

On the death of King George VI at Sandringham on 6 February 1952, a new era began when his elder daughter Elizabeth succeeded to the throne. However, it was to be another 10 months before the first stamps of the young Queen (the 1½d and 2½d values of the 'Wilding' issue) were introduced on 5<sup>th</sup> December 1952. Although new values were issued on a progressive basis, almost three years would pass before all the stamps of the late King had been replaced, the last being the 2/6d and 5/- values on 23<sup>rd</sup> September 1955.



By coincidence, a Queen reigned when Perfins were first sanctioned in 1868, and a Queen now reigns at their demise some 135 years later. Throughout that time approaching 25,000 different perfin patterns are known to have been used on the postage stamps of Great Britain. Derek Ransom's study of perfins on the 'modern' issues with elliptical cuts shows that perhaps as few as 25 are still in commercial use in the U.K.

To celebrate Queen Elizabeth's Golden Jubilee from the Perfin point of view, I've analysed all the material and information I have to hand and recorded all the perfins known on the G.B. postage stamps of Queen Elizabeth II. The global table at the end of this article has been based on some 23,000 different perfin patterns, but as new dies are added and old dies deleted or consolidated, the eventual total is expected to reach the figure of 25,000 mentioned above.

Fifty years is a long time and many changes have taken place since the introduction of the first Wildings late in 1952. For example, the experiments with graphite lines, the introduction of phosphor bands, regionals, commemoratives, Machins, decimalization, elliptical cuts - all fascinating areas for collecting and studying perfins.

In summary, some 2,119 different perfin dies are listed on the G.B. postage stamps of Queen Elizabeth II. Not surprisingly, 87% of which have known or suspected users. The great majority of these dies appear on the many 'Wilding' issues (1,729 - 82%), but a healthy number (974 - 46%) can be found on 'Machins'. The Machins have been further subdivided to show totals for the short lived sterling (£sd) issues (665 - 31%) and the longer lived decimal (£p) issues (738 -35%).

There follows *brief* details of half a dozen 'groups' of stamps, some of which have been listed in the past, but their totals have now been brought up to date. *The details of the actual perfin dies involved along with illustrations will be formally published in due course.*

Prior to the reign of Queen Elizabeth, commemorative issues were few and far between, but since 1960 there has been such an explosion that commemorative issues now greatly outnumber definitive issues. Only the first three Elizabethan commemorative issues have been listed, starting appropriately with the Coronation issue.

**Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II** - issued 3<sup>rd</sup> June 1953.

65 different perfin dies recorded.



|             |    |               |
|-------------|----|---------------|
| 2½d ... ..  | 48 | (415,034,000) |
| 4d ... ..   | 17 | (19,816,000)  |
| 1/3d ... .. | 7  | (8,012,000)   |
| 1/6d ... .. | 3  | (5,987,200)   |

Figures in brackets are quantities sold.

**World Scout Jubilee Jamboree** - issued 1<sup>st</sup> August 1957.

26 different perfin dies recorded.



|             |    |               |
|-------------|----|---------------|
| 2½d ... ..  | 17 | (137,235,286) |
| 4d ... ..   | 6  | (9,318,477)   |
| 1/3d ... .. | 6  | (3,820,478)   |

Complete set noted on "K.B/B" (K0110.01M)..

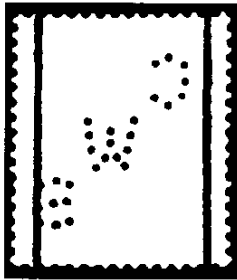
**46<sup>th</sup> Inter Parliamentary Union Conference - 12<sup>th</sup> September 1957.**



32 different perfin dies  
recorded on perhaps as  
few as 75 examples.

Quantity sold - 10,472,160

**Graphite issues** - Issued on various dates in 1957, 1958 and 1959.



46 different dies on 82 DDF.

|                   |    |
|-------------------|----|
| St Edward's Crown | 21 |
| Multiple Crowns   | 36 |
| Phosphor-graphite | 1  |

**Regional issues** - Issued on various dates from 18<sup>th</sup> August 1958.



73 different dies on 302 DDF.

|                  |     |    |
|------------------|-----|----|
| Guernsey         | ... | 1  |
| Isle of Man      | ... | 1  |
| Jersey           | ... | 2  |
| Northern Ireland | ..  | 14 |
| Scotland         | ... | 42 |
| Wales & Mon.     | ... | 30 |

**Elliptical cut issues** - Various dates from 19<sup>th</sup> November 1991.



|                 |    |
|-----------------|----|
| Commercial dies | 85 |
| Private dies    | 9  |
| Commemoratives  | 2  |

Still in use 25 approx.

'Elliptical cut' figures are based on Derek Ransom's 'modern' list.

Note: This 'Elizabethan study' and associated table is intended as a 'living' document and is updated continuously.

Summary table of Dies found on the Postage Stamps of Queen Elizabeth II.

Correct to: 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2003.

|                  | Dies          | E2R          | Idents       | "U"          | U <sub>hv</sub> | 46 <sup>th</sup> | Graph     | "V"        | V <sub>hv</sub> | "W"        | W <sub>hv</sub> | Mach         | 2-H       | Ellip     | "X"        | "Y"       | "Z"       |
|------------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|-----------------|------------------|-----------|------------|-----------------|------------|-----------------|--------------|-----------|-----------|------------|-----------|-----------|
| <b>A</b>         | 1,103         | 84           | 72           | 70           | 11              | 2                | 3         | 23         | 0               | 20         | 1               | 31           | 1         | 1         | 10         | 4         | 0         |
| <b>B</b>         | 1,939         | 172          | 156          | 143          | 12              | 3                | 5         | 59         | 0               | 63         | 4               | 81           | 2         | 5         | 26         | 7         | 3         |
| <b>C</b>         | 1,966         | 167          | 149          | 140          | 22              | 6                | 7         | 51         | 1               | 57         | 2               | 75           | 8         | 16        | 22         | 7         | 2         |
| <b>D</b>         | 902           | 87           | 73           | 77           | 8               | 2                | 2         | 27         | 4               | 26         | 1               | 37           | 2         | 5         | 15         | 2         | 0         |
| <b>E</b>         | 889           | 89           | 82           | 70           | 5               | 1                | 1         | 30         | 1               | 33         | 2               | 45           | 2         | 2         | 13         | 2         | 0         |
| <b>F</b>         | 824           | 59           | 47           | 48           | 4               | 1                | 2         | 19         | 0               | 17         | 0               | 25           | 0         | 0         | 6          | 1         | 0         |
| <b>G</b>         | 1,014         | 58           | 45           | 48           | 4               | 2                | 0         | 20         | 0               | 15         | 0               | 24           | 0         | 3         | 4          | 9         | 2         |
| <b>H</b>         | 1,553         | 113          | 99           | 101          | 11              | 2                | 1         | 35         | 0               | 36         | 3               | 46           | 6         | 8         | 15         | 1         | 2         |
| <b>I</b>         | 354           | 36           | 30           | 25           | 3               | 0                | 0         | 13         | 3               | 16         | 3               | 20           | 0         | 0         | 3          | 0         | 0         |
| <b>J</b>         | 1,713         | 97           | 85           | 81           | 14              | 1                | 2         | 23         | 1               | 25         | 5               | 35           | 1         | 1         | 17         | 4         | 2         |
| <b>K</b>         | 340           | 45           | 41           | 36           | 5               | 2                | 1         | 20         | 0               | 17         | 0               | 24           | 2         | 4         | 11         | 1         | 0         |
| <b>L</b>         | 1,206         | 142          | 118          | 110          | 20              | 2                | 3         | 44         | 4               | 57         | 11              | 74           | 10        | 12        | 23         | 2         | 0         |
| <b>M</b>         | 1,087         | 67           | 65           | 54           | 2               | 1                | 2         | 11         | 1               | 21         | 0               | 28           | 4         | 4         | 7          | 1         | 0         |
| <b>N</b>         | 590           | 96           | 83           | 68           | 12              | 1                | 2         | 36         | 1               | 45         | 8               | 59           | 6         | 6         | 17         | 1         | 1         |
| <b>O</b>         | 305           | 39           | 30           | 35           | 5               | 0                | 0         | 15         | 0               | 13         | 2               | 18           | 1         | 0         | 2          | 1         | 0         |
| <b>P</b>         | 1,015         | 106          | 101          | 91           | 17              | 0                | 3         | 37         | 2               | 44         | 3               | 52           | 6         | 2         | 19         | 3         | 1         |
| <b>Q</b>         | 48            | 4            | 3            | 3            | 0               | 0                | 0         | 2          | 0               | 3          | 0               | 3            | 0         | 0         | 0          | 0         | 0         |
| <b>R</b>         | 1,086         | 125          | 106          | 94           | 15              | 1                | 1         | 32         | 1               | 46         | 3               | 59           | 6         | 5         | 18         | 6         | 0         |
| <b>S</b>         | 1,757         | 200          | 163          | 149          | 34              | 3                | 3         | 69         | 4               | 75         | 13              | 103          | 6         | 11        | 25         | 6         | 2         |
| <b>T</b>         | 892           | 89           | 81           | 81           | 10              | 1                | 1         | 28         | 0               | 29         | 2               | 37           | 5         | 4         | 19         | 1         | 0         |
| <b>U</b>         | 216           | 32           | 26           | 25           | 5               | 0                | 0         | 10         | 0               | 11         | 1               | 13           | 1         | 1         | 3          | 1         | 0         |
| <b>V</b>         | 181           | 11           | 10           | 9            | 1               | 0                | 0         | 2          | 0               | 5          | 0               | 5            | 0         | 0         | 0          | 0         | 0         |
| <b>W</b>         | 1,728         | 161          | 134          | 141          | 18              | 1                | 6         | 51         | 5               | 52         | 8               | 65           | 2         | 3         | 26         | 3         | 0         |
| <b>X</b>         | 23            | 2            | 2            | 2            | 0               | 0                | 0         | 0          | 0               | 0          | 0               | 0            | 0         | 0         | 0          | 0         | 0         |
| <b>Y</b>         | 97            | 11           | 11           | 7            | 2               | 0                | 0         | 3          | 0               | 3          | 0               | 5            | 0         | 0         | 0          | 1         | 0         |
| <b>Z</b>         | 18            | 2            | 2            | 1            | 0               | 0                | 0         | 0          | 0               | 1          | 0               | 1            | 0         | 0         | 0          | 0         | 0         |
| <b>Des</b>       | 86            | 9            | 7            | 5            | 1               | 0                | 1         | 2          | 0               | 4          | 0               | 5            | 0         | 2         | 2          | 0         | 0         |
| <b>Nos</b>       | 68            | 16           | 13           | 15           | 0               | 0                | 0         | 3          | 0               | 4          | 0               | 4            | 0         | 1         | 1          | 1         | 0         |
| <b>Totals</b>    | <b>23,000</b> | <b>2,119</b> | <b>1,834</b> | <b>1,729</b> | <b>241</b>      | <b>32</b>        | <b>46</b> | <b>665</b> | <b>28</b>       | <b>738</b> | <b>72</b>       | <b>974</b>   | <b>71</b> | <b>96</b> | <b>304</b> | <b>65</b> | <b>15</b> |
| <b>Predicted</b> | <b>25,000</b> | <b>2,303</b> | <b>1,993</b> | <b>1,879</b> |                 |                  |           | <b>723</b> |                 | <b>802</b> |                 | <b>1,059</b> |           |           |            |           |           |

'Idents' – Identified, 'U' – Wildings, 'V' - £sd Machins, 'W' - £p Machins, 'hv' – High values, '46<sup>th</sup>' – 46<sup>th</sup> Inter Parliamentary Union Conference  
 'Graph' – Graphites and Phosphor-graphites, '2-H' – 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of 1d Black, 'Ellip' – Elliptical-cut Machins  
 'X' – QEII Commemoratives (Wilding & Machins), 'Y' – Wilding Regionals, 'Z' – Machin Regionals, 'E2R' – All Elizabethan issues.