

Connoisseur Catalogue

Online Edition ©2008

Copyright Notice

Copyright protects the contents and layout of the Connoisseur Catalogue. Permission is hereby given for material in this catalogue to be used privately by philatelists in describing and writing up their collections. It is also extended to be quoted editorially in magazines and philatelic society publications, also by stamp dealers in advertisements and price lists, provided that acknowledgement of the source is given. Where catalogue numbers are quoted, they must be used in full and unadapted and the source must be acknowledged in the advertisement or list.

Publishers of books, catalogues, albums and all other publications, must obtain written consent to quotation or reproduction of parts of this work in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical or otherwise from B.Alan (Stamps) Ltd. (*2 Pinewood Avenue, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN14 5AF, UK*) in all other instances. This copyright covers all diagrams used in this work. The copyright for stamp images, panes and parts thereof is vested in The Post Office and remains their property at all times.

Acknowledgments

The publishers are most grateful to Douglas G. A. Myall (2 Elizabeth Avenue, Bridport, Dorset, DT6 5BA) for his help and continued agreement of the use of his Deegam system copyright material for: (a) the Machin Head Type designations; (b) cross-references to his Type numbers in descriptions of value settings; (c) the S series for coding of short phosphor bands, the I series for inset bands and the N series for notched bands; and (d) the universal coding system for sheet and cylinder block perforation types.

We also acknowledge the use, with permission, of copyright material of the Modern British Philatelic Circle (Membership Secretary – A.J. Wilkins, 3 Buttermere Close, Brierley Hill, West Midlands, DY5 3SD) covering: (a) the DB system for numbering decimal stamp booklets with the exception of ‘window’ stamp booklets; (b) the DP & SP numbering systems for all decimal booklet panes; (c) the perforation coding system for decimal booklet panes; and (d) the Type numbering system for ‘window’ stamp booklets.

SECTION 3A

Harrison/De La Rue Decimal Stamps with Redrawn Numerals & Security Features



Harrison/De La Rue. To all intents and purposes this is the same company. In February of 1997, De La Rue bought out Lonhro's interest in Harrison for £27million, and rationalised its bank note and security printing operations. However, as De La Rue had ceased its own stamp printing some years prior to this no rationalisation at High Wycombe was deemed necessary.

As the two names are basically interchangeable, we tend to refer to stamps printed up to 1997 as Harrison and those from 1997 to 2002 as De La Rue. Until 2002 most make-up values still bore a Harrison imprint and logo in the cylinder block as none needed to be replaced.

De La Rue Byfleet. In September 2002 De La Rue announced the closure of their High Wycombe factory and simultaneously the purchase of the House of Questa. Following this, all printing work was transferred to Questa's plant in Byfleet, Surrey, with the first printings appearing in the Spring of 2003. Due to lack of space, it was not possible for the massive Jumelle press to be relocated, so De La Rue had to rely solely on Questa's existing ATN press for gravure printing. As a consequence, many of the characteristics that were familiar on Questa printings (paper, fluor, phosphor bands, etc) now appeared on the national definitive range, making them readily identifiable from High Wycombe printings. These were initially widely referred to as De La Rue Byfleet issues and accordingly have been allocated a 'DBG' prefix to their catalogue numbers.

Due to a narrower carriage on ATN presses, none of the cylinders used to print definitives at High Wycombe could be used at Byfleet, so all had to be remade. These bear the De La Rue imprint and logo in the cylinder block sheet margin. All the cylinder numbers were pre-fixed with the letter "D", falling in line with the convention adopted by Royal Mail's other security printers. In most cases, both Dot and No Dot cylinders exist, indicating a double pane printing. However, for a brief period during February 2004, values required to meet a short notice tariff change were printed in single panes, as paper manufacturer's Tullis Russell were caught without stock and to meet the urgent deadline paper had to be imported from Enschedé, who only had paper to fit their gravure press which had an even narrower carriage width, sufficient

just to fit a single pane. To print on this paper, single pane cylinders were specially created, but as soon as standard sized paper stock was available from Tullis Russell, these were replaced by conventional double pane cylinders.

De La Rue at Dunstable. In a further surprising move, just over two years after moving to Byfleet, De La Rue announced that they would cease printing stamps for anyone other than Royal Mail, and would again be relocating their stamp printing activities, this time to a plant in Dunstable that had previously specialised in cheque printing, and in the process closing the Byfleet factory as a cost saving exercise . This time the ATN gravure press moved with them – clearly a major undertaking – and as a consequence printing ceased at Byfleet in November 2004 and didn't recommence until April 2005 at Dunstable. No litho presses were moved so those that were already at Dunstable were adapted for the occasional litho stamp issue that De La Rue produce. Apart from the initial 13 days of printing, the move to Dunstable also marked a significant change in the paper stock used to print national denominated definitives, with a creamy gum, virtually no fluorescence in the paper and a much glossier finish to the stamp surface making them distinctive from Byfleet issues. These stamps have a 'DDG' prefix to their numbers. In certain quarters, stamps printed at Byfleet or Dunstable are referred as "ATN" issues after the press on which they were printed. We refer to them simply as De La Rue issues, and identify them by their distinctive characteristics.

Phosphor and fluor. Harrison/De La Rue printings from High Wycombe used the a turquoise tinted blue fluor with standard "A" phosphor which showed an afterglow only under shortwave UV. However, printings from Byfleet and Dunstable show a much brighter violet/whitish tinted fluor combined with A2 phosphor which shows an afterglow under both short and longwave UV. This also differs from the duller, very violet type previously the norm at Byfleet whilst still under Questa management.

External stamps which adjoin the sheet margin have phosphor bands that stop immediately on the edge of the perforations when correctly synchronised. Previously, High Wycombe printings had bands that ran continuously through the top and bottom selvages from one sheet to the next and overlapped appreciably into the sheet margins at left and right. The Byfleet & Dunstable phosphor arrangement gives rise to the possibility of inset or short band on stamps at the perimeter of sheets.

Paper and gum. The closure of De La Rue's High Wycombe plant meant the end of their in-house coating and gumming facilities. Accordingly Tullis Russell, one of the world's leading stamp paper manufacturers and who had previously supplied all other of Royal Mail's security printers, were asked to become supplier to De La Rue. To ensure some continuity, some of the staff from High Wycombe were employed by Tullis Russell, taking with them the practices and technique required to produce similar, if not identical paper. In an effort to make some economies De La Rue transferred any paper remaining at High Wycombe that would fit the ATN press to Byfleet on the changeover. Consequently, initial printings appeared on a range of paper and gum combinations, until these stocks were exhausted and a standard supply from Tullis Russell was established. There are four main types:

Layflat matt PVA gummed paper with no fluorescence in the coating

This was almost certainly gummed at High Wycombe on a base stock supplied by Tullis Russell. This was used for two of the initial four values produced in March of 2003. It was subsequently used in an unexpected move for 5 further values in February 2004. Referred to by De La Rue as HS2 paper.

Blue tinted shiny PVA gummed paper with no fluorescence in the coating

It is now thought this paper was produced by Tullis Russell at their Bollington works, under the auspices of staff transferred from the De La Rue coating plant at High Wycombe. This was used sporadically for a small number of values printed for just a few days at the end of March and beginning of April 2003. This, and the layflat gummed versions are assumed to be just using up remnants of paper stock. Although we state this and the layflat version above to have no fluorescence in the coating, in fact there is some but a very low levels. Also referred to by the printer as HS2.

Blue tinted shiny PVA gummed paper with fluorescence in the paper coating

This paper emanates from Tullis Russell, and was the standard paper type used for national gravure printed Machin issues used up until early 2005. Slight differences in the level of fluorescence contained in the surface coating of the paper have been seen – paper used up until 7th April 2003 (and also for some issues towards the end of the use of this paper type when, presumably, remainders were being used up at the end of small print runs) generally has a brighter fluor content than that used subsequently, although, it appears that some of this brighter stock, presumably left over from earlier printings, was used up in the run up to relocation to Dunstable. Some collectors treat these different levels of fluor as distinctive, referring to the initial versions as ‘bright’ and duller versions as ‘intermediate’ papers. However, we find it difficult to distinguish between single non-marginal stamps, even after long periods of acclimatisation to UV light. With a degree of ageing this difference is likely to diminish even further and therefore we do not distinguish between the types in our catalogue listings. Referred to as DS3 (brighter papers) or TR3 (later intermediate types) paper by De La Rue.

Creamy PVA paper and gum with no fluorescence in the coating

This paper was used for both gravure and litho issues (in slightly different formulations) and was definitely produced by Tullis Russell. Apart from the apparently creamy gum (in fact the gum is colourless – the creamy colour being just the paper showing through), the paper has a glossy surface, making initial printings very rich and strong in colour and with high contrast resulting in very pale Queen’s heads, before an adjustment was made to the depth of etching of the cylinder, bringing them back more in line with Machin’s original intention. Initially this paper was used only on NVI coil and sheet issues, some non-De La Rue booklet printings of denominated Machins and most Country Emblem stamps. However, in an attempt to rationalise paper supplies (and, presumably, in the process to save money), De La Rue started to print all national sheet stamps on this paper from April 2005. This is sometimes referred to as RMS (Royal Mail Services) paper.

(A) Acid Etched Issues**Harrison printings. Photo. Perf 15 x 14 (E1).**

<i>CC</i>	<i>Value</i>		<i>Phos. Bands</i>	<i>Gum</i>	<i>First Issued</i>	<i>Source</i>	<i>Price</i>
(a) OFNP with DEX or PVA Layflat gum. A(C) phosphor – Yellow fluor							
RSF190	19p	Olive-green	CB	DEX	26.10.93 1.11.93	cyls 2, 3 vert coil C37A	0.75
		RSF190/2B	Two narrow side bands			cyl 3	125.00
		RSF190BR	Narrow band at right (phos displaced)			cyl 3	200.00
		RSF190IMP	Imperforate			cyl 3, 4 (hor or vert pair)	250.00
		RSF190NP	Missing phosphor			cyl 3	95.00
RSF191	19p	Olive-green, bottom of value filled in	CB	DEX	1.11.93	vert coil C37B	3.25
RSF191A	19p	Deep olive-green	CB	DEX	6.4.95	cyl 4	1.00
RSF191B	19p	Deep olive-green, thick opaque paper	CB	DEX	6.4.95	cyl 4	3.75
RSF192	19p	Olive-green	CB	PVA*	19.7.94	cyl 3	1.25
RSF193	19p	Olive-green, thinner paper, whiter gum	CB	PVA*	19.7.94	cyl 3	1.75
RSF250	25p	Salmon-pink	2B	DEX	20.12.94 16.5.95 6.6.95	cyls 5, 7 £1 pane DP214A £2 pane DP206A	0.75
			2B (S16)		6.6.95	50p pane DP204A	1.50
RSF251	25p	Salmon-pink, translucent paper	2B	DEX	7.2.95 16.5.95	cyl 7 vert coil C43	2.50
		RSF251BB	Broad band at left			cyl 7	30.00
* This was the initial Machin trial of PVA layflat gum. A later print run of 19ps (RSF193) shows a whiter, more translucent appearance to the gum, but this was caused by thinner paper rather than a change in gum formulation.							
(b) OFNP with DEX or PVA layflat gum. A(B) phosphor – Blue fluor							
RSF194	19p	Olive-green	CB	DEX	28.7.95 10.95	vert coil C37C cyls 1, 3, 6	0.70
RSF194SCR	19p	Olive-green, screened value	CB	DEX	10.95	cyl 3	3.75
RSF194A	19p	Deep olive-green, opaque paper	CB	DEX	16.8.95	cyl 4	1.10
RSF194B	19p	Deep olive-green, translucent paper	CB	DEX	16.8.95	cyl 4	0.70
RSF194C	19p	Deep olive-green, patch on cheek, bottom of value filled in	CB	DEX	8.95	cyl 4	1.95
RSF200	20p	Bright green	CB	DEX	25.6.96	cyl 12, 13	0.60
		RSF200IMP	Imperforate			cyl 13 (hor or vert pair)	275.00

<i>CC</i>	<i>Value</i>		<i>Phos. Bands</i>	<i>Gum</i>	<i>First Issued</i>	<i>Source</i>	<i>Price</i>
RSF201	20p	Deep bright green high set value	CB	DEX	9.7.96	cyl 14	0.80
RSF202	20p	Bright green, high set value	CB	PVA	1.2.97	cyl 14 (warrant 476)	1.75
RSF203	20p	Deep bright green, high set value	CB	PVA	8.4.97	cyl 14 (warrant 500)	1.75
RSF252	25p	Salmon-pink	2B	DEX	28.7.95	vert coil C43A	0.70
					8.95	cyls 5, 7	
					4.9.95	£1 pane DP214B	
					20.2.96	£2 pane DP206B	
			2B (S16)		4.9.95	£1 pane DP214B	4.75
		RSF252NP Missing phosphor				pane DP214B	19.50
RSF252A	25p	Salmon-pink, bottom of value filled in, border doubled across top of stamp	2B	DEX	7.95	vert coil C43A	4.00
RSF253	25p	Salmon-pink, translucent paper	2B	DEX	12.95	vert coil C43B	6.00
RSF254	25p	Salmon-pink	2B	PVA*	8.95	cyl 7	10.00
RSF260	26p	Reddish brown	2B	DEX	25.6.96	cyl 6	0.70
RSF260SCR 26p		Reddish brown, screened value	2B	DEX	25.6.96	cyl 6	5.00
RSF261	26p	Deep reddish brown	2B	DEX	1.9.96	cyl 6 (warrant 425)	1.50
RSF262	26p	Pale reddish brown	2B	PVA	27.2.97	cyl 11	1.50
RSF263	26p	Reddish brown	2B	PVA	16.4.97	cyl 6	2.25
RSF370	37p	Amethyst	2B (9.5mm)	DEX	8.7.96	vert coil C52	1.00
RSF371	37p	Amethyst	2B (8mm)**	DEX	8.7.96	vert coil C53	3.50
RSF430	43p	Chocolate brown	2B (9.5mm)	DEX	8.7.96	vert coil C58	2.00
RSF431	43p	Chocolate brown	2B (8mm)**	DEX	8.7.96	vert coil C59	3.50
RSF630	63p	Light emerald	2B (9.5mm)	DEX	12.12.96	vert coil C70	1.50
RSF631	63p	Light emerald	2B (8mm)**	DEX	12.12.96	vert coil C71	3.50

* The remainder of the paper, originally used for the 19p PVA layflat trials of 1994 (RSF192,RSF193), was used for this printing in error.

** Stamps from coil rolls 1 & 10 have their external bands misplaced by 1.5mm outwards, leaving a wider gap of 12.5mm between the bands (normally 11mm). It may be possible to identify whether a stamp comes from either roll 1 or 10 as, in theory, the narrower band comes from the outside edge of the primary sheet. However, as it is also possible (and we have seen such examples) that the phosphor across the entire uncut coil sheet is misplaced either to the left or right, it can be difficult or impossible to determine which is the narrow and which is the wider band. We therefore restrict our listing to just one of these with overall narrower bands, which remain constant irrespective of the phosphor positioning.

<i>CC</i>	<i>Value</i>		<i>Phos. Bands</i>	<i>Gum</i>	<i>First Issued</i>	<i>Source</i>	<i>Price</i>
(c) OFPP/DEX							
RSP250	25p	Salmon-pink	–		26.10.93	cyl 5	0.75
					1.11.93	vert coil C42	
					1.11.93	50p pane DP204/B	
					1.11.93	£2 pane DP206/B	
					26.4.94	£1 pane DP214/B	
		RSP250IMP Imperforate				cyl 5 (horiz or vert. pair)	450.00
RSP350	35p	Deep Yellow	–		1.11.93	vert coil C51	4.75
RSP410	41p	Stone	–		1.11.93	vert coil C56	4.75

Perf. 15 x 14 (Non-elliptical perfs)

(d) OFNP/DEX. A(B) phosphor – Blue fluor

ROF250	25p	Salmon-pink	2B		16.1.96	RD £1.25 coil C44	5.50
---------------	------------	-------------	----	--	---------	-------------------	------

(e) OFPP/DEX

ROP40	4p	New blue	–		31.1.95	RD 19p coil CS20	1.00
ROP50	5p	Claret	–		31.1.95	RD 19p coil CS20	0.60

(B) Computer Engraved Issues

Harrison/De La Rue printings.

Gravure. Perf 15 x 14 (E1).

Sheets printed from cylinders bearing a De La Rue logo and imprint in the selvage are marked †

<i>CC</i>	<i>Value</i>		<i>Phos. Bands</i>	<i>First Issued</i>	<i>Source</i>	<i>Price</i>
(a) OFNP/PVA Layflat gum. A(B) phosphor – Blue fluor						
RCF10	1p	Crimson	2B	1.4.97	cyl 1	0.30
		RCF10IMP Imperforate			cyl 1 (horiz or vert pair)	—
RCF11	1p	Crimson, deep Queen's head, dull fluor	2B	9.02	cyl 1	0.75
RCF20	2p	Deep green	2B	27.5.97	cyl 1	0.30
		RCF20IMP Imperforate			cyl 1 (horiz or vert pair)	£1,000
RCF21	2p	Deep dull green, dull fluor	2B	2.01	cyl 1	1.00
RCF40	4p	New blue	2B	27.5.97	cyl 1	0.50
		RCF40IMP Imperforate			cyl 1 (horiz or vert pair)	850.00
RCF41	4p	New blue, dull fluor	2B	10.02	cyl 1	0.80
RCF42	4p	New blue, dull fluor, snowy print	2B	12.02	cyl 1	2.75

<i>CC</i>	<i>Value</i>		<i>Phos. Bands</i>	<i>First Issued</i>	<i>Source</i>	<i>Price</i>
RCF50	5p	Claret	2B	27.5.97	cyl 1	0.30
RCF51	5p	Pale claret	2B	10.98	cyl 1	0.80
RCF52	5p	Claret, deep Queen's head, dull fluor	2B	10.02	cyl 1	0.80
RCF60	6p	Lime green	2B	1.4.97	cyl 1	0.35
RCF70	7p	Light grey RCF70IMP Imperforate	2B	20.4.99	cyl 1† cyl 1 (horiz or vert pair)	2.25 950.00
RCF80	8p	Deep yellow	2B	25.4.00	cyl 1†	0.35
RCF81	8p	Deep yellow, dull fluor	2B	10.02	cyl 1†	0.90
RCF100	10p	Deep orange	2B	8.5.97	cyl 1	0.35
RCF101	10p	Dull brownish orange RCF101/IMP Imperforate	2B	3.98	cyl 1 cyl 1 (horiz or vert pair)	0.95 650.00
RCF102	10p	Deep orange, dull fluor	2B	11.02	cyl 1	1.10
RCF190	19p	Yellowish olive RCF190/2Ba Additional narrow band at left RCF190/2Bb Additional narrow band at right	CB	20.4.99	cyl 8† cyl 8 cyl 8	0.45 3.50 3.50
RCF191	19p	Deep olive RCF191IMP Imperforate	CB	4.99	cyl 8† cyl 8 (horiz or vert pair)	1.00 150.00
RCF192	19p	Olive-green RCF192FB Band front and back RCF192NP Missing phosphor	CB	9.8.99	cyl 8, 9, 10† cyl 10 cyl 9	1.00 2.95 125.00
RCF200	20p	Bright green RCF200IMP Imperforate	CB	29.4.97	cyl 16, 17 cyl 17	0.60 325.00
RCF201	20p	Bright green	SBR	23.9.97	BBC pane DP257	1.25
RCF202	20p	Pale bright green	CB	2.98	cyl 17	1.30
RCF203	20p	Bright green	2B	20.4.99	cyl 17	0.45
RCF204	20p	Deep bright green, deep Queen's head, dull fluor	2B	10.02	cyl 16	1.50
RCF260	26p	Gold	2B	29.4.97 23.9.97 2B (S16) 23.9.97 2B (S17) 23.9.97 2B (I1) 23.9.97 2B (I2) 23.9.97	cyl 13 BBC pane DP256 BBC pane DP256 BBC pane DP256 BBC pane DP256 BBC pane DP256	0.75 2.50 2.50 2.00 2.00
		RCF260IMP Imperforate			cyl 13 (horiz. pair)	£1750
RCF261	26p	Reddish brown 2B RCF261IMP Imperforate		23.9.97 18.11.97	BBC pane DP257 cyl 13 cyl 13 (horiz. or vert. pair)	0.60 275.00
RCF262	26p	Chocolate brown 2B		18.4.98	cyl 13	1.30
RCF300	30p	Grey-green 2B		12.5.97	cyl 1	0.65

<i>CC</i>	<i>Value</i>		<i>Phos. Bands</i>	<i>First Issued</i>	<i>Source</i>	<i>Price</i>
RCF301	30p	Deep greyish green RCF301IMP Imperforate	2B	24.7.98	cyl 1 cyl 1 (horiz. or vert. pair)	1.75 –
RCF310	31p	Royal purple	2B	7.8.97	cyl 1	0.65
RCF330	33p	Slate-blue	2B	25.4.00	cyl 1 †	0.60
RCF331	33p	Slate-blue, dull fluor	2B	11.02	cyl 1 †	1.95
RCF370	37p	Bright mauve	2B	7.8.97 26.8.97	cyl 2 vert coil C53A	0.90
RCF371	37p	Grey-black	2B	4.7.02	cyl 1 †	0.65
RCF380	38p	Ultramarine	2B	20.4.99	cyl 1 †	0.70
RCF390	39p	Bright magenta RCF390IMP Imperforate	2B	12.5.97	cyl 1 cyl 1 (horiz. or vert pair)	0.90 £1100
RCF400	40p	Greyish blue	2B	25.4.00	cyl 1 †	0.70
RCF401	40p	Pale greyish blue, dull fluor	2B	10.01	cyl 1 †	1.50
RCF410	41p	Rosine	2B	25.4.00	cyl 1 †	0.75
RCF411	41p	Rosine, dull fluor	2B	10.02	cyl 1 †	2.15
RCF420	42p	Grey-green	2B	4.7.02	cyl 1 †	0.75
RCF430	43p	Sepia-brown	2B	21.3.97 26.8.97	cyl 1 vert coil C60	2.00
RCF431	43p	Deep chocolate brown	2B	3.98	cyl 1	4.95
RCF432	43p	Deep sepia-brown	2B	4.99	cyl 1	4.15
RCF440	44p	Stone	2B	20.4.99	cyl 1 †	3.00
RCF450	45p	Bright mauve	2B	25.4.00	cyl 1 †	0.80
RCF451	45p	Bright mauve, dull fluor	2B	2.01	cyl 1 †	1.60
RCF470	47p	Sea-green	2B	4.7.02	cyl 1 †	0.85
RCF500	50p	Ochre	2B	1.4.97	cyl 1	0.95
RCF501	50p	Ochre, deep Queen's head, dull fluor	2B	11.02	cyl 1	2.40
RCF630	63p	Light emerald	2B	13.8.97	cyl 1	1.25
RCF640	64p	Sea-green	2B	20.4.99	cyl 1 †	1.15
RCF650	65p	Greenish blue	2B	25.4.00	cyl 1 †	1.15
RCF680	68p	Stone	2B	4.7.02	cyl 1 †	1.20
RCF1000	£1	Bluish violet RCF1000IMP Imperforate	2B	1.4.97	cyl 1/1 cyl 1/1 (horz. or vert. pair)	1.80 650.00
RCF1001	£1	Bluish violet, snowy print	2B	1.01	cyl 1/1	6.50
RCF1002	£1	Deep bluish violet, deep Queen's head, dull fluor	2B	6.01	cyl 1/1	3.00

CC	Value	First		Price	
		Issued	Source		
(b) OFPP/PVA Layflat gum					
RCP40	4p	New blue	22.5.00	Matthews M/S	1.75
RCP50	5p	Claret	22.5.00	Matthews M/S	1.75
RCP60	6p	Lime green	22.5.00	Matthews M/S	1.75
RCP100	10p	Deep orange	22.5.00	Matthews M/S	1.80
RCP310	31p	Royal purple	22.5.00	Matthews M/S	2.05
RCP390	39p	Bright magenta	22.5.00	Matthews M/S	2.15
RCP640	64p	Sea-green	22.5.00	Matthews M/S	2.35
RCP1000	£1	Bluish violet	22.5.00	Matthews M/S	2.75
RCPMS1	Jeffery Matthews Miniature Sheet		22.5.00	(cyl 1A 1B 1C 1D 1E 1F 1G 1H 1J 1K)*	15.00

* Cylinder numbers trimmed off



Jeffery Matthews Miniature Sheet

This sheet, intended to show the colour palette for Machin definitives established by Jeffery Matthews, was designed by its inspirer and contains 8 Machins – 4p, 6p, 10p, 31p, £1, 5p, 64p and 39p (in order of appearance on sheet) plus two pictorial labels in the centre – one showing the Royal Mail crest and the other Matthews’ monogram on an artist’s palette. The stamps are all printed on phosphor coated paper, the first reappearance of this in some years. Printed on the Jumelle press, all the 10 colour units were used to print the different colours of each stamp and labels, leaving none free to print phosphor bands, hence the use of phosphorised paper. The same paper was also used to print the “Her Majesty’s Stamps” miniature sheet (see Millennium NVI section on page 52 for details), purely as a matter of convenience.

(C) Computer Engraved Issues
De La Rue printings at Byfleet or Dunstable.
Gravure. Perf 15 x 14 (E1).
A(B) phosphor – Blue fluor

<i>CC</i>	<i>Value</i>		<i>Phos. Bands</i>	<i>Gum</i>	<i>Paper Coating</i>	<i>First Issued</i>	<i>Source</i>	<i>Price</i>
(a) OFNP/PVA (Layflat or shiny blue gum), printed at Byfleet unless otherwise stated								
DBG10	1p	Crimson	2B 2B (I2)	Shiny	Fluor	23.6.03 23.6.03	cyl D1 cyl D1	0.35 5.50
DBG11	1p	Pale crimson, pale Queen's head	2B	Shiny	Fluor	2.04	cyl D1	0.80
DBG12	1p	Bright reddish crimson	2B 2B (S16) 2B (S17) 2B (I1) 2B (I2)	Shiny	Fluor	8.04 8.04 8.04 8.04 8.04	cyl D1 cyl D1 cyl D1 cyl D1 cyl D1	0.85 11.00 30.00 8.50 7.50
DBG20	2p	Deep green	2B 2B (I2)	Shiny	Fluor	23.6.03 23.6.03	cyl D1 cyl D1	0.35 30.00
DBG21	2p	Deep green, pale Queen's head	2B 2B (S16) 2B (I1)	Shiny	Fluor	2.04 2.04 2.04	cyl D1 cyl D1 cyl D1	0.80 25.00 7.50
DBG40	4p	New blue	2B 2B (S16) 2B (S16) (I1) 2B (I1) 2B (I2)	Shiny	Fluor	23.6.03 23.6.03 23.6.03 23.6.03 23.6.03	cyl D1 cyl D1 cyl D1 cyl D1 cyl D1	0.80 30.00 30.00 5.00 7.50
DBG41	4p	New blue	2B 2B (I1) 2B (I2)	Shiny	No fluor	6.03 6.03 6.03	cyl D1 cyl D1 cyl D1	0.75 30.00 25.00
		DBG41IMP Imperforate (horiz. or vert. pairs)					cyl D1	300.00
DBG42	4p	Bright new blue, pale Queen's head	2B 2B (I1)	Shiny	Fluor	4.04 4.04	cyl D1 cyl D1	1.40 30.00
		DBG42IMP Imperforate (horiz. or vert. pairs)					cyl D1	650.00
DBG50	5p	Claret	2B 2B (I1)	Shiny	Fluor	23.6.03 23.6.03	cyl D1 cyl D1	0.40 5.50
DBG51	5p	Claret	2B	Shiny	No Fluor	6.03	cyl D1	1.40
DBG52	5p	Pinkish claret	2B 2B (S16)	Shiny	Fluor	7.04 7.04	cyl D1 cyl D1	1.50 11.00
DBG70	7p	Bright pink	2B 2B (I2)	Shiny	Fluor	1.4.04 1.4.04	cyl D1 cyl D1	0.50 7.50
		DBG70IMP Imperforate (horiz. or vert. pairs)					cyl D1	175.00
DBG71	7p	Deep bright pink	2B	Shiny	Fluor	4.05	cyl D1	7.50
DBG80	8p	Deep yellow	2B 2B (S16) 2B (I1)	Shiny	Fluor	31.7.03 31.7.03 31.7.03	cyl D1 cyl D1 cyl D1	0.60 30.00 15.00

CC	Value		Phos. Bands	Gum	Paper Coating	First Issued	Source	Price
DBG90	9p	Bright orange*	2B	Shiny	Fluor	5.4.05	cyl D1	0.45
			2B (I1)			5.4.05	cyl D1	11.50
DBG91	9p	Pale bright orange, pale Queen's head	2B	Shiny	Fluor	4.05	cyl D1	1.35
DBG100	10p	Deep orange	2B	Shiny	Fluor	15.5.03	cyl D1	0.45
			2B (S16)			15.5.03	cyl D1	25.00
			2B (S17)			15.5.03	cyl D1	7.50
			2B (I1)			15.5.03	cyl D1	30.00
			2B (I2)			15.5.03	cyl D1	8.50
			DBG100AOP All over phosphor wash				cyl D1	10.00
DBG101	10p	Deep brownish orange	2B	Shiny	Fluor	12.03	cyl D1	1.40
			DBG101AOP All over phosphor wash				cyl D1	10.00
DBG102	10p	Deep yellowish orange	2B	Shiny	Fluor	2.05	cyl D1	1.50
DBG103	10p	Deep bright orange**	2B	Shiny	Fluor	5.06	cyl D1	3.00
DBG104	10p	Deep very bright orange**	2B	Shiny	Fluor	5.06	cyl D1	3.50
DBG200	20p	Bright green	2B	Layflat	No fluor	19.3.03	cyl D1	1.25
			2B (S16)			19.3.06	cyl D1	25.00
			2B (S16) (I1)			19.3.06	cyl D1	30.00
			2B (I1)			19.3.06	cyl D1	10.00
			DBG200AOP All over phosphor wash				cyl D1	75.00
DBG201	20p	Pale bright green, yellowish Queen's head	2B	Shiny	Fluor	6.03	cyl D1	5.00
			2B (S17)			6.03	cyl D1	30.00
			2B (I1)			6.03	cyl D1	11.00
			2B (I2)			6.03	cyl D1	30.00
DBG202	20p	Bright green	2B	Shiny	Fluor	3.03	cyl D1	10.00
DBG203	20p	Pale bright green	2B	Layflat	No fluor	1.4.04	cyl D2	0.90
			2B (S16)			1.4.04	cyl D2	10.00
			DBG203IMP Imperforate (horiz. or vert. pairs)				cyl D2	175.00
DBG204	20p	Very pale bright green, pale Queen's head	2B	Shiny	Fluor	1.4.04	cyl D3	0.90
			2B (I2)			1.4.04	cyl D3	25.00
DBG205	20p	Deep bright green	2B	Shiny	Fluor	7.05	cyl D3	1.75
			2B (I1)			7.05	cyl D3	25.00
DBG330	33p	Slate-blue	2B	Layflat	No Fluor	29.3.03	cyl D1	1.75
			2B (S16)			29.3.03	cyl D1	25.00
			2B (I1)			29.3.03	cyl D1	14.00
DBG331	33p	Slate-blue	2B	Shiny	Fluor	8.03	cyl D1	1.40
			2B (I1)			8.03	cyl D1	12.50
DBG340	34p	Deep lime-green	2B	Shiny	Fluor	6.5.03	cyl D1	0.75
			2B (S16)			6.5.03	cyl D1	25.00
			2B (S16) (I1)			6.5.03	cyl D1	35.00
			2B (I1)			6.5.03	cyl D1	11.00
			2B (I2)			6.5.03	cyl D1	25.00

* Although these stamps use the paper and gum type consistent with being printed at Byfleet, they were **also** printed at Dunstable.

** Although these stamps use the paper and gum type consistent with being printed at Byfleet, they were **only** printed at Dunstable.

3A :De La Rue Byfleet Security CE OFNP/PVA

<i>CC</i>	<i>Value</i>		<i>Phos. Bands</i>	<i>Gum</i>	<i>Paper Coating</i>	<i>First Issued</i>	<i>Source</i>	<i>Price</i>
DBG341	34p	Deep lime-green	2B	Shiny	No fluor	11.6.03	cyl D1	1.40
			2B (I1)			11.6.03	cyl D1	25.00
			2B (I2)			11.6.03	cyl D1	30.00
DBG342	34p	Lime-green, pale Queen's head	2B	Shiny	Fluor	05.04	cyl D1	2.00
DBG350	35p	Sepia	2B	Shiny	Fluor	1.4.04	cyl D2	0.60
			2B (S16)			1.4.04	cyl D2	20.00
			2B (I1)			1.4.04	cyl D2	13.75
			2B (S16) (I1)			1.4.04	cyl D2	35.00
DBG351	35p	Deep sepia DBG351/IMP Imperforate (horiz. or vert. pairs)	2B	Layflat	No fluor	1.4.04	cyl D1 cyl D1	0.90 350.00
DBG352	35p	Lime-green**	CB	Shiny	Fluor	26.4.05	cyl D2	0.85
DBG353	35p	Pale yellowish lime-green**	CB	Shiny	Fluor	05.05	cyl D2	1.80
			CB (S2)			05.05	cyl D2	30.00
DBG370	37p	Grey-black	2B	Shiny	Fluor	17.9.03	cyl D1	1.00
			2B (S16)			17.9.03	cyl D1	10.00
DBG390	39p	Light grey	2B	Shiny	Fluor	1.4.04	cyl D2	0.70
			2B (S17)			1.4.04	cyl D2	30.00
			2B (I2)			1.4.04	cyl D2	15.00
DBG391	39p	Light grey DBG391/IMP Imperforate (horiz. or vert. pairs)	2B	Layflat	No fluor	1.4.04	cyl D1	1.00
			2B (I1)			1.4.04	cyl D1	25.00
							cyl D1	350.00
DBG392	39p	Pale light grey	2B	Shiny	Fluor	4.04	cyl D2	3.75
DBG393	39p	Light grey, dull fluor additive to phosphor	2B	Shiny	Fluor	2.06	cyl D2	3.50
DBG400	40p	Greenish blue	2B	Shiny	Fluor	1.4.04	cyl D2	0.80
			2B (I1)			1.4.04	cyl D2	6.50
DBG401	40p	Greenish blue DBG401/IMP Imperforate (horiz. or vert. pairs)	2B	Layflat	No fluor	1.4.04	cyl D1	1.00
							cyl D1	400.00
DBG402	40p	Deep greenish blue, pale Queen's head	2B	Shiny	Fluor	4.05	cyl D2	1.95
DBG410	41p	Rosine	2B	Shiny	Fluor	4.4.03	cyl D1	1.80
			2B (I1)			4.4.03	cyl D1	12.50
DBG420	42p	Grey-green	2B	Shiny	Fluor	25.7.03	cyl D1	1.00
			2B (I1)			25.7.03	cyl D1	30.00
DBG430	43p	Pale emerald	2B	Shiny	Fluor	1.4.04	cyl D2	0.85
			2B (I2)			1.4.04	cyl D2	35.00
DBG431	43p	Light emerald DBG431/IMP Imperforate (horiz. or vert. pairs)	2B	Layflat	No fluor	1.4.04	cyl D1	1.10
							cyl D1	350.00
DBG460	46p	Deep yellow*	2B	Shiny	Fluor	5.4.05	cyl D1	0.85
DBG470	47p	Deep sea-green	2B	Shiny	No fluor	25.7.03	cyl D1	1.10

<i>CC</i>	<i>Value</i>		<i>Phos. Bands</i>	<i>Gum</i>	<i>Paper Coating</i>	<i>First Issued</i>	<i>Source</i>	<i>Price</i>
DBG471	47p	Pale sea-green*	2B	Shiny	Fluor	17.8.04	cyl D1	1.65
			2B (I2)			17.8.04	cyl D1	12.50
DBG472	47p	Deep sea-green	2B	Shiny	Fluor	4.05	cyl D1	3.25
			2B (I1)			4.05	cyl D1	15.00
DBG500	50p	Ochre	2B	Shiny	Fluor	23.6.03	cyl D1	1.10
			2B (S16)			23.6.03	cyl D1	35.00
			2B (S17)			23.6.03	cyl D1	8.00
			2B (I1)			23.6.03	cyl D1	30.00
DBG501	50p	Deep ochre	2B	Shiny	Fluor	3.05	cyl D1	2.25
DBG680	68p	Stone	2B	Shiny	Fluor	6.10.03	cyl D1	1.40
			2B (S16)			6.10.03	cyl D1	7.50
			2B (S16) (I1)			6.10.03	cyl D1	15.00
			2B (I1)			6.10.03	cyl D1	8.50
DBG1000	£1	Bluish violet*	2B	Shiny	Fluor	23.6.03	cyl D1/D1	2.00
			2B (S16)			23.6.03	cyl D1/D1	30.00
			2B (S17)			23.6.03	cyl D1/D1	30.00
			2B (I1)			23.6.03	cyl D1/D1	25.00
DBG1001	£1	Bluish violet	2B	Shiny	No Fluor	6.03	cyl D1/D1	3.50
DBG1002	£1	Pale bluish violet	2B	Shiny	Fluor	9.04	cyl D1/D1	5.50
DBG1003	£1	Bluish violet, patchy phosphor bands	2B	Shiny	Fluor	3.05	cyl D1/D1	6.00

* Although these stamps use the paper and gum type consistent with being printed at Byfleet, they were *also* printed at Dunstable.

<i>CC</i>	<i>Value</i>		<i>Phos. Bands</i>		<i>First Issued</i>	<i>Source</i>	<i>Price</i>
(b) OFNP/PVA (cream gum), no fluor in paper coating, glossy paper, printed at Dunstable unless otherwise stated							
DDG10	1p	Crimson	2B		5.10.05	cyl D1	0.55
			2B (S16)		5.10.05	cyl D1	30.00
			2B (S17)		5.10.05	cyl D1	11.00
			2B (S17) (I1)		5.10.05	cyl D1	35.00
			2B (I1)		5.10.05	cyl D1	8.00
			2B (I2)		5.10.05	cyl D1	9.00
DDG11	1p	Bright crimson, deep Queen's head	2B		12.6.06	cyl D2	1.00
DDG20	2p	Deep green	2B		2.9.05	cyl D1	0.60
			2B (S16)		1.06	cyl D1	25.00
			2B (I2)		5.06	cyl D1	10.00
DDG21	2p	Very deep green	2B		10.05	cyl D1	1.15
			2B (S17)		10.05	cyl D1	30.00
			2B (I1)		10.05	cyl D1	35.00
DDG22	2p	Dark green, deep Queen's head	2B		12.6.06	cyl D2	1.10
DDG23	2p	Dark green, deep Queen's head, thick "p" in value	2B		5.6.07	Masterpiece DP375	1.05

CC	Value		Phos. Bands	First Issued	Source	Price
DDG50	5p	Deep claret	2B	5.10.05	cyl D1	0.75
			2B (S16)	5.10.05	cyl D1	8.50
			2B (S17)	5.10.05	cyl D1	30.00
			2B (I1)	5.10.05	cyl D1	10.00
			2B (I2)	5.10.05	cyl D1	30.00
DDG51	5p	Very deep claret	2B	3.06	cyl D1	2.25
DDG52	5p	Very deep claret, deep Queen's head	2B	11.06	cyl D2 (D1)	1.25
DDG53	5p	Deep pinkish claret, deep Queen's head	2B	1.3.07	Inventions DP372	1.05
DDG54	5p	Dark claret, deep Queen's head	2B	7.07	cyl D2 (D2)	1.20
DDG90	9p	Bright orange	2B	8.11.06	cyl D1	1.40
			2B (I2)	8.11.06	cyl D1	17.50
DDG91	9p	Bright yellowish orange, deep Queen's head, lower set value	2B	1.4.08	cyl D1	1.20
			2B (S17)	1.4.08	cyl D1	30.00
DDG100	10p	Deep orange	2B	6.1.06	cyl D1	1.10
DDG101	10p	Deep bright orange, deep Queen's head	2B	16.6.06	cyl D2	1.25
DDG120	12p	Dark turquoise	2B	1.8.06	cyl D1	0.40
DDG140	14p	Salmon-pink	2B	1.8.06	cyl D1	0.75
DDG150	15p	Shocking pink	2B	1.4.08	cyl D1	0.50
DDG160	16p	Pink	2B	27.3.07	cyl D1	0.50
DDG170	17p	Olive-green	2B	31.3.09	cyl D1	0.50
DDG200	20p	Deep bright green, pale Queen's head	2B	31.5.06	cyl D3	1.40
			2B (I1)	31.5.06	cyl D3	30.00
DDG201	20p	Very deep bright green, deep Queen's head	2B	27.6.06	cyl D4	1.50
DDG220	22p	Stone	2B	31.3.09	cyl D1	0.65
DDG350	35p	Deep lime-green	2B	5.10.05	cyl D2	1.20
DDG370	37p	Grey-black**	2B	16.3.04	Letters by Night DP350	1.45
			2B (S16)	16.3.04	Letters by Night DP350	25.00

** Although these stamps use the paper and gum type consistent with being printed at Dunstable, they were actually printed at Byfleet.



High set value,
2006 printings



Lower set value,
2008 printings



High set value,
2005 printings



Lower set value,
2007 printings

<i>CC</i>	<i>Value</i>		<i>Phos. Bands</i>	<i>First Issued</i>	<i>Source</i>	<i>Price</i>	
DDG371	37p	Olive-green	CB	28.3.06	cyl D2	0.85	
DDG372	37p	Deep olive-green shade	CB	9.06	cyl D2	2.75	
DDG420	42p	Pale grey-green	2B	28.6.06	cyl D1	1.70	
DDG440	44p	Ultramarine	2B	28.3.06	cyl D1	0.95	
DDG460	46p	Deep yellow	2B	9.12.05	cyl D1	1.60	
DDG461	46p	Mustard yellow, lower set value, dull fluor	2B	27.3.07	cyl D1	1.20	
			2B (I1)	27.3.07	cyl D1	25.00	
DDG462	46p	Bright mustard yellow, bright fluor	2B	5.6.07	Masterpiece DP375	1.35	
DDG470	47p	Sea-green	2B	19.10.05	cyl D1	1.60	
			2B (I1)	19.10.05	cyl D1	35.00	
DDG480	48p	Rhododendron, dull fluor	2B	27.3.07	cyl D1	0.95	
			2B (S17)	27.3.07	cyl D1	30.00	
DDG481	48p	Deep rhododendron, bright fluor	2B	5.6.07	Masterpiece DP375	1.45	
DDG482	48p	Deep rhododendron, pale Queen's head, dull fluor	2B	4.08	cyl D1	2.50	
DDG490	49p	Reddish brown	2B	28.3.06	cyl D1	1.00	
			2B (S16)	28.3.06	cyl D1	17.50	
			2B (S17)	28.3.06	cyl D1	25.00	
DDG500	50p	Deep ochre	2B	12.10.05	cyl D1	1.65	
			2B (I1)	12.10.05	cyl D1	30.00	
	DDG500PE		Weak phosphor bands			cyl D1	5.00
DDG501	50p	Deep bright ochre, deep Queen's head	2B	27.6.06	cyl D2	1.90	
			2B (S17)	27.6.06	cyl D2	30.00	
DDG502	50p	Light grey	2B	27.3.07	cyl D1	1.00	
DDG540	54p	Rust	2B	27.3.07	cyl D1	1.05	
DDG541	54p	Deep rust, pale Queen's head	2B	31.3.09	cyl D1	1.95	
DDG560	56p	Lime green	2B	1.4.08	cyl D1	1.10	
			2B (I1)	1.4.08	cyl D1	30.00	
DDG620	62p	Red	2B	31.3.09	cyl D1	1.10	
DDG720	72p	Rosine	2B	28.3.06	cyl D1	1.40	
			2B (I1)	28.3.06	cyl D1	7.50	
DDG780	78p	Emerald green	2B	27.3.07	cyl D1	1.50	
DDG810	81p	Sea-green	2B	1.4.08	cyl D1	1.50	
DDG900	90p	Ultramarine	2B	31.3.09	cyl D1	1.60	
DDG1000	£1	Bluish violet	2B	26.10.05	cyl D1/D1	2.50	
			2B (I1)	26.10.05	cyl D1/D1	30.00	
			2B (I2)	26.10.05	cyl D1/D1	25.00	
	DDG1000SH		Silhouetted Queen's head			cyl D1/D1	6.50
	DDG1000SHA		Silhouetted Queen's head Inset right band			cyl D1/D1	30.00

CC	Value		Phos. Bands	First Issued	Source	Price
DDG1001	£1	Bright bluish violet, deep Queen's head	2B	7.6.06	cyl D2/D2	2.75
			2B (I2)	7.6.07	cyl D2/D2	27.50
DDG1001A	£1	Bluish violet, deep Queen's head, ghost top border & filled in value	2B	7.07	cyl D2/D2	7.50
DDG1002	£1	Pale bluish violet, deep Queen's head, coarse phosphor screen, bright fluor	2B	5.6.07	Machin Anniv m/s	2.35
			2B (I1)	5.6.07	Machin Anniv m/s	20.00
DDG1003	£1	Ruby, dull fluor	2B	5.6.07	cyl D1	1.95
DDG1004	£1	Deep ruby, coarse phosphor screen, bright fluor	2B	5.6.07	Machin Anniv m/s	2.35
			2B (I1)	5.6.07	Machin Anniv m/s	20.00
			2B (S17)	5.6.07	Machin Anniv m/s	35.00
DDG1005	£1	Ruby, smooth phosphor, bright fluor	2B	5.6.07	Masterpiece DP376	2.50
			2B (S17)	5.6.07	Masterpiece DP376	35.00
			2B (I1)	5.6.07	Masterpiece DP376	35.00

Machin 40th Anniversary Miniature Sheet



This sheet was issued to coincide with the 40th Anniversary of the release of the first Machin definitive in June 1967. It bears two £1 Machins, one in the original violet colour and another in a ruby hue (chosen to tie in with the stamp's Ruby Anniversary), which also became the standard colour for this value from that date. It is accompanied by two commemoratives, one depicting Arnold Machin, himself and the other a 4d sepia Machin, the very first stamp to appear in the classic design.

<i>CC</i>	<i>Value</i>	<i>Phos. Bands</i>	<i>First Issued</i>	<i>Price</i>
DDGMS1	40th Anniversary of Machin Miniature Sheet	2B	5.6.07	4.75
		2B (I1)	5.6.07	50.00
		2B (S17)	5.6.07	50.00

(D) Litho Issues

De La Rue printings at Dunstable.

Litho. Perf 15 x 14 (E1).

A2(B) phosphor – Blue fluor

<i>CC</i>	<i>Value</i>	<i>Phos. Bands</i>	<i>First Issued</i>	<i>Source</i>	<i>Price</i>
(b) OFNP/PVA (cream gum), no fluor in paper coating					
DDL50	5p	Dark Claret	2B	12.2.09 Darwin DP402	1.05
DDL100	10p	Bright brownish orange	2B	12.2.09 Darwin DP402	1.25
DDL480	48p	Bright rhododendron	2B	12.2.09 Darwin DP402	1.65

The shades of the above stamps are significantly different from their gravure sheet printed counterparts and depart markedly from the Jeffery Matthews colour standard

Improved Security Issues



Over recent years Royal Mail have battled the twin problems of postal forgery and, perhaps more significantly with ever rising postal rates, the fraudulent re-use of stamps. To try and prevent the former problem a series of security features – elliptical perforations, optical brightener free paper and fluorescent additives to the fluor in phosphor bands – were added to definitive issues in 1993. They succeeded in slowing down the forgery problem but improvements in digital reproduction technology has meant that these have now been largely overtaken.

Royal Mail have long suggested that they lose a considerable sum by the fraudulent re-use of stamps that have already passed through the mail, but have either remained uncanceled or had their cancellation illicitly removed. The chances of this occurring seem to increase year on year as more and more mail seems to slip through the postal streams without bearing any sort of handstamp, a situation that anyone in the United Kingdom will see for themselves on a regular basis. If you then consider that there are approximately 28 million postal addresses within the UK, the potential scale of the problem becomes obvious. A legitimate response to this might be to suggest that Royal Mail ensure more items are properly cancelled by more manual and less automated handling. However, all this costs money and with postal transmission of much of the regular stamp mail already making a loss, a cheaper solution was sought to minimise the problem and make forgery that much harder – by adopting new stamps that incorporate more up to date features designed to prevent forgery and re-use.

Therefore, from February 2009 Royal Mail introduced a new range of Improved Security definitives, initially affecting sheet higher value denominated issues from 50p to £5, and NVI issues in sheet, booklet and business sheet formats. It is possible

that coil issues will be issued with these features in the future. Listings for the NVI, PIP NVI and High Value issues can be found in Chapters 5A, 6A and 8A respectively. However, these introductory notes apply to all sheet issues – further notes specific to NVI booklet issues can be found at the beginning of the Improved Security section in Chapter 5A .

Improved security issues show three distinct changes from their Security counterparts – “U” shaped slits, non-soakable self-adhesive gum and iridescent overprints.

“U” Shaped Slits. Each stamp has a series of four “U” shaped slits, arranged in pairs – one upright and the other inverted – at the left and right and positioned towards the bottom of the stamp. The slits are die-cut into the stamp at the time that the “perforations” are also die-cut. These have a similar function to slits that appear on price labels on goods in shops, to prevent peeling off one from a lower-price item and repositioning it on another more expensive one. When an attempt is made to peel the stamp from it’s envelope, the slits separate and tear the stamp showing that it has been tampered with, preventing it’s re-use.

Non-Soakable Self-adhesive Gum. Prior to the introduction of Improved Security issues a water soluble PVA layer between the stamp paper and the self-adhesive gum made it possible for stamps to be floated off their envelope after soaking making it feasible to collect used self-adhesive stamps in the same way as conventionally gummed versions. However, with Improved Security stamps this is not possible as the PVA layer has been removed and the self-adhesive gum doesn’t dissolve in water. It is just about possible after a prolonged period of soaking to get the stamp to release, but this is because of the breakdown of the stamp paper, and when it eventually comes away it is in a severely weakened condition making it impossible to handle and re-use. This has raised concerns amongst some collectors about the adverse affect it will have on the collection of used stamps. However, it is our belief that philatelists are sufficiently intelligent and flexible in their approach to be able to adapt to collecting stamps on neatly cut-square pieces rather than to simply give up in disgust! Despite these alterations to the adhesive, it is still possible to peel a mint stamp off it’s silicon coated backing paper and position it on an envelope in the traditional manner.

To differentiate the non-soakable type from previous self-adhesive gums, they will be referred to as SAN as opposed to SA, the “N” referring to their non-soluble characteristic. *(Another system has been mooted to denote all previous self-adhesive gummed issues as PSA with the “P” indicating the soluble PVA layer in the self-adhesive, and all bearing the new gum as just SA with the “P” removed. However we have decided not to adopt this as it would require redesignating over 15 years of previous issues, and then using the previous designation for the new gum formulation, which, we believe, is likely to lead to confusion).*

Iridescent Overprint. The final improved security measure is an iridescent overprint, reversed out of which across the stamp’s background is the wording “ROYAL MAIL” in a wavy pattern similar to that first seen on the background of Post & Go Machins. Once again the “ROYAL MAIL” wording is used across the Queen’s head, this time in a positive image in smaller and more closely spaced type showing a less pro-

nounced wavy pattern. This iridescent overprint makes it impossible to reproduce effectively with a standard desktop scanner and laser or inkjet printer.

Other features of Improved Security stamps match existing self-adhesives closely. All stamps have simulated die-cut perforations at the gauge of 15 x 14 and show a single ellipse starting three perfs from the bottom on each vertical edge. The paper is a type with no or very low OBA and therefore is again designated OFNP. All stamps bear phosphor bands with a blue fluor additive – 2nd stamps have a single centre phosphor band measuring 4.5mm, others have two side bands measuring 9mm in total width. A single set of phosphor bands is allocated to each stamp rather than being printed continuously from top to bottom of the sheet. This can be confirmed as we have already discovered stamps with short bands from all sheet positions and seen others that are verging on inset at the sides.

Sheet Format. To cope with these changes and to allow for the self-adhesive format, Royal Mail have introduced smaller, more compact sheets. Stamps now come in sheets of 50, comprising two panes of 25, separated by an unprinted vertical gutter. This arrangement will be familiar to commemorative collectors who will note that it is the same layout as seen on recent self-adhesive Christmas issues. This marks the return of gutter pairs to definitive collecting, last seen on the Castle High values, and only seen once before on low value Machins, back in 1979 for the Chambon printings of the 10p value.



Previously it has not been necessary to be able to separate self-adhesive definitives as they have been sold in multiple unit items such as booklets or business sheets and are peeled from the backing paper to stick on an envelope or packet as required. However, it is necessary to be able to sell individual stamps from a sheet and therefore the backing paper is rouletted between stamps, making separation possible. This rouletting also runs through the top, bottom and side sheet margins. The matrix has been stripped away from between the stamps but is retained in the sheet margins to the left and right (but not at the top or bottom or in the gutter), enabling printing of marginal markings, many of which will be immediately recognisable and a couple of which are new to definitives.

The cylinder numbers remain in the lower-left corner, but gone are the extra dot and or no dot notation to identify the left or right panes from the printing cylinder. Instead these stamps are printed six panes up for the standard definitive size or four up on Large format NVIs from one rotation of the printing cylinder and the position of each sheet is shown by a dot in a grid, printed in the selvedge alongside the lower-left corner stamp. The cylinder number now comprises 3 elements – a number for the colour cylinder one for the phosphor cylinder and a final number for the iridescent overprint. An inkjet printed serial number appears in the right sheet margin alongside row 9, with a printing date included alongside the row above.

In the top part of the sheet the stamp colour appears in the left selvedge alongside row 3. Two new markings appear in the right margin. A stock barcode, machine readable by the Post Office's Horizon system and similar to that previously introduced onto commemorative sheets is printed in black alongside row 2 and a coded description of the stamps in the sheet is positioned alongside the row below. This code is in the form of "Pxxx" where xxx equates to the relevant stamp value in pence, or "NViy" where y equates to the NVI rate where "S" equals 2nd small, "F" equals 1st small, "SL" equals 2nd Large and "FL" 1st large.

For the present, Royal Mail suggest that the Improved Security features will only be applied to 50p, £1, £1.50, £2, £3 and £5 denominated stamps and to all NVIs. Whether other values will change from their current format to the Improved Security style at some point in the future remains to be seen. It may be that to adopt this for all low value make-up values is too expensive and the additional costs outweighs any potential security issues. However, it would seem more logical to print higher rate values meeting current postal tariffs in this format, although, as many of these prepay overseas mail, it may be seen that the risk to revenue is significantly diminished. Stamps from Prestige booklets are likely to retain their conventional gumming and therefore die-cutting slits would seem to serve little purpose. An iridescent overprint, however, is quite achievable and may appear on future releases, although nothing to this affect has been announced to date. The multi colour printing of Regional Emblem stamps make them a much less attractive target for forgery, although re-use still occurs here. No plans exist, at present, to change these either, although it is possible that they may adopt the new style of production if it becomes streamlined and effective on national issues.

Computer Engraved Issues

De La Rue printings at Dunstable.

<i>CC</i>	<i>Value</i>		<i>Phos. Bands</i>	<i>First Issued</i>	<i>Source</i>	<i>Price</i>	
						<i>Single</i>	<i>Gutter</i>
(a) Gravure, sheet printings. OFNP/SAN. A2(B) Phosphor with blue fluor additive. No fluor in paper coating. Iridescent security overprint. Type 1 security slits. Kiss die-cut to simulate perf. 15 x 14 (E1) . Translucent backing paper, rouletted on edges to facilitate separation.							
DIG500	50p	Grey	2B	17.2.09	cyl D1D1(D1)	0.90	2.20
DIG1000	£1	Ruby	2B	17.2.09	cyl D1D1(D1)	1.75	3.75