPHER 1 ½d Red/Brown, watermark inverted.** An unmounted mint control (O20) strip of three. SG Spec N18b **£10.00**

**1912-24 Royal Cypher 7d Olive, watermark inverted.** An unmounted mint control (J17) strip of three. SG Spec N27b **£55.00**

**1913 Multiple Cypher 1d Dull Scarlet.** A fine mint coil leader, with six stamps attached. Reasonable perforations, and slight toning, but rare. R.P.S. Certificate. SG398 **£450.00**

**1924 Block Cypher 5d Brown.** A superb mint example of the scarce control T33. SG425 **£35.00**

**1924 Block Cypher 10d Turquoise Blue, overprinted "SPECIMEN" type 23.** A lightly mounted mint imperforate pair (one stamp unmounted). SG Spec N44t **£42.50**

**1924 British Empire Exhibition 1d Scarlet.** "Tail to N of EXHIBITION". Superb unmounted mint block of nine. SG Spec N Com 1b **£62.50**

**1929 PUC 2½d Pale Blue, watermark inverted.** Superb unmounted mint. SG Spec N Com 8a (2) **£250.00**

**1929 PUC 3/- Red/Buff Booklet, number 168.** All panes have above average perforations, and watermarks inverted. Priced accordingly, complete and in fine condition. SG Spec B31 **£90.00**

**1934 Photogravure, small format set ½d. 1/-.** A complete unmounted mint set of 11 values, all in control blocks of six. SG 439-449 **£245.00**

**1935 Photogravure 1d Scarlet, watermark sideways, crown pointing to right.** A lightly mounted mint single, with excellent perforations. R.P.S. Certificate. SG Spec N50c **£48.50**

**1936 Photogravure 1/- Bistre/Brown.** A very lightly mounted mint copy overprinted "Specimen" type 32. SG Spec N62s **£25.00**

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