

100 Years Ago in Mekeel's:

The Postage Stamps of Great Britain, Part 20 The New Color "Jubilees"

by W. Ward (*From Mekeel's Weekly, July 28, 1917*)



The 1887-1892 New Colors, Sc. 111-122

The idea of several values in the same colour was far from a success owing to similarity of design as well as of colour, causing confusion to both postal officials and the public. It was very shortly decided to alter the issue. The printers were, therefore, instructed to submit new designs in 1886.

The following year being the 50th anniversary of the reign of Queen Victoria the authorities probably thought that they would be justified in "splashing" a little colour about, and for the first time bicoloured stamps made their appearance, January 1st, 1887. Three values, however, the 2-1/2p, 3p and 6p, were printed in a single colour, but upon colored paper, and the 1/2p on white.

In the 3p value the effect of the purple ink on yellow paper is very peculiar inasmuch as the yellow paper destroys the purple, and appears as though printed in brown. Until specimens printed by the same ink on white paper had been shown it was held by some "authorities" as "brown on yellow."

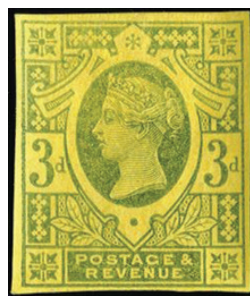
The values first issued were the 1/2, 1-1/2, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 9 pence and one shilling. Two other values, however, made their appearance during the next few years, all of a kindred unified design, the 10p on Feb. 24th, 1890, and an entirely new value for a new parcel post rate, the 4-1/2p in 1892. In 1891, the £1 value was reprinted in green, but on the crown watermark paper.

Two minor varieties of the 4p and 4-1/2p values occur. In the former the inside of the triangle of the figures "4" occur quite "albino" or blank, instead of the regular two or three wavy lines of shading. The 4-1/2p value occurs with a full point under the "d" representing pence.

Three of the values, the 4p, 4-1/2p and 10p, have the margins between the stamps filled in with horizontal and vertical lines of color of the framework of the stamp, horizontally and vertically, respectively.

The bicoloured effect of all values is pleasing, unless a little criticism may be

permitted on the effect of the coloured papers, especially shades of the 3p which appear ghastly by artificial light. A proof exists of the latter in green on yellow paper, so that perhaps we must be thankful that we were spared the latter. A scarce variety of the 3p exists on deep orange paper.



1888 3d "Jubilee" color trial, Sc. 115TC, printed in green on yellow paper



An 1889 10d "Jubilee", Sc. 121, hand painted essay in red & green with details of the design highlighted in Chinese white and cancelled with a manuscript pen cross, executed on a piece of tracing paper and dated "March 15/89". It is one of a series of 10 essays produced by De la Rue for the 10d value; and with that an imperforate imprimatur from the first printing, one of four examples that are believed to exist in private hands of which one has been torn in half.

To Be Continued

100 Years Ago in Mekeel's:

The Postage Stamps of Great Britain, Part 21 The New Color "Jubilees"

by W. Ward (From Mekeel's Weekly, July 28, 1917)

As we used most of the text for these issues in our April 20 edition of M&S, I am repeating a few excerpts here, supplemented by the many images for which we have not previously had space. JFD.



1887 1/2d vermilion, Sc. 111 Imperf top margin variety. One of only four examples,

...the 50th anniversary of the reign of Queen Victoria the authorities probably thought that they would be justified in "splashing" a little colour about, and for the first time bicolored stamps made their appearance, January 1st, 1887.



1887 1/2d vermilion bottom right hand corner marginal control "D" horizontal pair; marginal setting 3 from Pl.4A, perf type P, from the left hand side of the 480 mill sheet with squared marginal rules at corner.



1885 1/2d, 1-1/2d, 2d, 2-1/2d, 3d, 4d, 5d, 6d, 9d and 1s series of hand painted "Jubilee" essays for the original set of ten values in the issued designs and colors, each on a small piece of card and mounted along with the 1881 1d issued stamp (upper left) on a single piece of card, annotated "The Designs are Simply Drawn by Hand and Do Not Show the Finished Effect Which Will be Obtained by Engraving," subsequently endorsed in manuscript by W. H. Cousins (Secretary, Inland Revenue) at upper left "This is the Scheme of Stamps approved by the P.M.G. W.H.C. 11 June 85".

Three values, however, the 2-1/2p, 3p and 6p, were printed in a single colour, but



1887 1-1/2d, Sc. 112, purple & green imperforate imprimatur from the first printing.

vermilion (Sc. 111) to green (Sc. 125). This colour was, however, confusing with the 1sh value, which was also of not unlike design and colour. The border of the 1sh was therefore changed to carmine.

The colours of both values are very fugitive, the 1/2p changing to blue through dampness alone.



1887 2d Green & red, Sc. 113, imperforate imprimatur.



1887 2-1/2d Purple on blue paper, Sc. 114, unused o.g. overprinted "CANCELLED".

upon colored paper, and the 1/2p on white...

The values first issued were the 1/2, 1-1/2, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 9 pence and one shilling. Two other values, however, made their appearance during the next few years, all of a kindred unified design, the 10p on Feb. 24th, 1890, and an entirely new value for a new parcel post rate, the 4-1/2p in 1892. In 1891, the £1 value was reprinted in green, but on the crown watermark paper.

The attention of the government was drawn by the Universal Postal Union to the fact that they were not complying with the U. P. U. colour regulations, and that the values equivalent of 1¢-2¢ and 5¢ should be green, red, and blue, respectively. One value, the 2-1/2p complied to some extent with this ruling, but only one value was changed, that of the 1/2p from



1885 4d hand painted essay, Sc. 116E mounted on a small piece of white card and painted on buff paper in red, green and chinese white. Produced by De La Rue from drawings by G.R. Smith as possible designs for the "Jubilee" issue.



Left, 1887 4d issued stamp, Sc. 116, Right, 1892 4-1/2d Green & carmine (Board of Trade Official, Sc. 117). Very fine unused o.g. example perforated "Crown B.T".



1885 5d, Sc. 118E, hand painted essay mounted on a small piece of white card and painted on buff paper in blue, lilac and chinese white. Produced by De La Rue as possible designs for the "Jubilee" issue.



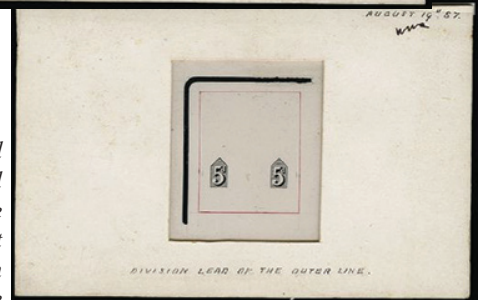
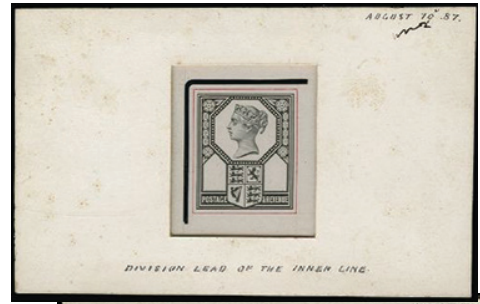
1892 4-1/2d Colour Trial (Line Perf 14) bottom margin partially perforated color trial on gummed, Crown watermarked paper, overprinted "SPECIMEN".



1886 6d "Jubilee" Die Proof Essay, Sc. 119P, embossed die proof essay of the Type B unadopted design with head area void, numerous minor differences can be seen to the issued design the most obvious of which is the additional line under the "d" of 6d. Cut to stamp size and mounted on buff card.

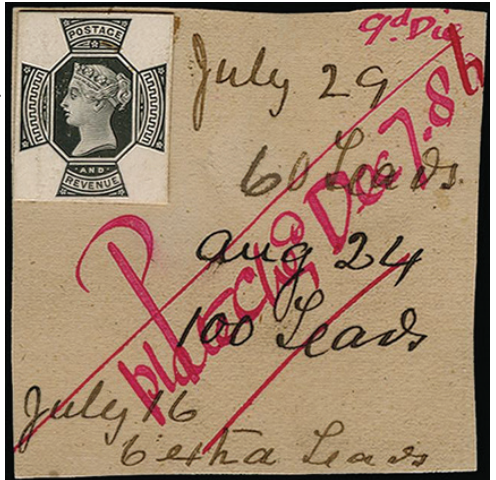


1887 6d Color Trial. Sc. 119TC bottom margin imperf color trial printed in purple on pale pinkish white.



1887 5d Marginal Setting Die Proofs, a set of two sunken die proofs, the head plate proof endorsed "Division Lead of the Inner Line" with marginal line in black set close and the duty plate proof endorsed "Division Lead of the Outer Line" with marginal line in black set wide. Both dated "August 19th 87" and initialled "WWD" (William Warren De La Rue). Believed to be a unique set of instructions to the composing room for the divisional leads of the marginal rules.

1887 9d, Sc. 120P, "Jubilee" Die Proof (Head Die I, small pendant curl) cut to stamp size and mounted on buff card endorsed "July 29, 60 Leads/ Aug 24, 100 Leads/ July 16, 6 Extra Leads" and "9d Die, Plate Chgd Dec. 7.86." in red.



1884 9d, Sc. 120E, Hand painted essay in square format painted in lilac and orange on buff card by De La Rue as a proposed design for the "Jubilee" issue.



To Be Continued

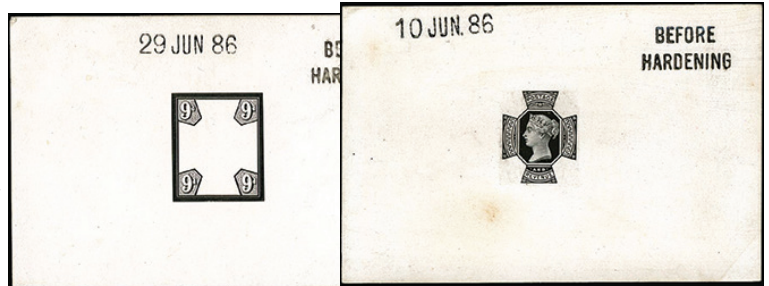
100 Years Ago in Mekeel's:

The Postage Stamps of Great Britain, Part 22 The New Color "Jubilees"

by W. Ward (From *Mekeel's Weekly*, July 28, 1917)

As we used the last of the text for these issues in the May 4 edition of *M&S*, we will finish this "Jubilees" section with the remaining images. JFD.

On our front cover we picture an 1889 10d "Jubilee", Sc. 121, hand painted essay in red & green with details of the design highlighted in Chinese white and cancelled with a manuscript pen cross, executed on a piece of tracing paper and dated "March 15/89". It is one of a series of 10 essays produced by De la Rue for the 10d value; and with that an imperforate imprimatur from the first printing, one of four examples that are believed to exist in private hands of which one has been torn in half.



1886 9d Duty and Head Plate Die Proofs, printed in black on white glazed cards (92 x 60mm) endorsed "BEFORE HARDENING" and dated.



Right, 1884 1s "Jubilee" hand painted essay, a series III example by G.R. Smith painted in green and Chinese white on buff card, cut to stamp size and mounted on a white card; left, the 1887 1s Dull green stamp.



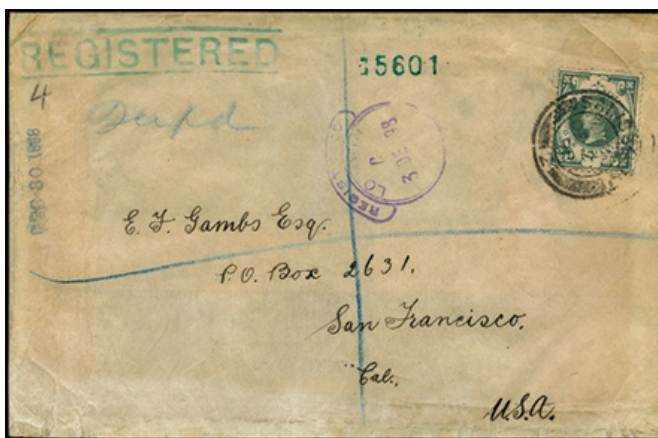
1890 10d Color Trial (Line Perf 14) on white, gummed, Crown watermarked paper tied to a small piece by a black "BO1" trial cancellation, Head plate printed in green and duty plate in red.



The Universal Postal Union advised the government that they were not complying with the U. P. U. color regulations, and that the values equivalent to 1¢, 2¢ and 5¢ should be green, red, and blue, respectively. Only one value was changed, that of the 1/2p from vermilion (Sc. 111) to green (Sc. 125). This color was, however, confusing with the 1 sh value (Sc. 122), which was also of a similar design and color. The border of the 1 sh was therefore changed to carmine.

Left, the 1900 1/2d blue-green in an unused o.g. top marginal imperforate imprimatur. Although six stamps were removed from the imprimatur first printing sheets only this and a corner example are recorded surviving in private hands.

Right, the 1900 1s Green & Carmine "Jubilee" in an unused o.g. imperforate imprimatur, one of only two stamps that were removed from the imprimatur sheets.



1898 Transatlantic Mail registered cover sent from Salisbury to San Francisco, bearing a 1s dull green (Sc. 121) tied by a Salisbury DE.2.1898 double ring c.d.s. with a purple, hooded circle London Registered datestamp for the following day alongside and a green "REGISTERED" handstamp, backstamped by Salisbury c.d.s. and violet San Francisco DE.16.1898 arrival c.d.s.