



VOL. 6 No. 1 REVIEW

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	itto. watermark inverted (2v.) itto. intermediate format (4v.)	£115.00 £13.00	£7.50		Ditto. watermark inverted (7v.) Ditto. watermark sideways (7v.)
	itto. watermark inverted (3v.) itto. small format (11v.)	£45.00 £65.00	£32.00 £35.00	1958-61	Graphite (8v.) Ditto, watermark inverted (5v.)
Di	itto, watermark inverted (3v.) itto, watermark sideways (4v.)	£17.50 £100.00	£12.50 £75.00	1959 1959	2nd De La Rue 'Castles' (4v.) Phosphor-graphite (8v.)
	e-engraved 'Seahorses' (3v.)		£325.00	1960 1960-67	Green phosphor (9v.) Crowns, phosphor (17v.)
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	itto. watermark inverted (3v.)		£8.00	1963-68 1 969	1st Bradbury-Wilkinson 'Castles' (4). Machin low values (16)
	RGE VI ark colours (15v.) itto, watermark inverted (5v.)		£20.00 £85.00	1969 1967-70 1967-68	Ditto. P. V. A. (16v.) 4d. x 2, 8d. x 2 Bradbury-Wilkinson no watermark 'Castles (4v.)
	itto, watermark inverted (5v.)		£75.00	1969	Machin high values (4v.)

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the PHILATELIC REVIEW

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Cover: A fourpenny new discovery? - see page 12

STAMPEX 1982

1 The National Class at Stampex this year had only eight entries rather disappointing, even though the standard of those exhibits 6 was very good. Compare this with something like twenty-five G.B. postal history entries. This state of affairs was commented on by Alan Huggins in the March issue of the G.B. Journal in which he 10 questions future philatelic developments. In the philatelic classes (National and General Competitive) there were about forty-five entries, while in the Postal History Class (which includes G.B. 12 exhibits) there were about seventy-five entries. No doubt we shall see a 'National Postal History Class' in the not too distant future. Personally. I would like to see different classes for different types 12 of collection (e.g. 'One-Country', 'Local Postal History', 'Singleissue studies', 'Research collections' and so on).

To return to Stampex, the special awards given to G.B. entries
were as follows; The Post Office Trophy was won by Mr. E. A. B.
Mattsson for a study of the first plate of the line-engraved penny of
1840. The Phillips Great Britain Trophy went to Mr. P. T. Scott for
ship letter handstamps 1763-1942. Mr. A. J. Walker won the
National Postal Museum Medal for his Machin £.s.d. definitives.

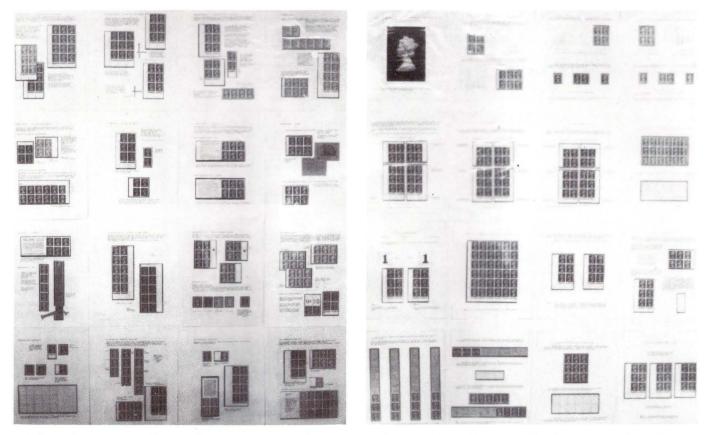
— M.J.

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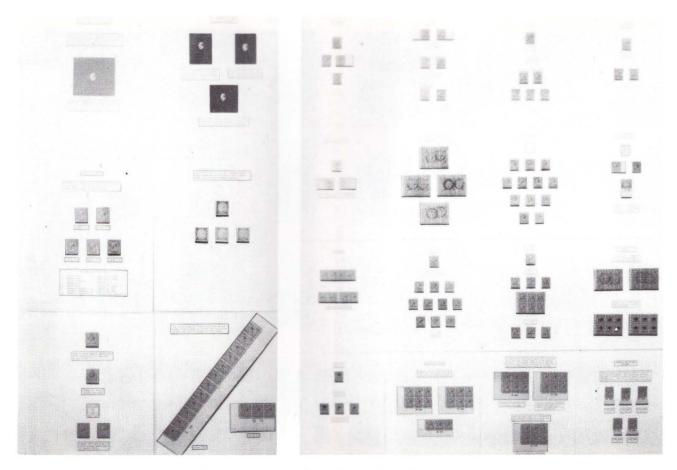


Stampex 1982.

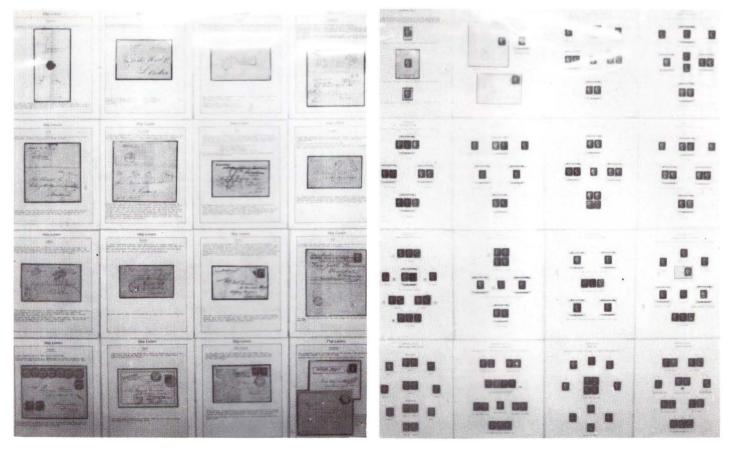


A frame from A. J. Walker's "The Machin £.s.d. Definitives 1967-1977"

A frame from F. W. Shimmen's "The Three-penny Machin Definitive 1967-1972"



Les Wilkinson's "K.G.V — The Profile Head Issues".



A frame from P. T. Scott's "Ship Letter Handstamps 1763-1942".

A frame from E. A. B. Mattsson's study of "The First Plate 1840".

SOME NOTES ON THE 1d DOWNEY HEAD DIE 1A

Jim Hanson

I have recently discovered two types of the Downey Head 1d Die 1A die proof — stage 5. The new discovery, shown in figure 1, has marked differences in the left hand ribbon and scroll when compared to a 'normal' stage 5, illustrated in figure 2. The Royal Mint Proof Book has two stage 5 proofs; the first is "From Mr. Harrison 29.3.11 — To Mr. Harrison 29.3.11 for re-touching". The second has "From Mr. Harrison 31.3.11". Confirmation awaits the close inspection of these proofs but the two proofs illustrated here may well represent the before- and after-retouching states of the final stage of the die.

Figure 3 illustrates a block of four of the Die 1A plate proof on Crown watermark paper. I include this item as it is the first time I have seen it, unlike the more common Die 1B plate proof on unwatermarked paper.

I had read with interest Alain de Cadenet's article in the *Philatelic Review*, vol. 5, no. 1, regarding the perf. 14 1d and had made a mental note of his observations of the thickened top frame line. You can imagine my surprise on finding the plate proof illustrated in figure 4. This also has a thickened top frame line so could this proof be related to the perf. 14 variety?

(This thickened frame appears on all four of the original perf. 14 block. Can anyone suggest how this was caused? — Ed.).



Fig. 3.



Fig. 4.

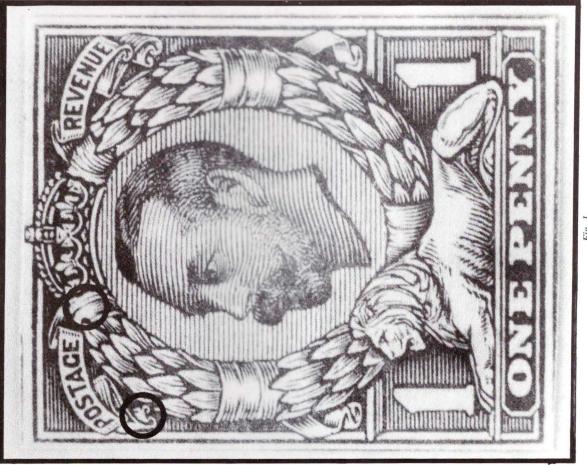


Fig. 1.

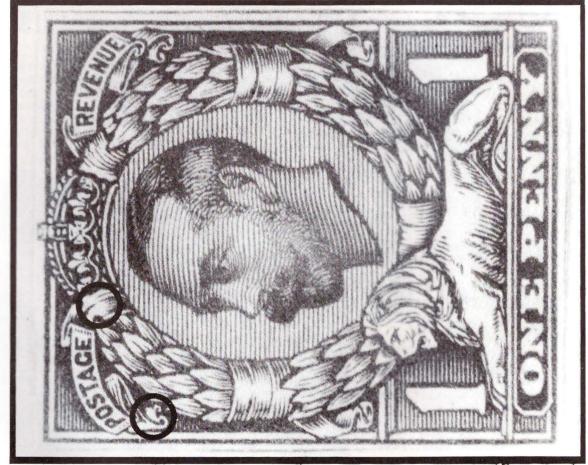


Fig. 2.

REFLECTIONS ON PANES-12

Sam Lawrence

Even though most collectors collect items which lie strictly within the field they collect, one cannot but help, on the odd occasion, becoming the possessor of items which really belong on the fringes. The phrase I always use is 'pertaining to'. If anything 'pertains to' my booklet pane collection, I find it a place. Such are the items I hope to interest the reader with in this series.

Strictly speaking, a booklet pane collection should consist of all the panes, in their many varieties, that have been issued by the stamp issuing authorities. But no collection is ever 'strictly speaking', as we tend to please ourselves, and if we choose to add items that help in illustrating our particular interests, I am all for it.

For instance, the first stamp book issued by the postal authorities in this country was the 2s $0\frac{1}{2}$ d booklet, issued in March 1904 during the reign of K.E.VII and contrary to other opinions (more about that later) remains a first and unique item for the collectors of G.B. Notwithstanding these facts, De La Rue the printers were making stamp books many years before the above date and my first illustration shows a pane from a booklet prepared by DLR as a sample (Fig. 1).

Although the full story of this stamp book is told in the *Philatelic Bulletin* dated December 1973, a recap here would not come amiss, as the complete booklet is in the National Postal Museum, and it is unlikely that more than the odd one exists in private hands.



Fig. 1.

On 4th May 1879, the Inland Revenue asked DLR to produce a stamp book in the shape of a cheque book (an idea that was finally taken up many, many years later in the notorious £1 Cook Book of December 1969). Wanting the business, by the 23rd February 1880 the printers obliged with a number of items which are now in the N.P.M. However, it wasn't until May 1903, a full 13 years after the I.R. had started the ball rolling, that they replied to DLR and so from these beginnings the first G.B. stamp book was born.

Before proceeding, it would be useful here to jump about 68 years and bring to your attention the 25p and 30p booklets issued in 1971 to commemorate the 80th (?) anniversary of the issue of stamp books in Great Britain (Fig. 2) The full story of this has been told by Stan Hills in Stamp Magazine dated mid 1977, in which he maintains, and so persuaded the Post Office, that the first booklet issued in this country was the notebook with stamp and envelope issued by the Stamp Distributing Syndicate in 1891 (Fig. 3). The full story of this appears in the Philatelic Bulletin dated October 1970. But to recap yet again, the idea behind this is that as the book was produced privately, and sold via a vending machine and was also made and serviced privately, it constituted a STAMP BOOK and so q.e.d. the first stamp book was born.

Read the full story for yourself and draw your own conclusions, but as far as I am concerned only in two instances was the Post Office involved; (1) they gave the company a licence, and (2) they allowed the stamps, the 1d lilac, to be sold with the notebook. The rest was up to the company, who incidentally went bankrupt within twelve months and was taken over by another company with a similar name who



Fig. 2.



did not last much longer than the first. It was on this slender basis that the Post Office issued the two commemorative booklets. What they will do in 1984 when the TRUE 80th anniversary is due, we don't know. As far as I am concerned, examples of the first stamp vending machines these might be, the first booklets they are not.

To close this first instalment on the 'pertaining to' items, I should like to mention that the first country to issue stamp books is not known, but what is known is that DLR, in the mid 1890's, was active in making up and sending samples of their work in booklets to some of their overseas customers.

Fig. 3.

GUILLOTINE GUIDES OF K.E.VII BOOKLET SHEETS

Dr. R. W. Powell

The illustration (P.R. Vol. 5, p. 52) from the N.P.M. of the early K.G.V Booklet sheet interests me, for I must point out that similar guillotine guide lines were introduced by De La Rue on their sheets for the first K.E.VII booklets. Examples of these first sheets are also held by the National Postal Museum. From the issued booklets a variant can be noticed for both values, that takes the form of a cut about Imm wide in the centre of the line. Maybe this was the distinctive feature of the second plate. See my note in the G.B. Journal, Vol. 13, p. 66, May 1975.

FOURPENNY NEW FIND?

John Forbes-Nixon

The experimental postal rate reform of unified fourpenny post took place for a very limited period from 5 December 1839 to 9 January 1840, a period of only 36 days! The idea of course was to test if there would be a response to sending a $\frac{1}{2}$ oz letter inland unpaid for fourpence. The experiment was a success and led to the uniform penny post commencing on 10 January 1840.

The majority of post towns marked their mail during the fourpenny period with manuscript superscriptions and in England, Scotland and Ireland only a handful of towns made up their own distinctive handstamps for this brief period. All of these come in the very scarce to rare bracket of occurrence.

For Ireland the reference books for towns with their own handstamps quote Armagh, Ballymena, Belfast, Derry, Drogheda, Dublin, Dindalk, Eussiskillan, Galway, Newry, Roscrea and Stranorlan.

Recently I acquired from an "old-time collector" a nice example of an Irish uniform post 4 showing the distinctive bold loop as so many Irish types employ. The previous owner had bought it in the one dollar box at a fair in New York in the 1950's and in the intervening 30 years had not even mounted his acquisition.

Apart from noticing the date as 19 December 1839 I had paid no particular attention that it emanated from Dungannon. However, finding no reference to this town having recorded its own handstamp I then wrote to all the Irish experts on this field to have confirmed that it was new to them and appeared to be a new discovery (see front cover and Fig. 1).

The fascination of turning up new finds after 142 years is exciting and one wonders just how much more unresearched material lies waiting in old shoe boxes to be noticed for what it is. But perhaps a reader may have half a dozen Dungannon 4's tucked away, in which case I should be delighted to hear . . . !

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K.G.V — NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS

Royal Cypher 2d - First Day Cover?

Mr. Cooper of Horley, Surrey, has shown us this registered cover bearing K.E.VII and K.G.V 2d stamps. In the Postage Stamps of Great Britain, part four, Beaumont and Stanton give August 21 as the date of issue for the K.G.V 2d. T. Todd, in his History of British Postage Stamps, says that the 2d "appeared without warning on August 22nd 1912". Patrick Hamilton also gives this date in British Stamps. Whatever the true date of issue, Mr. Cooper's cover of August 23 could be described as "early usage"! Does anyone know the true date of issue? Indeed, was there an official issue date, or were the stamps issued as soon as they were ready?

Downey Head ^{1/2}d Die 1B — Plate flaw

Mr. W. P. Moon has shown us this example of the $\frac{1}{2}$ d Die 1B used on a "First United Kingdom Aerial Post" cover. A gash appears at the lower right corner and finishes near the top of the 'L' of HALFPENNY. No other information is known except that it is not from a booklet.



Registerea R Balham H-No. 46 H.M. Whrens Cog and brooke Ballham Date of Boun S.W.

THE GREATER GOOD CONSIDERATIONS AT THE TIME OF THE REDUCTION IN NEWSPAPER DUTY IN 1836

George W. Smith

The Court Circular — Gazette of the Fashionable World was a Newspaper published weekly on Saturdays. Until 10th September 1836 the price for its sixteen dull pages was One Shilling, including fourpence Newspaper Tax. On 17th September of that year the price was reduced to eightpence, the Tax having been reduced to one penny — "This Journal, being stamped, circulates post free to all parts of the United Kingdom".

Coverage was from Saturdays to Fridays, so it was very up-to-date on publishing day and very detailed too, as every movement of Royalty was noted precisely and the titled gentry were also followed very closely. So there were often entries such as "The King and Queen returned to Windsor Castle on Sunday about midnight" or "The Chancellor of the Exchequer and Lady Theodosia Spring Rice had a select party on Sunday evening in Mansfield Street".

Later, when the young Queen was holding her "Drawing Rooms", the dress of every lady present was described, even though they exceeded one hundred and fifty in number.

But to return to 1836 and in particular to the issue of *The Court Journal* for the 25th June which included the brief "Parliamentary Analysis" which (when Parliament was in session) always followed "Fashionable Occurrences etc" and "Fashionable Arrangements for the Ensuing Week".

The Parliamentary references for Monday of that week were as follows;

"House of Lords. The Duke of Richmond intimated his intention, when the Bill regulating the Post Office should be before the House, to move that it be referred to a Select Committee — Lord Ashburton and other Peers urged the importance of improving the Post Office Establishment, and of the policy of seeking to extend the advantages of the Establishment for the benefit of the public and of not looking to it so sedulously as a source of revenue".

"House of Commons. The House went into committee on the Stamp and Excise duties — The Chancellor of the Exchequer proposed a resolution that the duty on Newspapers should be reduced to one penny - Sir Charles Knightley moved, as an amendment, that certain reductions should be made in the excise duty on Soap. The Hon. Baronet said that great benefit would result to the farming interest from the measure he urged, and contended that no real advantage could accrue to the poorer classes from the cheapness of Newspapers. After extended debate, the question was put on the Chancellor of the Exchequer's proposition, and carried by a majority of 33, the numbers being for the original motion 241, for the amendment 208".

It was for the greater good — was it not? — in spite of that duty on soap, and the considerable number of Members who voted for that amendment.

That one side of the House was anxious to make the printed word more easily available to the less well-off seems certain and that the opposition did not want this to happen. But, that soap — was the implication that the 'farming interest' were not using enough of it and that it would derive 'great benefit' if it used more, or would the poor have been relieved of an expense?

GREAT BRITAIN-FINE STAMPS

1840 1d Black plate 2 lettered JA-JB. A very fine used four margin pair with red M.C. S.G.2. £155.00

1840 1d Black plate 9 lettered DA. A fine four margin example with red M.C. S.G.2. £60.00

1841 1d Red-brown lettered BH. A very fine used four margin example with neat 1844 cancel in blue. S.G. 8s. £10.00

1841 2d Blue plate 3 lettered AA. A fine used four margin example with neat London district office cancel in black. S.G. 14. £14.50

1841 2d Blue plate 4 lettered BL. A very fine used marginal example with black 1844 type cancel. S.G. 14. **£25.00**

1854 1d Red-brown lettered AK. A superb used example with inverted watermark. Central 897 Wisbech numeral cancel. S.G. 17. £14.50

1855 2d Blue plate 5 lettered JE. A very fine used example. S.G. 20a. £58.50

1855 2d Blue plate 5 large crown, perf 16, lettered IH. A very fine used example, well centred with good perfs., no. 17 in diamond cancel. S.G. 27. £55.00

1855 2d Blue plate 5, large crown, perf 14, lettered EK. A very fine used example. S.G. 34. £8.50

1857 2d Blue large crown perf 14 plate 6 lettered OD. A very fine used example. S.G. 35. £15.00

1858-79 1d Rose-red plate 225 lettered BK. A very fine used example of good colour, S.G. 43. £195.00

1870 4d Vermilion plate 12 lettered BJ. A very fine CDS used example dated JU 3, 1872. S.G. 94. £11.50

1871 1/- Green plate 5 lettered TB. A superb used Torquay C.D.S. copy, well centred with good perfs. S.G. 115. £6.50

1871 1/- Green plate 6 lettered FC. A superb used Brecon C.D.S. copy, well centred with good perfs. S.G. 115. £7.50

1873 3d Rose, watermark spray, plate 11 lettered LB. A fine mint example. S.G. 143. £110.00

1876 4d Light sage, plate 15 lettered GE. A lightly mounted mint imperforate colour trial. S.G. 153. £40.00 1879 Tender. Perkins, Bacon 1d essay. A very fine imperforate corner block of four in pale green with blank corner letter squares. £35.00

1879 Tender. Perkins, Bacon ¹/₂d essay. A lightly mounted mint imperforate example in blue lettered WW. £9.50

1881 3d Rose plate 21 lettered AL. A very fine mint example, well centred with good perfs. S.G. 158. £125.00

1883 3d on 3d Lilac plate 21 lettered KJ. A very fine mint example. S.G. 159. £85.00

1882 Blued paper with anchor watermark as used for the £5 orange. A small imperforate piece 70mm × 34mm. Scarce. £12.50

1884 £1 Brown lilac watermark crowns lettered NA. A very fine used example of excellent colour, well centred with good perfs and C.D.S. cancel with rectangular cancel. S.G. 185. £325.00

1902 De La Rue ¹/₂d yellow-green, inverted watermark. An unmounted mint example with good perfs. S.G. Spec. M2a. £3.95

1902 De La Rue 6d black plate proof. A superb four margined imperforate example on thin white card. S.G. 245. £45.00

1902 De La Rue 10/- ultramarine. A superb lightly mounted mint example of outstanding appearance. S.G. 265. £395.00

1911 Harrison perf. 14 ½d dull yellow-green. An unmounted mint block of nine. S.G. 267. £10.00

1911 Harrison perf. 14 ½d pale bluish green with St. Andrews cross attached. A lightly mounted mint pair with full perfs. S.G. 270a. £85.00

1911 Downey Head ½d green die 1b crown watermarkinverted. A mounted mint booklet pane of six with goodperfs. S.G. Spec. NB1a.£25.00

1912 Downey Head 1d scarlet die 2 crown watermark. An unmounted mint single with the variety "no cross on crown". S.G. 341a. £25.00 1910 (circa) De La Rue specimen stamp depicting George IV head in oval frame surrounded by oak leaves with rose and crown above and SPECIMEN below. An unmounted mint imperforate example in purple. £12.50

1912-24 Royal Cypher 1/2d green. An unmounted mint marginal block of four showing "stitch" watermark. S.G. 351. £45.00

1912-24 Royal Cypher ¹/₂**d blue green.** A lightly mounted mint control block of six from the rare Somerset House printing (B.13). R.P.S. certificate. Should not be confused with the much more common 1918 blue greens! S.G. 356.

£225.00

1912-24 Royal Cypher 1½d red-brown, no watermark. An unmounted mint marginal example in pair with inverted watermark. Scarce. S.G. 363a. £95.00

1912-24 Royal Cypher 1½d red brown overprinted "SPECIMEN" type 26. A fine mounted mint example. S.G. Spec. N18t. £45.00

1912-24 Royal Cypher 4d grey-green, no watermark. An unmounted mint marginal example. S.G. Spec. N23a. £95.00

1912-24 Royal Cypher 5d brown, watermark inverted. A lightly mounted mint example of this scarce stamp, well centred with good perfs. S.G. Spec. N25b. £175.00

1914 Royal Cypher 2d agate Postage Due with the variety "no watermark". An unmounted mint marginal paid one stamp with the variety. Rare and unlisted by S.G. S.G. Spec. D4. £95.00

 1915 Royal Cypher 1/- bright blue postage due. An unmounted mint example well centred and with good perfs.

 S.G. D8.
 £23.50

1924 Block Cypher 10d dull greenish blue. A very fine used example of the rare "frame breaks at top and at right" variety. C.D.S. 21st May, 1936. S.G. Spec. N44b. £195.00

1934 Photogravure 1½d trial in emerald green. A mint imperforate corner pair using the 1912-24 typographed issue frame and the eventual photogravure issue head. Small thinning on back not detracting from this rare piece. £195.00

1937 Dark Colours ½d green, watermark inverted. An unmounted mint example overprinted "CANCELLED" type 33. S.G. Spec. Q1s. £12.50

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