

ORAPEX 2014

Ottawa's National Stamp Exhibition
Exposition nationale philatélique d'Ottawa

Award Certificate *Certificat de participation*

This is to certify that

Ceci certifie que

Michael Millar, FRPSC

has been awarded a

s'est vu(e) attribuer une

SILVER/ARGENT

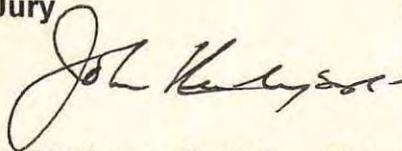
for the exhibit titled

pour l'exhibit intitulé

The Perfins of H. M. Stationery Office

Chairman of the Jury

Président du jury



Ottawa / Gatineau, Canada May 4, 2014



This certificate recognizes that

Michael Millar

has been awarded

SILVER

at

ROYAL * 2014 * ROYALE

National Stamp Exhibition - Halifax, Nova Scotia - May 30 to June 1, 2014

for the exhibit

**The Perfins of
H. M. Stationery
Office**



Hosted by
**THE
NOVA
SCOTIA
STAMP
CLUB**

Joel Weimer

Chairperson of the Jury

George P. Pell

President, R.P.S.C.

THE ROYAL
PHILATELIC
SOCIETY
OF CANADA



LA SOCIÉTÉ
ROYALE DE
PHILATÉLIE
DU CANADA

THE PERFINs of H. M. STATIONERY OFFICE, 1922-1983

Exhibit Scope

This exhibit follows the use of perforated postage stamps in His/Her Majesty's Stationery Office from their introduction in late 1922 until their use ceased in late 1982. Then the remarkable discovery of a large group of unused postage stamps in the S. O. Mail Room in the Spring of 1983.

Exhibit Plan

Introduction (1 page), and photograph of the Hurlin & Son perforating machine. (1 page).

Uses of the S Crown O dies through the reigns of Kings GV, EVIII and KGV. (14 pages).

The changeover to HM/SO dies in 1949, why this was necessary and why the 1949 modification to the machine was unsuccessful. (4 pages).

The Joseph Sloper modification to the machine that was a success explained and a die proof shown. (2 pages).

Uses of KGV. commencing with the earliest known date, to the changeover the QEII. (6 pages).

The "Constant Variety" explained. (1 Page).

Uses through QEII, Wildings (23 pages) to Sterling Machins (6 pages) to, finally, the Decimal Machins. (18 pages).

A single-headed die only known used with four values of the Sterling Machin definitives. (1 page).

The 1983 S. O. Mail Room discovery. (2 pages).

Exhibit Highlights

Photographs of the actual perforating machine and a die proof provided courtesy of the British Postal Museum & Archives, and now owned by the exhibitor.

Several earliest and latest dates of use.

A number of relatively rare items

- several examples of double and inverted perforations.
- a vertical pair of the 1951 10/- with the lower stamp initialed but the upper stamp not.
- eight mint low value Decimal Machins, with selvedge showing the cylinder numbers and HM/SO initialing in the selvedge.
- mint gutter pairs of the £2 and £5 Harrison & Sons photogravure high values – these are believed to be, in philatelic literature, rarely seen – that also demonstrate why some of the Machin decimal high values have reversed initialing.



Significant items are outlined in **BLUE**.

ON HER BRITANNIC MAJESTY'S SERVICE

MISS ANNE BAGBY, LIBRARIAN,
UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND,
LAW SCHOOL,

ADN.

BALTIMORE,
MARYLAND, U.S.A.



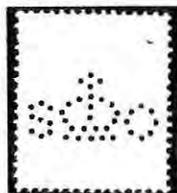
From H.M. STATIONERY OFFICE,
GEE STREET,
LONDON, E.C.1

THE PERFINs of H. M. STATIONERY OFFICE:

INTRODUCTION.

The Stationery Office was established in 1786 during the reign of His late Majesty King George III as the central organization for the printing and binding of official government documents, stationery and publications.

The use of perforated postage stamps appears to have commenced in late 1922 with a Crown design splitting the letters S and O. The machine was a treadle operated one with a 12 X 1 perforating die, manufactured by Messrs. Hurlin & Son.



1922 - 1949

Late in 1948 the Post Office informed the Stationery Office that the use of a Crown in the perfin design contravened regulations. A provisional 12 X 1 die reading HM/SO was made by the Hurlin Firm and is known used only during 1949. The Stationery Office was allowed to use up already perforated S Crown O stamps while the new die was made. The Hurlin modification was not successful and late in 1949 the machine was sent to Joseph Sloper. The Sloper firm modified the Hurlin machine with a new 12 X 1 HM/SO die, and it was then in use from 1950 until postage meters caused the use of postage stamps to cease c1982 – the actual cessation date has not been fully determined.



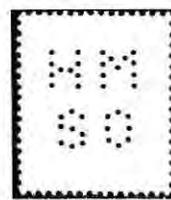
Provisional die -
Hurlin, 1949 only



New die – Sloper,
1950 – c1982



Constant Variety,
Missing pin in the M.



Sloper s-h Die,
c1968 – c1970.

The differences between the provisional and new dies can be readily seen in the size and shape of the letters and in the positioning of the three pins that form the centre of the M.

Sheets were perforated three at a time, one row at a time, so that inverted perfins, while known, are not common. There is a constant variety that exists for much of the Sloper period; it occurs in the fifth die from the left, the lower pin in the centre of the M is missing.

Joseph Sloper also produced a single-headed die c1968, about which very little is known, with use confined to four values of the Sterling Machin stamps.

THE PERFINs of H. M. STATIONERY OFFICE:

This machine, made by Hurlin & Sons, London, EC in 1922; modified by them in late 1948; modified again in early 1950, this time by J. Sloper & Co., perforated almost all of the postage stamps used by the Stationery Office from 1922 until the S. O. switched to postage meters c1981/1982.



1922 – 1949



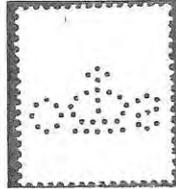
Provisional
Die 1949 only



1950 - c1981/1982

THE PERFINs of H. M. STATIONERY OFFICE:

S Crown O

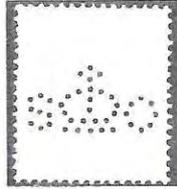


Typo-graphed issues of King George V – Simple Cypher watermark 1922 – 1924.



THE PERFINs of H. M. STATIONERY OFFICE:

S Crown O

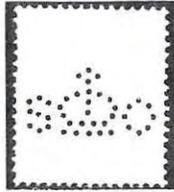


Typo-graphed issues of King George V – Block Cypher watermark 1924 – 1934.



THE PERFINs of H. M. STATIONERY OFFICE:

S Crown O



Typo-graphed issues of King George V – Block Cypher watermark 1924 – 1934.



On His Majesty's Service.



Institut für Landwirtschaftliche Betriebslehre an
der Universität Göttingen,

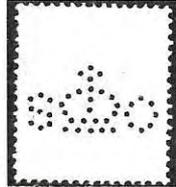
Göttingen,

GERMANY.

H.M. Stationery Office,
Sale Office,
Adastral House,
Kingsway, London, W.C. 2.

THE PERFINs of H. M. STATIONERY OFFICE:

S Crown O



Typo-graphed issues of King George V – Block Cypher watermark 1924 – 1934.



On His Majesty's Service.

*In the event of
any correspondence
respecting this parcel,
please quote*

No. **D** 87966.

FROM

THE DIRECTOR,
Duplicating & Distributing Division
H.M. STATIONERY OFFICE,
SHEPHERDESS WALK,
CITY ROAD,
LONDON,
N.1.

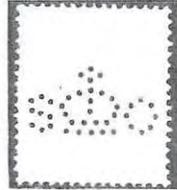
The Manager.

Banque de L'Union Parisienne,
Coupon Dept.,
6 & 8, Boulevard Haussman,
PARIS (9e).

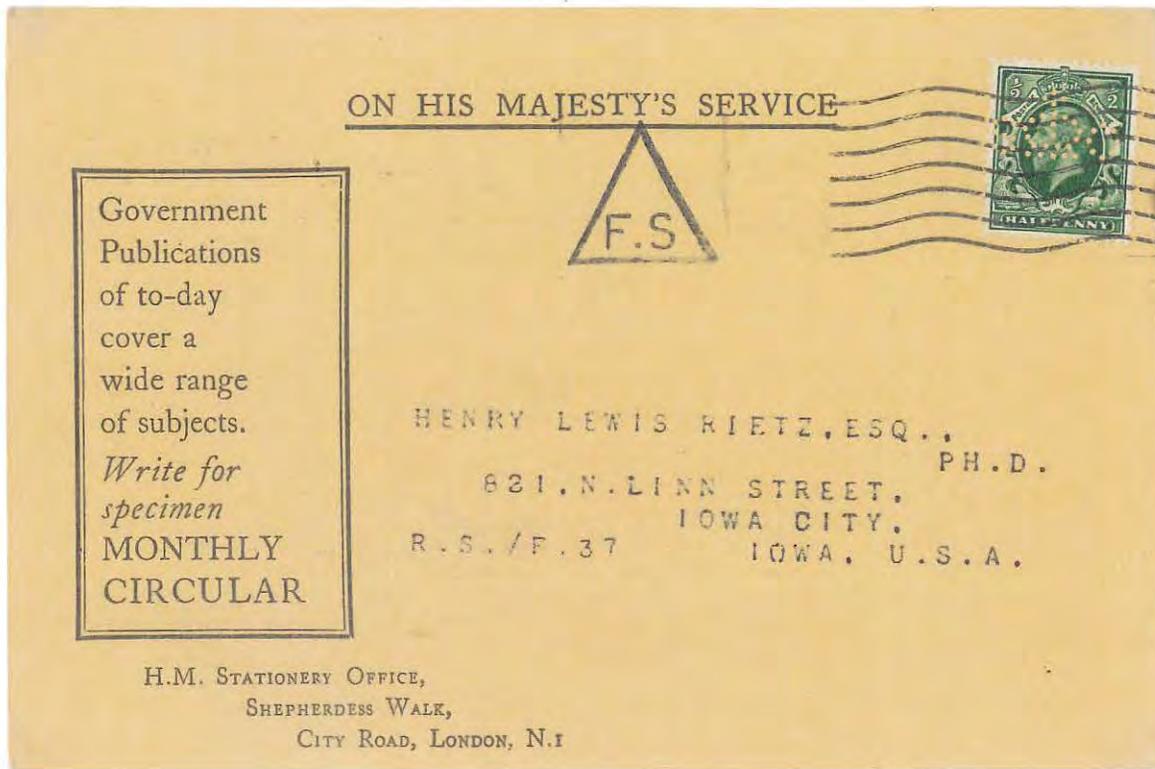


THE PERFINs of H. M. STATIONERY OFFICE:

S Crown O

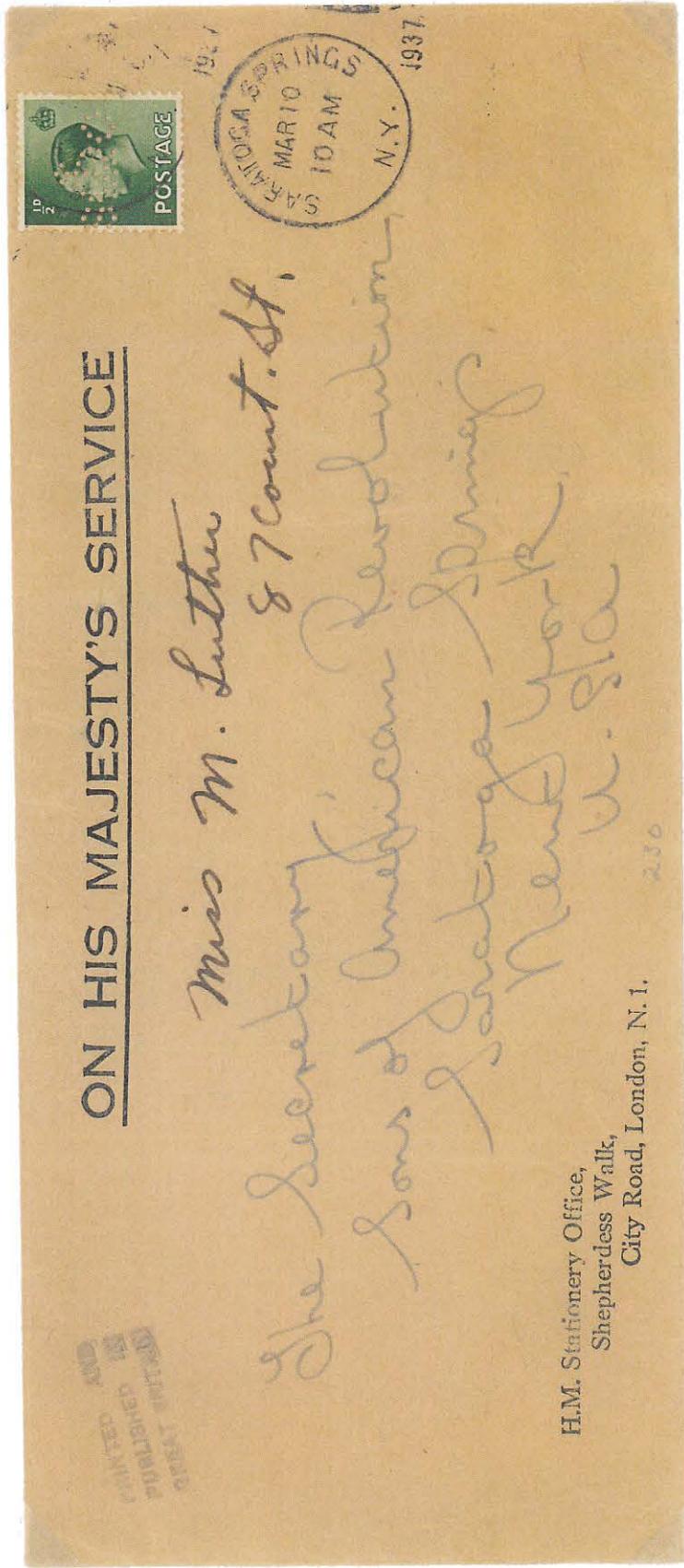


Photogravure issue of King George V – 1934 – 1936.

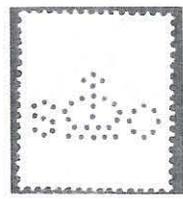


THE PERFINs of H. M. STATIONERY OFFICE

His Majesty's Stationery Office.



S Crown O



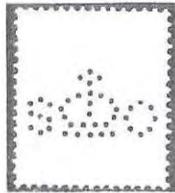
Issue of King Edward VIII.



THE PERFINs of H. M. STATIONERY OFFICE

His Majesty's Stationery Office.

S Crown O



Issues of King George VI – 1937 issue:

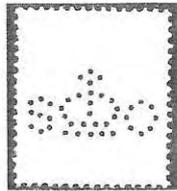


Sideways initialing.

THE PERFINs of H. M. STATIONERY OFFICE

His Majesty's Stationery Office.

S Crown O



Issues of King George VI – 1941 – 1942 issue:



11 January 1949 – latest recorded date of use for this perfin.

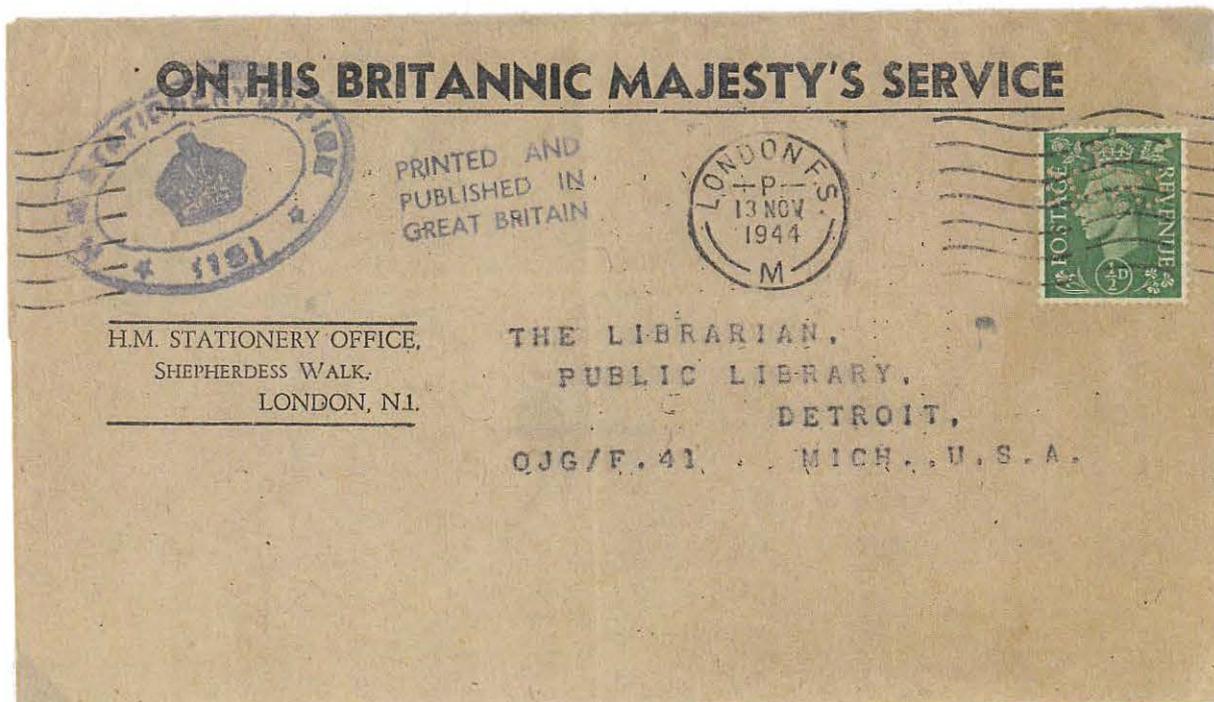
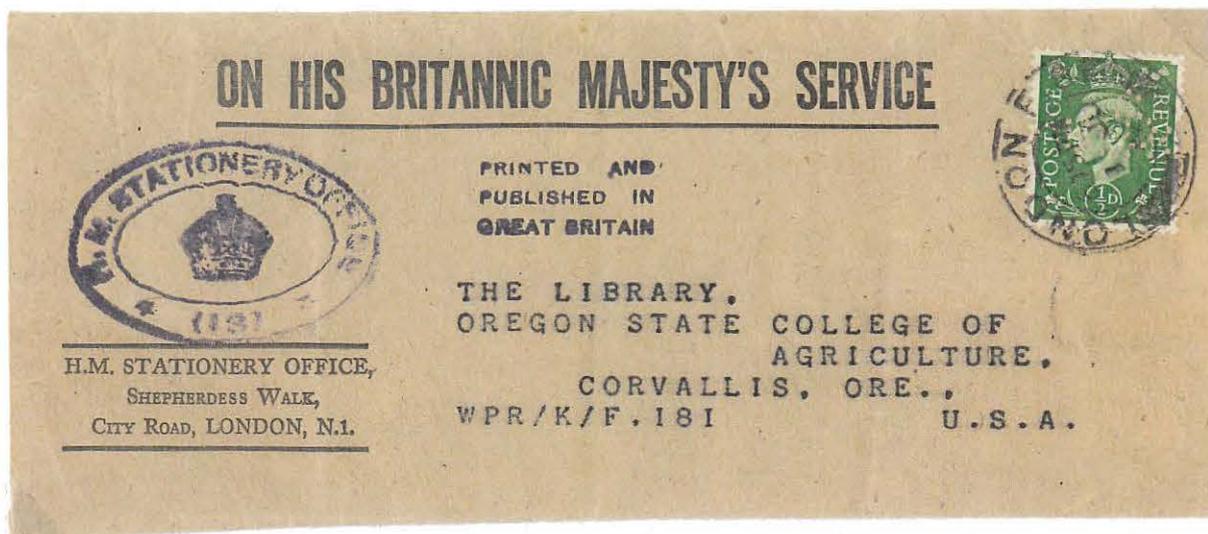
THE PERFINs of H. M. STATIONERY OFFICE

His Majesty's Stationery Office.

S Crown O



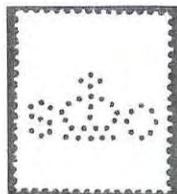
Issues of King George VI - 1941 - 1942 issue:



THE PERFINs of H. M. STATIONERY OFFICE

His Majesty's Stationery Office.

S Crown O



Issues of King George VI – 1941 – 1942 issue:



On His Majesty's Service

WAR ECONOMY

Open by slitting along the flap edge.

RE-USE ENVELOPE

by sealing with Economy Label to cover old address and post marks.



BY AIR MAIL

THE DIRECTORS,
CESKOSLOVENSKY ROZHLAS,
PRAGUE.

UN.R.60

THE PERFINs of H. M. STATIONERY OFFICE

His Majesty's Stationery Office.

S Crown O



Issues of King George VI – 1941 – 1942 issue:

Many examples of this perfin are found on British Industries Fair covers. With both being Crown Corporations, the Stationery Office looked after the printing and mailing requirements for the B. I. F. until it ceased in 1960.

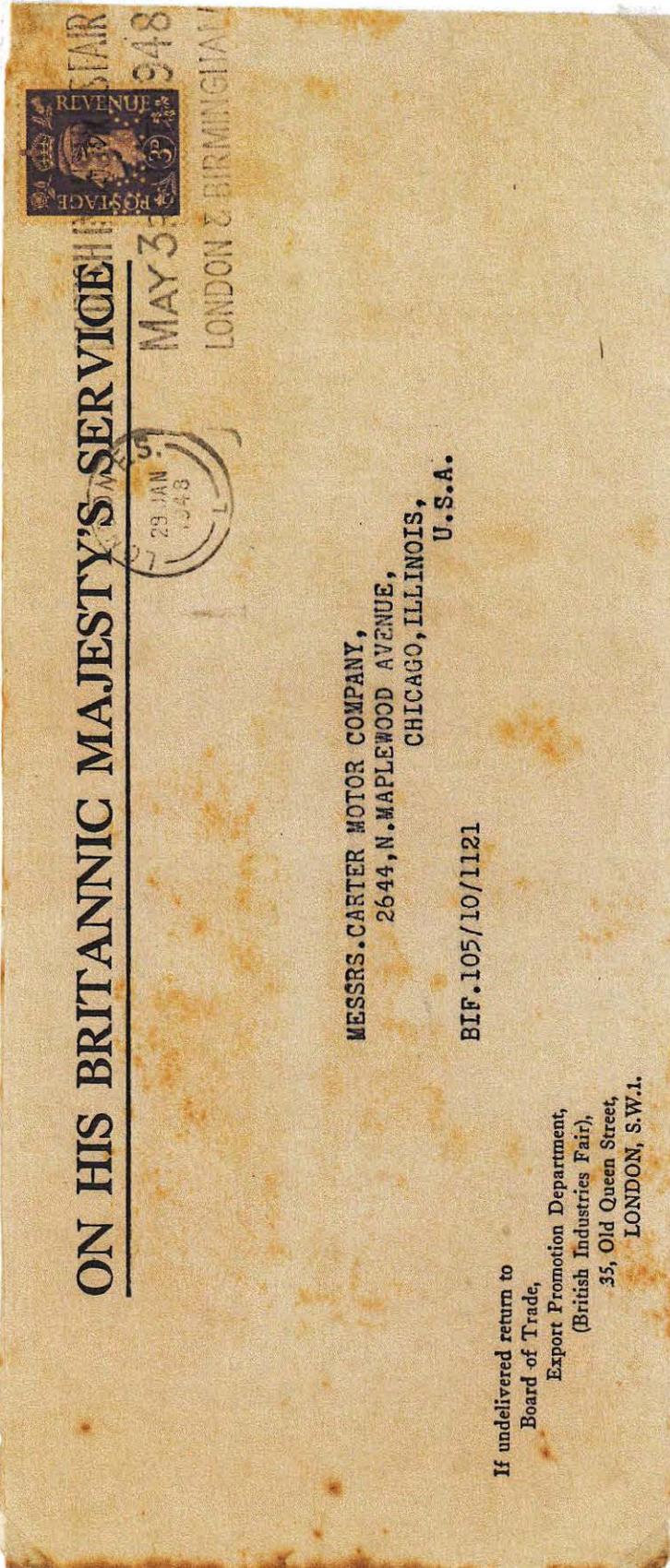
ON HIS BRITANNIC MAJESTY'S SERVICE



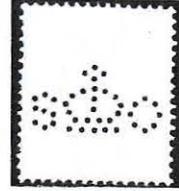
If undelivered return to
Board of Trade,
Export Promotion Department,
(British Industries Fair),
35, Old Queen Street,
LONDON, S.W.1.

THE PERFINs of H. M. STATIONERY OFFICE

His Majesty's Stationery Office.



S Crown O



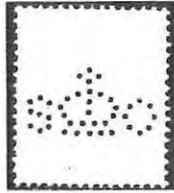
Issues of King George VI -
1941 - 1942 issue:

British Industries Fair, a
second example.

THE PERFINs of H. M. STATIONERY OFFICE

His Majesty's Stationery Office.

S Crown O



Issues of King George VI:

For the most part the staff at the Stationery Office who were charged with perforating the postage stamps seem to have been very careful, so that perforating errors are few and far between. Three perforating errors are shown on this page. Sideways initialing on some of the high value stamps is not considered to be a perforating error.



Double perforation.



Double perforation – upper pair of stamps.

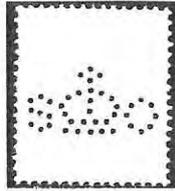


Inverted perforation.

THE PERFINs of H. M. STATIONERY OFFICE

His Majesty's Stationery Office.

S Crown O



Commemorative Issues:

The Stationery Office made very limited use of Commemorative issues. The stamps show on this page are the only Commemoratives used by the S. O. with this perfin.



1929 Postal Union Congress.



1935 Silver Jubilee.

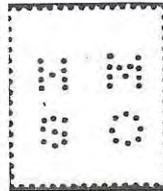


1937 Coronation and 1946 Peace issue 3d.

THE PERFINs of H. M. STATIONERY OFFICE

His Majesty's Stationery Office.

HM
SO



The 1949 Provisional Dies:

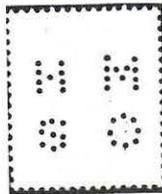
As noted in the introduction, late in 1948 the Post Office informed the Stationery Office that the use of a Crown in the perforation pattern was in violation of the Postal Regulations; that initials only were permitted. The Stationery Office sent the perforating machine back to the Hurlin Company, who replaced the twelve S Crown O dies with twelve HM/SO dies, as shown in the example above. The Stationery Office was allowed to use up the already perforated S Crown O stock while the modifications were being made to the perforating machine. As will be explained later, this modification was not successful, and these dies are only known used in 1949 – hence the title.



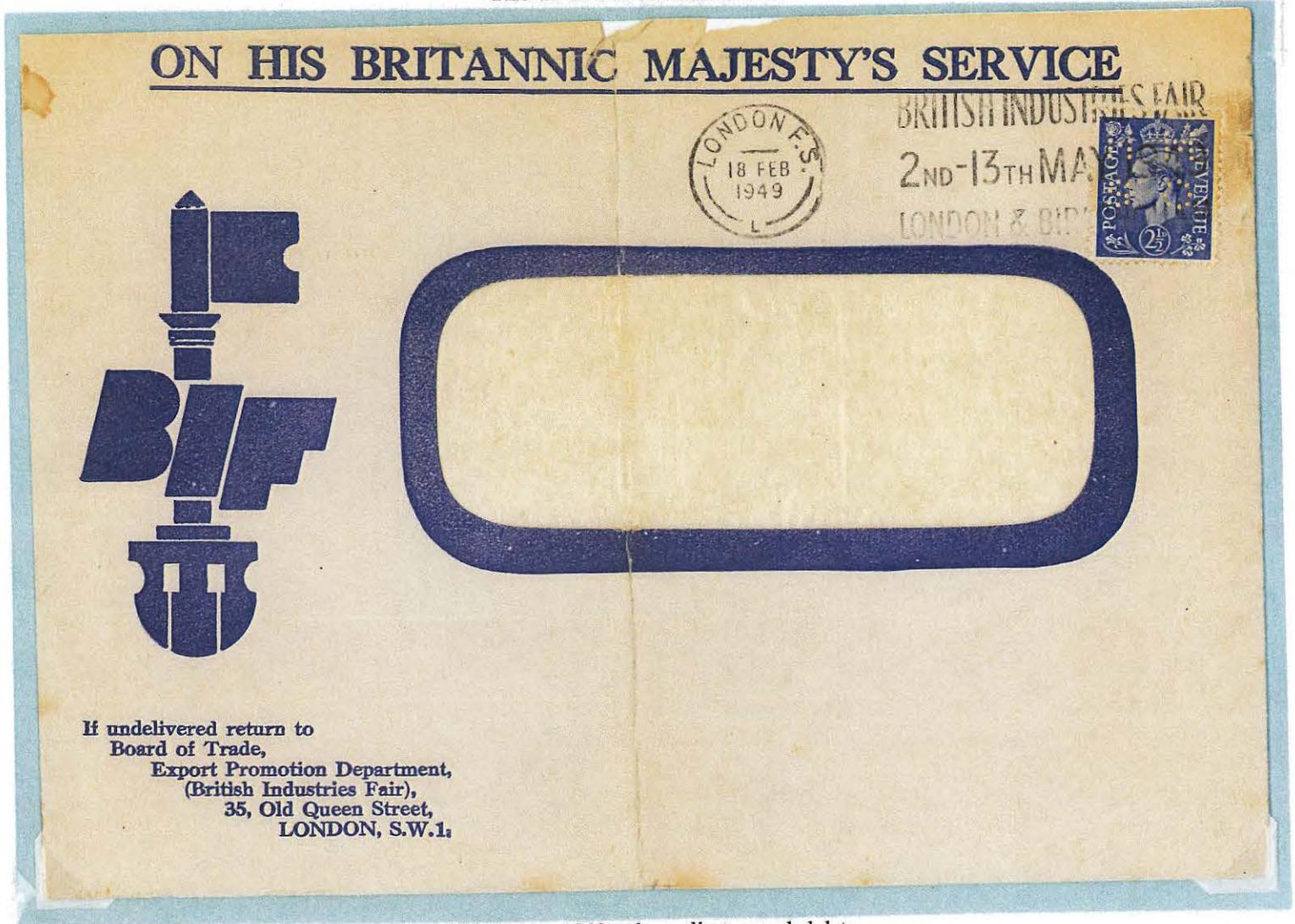
THE PERFINs of H. M. STATIONERY OFFICE

His Majesty's Stationery Office.

HM
SO



The 1949 Provisional Dies:

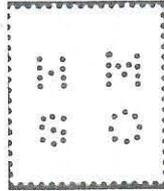


18 February 1949 – the earliest recorded date.

THE PERFINs of H. M. STATIONERY OFFICE

His Majesty's Stationery Office.

HM
SO



The 1949 Provisional Dies:

Uses on wrappers and cover.

ON HIS BRITANNIC MAJESTY'S SERVICE



PRINTED AND
PUBLISHED IN
GREAT BRITAIN



H.M. STATIONER
SHEPHERDESS
LON

ON HIS MAJESTY'S SERVICE



PRINTED AND
PUBLISHED IN
GREAT BRITAIN



ECONOMY
OPEN by slitting top edge.
RE-USE with Economy Label.

On His Majesty's Service



VENUE,
K,
Y,
U.S.A.

University Book Store,
4326 University Way
Melrose 3400
Seattle. 5.

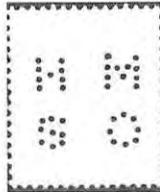
Washington.
U.S.A.

H.M. STATIONERY OFFICE
WHOLESALE DEPT.
CORNWALL HOUSE

THE PERFINs of H. M. STATIONERY OFFICE

His Majesty's Stationery Office.

H M
S O



The 1949 Provisional Dies:

The Hurlin modification was not successful. It is believed that the pins were too long and kept jamming in the paper. Increased pressure by the operators to force the pins through the paper resulted in distortion of the letters; several examples are shown on this page. Late in the year the machine was sent to Joseph Sloper & Co., whose modifications will be fully explained in the next section of the exhibit.



Distortion was evident early in the period of use as this example from the 8th of April shows – note the bend to the bottom pin of the right side of the M.



H Slight bend to the bottom pin on left side.

M Quite visible bend to several of the pins with this letter.



S Noticeable upward bend to top three pins.

O Outward bulge to the upper left pin.

S and O both distorted in the example on the right.

THE PERFINs of H. M. STATIONERY OFFICE

His Majesty's Stationery Office.

H M
S O



The 1949/50 Sloper Dies:

With the Hurlin & Son modifications not being successful – as noted in the previous section – the Stationery Office sent the perforating machine to the expert Firm of Joseph Sloper & Co. Ltd. late in 1949 – possibly in December. Sloper's made a set of twelve new dies, slightly smaller than Hurlin's, and solved the paper jamming problem by making the letters of different lengths, so that only one letter at a time was going through the paper. At the same time they put one of their maker plates on the machine. This modification was a complete success and almost all of the perfin's used by the Stationery Office for the next thirty-two years were perforated with these dies.



Photograph courtesy of the BPMA and is the property of the exhibitor.

THE PERFINs of H. M. STATIONERY OFFICE

His Majesty's Stationery Office.

H M
S O



The Die Proofs.

The perforating machine is now preserved in the British Postal Museum and Archives (BPMA) storage facility in Debden, Essex.

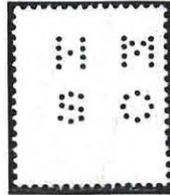
Note the missing pins in the M's of Dies 2 and 5. The two pins in Die 2 were removed AFTER the machine was acquired by a member of the Perfin Society c1982/83, subsequent to its cessation by the Stationery Office. The pin in the centre of the M in Die 5 went missing very early in the period of use and was not replaced. This "constant variety" will be fully explained in the following pages.

Die Proof provided courtesy of the BPMA and is the property of the exhibitor:

THE PERFINs of H. M. STATIONERY OFFICE

His Majesty's Stationery Office.

HM
SO



1941 – 1942 issue:

The Sloper dies were put into service early in 1950.

ON HIS MAJESTY'S SERVICE

BRITISH INDUSTRIES FAIR
8TH-19TH MAY 1950
LONDON & BIRMINGHAM



BRITISH INDUSTRIES FAIR
8TH-19TH MAY 1950
LONDON & BIRMINGHAM



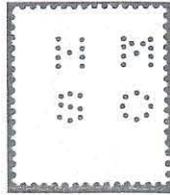
If undelivered return to
Board of Trade,
Commercial Relations & Exports Department,
(British Industries Fair),
Horseferry House, Thorney Street,
LONDON, S.W.1.

London F. S. [Foreign Section] 9 March 1950 – the earliest recorded date for the Sloper dies.

THE PERFINs of H. M. STATIONERY OFFICE

His Majesty's Stationery Office.

HM
SO



1941 - 1942 issue:



ON HIS BRITANNIC MAJESTY'S SERVICE



H.M. STATIONERY OFFICE,
SHEPHERDESS WALK,
LONDON, N.1.

CHIEF TELECOMMUNICATIONS OFFICER,
CIVIL AVIATION BRANCH,
% COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE,
HANSESTADT, HAMBURG.

SO.UKAP.F.2870

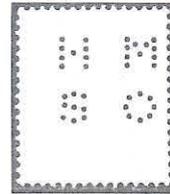
B.A.O.R.3.

Wahnerheide
BAOR 19

THE PERFINs of H. M. STATIONERY OFFICE

His Majesty's Stationery Office.

HM
SO



1941 - 1942 issue:



ON HIS MAJESTY'S SERVICE



To the President
W. R. Ten Brook Jewelry
Albany, Oregon
USA

If undelivered return to
Board of Trade,
(British Industries Fair),
Lacon House, Theobalds Road,
LONDON, W.C.1.



British Industries

30 April - 11 May 1951

LONDON & BIRMINGHAM

THE PERFINs of H. M. STATIONERY OFFICE

His Majesty's Stationery Office.

H M
S O



1950 – 1951 issue:

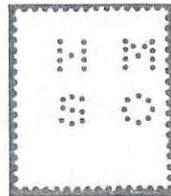


The 1951 Festival of Britain 4d stamp, issued on 3 May 1951 was the only King George VI commemorative stamp used by the Stationery Office with the Sloper perfin dies.

THE PERFINs of H. M. STATIONERY OFFICE

His Majesty's Stationery Office.

HM
SO



1951 High values – issued 3 May:

The Stationery Office did not use the £1 value in this set.



THE PERFINs of H. M. STATIONERY OFFICE

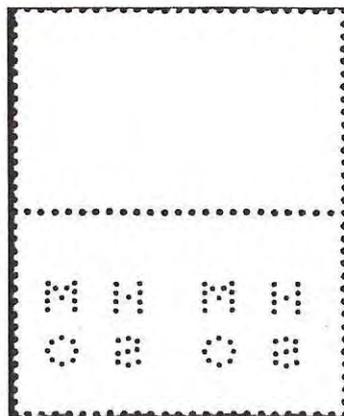
His Majesty's Stationery Office.

HM
SO



1951 High values – issued 3 May:

10/- Perforating Error – the lower stamp is perforated but the upper stamp is not.



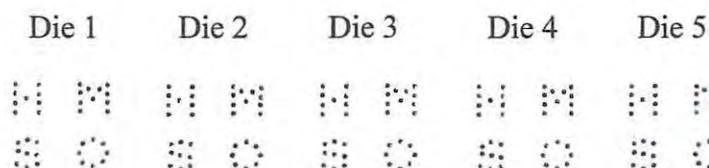
THE PERFINs of H. M. STATIONERY OFFICE

His / Her Majesty's Stationery Office.

H M
S O



The Constant Variety.



It has not been possible to determine with any complete degree of accuracy just exactly when the centre pin in the M of Die 5 went missing. Based on examples in the exhibitor's collection it seems to have gone missing very early in the reign of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. A single example has been recorded on the light colour 3d of KGVI, but this stamp was not replaced by the QEII 3d until 18 January 1954. The variety has not been recorded on any of the 1950/1951 changed colour values. To date it has only been recorded on the 1951 5/-.

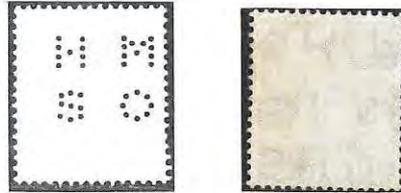
The QEII examples on this page are all from the first issue of 1952/1954.



THE PERFINs of H. M. STATIONERY OFFICE

Her Majesty's Stationery Office.

H M
S O



1952/1954 issues – Tudor Crown Watermark – Dorothy Wilding portrait.

A prefatory note to the Wilding issues of QEII. The Stationery Office only used ten of the low value stamps in these issues. These were ½d to 3d, 4d, 6d, 9d and 1/-.



The Stationery Office only used these two values of the Coronation Issue.

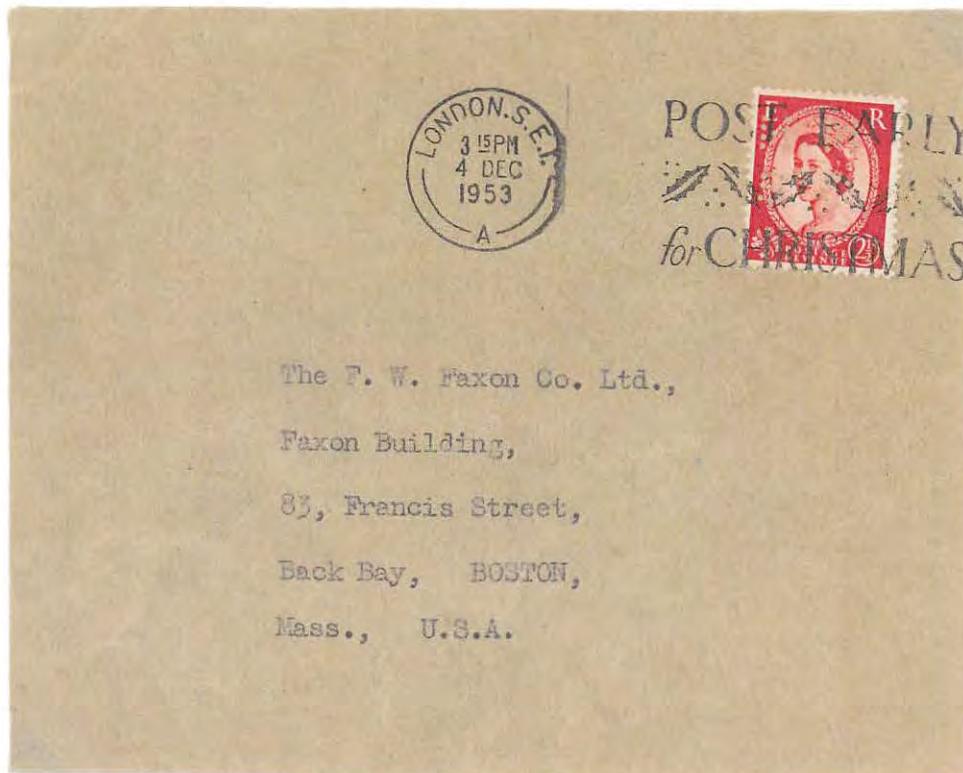
THE PERFINs of H. M. STATIONERY OFFICE

Her Majesty's Stationery Office.

HM
SO



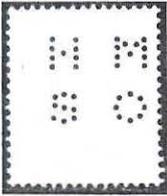
1952/1954 issues – Tudor Crown Watermark – Dorothy Wilding portrait.



THE PERFINs of H. M. STATIONERY OFFICE

Her Majesty's Stationery Office.

HM
SO



1952/1954 issues – Tudor Crown
Watermark – Dorothy Wilding
portrait.

Late use of a KGVI
Envelope.

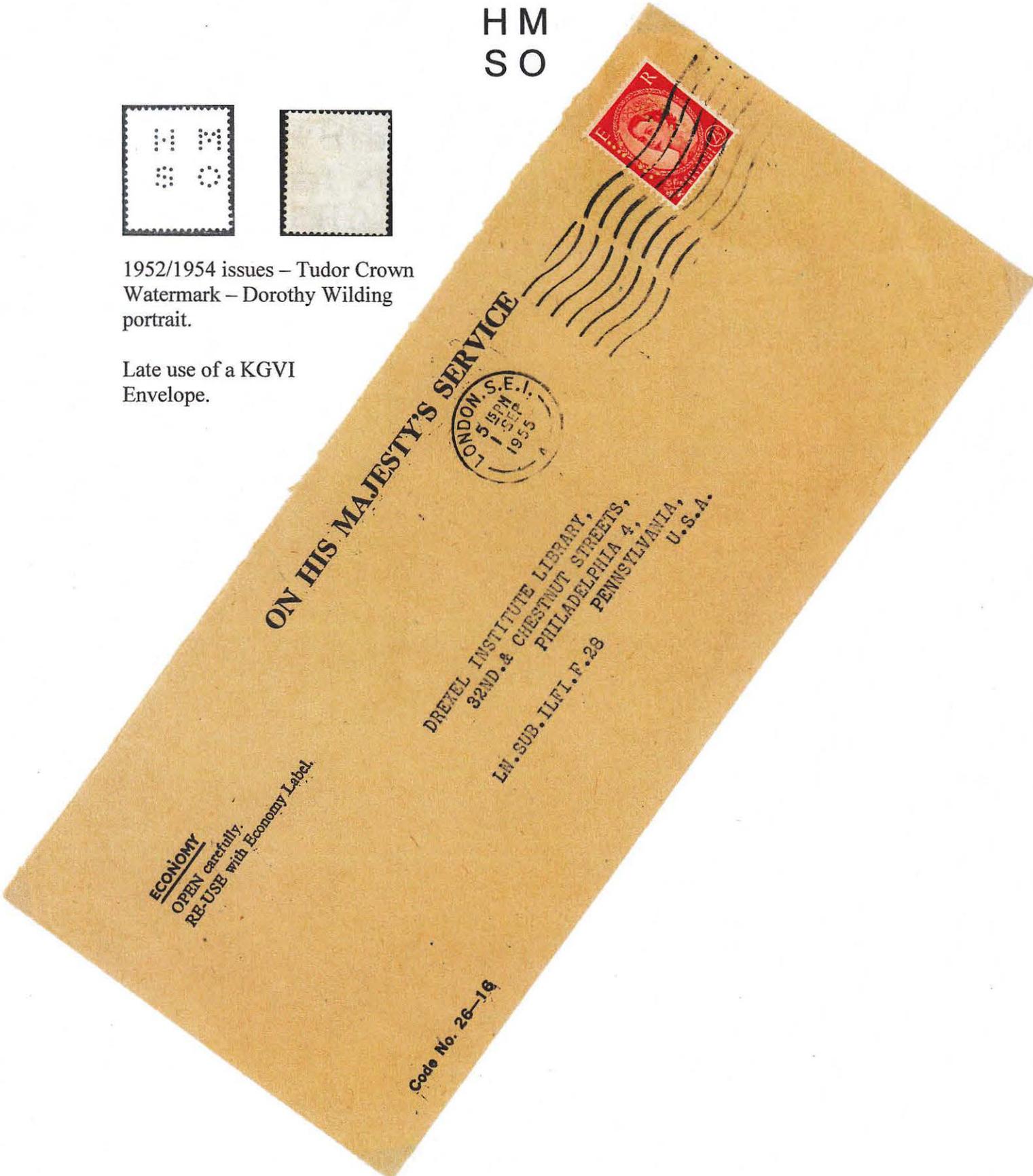
ON HIS MAJESTY'S SERVICE



DREXEL INSTITUTE LIBRARY,
32ND. & CHESTNUT STREETS,
PHILADELPHIA 4,
LN. SUB. ILLI. F. 28 PENNSYLVANIA,
U.S.A.

ECONOMY
OPEN carefully.
RE-USE with Economy Label.

Code No. 26-16



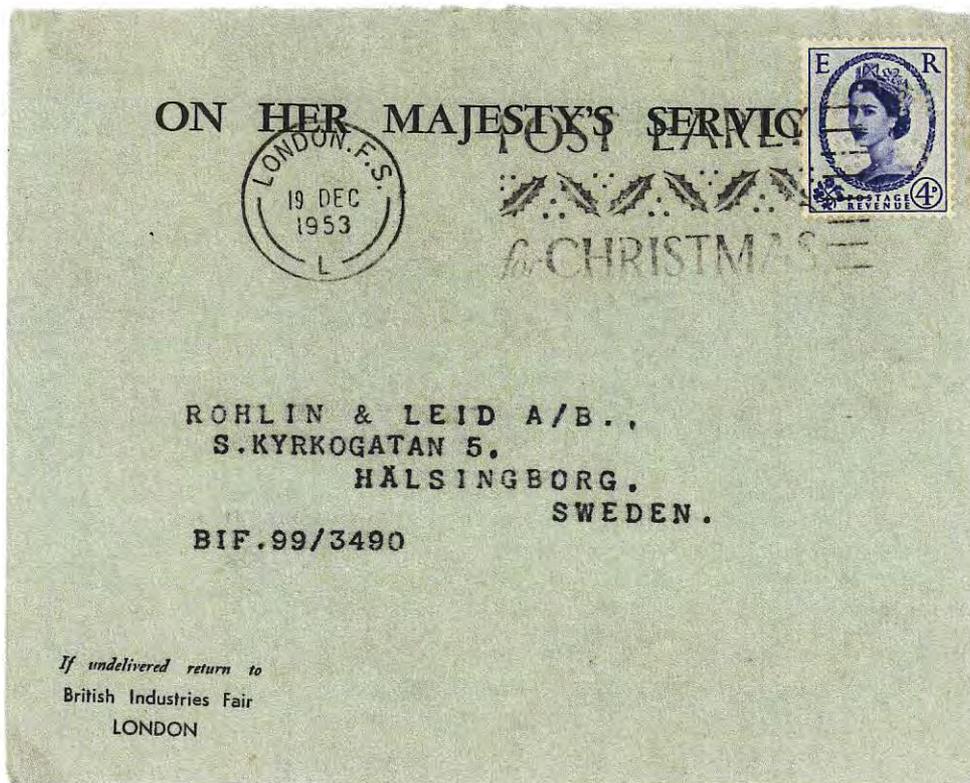
THE PERFINs of H. M. STATIONERY OFFICE

Her Majesty's Stationery Office.

HM
SO



1952/1954 issues – Tudor Crown Watermark – Dorothy Wilding portrait.



THE PERFINs of H. M. STATIONERY OFFICE

Her Majesty's Stationery Office.

H M
S O



1952/1954 issues – Tudor Crown
Watermark – Dorothy Wilding
portrait.

CODE No. 23-30



R. G. Lewis Esq.,
Clerk's Office,
Legislative Assembly,
T O R O N T O,
Canada.

TH

THE PERFINs of H. M. STATIONERY OFFICE

Her Majesty's Stationery Office.

H M
S O



1955/1958 issues – St. Edward's Crown Watermark – Dorothy Wilding portrait.

The Constant Variety.



Type I

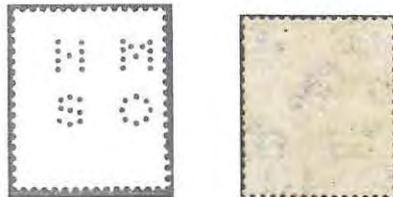


British Commonwealth Games 6d. The only value in this set used by the Stationery Office and the last commemorative stamp used by it.

THE PERFINs of H. M. STATIONERY OFFICE

Her Majesty's Stationery Office.

H M
S O



1958/1965 issues – Multiple Crown Watermark – Dorothy Wilding portrait.



Light red-brown Dark red-brown



Type I



Type II



Inverted perf – Type II



Inverted perf



Albino print



Double perf

THE PERFINs of H. M. STATIONERY OFFICE

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HM
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1958/1965 issues – Multiple Crown Watermark – Dorothy Wilding portrait.

2d usage from two of the Stationery Office London facilities, Cornwall House, Doon Street and 29-55 Gee Street.

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NOTT TERRACE HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY
SCHENECTADY
NEW YORK
U.S.A.

ADN.



From H.M.S.O. MAILING SERVICE,
CORNWALL HOUSE,
DOON STREET,
LONDON. S.E.1.



From H. M. Stationery Office
29-55 Gee Street, London E.C.1

On Her Majesty's Service

Kristahn

DR. M. DAELN,
BUNDESMINISTERIUM DES INNERN,
RHEINDORFER STRASSE, 198,
BONN,
GRO. WR. (F) 69 GERMANY.

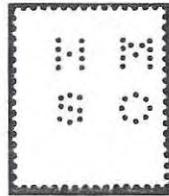


ITW 375

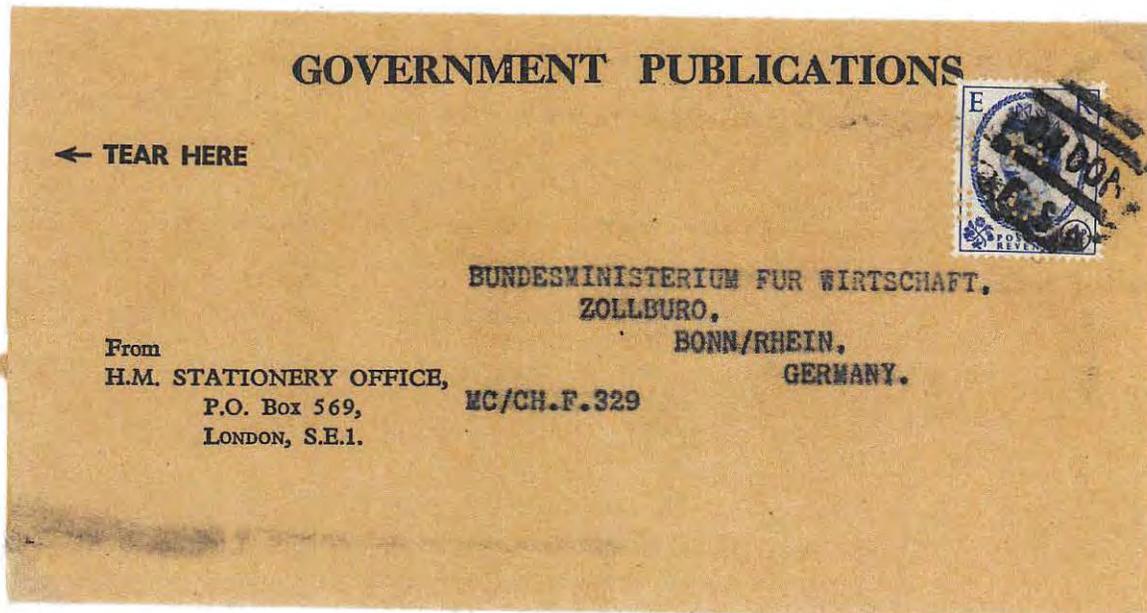
THE PERFINs of H. M. STATIONERY OFFICE

Her Majesty's Stationery Office.

HM
SO



1958/1965 issues – Multiple Crown Watermark – Dorothy Wilding portrait.



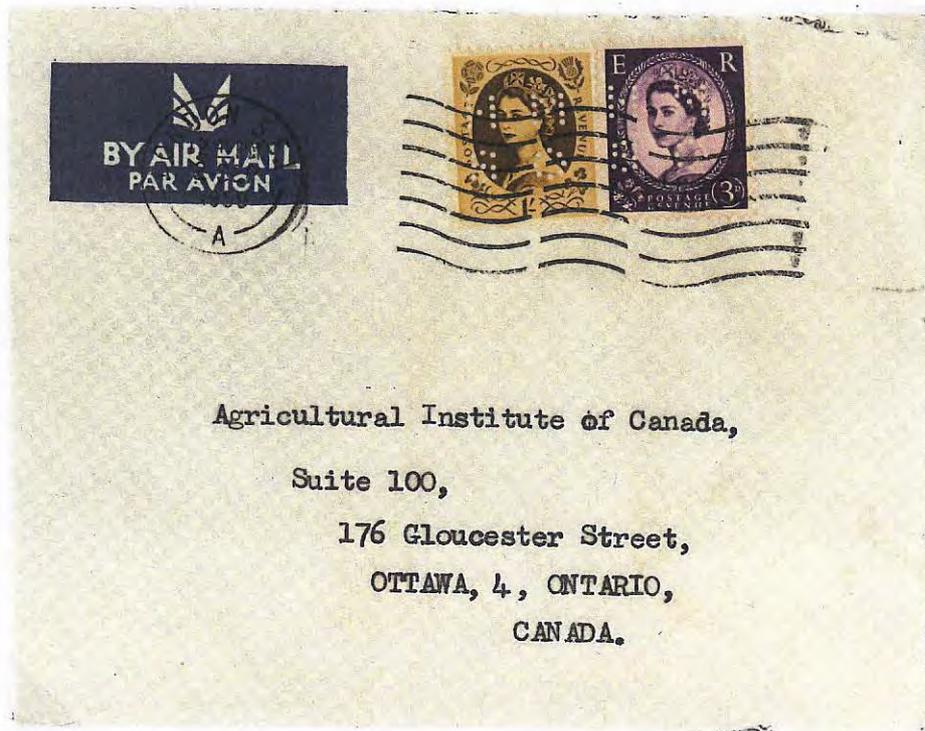
THE PERFINs of H. M. STATIONERY OFFICE

Her Majesty's Stationery Office.

HM
SO



1958/1965 issues – Multiple Crown Watermark – Dorothy Wilding portrait.



CODE No. 23-31.



THE PERFINs of H. M. STATIONERY OFFICE

Her Majesty's Stationery Office.

H M
S O



1958/1965 issues – Multiple Crown Watermark – Dorothy Wilding portrait.

The Constant Variety.



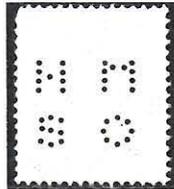
Type II



THE PERFINs of H. M. STATIONERY OFFICE

Her Majesty's Stationery Office.

HM
SO



1958/1965 issues – Multiple Crown Watermark – Dorothy Wilding portrait.

The Constant Variety.

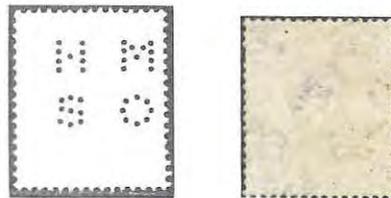


Type II

THE PERFINs of H. M. STATIONERY OFFICE

Her Majesty's Stationery Office.

HM
SO



1958/1965 issues – Multiple Crown Watermark – Dorothy Wilding portrait.

Bright White Paper.



Type I

Type II



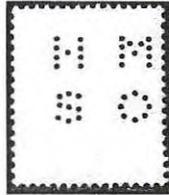
Inverted perf



THE PERFINs of H. M. STATIONERY OFFICE

Her Majesty's Stationery Office.

HM
SO



1958/1965 issues – Multiple Crown Watermark – Dorothy Wilding portrait.

Bright White Paper.



Type II

THE PERFINs of H. M. STATIONERY OFFICE

Her Majesty's Stationery Office.

HM
SO



1958/1965 issues – Multiple Crown Watermark – Dorothy Wilding portrait.

Bright White Paper – The Constant Variety.



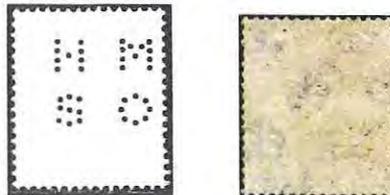
Type II



THE PERFINs of H. M. STATIONERY OFFICE

Her Majesty's Stationery Office.

H M
S O



1958/1965 issues – Multiple Crown Watermark – Dorothy Wilding portrait.

The Phosphor-lined issues.

Starting late in 1957 the Post Office commenced experiments with Automatic Letter Facing machines in an effort to speed up the processing of mail. In order for this process to work the machines needed special stamps and stamps with graphite lines printed on the backs were introduced. Because these experiments were conducted in Southampton, where the Stationery Office did not have a facility, the S. O. did not require, or use, graphite lined issues. The graphite lines issues were superseded by those with phosphor bands added to the face of the stamps and then by stamps with phosphor bands alone. With these stamps being put into general use, they were used at the S. O., but no commencement date has been determined. These can be very hard to detect, even with a good quality UV light. All of the examples shown here, and on the following pages, have been checked for accuracy by using the Freeman & Foster VSC6000 machine at the V. G. Greene Philatelic Research Foundation in Toronto, courtesy of Mr. Garfield Portch, FRPSC.

All of the stamps shown here (green phosphor, which leaves an afterglow) have two bands, unless otherwise indicated.



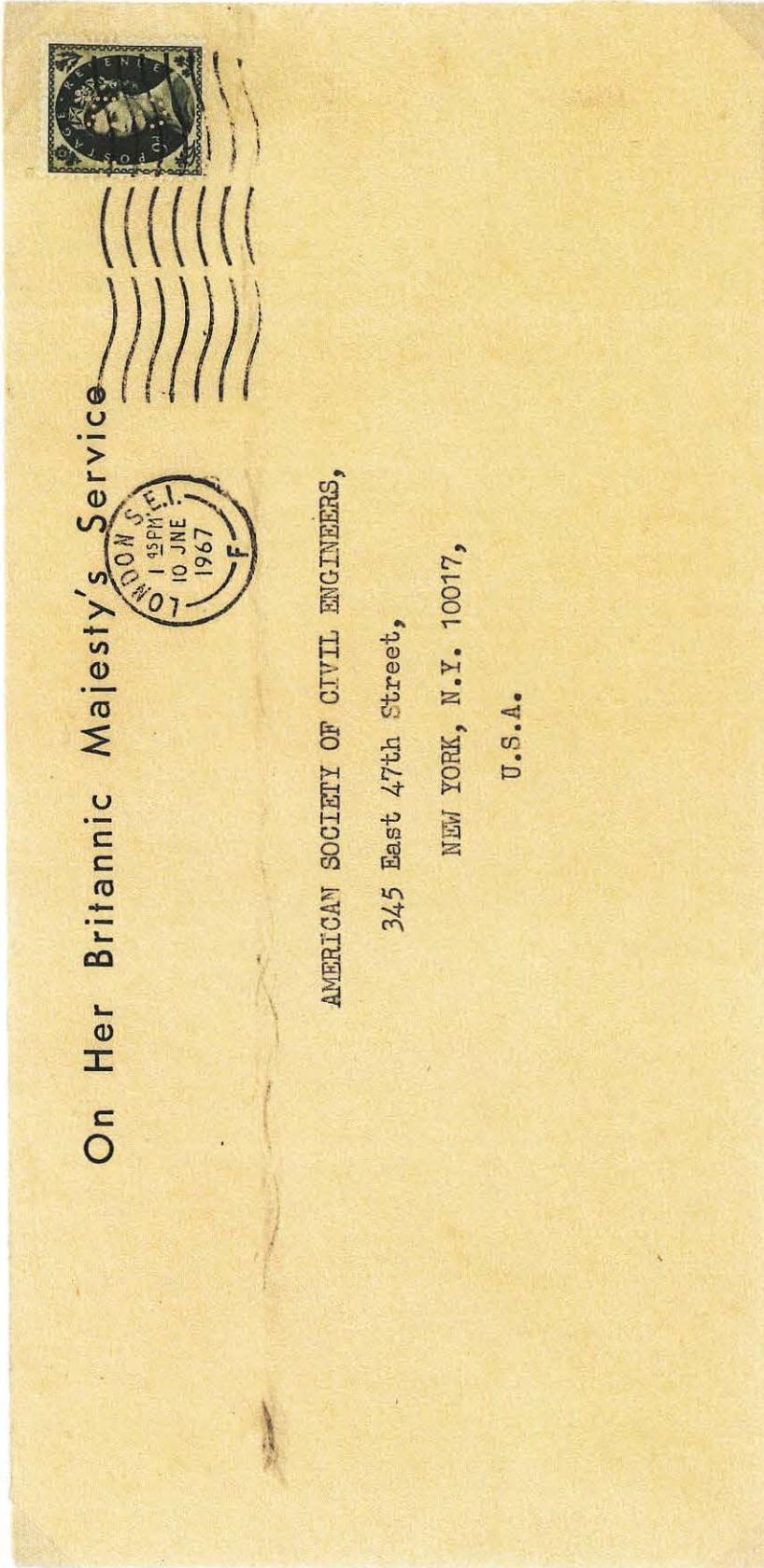
Single Band Left

Type II

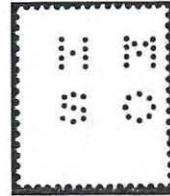


THE PERFINs of H. M. STATIONERY OFFICE

Her Majesty's Stationery Office.



HM
SO



1958/1965 issues –
Multiple Crown Watermark –
Dorothy Wilding portrait.

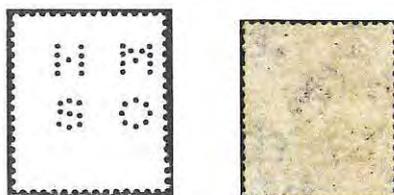
The Phosphor-lined issues.

The stamp on this cover
has the green phosphor,
which leaves an afterglow.

THE PERFINs of H. M. STATIONERY OFFICE

Her Majesty's Stationery Office.

H M
S O



1958/1965 issues – Multiple Crown Watermark – Dorothy Wilding portrait.

The Phosphor-lined issues.

All of the stamps shown here (blue phosphor, which leaves no afterglow) have two bands, unless otherwise indicated.

The bands on the 1/- stamps can be seen with the naked eye.



Single Band Left

Single Band Right



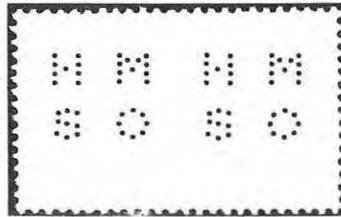
Type II



THE PERFINs of H. M. STATIONERY OFFICE

Her Majesty's Stationery Office.

HM
SO



1955/1958 issues – St. Edward's Crown Watermark – Dorothy Wilding portrait.

High Values – Waterlow & Sons and De La Rue & Co. Ltd.

Waterlow held the contract until 31 December 1957, De La Rue from 1 January 1958. It is very difficult to distinguish the work of the two printers; De La Rue used the Waterlow plates and the ink colours are very similar. Also, it is not known how much carryover the stationery Office had of the 1951 GVI high values. There is no Waterlow 10/- shown here and it is possible it did not exist.

Waterlow.



Constant Variety.

De La Rue.



Constant Variety.



Constant Variety.

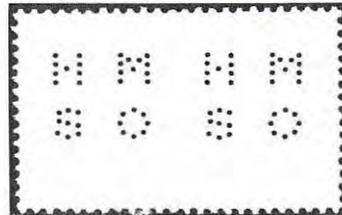


Constant Variety.

THE PERFINs of H. M. STATIONERY OFFICE

Her Majesty's Stationery Office.

HM
SO



1958/1965 issues – Multiple Crown Watermark – Dorothy Wilding portrait.

High Values – De La Rue & Co. Ltd.

De La Rue commenced the use of the Multiple Crowns watermark paper on 22 July 1959. The Company held the contract until 31 December 1962, when it was turned over to Bradbury, Wilkinson & Co.



Constant Variety.



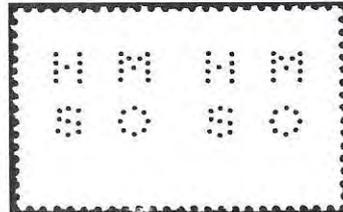
Constant Variety.



THE PERFINs of H. M. STATIONERY OFFICE

Her Majesty's Stationery Office.

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1958/1965 issues – Multiple Crown Watermark – Dorothy Wilding portrait.

High Values – Bradbury, Wilkinson & Co.

Bradbury, Wilkinson & Co. took over the contract 1 January 1963. The engraving was deeper than with De La Rue and the colours were more bright.



Constant Variety.

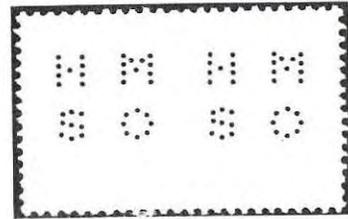
Inverted perf.



THE PERFINs of H. M. STATIONERY OFFICE

Her Majesty's Stationery Office.

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No Watermark, April 1968
Dorothy Wilding portrait.
High Values
Bradbury, Wilkinson & Co.

Nice mixed franking dated 11 June 1969,
2/6d Wilding with 6d and 5/- Machin
to pay the 8/- rate of this item to Germany.
The 5/- has the Constant Variety.



Constant Variety.

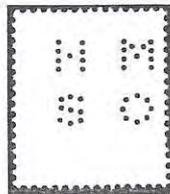


8/-

THE PERFINs of H. M. STATIONERY OFFICE

Her Majesty's Stationery Office.

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1967/1970 Sterling definitive issue – No Watermark – Arnold Machin plaster cast.

From this point on all stamps were printed on un-watermarked paper with the Arnold Machin plaster cast design. Stamps have two phosphor bands, unless otherwise indicated.



Type I

Type II



Single Centre Band

Single Centre Band



Double perf



THE PERFINs of H. M. STATIONERY OFFICE

Her Majesty's Stationery Office.

H M
S O



1967/1970 Sterling definitive issue – No Watermark – Arnold Machin plaster cast.

The Constant Variety – two phosphor bands, unless otherwise indicated.



Single Centre Band.



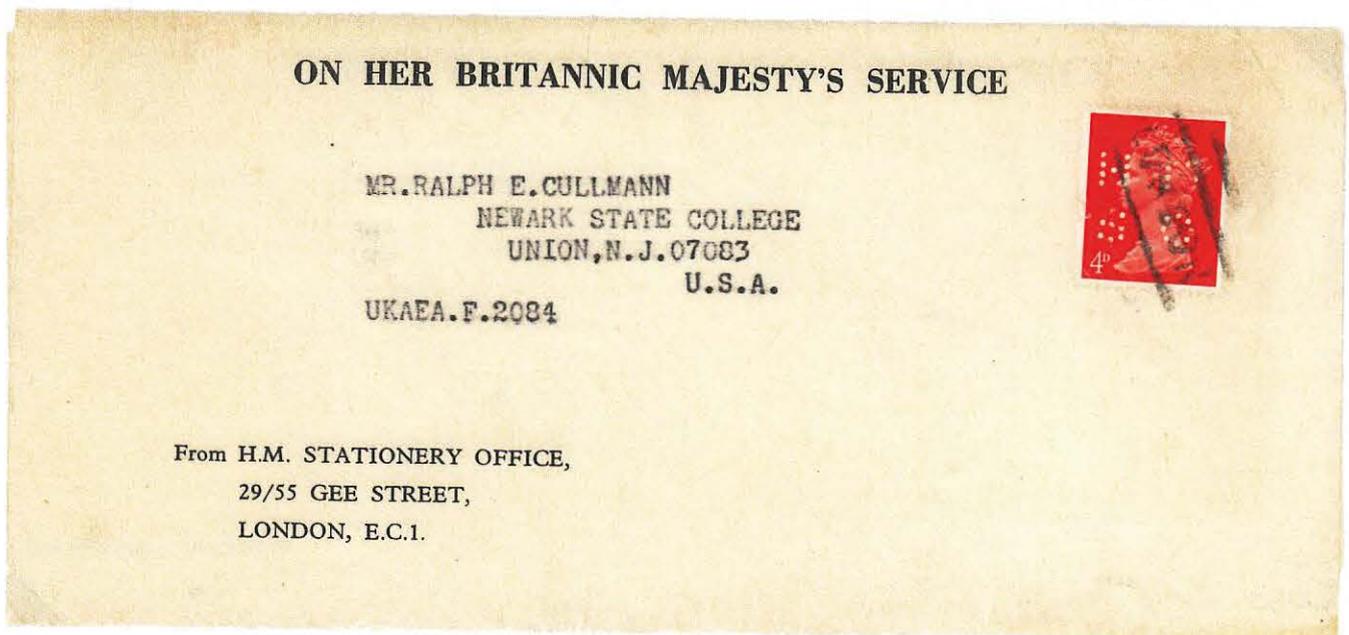
THE PERFINs of H. M. STATIONERY OFFICE

Her Majesty's Stationery Office.

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1967/1970 Sterling definitive issue.



THE PERFINs of H. M. STATIONERY OFFICE

Her Majesty's Stationery Office.

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1967/1970 Sterling definitive issue.

GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS

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BONN/RHEIN,
GERMANY.

From **MC/CH.F.329**
The Government Bookshop,
H.M. Stationery Office,
P.O. Box 569,
LONDON, S.E.1.



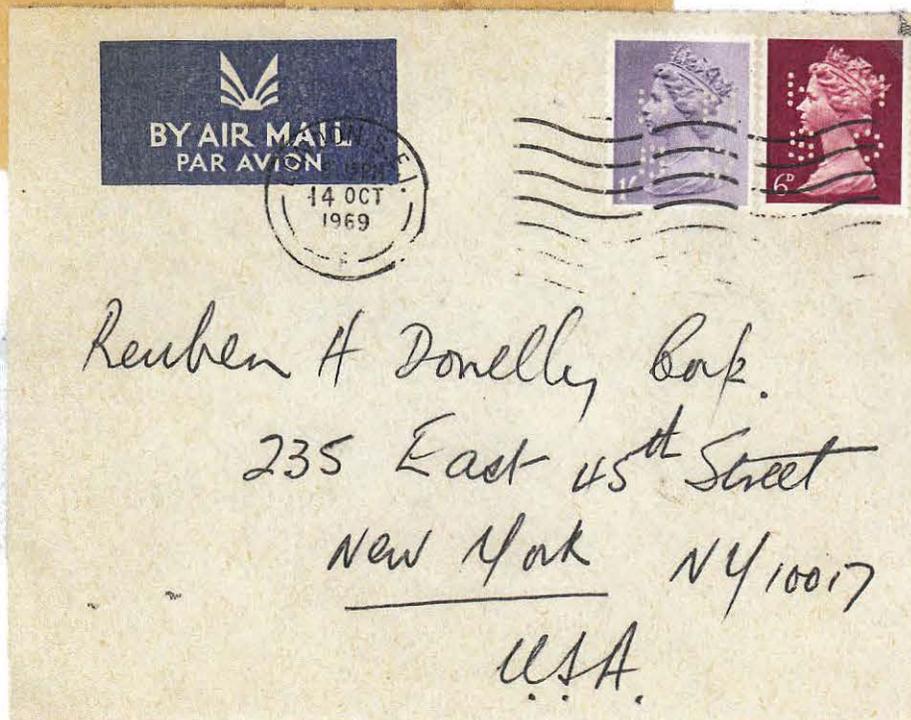
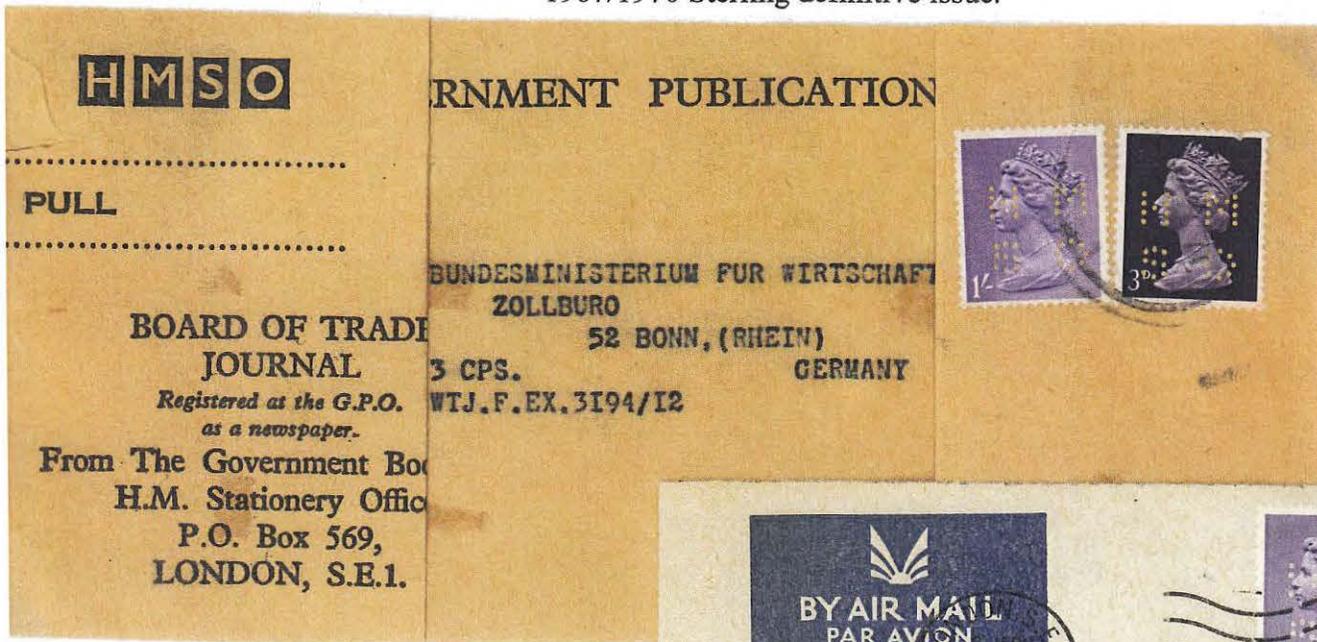
THE PERFINs of H. M. STATIONERY OFFICE

Her Majesty's Stationery Office.

HM
SO



1967/1970 Sterling definitive issue.



Imprint on flap of cover.

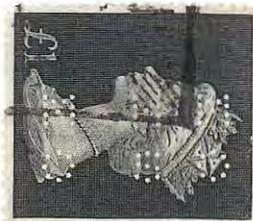
THE PERFINs of H. M. STATIONERY OFFICE

Her Majesty's Stationery Office.

HM
SO



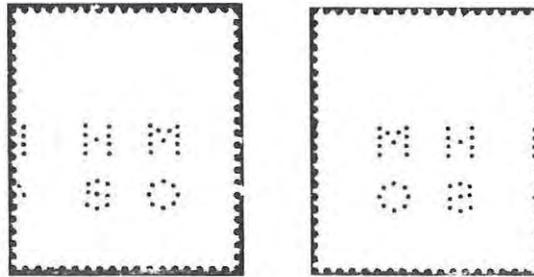
5 March 1969, Sterling High Values – recess printed by Bradbury, Wilkinson & Co.



THE PERFINs of H. M. STATIONERY OFFICE

Her Majesty's Stationery Office.

HM
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1970 Decimal High Values, recess printed, Bradbury, Wilkinson & Co. – No Watermark
– Arnold Machin plaster cast. Issued, 17 June 1970.

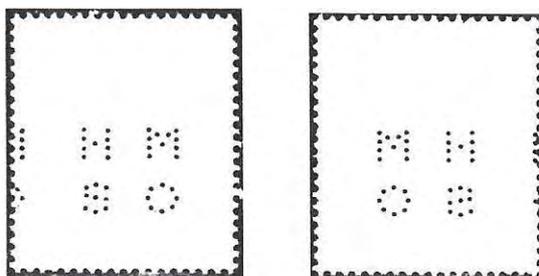
These high values were the first Machins to be issued in the new decimal format and were designed to get people used to some of the new decimal coinage issued around the same time. Where the previous Sterling high values had been issued in sheets of 40, which could be accommodated quite easily in the perforating machine, these stamps were printed in sheets of 100 – 10 X 10, which could not. In order to be able to do the perforating the sheets were folded in half, so that half of the sheet had the perfin the right way on when viewed from the front, and the other half had the perfin reversed – as shown in the scans at the top of the page.



THE PERFINs of H. M. STATIONERY OFFICE

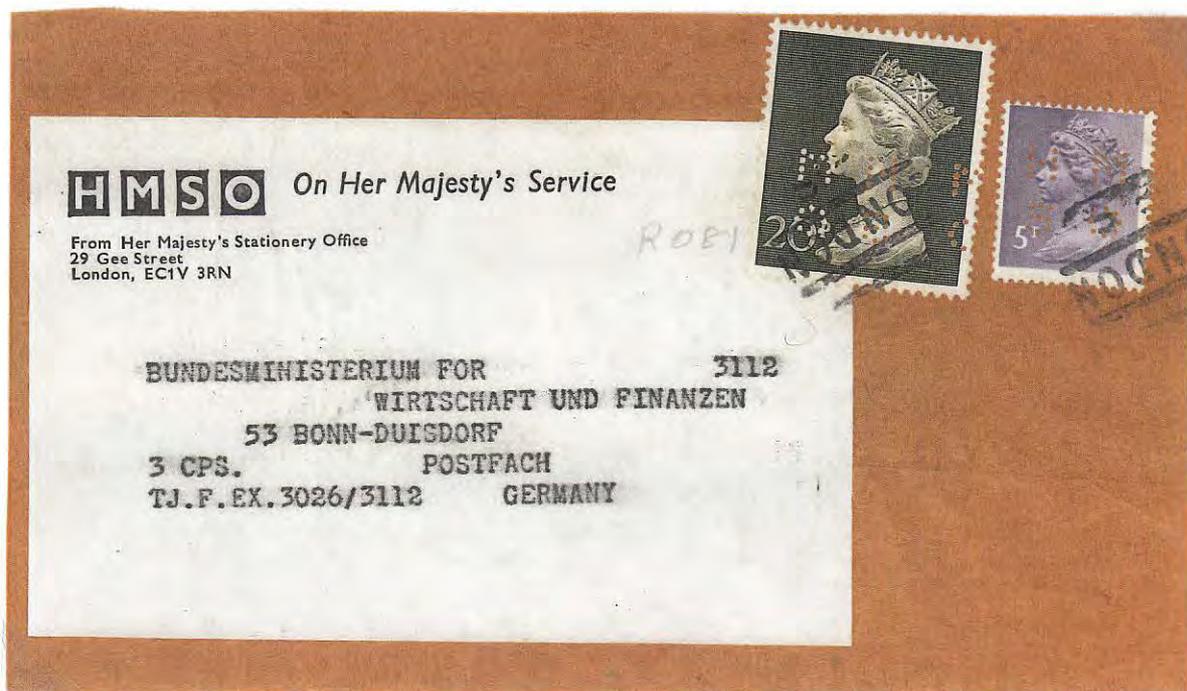
Her Majesty's Stationery Office.

HM
SO



1970 Decimal High Values, recess printed, Bradbury, Wilkinson & Co. – No Watermark
– Arnold Machin plaster cast. Issued, 17 June 1970.

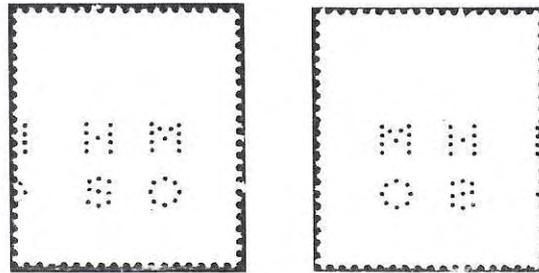
20p used on piece to Germany. Reversed perfin.



THE PERFINs of H. M. STATIONERY OFFICE

Her Majesty's Stationery Office.

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1970 Decimal High Values, recess printed, Bradbury, Wilkinson & Co. – No Watermark
– Arnold Machin plaster cast. Issued, 17 June 1970.

50p used on piece to Germany.

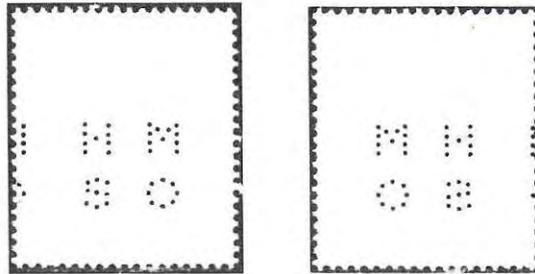
This example, dated 1 April 1977, shows that two months after the 50p recess printed stamp had been replaced with the 50p photogravure, the Stationery Office, Gee Street Branch, still had stock of the old issue on hand. It can also be noted that the 20p is the photogravure issue.



THE PERFINs of H. M. STATIONERY OFFICE

Her Majesty's Stationery Office.

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1970 Decimal High Values, recess printed, Bradbury, Wilkinson & Co. – No Watermark
– Arnold Machin plaster cast. Issued, 17 June 1970.

£1 and 20p used on piece to Switzerland. The perfin is reversed on both high values.

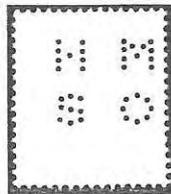
This undated example is from the Stationery Office's Basildon, Essex warehouse.



THE PERFINs of H. M. STATIONERY OFFICE

Her Majesty's Stationery Office.

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1971/1982 Decimal definitive issue – No Watermark – Arnold Machin plaster cast.

First issue, 15 February 1971. Photogravure. Two phosphor bands, except as otherwise indicated.



Inverted perf



Single Centre Band



?? October 1982, the latest recorded date of regular use

THE PERFINs of H. M. STATIONERY OFFICE

Her Majesty's Stationery Office.

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1971/1982 Decimal definitive issue – No Watermark – Arnold Machin plaster cast.

Later issues. Dates of issue shown. Photogravure. Two phosphor bands, except as otherwise indicated.



11 Aug. 1971



Single Centre Band
10 Sept. 1973



24 Oct. 1973



n.d. Dec. 1974



24 Sept. 1975



25 Feb. 1976

The values shown below replaced the 10p, 20p and 50p recess printed issues.



25 Feb. 1976



Double perf



25 Feb. 1976



2 Feb. 1977

THE PERFINs of H. M. STATIONERY OFFICE

Her Majesty's Stationery Office.

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1971/1982 Decimal definitive issue – No Watermark – Arnold Machin plaster cast.

2p on periodical wrapper, 9 July 1971, to the U. S. A.

ON HER BRITANNIC MAJESTY'S SERVICE

**MR. RALPH E. CULLMANN
NEWARK STATE COLLEGE
UNION, N. J. 07083
U.S.A.**

UKAEA. F. 2084



From H.M. STATIONERY OFFICE,
29/55 GEE STREET,
LONDON, E.C.1.

THE PERFINs of H. M. STATIONERY OFFICE

Her Majesty's Stationery Office.

HM
SO

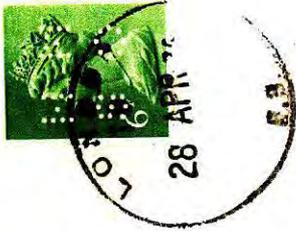


1971/1982 Decimal definitive issue – No Watermark – Arnold Machin plaster cast.

Two covers, both postmarked 20 October 1971, to Geneva, Switzerland, 5p and two 2½p stamps to pay the 5p rate. The Stationery Office Coat of Arms is on the back flap of both covers.

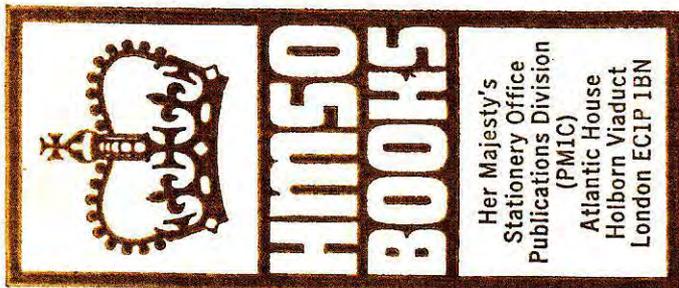


THE PERFINs of H. M. STATIONERY OFFICE



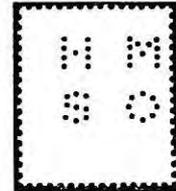
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CANADA.
PB.SC. 792



Her Majesty's
Stationery
Office.

HM
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1971/1982 Decimal definitive
issue – No Watermark –
Arnold Machin plaster cast.

6p on cover, 28 April 1976,
through the
London Foreign Section
to Montreal.

THE PERFINs of H. M. STATIONERY OFFICE

Her Majesty's Stationery Office.

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1971/1982 Decimal definitive issue – No Watermark – Arnold Machin plaster cast.

3p and 4p on form postcard to Germany, 5 November 1975, advising a customer that a requested publication is not available.



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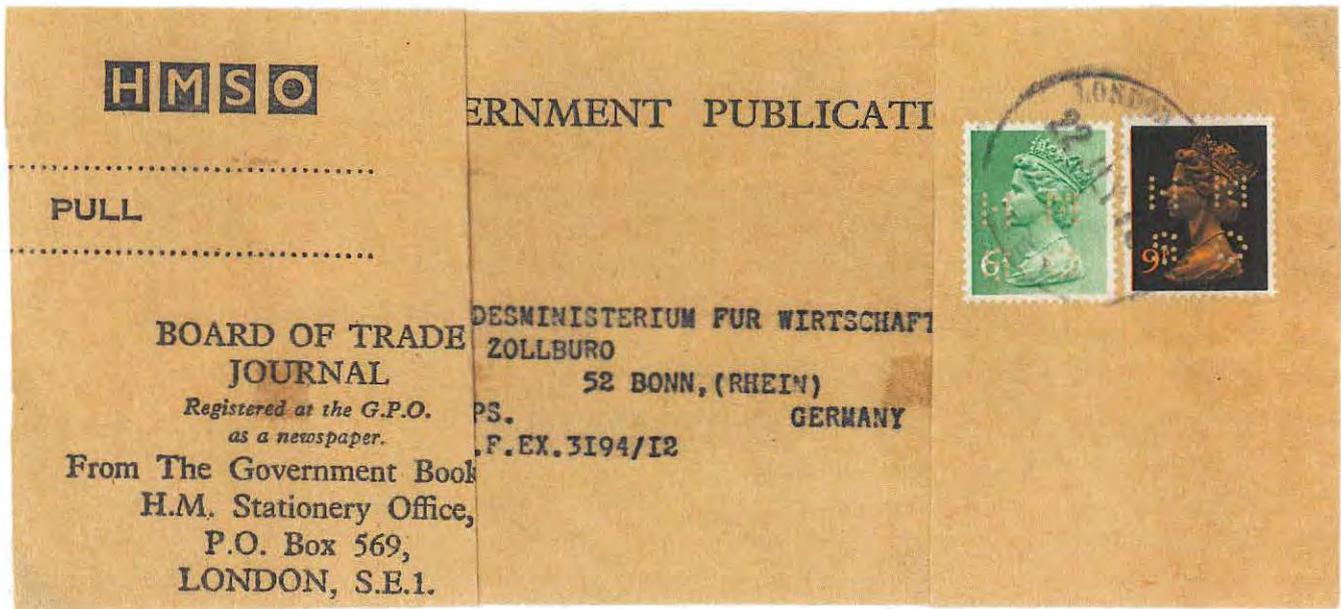
Her Majesty's Stationery Office.

HM
SO



1971/1982 Decimal definitive issue – No Watermark – Arnold Machin plaster cast.

6p and 9p – first issue – on publication wrapper to Germany, 22 July 1971.





Delivered to Excise Audit. HQ. in error.
& forwarded.

Kindly return envelope (with stamps) to
K.R. Cole - Ex. Audit. HQ. *Received*

8TH FLOOR
SIR RICHARD SCOTT

Aug. / Sept 1978.

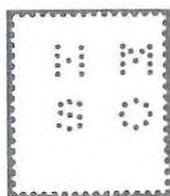
REVENUE CANADA C.E.
INTERNAL AUDIT BRANCH
5TH FLOOR, BESSERER BLDG.
OTTAWA, ONTARIO CANADA K1A 0L5
LN.CM.CL.5539/5

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THE PERFINs of H. M. STATIONERY OFFICE

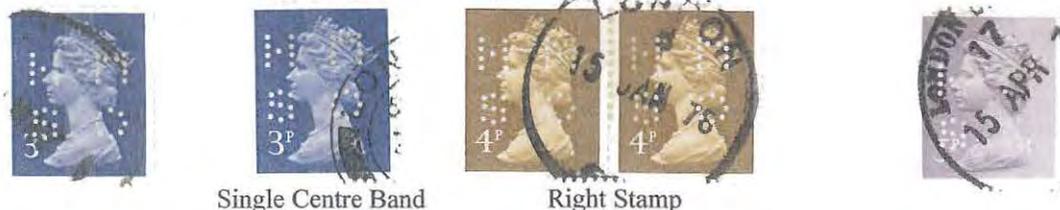
Her Majesty's Stationery Office.

HM
SO



1971/1982 Decimal definitive issue – No Watermark – Arnold Machin plaster cast.

The Constant Variety. All stamps have two phosphor bands, except as indicated otherwise.



Single Centre Band

Right Stamp



Left Stamp

Left Stamp



Centre Stamp



THE PERFINs of H. M. STATIONERY OFFICE

Her Majesty's Stationery Office.

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1971/1982 Decimal definitive issue – No Watermark – Arnold Machin plaster cast.

The Constant Variety.

The left-hand 2p and the 2½p have the Constant Variety. The Stationery Office Coat of Arms is on the back flap of both covers.



THE PERFINs of H. M. STATIONERY OFFICE

Her Majesty's Stationery Office.

HM
SO



1971/1982 Decimal definitive issue – No Watermark – Arnold Machin plaster cast.

The Constant Variety.

The 3p stamp on the part-cover from the Basildon, Essex warehouse has the Constant Variety.

On Her Majesty's Service

HMSO

ON HER MAJESTY'S SERVICE

D63A

HMSO
Docket No.

Departmental
Demand/
Requisition No.

Contents

To:

CSD.CSFGS.231

COLE(GREEN)1

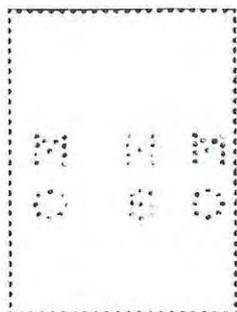
CHIEF OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY BRANCH,
INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICE,
BUREAU INTERNATIONAL DU TRAVAIL,
12211 GENEVE 22.



THE PERFINs of H. M. STATIONERY OFFICE

Her Majesty's Stationery Office.

HM
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1977 High Values, issued 2 February – No Watermark – Arnold Machin plaster cast.
Photogravure, Harrison & Sons Ltd.

These £1, £2 and £5 stamps were the last high value stamps used by the Stationery Office. Because of the large size and the layout of the sheets – 100 stamps in a 10 X 10 format with a centre gutter – they would not fit under the perforating dies of the machine. It seems that the sheets were folded down the right side of the gutter, thus resulting in reversed initialing on possibly half of the stamps in each sheet.



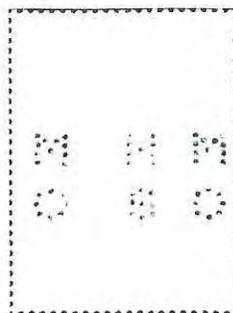
Reversed Initialing.



THE PERFINs of H. M. STATIONERY OFFICE

Her Majesty's Stationery Office.

HM
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1977 High Values, issued 2 February – No Watermark – Arnold Machin plaster cast.
Photogravure, Harrison & Sons Ltd.

The Constant Variety.



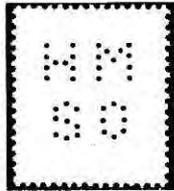
Reversed Initialing.



THE PERFINs of H. M. STATIONERY OFFICE

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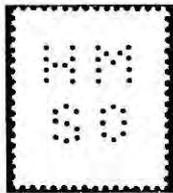


1967/1970 Sterling definitive issue – No Watermark – Arnold Machin plaster cast.

The Sloper Single-Headed Die.

This is a very scarce die and not very much is known about it; how it came into being; where it was used and what type of mail the stamps from it were used upon. All known postmarks are from the London Foreign Section

The die letters were larger than those in the Hurlin/Sloper machine, but the main difference was that the bar to the "H" consisted of two holes instead of one – see below



While no firm dates of use have been established, the best estimate is c1968 – c1970. It is only known on four values of the Sterling Machin definitives – three are shown here.



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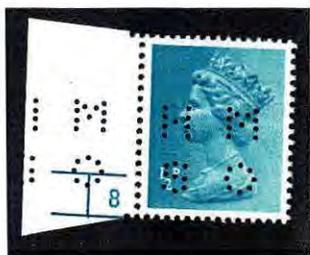
1971/1982 Decimal definitive issue – No Watermark – Arnold Machin plaster cast.

Epilogue.

Starting in the early 1980's the Stationery Office commenced making the switch to postage meters. By early 1983 the changeover was complete and postage stamps were no longer used.

In the Spring of 1983 a financial audit of the mail room uncovered a quantity of unused perforated postage stamps that were about to be returned for a refund. The person doing the audit notified another auditor, whom he knew as a stamp collector. This person made arrangements with the Stationery Office and was able to purchase a quantity of the stamps. He kept the ones with the cylinder numbers for himself and disposed of the others. The exhibitor has since been able to acquire them from him. As can be readily observed, the clerk doing the perforating also perforated the sheet selvage.

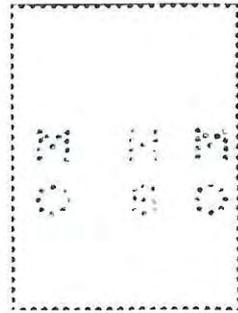
They are shown at the end of the exhibit because they were discovered AFTER the Stationery Office had ceased to use postage stamps in favour of postage meters.



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Epilogue – High Values.

Also discovered in the mail room were these gutter pairs of the £2 and £5. They are believed to be unique. As noted previously, these sheets were too wide to go under the perforating dies without folding. These pairs demonstrate this. The £2 stamps were folded at the left side of the gutter; the £5 at the right, thus making mirror images.

