

The Postage Stamps of Great Britain, Part 8

by W. Ward (*From Mekeel's Weekly, June 23, 1917*)

Surface Printed Issues to 1880.

In 1855, in response to the arguments of W. W. De La Rue, of the firm of De La Rue and Co., made before a Committee of the Treasury, the authorities decided to give surface printed stamps a trial for a new value, 4 pence, about to be issued. The contracts were placed in the hands of the above firm after certain trials had taken place.



Sc. 22. 4d carmine imprimatur—*from the first sheet printed—with marginal plate number on thick highly glazed blued paper (color photo, front cover)*



Sc. 23. 4d Carmine on thin ordinary white paper, clearly showing a watermark (the medium Garter), believed to be the largest surviving watermark upright multiple in private hands.

A specially prepared and calendered paper was made, the chemical composition of which, in the main, consisted of potassium ferri-cyanide and some form of alkaline, this being applied to the side of the paper on which the stamps were printed. The result was the blued, commonly known as the “blue safety” paper.

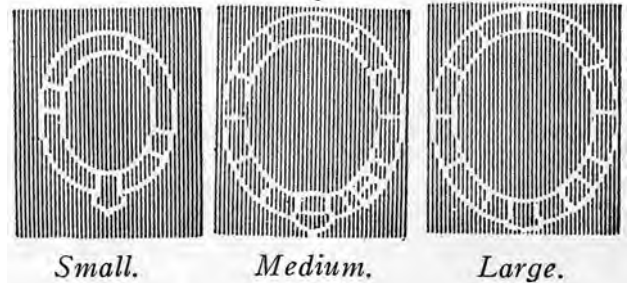


Sc. 24. 1856 4d carmine on thick blued highly glazed paper (watermark Medium Garter) block of six, the largest and finest surviving multiple in private hands. One of the great rarities of the Surface Printed era. Ex. Hind.

A trial was also made of a similar chemically surfaced paper, highly burnished, but without the addition of the potassium ferri-cyanide. It was so treated as to give the appearance of a very thick

paper. These varieties are very rare, and are only known to occur on the “large garter” watermarked paper.

For the production of these stamps, both “Safety” treated and plain white paper was used with three types of the garter watermark, known as small, large and medium. The two latter are very similar in size and often cause confusion where portions of the cancellation cover the main points of difference.



The 4p blue safety paper is one of the few stamps affected by benzene. It seems to have a bleaching effect on those portions of the stamps that are cancelled. Probably some sort of chemical action of the cancelling ink on the prepared paper causes discoloration due to certain properties of the benzene.

Little trouble should be experienced in distinguishing the “small and medium” garters of the safety paper variety as it does not occur with the large garter watermark. The chief points of difference between the medium and large watermarks are the buckles and centers of the garter.

Both varieties of the blue safety paper are printed in a very deep crimson and a carmine. The white burnished safety paper occurs only in the latter color whilst the ordinary paper varieties occur in both carmine and rose color. The variety of the 4p on “blue paper” is more than probable one that has missed the alkaline treatment, or it has been poorly applied, thus giving the blue coloring without the “chalky” surface effect. After the white safety paper, the ordinary paper small garter is the scarcest of the issue:



Sc. 22, 1855 4p rose on white

Check List:

Sc. 22:

- 1855-56 Perf. 14. Blue Safety paper, Wmkd. small garter. 4p deep crimson, 4p carmine.
- Blue Safety paper, Wmkd. medium garter 4p deep crimson, 4p carmine.
- White burnished safety paper, Wmkd. large garter.

Sc. 23:

- 1856-57. Perf. 14. Ordinary white paper, Wmkd. small garter. 4p carmine.
- Ordinary white paper, Wmkd. medium garter. 4p pale carmine, 4p rose.
- Ordinary paper, Wmkd. large garter. 4p pale carmine, 4p rose.

To be Continued

The Postage Stamps of Great Britain, Part 9

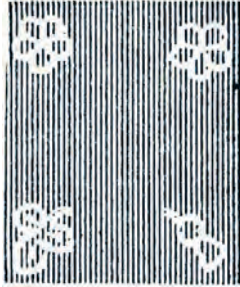
by W. Ward (*From Mekeel's Weekly, June 23, 1917*)

Surface Printed Issues to 1880.

The success of the first surface printed stamps, together with their cheapness, resulted in the contract for the two values, sixpence and one shilling, also being given to De La Rue & Co. Quantities were being used, and the government printers were severely taxed to turn out by the old die-stamping method a sufficient supply.

The first of these two values appeared towards the fall of 1856, and were not dissimilar in design to the first fourpenny. They were, however, printed on paper watermarked with the National Emblems of England (the Rose repeated in the upper corners), Scotland (the Thistle in the lower left corner seen from the back of the stamp) and Ireland (the Shamrock in the remaining corner).

Probably in those days the Daffodil was not sufficiently recognised as emblematical of the Principality of Wales, which is represented by one of the Roses. It is not true, as suggested by a writer many years ago, that the two roses stood for the Kingly houses of Lancaster and York, the Red Rose and the White Rose of Civil Wars.



1856 6p lilac, Sc. 27

Trials were made on the blue paper, and stamps were issued. These are rarer than the catalogue would have us to suppose from the prices quoted. The stamps re-



1856 1sh green, Sc. 28

mained in use only four years, but during that short period went through a variety of shades. Copies apparently imperforate at one side, are from the margins of the sheets and have been cut between the stamp and the perforation.



6p deep lilac, Sc. 27, on blue paper showing plate number and part inscription, from the imprimatur (first) sheet.



1 shilling green, Sc. 28, on blue paper showing plate number and part inscription, from the imprimatur sheet.

1856 6p deep mauve on azure paper scarce plate proof, Sc. 27P, including a partial sheet margin and central "EB/Mr 27/1856" trial cancel



Check List: 1856-62. Perf. 14. Wmk. Emblems.

Sc. 27 & shades, watermarks

- 6p purple.
- 6p lilac purple.
- 6p deep lilac.
- 6p pale lilac.

28 & shades, watermarks

- 1sh very deep green.
- 1sh deep green.
- 1sh pale green.
- 1sh apple green.

The contract for the 1/2, 1 and 2p stamps had already been let for a number of years to Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Co., else no doubt Messrs. De La Rue would have secured orders for those values. It was decided to issue two new values, 3 pence and 9 pence, and also add the check lettering in the corners of the other values and thus minimize the faking of uncanceled portions of different stamps to make up an uncanceled whole.



1862 3p pale rose, Sc. 37



Straw color 9p essay, Sc. 40E, made by pasting a printed frame over a Chancery Court Sutor's Fee Fund stamp, similar to the issued design.

Thus a new set of five stamps appeared during 1862, at different dates, fourpenny and ninepenny being the first to appear in January, the sixpenny and shilling in December, and the threepenny in May (additional photos, page 15).



1862 9p straw color (Sc. 40), plate 2



Set of four 9p artist's drawings, Sc. 40E, in black ink on thick white card.



1862 4p Vermilion, Sc. 34



1862 6p lilac, Sc. 39, plate 3

1862 1sh green, plate 1, Sc. 42, horizontal pair tied on folded letter to Lima, Peru by multiple strikes of "Halifax Ap 29, 64" c.d.s., with "Via Panama" directive and Panama c.d.s. transit marking, received "Conduccion del Cartero Gratis" marking upon arrival and Lima backstamp, Very Fine, a scarcely seen destination and "Gratis" marking indicating home delivery of mail was free of charge, a marking only in use from November 1863 to May 1865.

The former 4p value is known to have been issued imperforate. There are also numerous varieties of hair-lines dots, and circles. The 4p, 6p and 9p have the variety of a diagonal uncolored or hair-line, across the colored square containing the check letter. The 3p has a white spot in the ornamental scroll work at the side in the triangular shaped ends of the ribbon bearing the word "Postage." This variety is extremely rare used, and in unused condition ranks among the world's rarities. In the 1 shilling value, the stamp lettered D—K, K—D, the lower corner K has a white circle round it, probably caused by the letter die punch.



1862 1sh green, Sc. 42, plate no. 1



1sh green with circled K in lower left box



6p lilac, Sc. 39, imperforate corner margin block with "212" printing control number



Right, 1862 3p rose "abnormal" plate 3, Sc. 37b with dots arrow & unofficial line perforation 14;



Left, Latto-37 Sc. 37, 3p rose imprimitur with clear spandrels (the circles surrounding the corner letters)



Left, 1862 3p deep carmine rose shade, Sc. 37a;



Right, 3p abnormal plate 3 with dots, cut down die proof with uncleared corner letter circles, Sc. 37E



Three 3p stamp sized artist essays, Sc. 37E, on card showing the development of the design, but with the inner frame inverted.

1 sh "abnormal" deep green variety, Sc. 42c, with "hair-lines" (diagonal lines across the corners of the stamp, going through the corner boxes)



1861 3p rose unissued plate 2 printing, with shaded spandrels (the circles surrounding the corner letters) overprinted "Specimen", on envelopes. "No 2" manuscript notation includes "3d. Postage label stamp, as already prepared... not sufficiently distinguished from the 4d label 23 Jan. 1862"



"No. 3" manuscript notation reads "3d. Postage label stamp altered as proposed to render it more distinguishable from the 4d. label, 23 Jan. 1862."

To be Continued

100 Years Ago in Mekeel's:

The Postage Stamps of Great Britain, Part 10

by W. Ward (From Mekeel's Weekly, June 23, 1917)

Surface Printed Issues to 1880, Continued

All these values as in the preceding issue, have wide margins at the sides of the panes or sheets. All are on Emblems paper except the 4p, which is watermarked Large Garter.



1 sh green, Sc. 28, used strip of four, with London duplex cancels.

Check List:
1862-65. Perf. 14. Wmk. large garter.

4p bright red.
4p bright red, hair lines across letter blocks.
4p pale red.
4p pale red, hair lines across letter blocks



Sc. 43P, 4p vermilion proof

1862-1865. Perf. 14. Wmk. Emblems.

3p carmine.
3p bright rose.
3p pale rose.
3p rose variety with white dots.
6p deep lilac.
6p lilac.
6p lilac, hair lines across letter blocks.
9p blstre.
9p brown-bistre.
9p brown-bistre, hair lines across letter blocks.
1sh deep green.
1sh green.
1sh green with letter K in white circle.
1sh pale green.

Several values are known imperforate, but were probably from proof sheets. A variety of the 3p with a network shading of the ornaments containing the check letters was prepared, but never got beyond the "Specimen" stage.

The whole of the issue was reengraved in 1865, and a new surface printed value, 10p, added.

The chief alterations were the addition of the plate numbers and enlarged check letters. The plate numbers were inserted above the lower check letters in the 6p, 9p and 10p in the center of the right and left margins of the 3p and 1 shilling and just under the upper check letters of the 4p values.



1862 6p Lilac, Sc. 39h, imprimatur imperforate, with top sheet-margin



Page exhibited at the 1867 Paris Exhibition with die proofs of the 1865-67 4p, 6p and 9p issue, Sc. 43P//46P, all with uncleared corner squares.



Left, 1865 3p rose plate 4, watermark emblems, imperforate imprimatur

Right, 1865 6p trial color, Sc. 45TC, plate 6, imperforate, printed on thin wove unwatermarked, ungummed paper in rose, from a presentation album for the 1867 Paris exhibition.



To Be Continued

100 Years Ago in Mekeel's:

The Postage Stamps of Great Britain, Part 11

by W. Ward (From Mekeel's Weekly, June 23, 1917)

Surface Printed Issues to 1880, Continued

Several values are known imperforate, but were probably from proof sheets.



Sc. 45TC, 6p, six imperforate trial colors



Sc. 45, 6p lilac



Sc. 48, 1/



1865 9p straw color plate proof, Sc. 46P, plate 4, imperforate plate proof on unwatermarked paper

Ish Green (Sc. 48) tied by barred oval handstamp on mourning cover to Limerick, with "Panama ? MR 20 71" circular date stamp and receiving date stamp of April 12, large "6" handstamp and "Insufficiently Prepaid" handstamp.



A new paper watermarked with a rose-spray had been prepared, but as a quantity of the old Emblems paper remained on hand, a first issue was made on the latter paper.

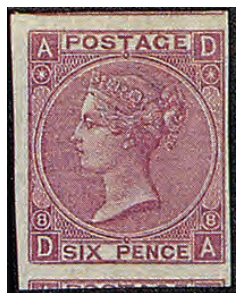


Left, Sc. 49TC, 3p Trial Color; right, 3p rose, plate 10 (Sc. 49) with wing margin at left



Left, 1867 6p dull violet (Sc. 50) plate 6, hyphen between Six-Pence

Right, 6p mauve imperforate variety, plate 8, Sc. 51b, no hyphen. (Plate #s in bottom circles)



1869 6p mauve "abnormal", Sc. 51, plate 10, with spray watermark, imperforate imprimatur (from first printing), among the rarest of all imprimaturs of the period, which is not known mint as a perforated stamp, and only ten used examples are recorded



9p straw, Sc. 52



10p, Sc. 53, bottom margin strip of four showing imprints, outside stamps with wing margins.

To Be Continued

The Postage Stamps of Great Britain, Part 12

by W. Ward (From Mekeel's Weekly, June 23, 1917)

Surface Printed Issues to 1880, Continued

A new paper water-marked with a rose-spray had been prepared, but as a quantity of the old Emblems paper remained on hand, a first issue was made on the latter paper.

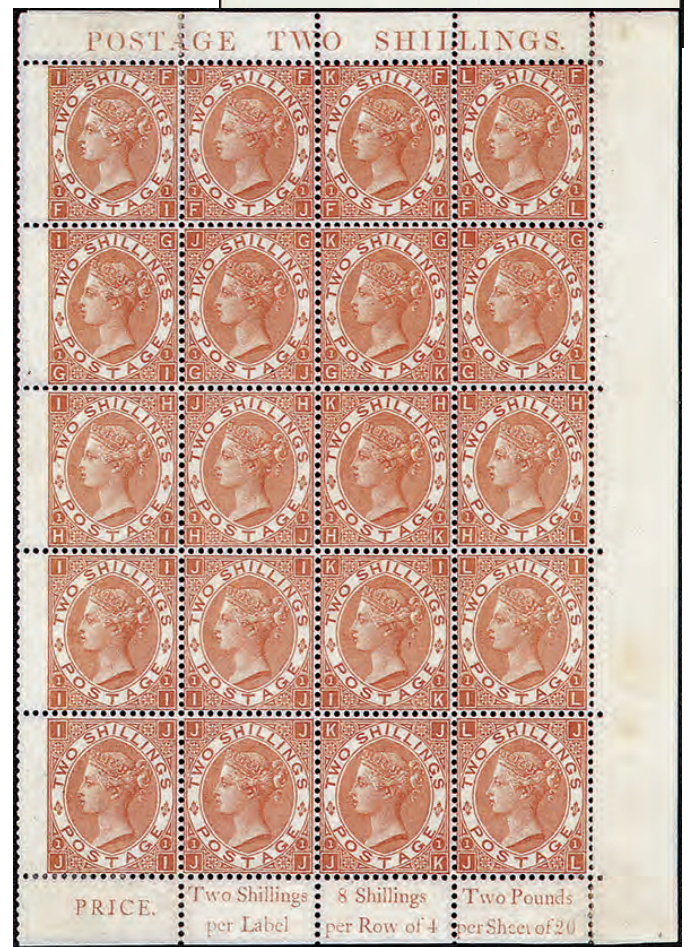


1867, 1sh green (Sc. 54), plate 6 (to left and right of portrait)



1sh blue trial color, imperforate, Sc. 54TC

2sh die proof, Sc. 56P, with uncleared corner squares and plate number circles, believed to be prepared for the 1867 Paris Exhibition



2sh unique pane of 20, Sc. 56



Left, 1867 2sh blue, plate 1 (Sc. 55); right, Sc. 55, 2sh pale blue imperforate variety



Left, 1867 2sh pale blue, Sc. 55a, plate 3 "abnormal" very rare used perforated example; right, 1867 2sh pale blue plate 3 "abnormal", Sc. 55a, watermark spray, imperforate



imprimatur, one of the few existing imperforate examples of this plate 3, which was never put into use, no perforated mint examples and only a small number of used examples exist



1880 2sh pale brown (Sc. 56) plate 1

2sh brown, Sc. 56, on cover used June 15, 1880 from Swansea to Chile, endorsed "Via Panama", with oval "Valparaiso/20c/Multada" handstamp



Very few of the 10p value could have been printed, for few exist in collections, and as they are all obliterated in the Levant, the few issued must have been sent to the British Agencies in Turkey. This stamp is one of the rarities of the bonafide British postal emissions, and like many other rare stamps, all the known copies have been found in schoolboy collections and originally purchased for a mere song.



1867 10p red brown (Sc. 53), plate 1, wing margin



1867 10p deep red brown, "abnormal" from plate 2 proof sheet, spray watermark

The same applies to the 9p value, plate numbered 5, which had an early mishap and few impressions were ever taken. This variety was undoubtedly issued for sale in London—whereas the 10p watermarked Emblems really belongs to the issues of the British Levant Post Offices.



10p red-brown, Sc. 47, plate one, watermark spray of rose, cancelled by large "C" of Constantinople, only 14 recorded examples, all of which are used, nine of which are used from Constantinople

The 9p plate numbered 4, is a fairly rare stamp.



1867 9p bister (Sc. 52), plate 4

Commencing in 1867 (and onwards as they were required) all the 1865 types, with the exception of the 4p value, were reprinted on the new "rose spray" watermarked paper, and a new value, two shillings, was added to the set in the same year.



A slight modification [covered and illustrated previously] was made in the 6p value in 1869, by removing the hyphen between the words of value, SIX-PENCE, from plate number 8, onwards.

Three years later the same value was changed in color from purple to several shades of brown. Evidently the authorities were not satisfied, as a year later they again altered the color of this value to gray.



1872 6p brown with Specimen overprint, Sc. 59

Some authorities include the 2sh brown in this issue, but though printed on the rose spray paper and of the design of the 2sh blue of 1867, it rightly belongs to the issues of 1880. For many years it was believed that plate 10 was prepared, but never issued. This has however been disproved by a recent find of a copy posted at Weymouth to a person in Italy, dated 1869, therefore going much to prove that plate No. 9, registered in 1870, was probably also issued in 1869, together with plate 8.

To Be Continued