

## 100 Years Ago in Mekeel's:

# The Postage Stamps of Great Britain, Part 13

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

### The Surface Printed Issues, Cont.

#### Check List, previously covered Surface Printed:

**1865. Same designs and watermarks as previous issue, Perf. 14, but with enlarged white check letters, and plate numbers added.**

- 3p rose, plate 4.
- 4p pale orange-vermilion to deep vermilion, plates 7 through 14.
- 6p both plates in deep lilac and lilac, plates 5, 6.
- 9p bistre-brown, plates 4, 5.
- 10p red-blown, plate 1.
- 1sh green, plate 4.

#### 1867-1873. Perf. 14. Wmk. spray.

- 3p rose, plates 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10.
- 6p lilac to deep violet, plate 6.
- 6p violet or mauve, hyphen between words of value removed, plates 8, 9, 10.
- 6p deep chestnut brown to buff-brown, plates 11, 12.
- 6p grey, plate 12.
- 9p bistre-brown, plate 4.
- 10p red-brown, plate 1.
- 10p pale red-brown, plate 1.
- 10p red-brown, plate 2.
- 1sh green, plates 4, 5, 6, 7.
- 2sh pale to deep blue, plates 1, 3.

The 10p, plate 2, and 2sh, plate 3, were probably never issued to the public, but are known unused.

#### Surface Printed Issues 1867-83.

Towards the summer of 1867, on account of the large amount of colonial and foreign correspondence, it was found necessary to issue higher values than 2 shilling and the first to appear was the 5sh. Eleven years later, in 1878, two other values were issued, 10sh and £1. They were printed on paper watermarked with a Maltese Cross, humorously known as the only variety of British watermark known not inverted! As in the lower values, the plate numbers were added in the design and the familiar check letters in the corners. The large size of the stamps was probably the cause of the issue being perforated 15-1/2 x 15.



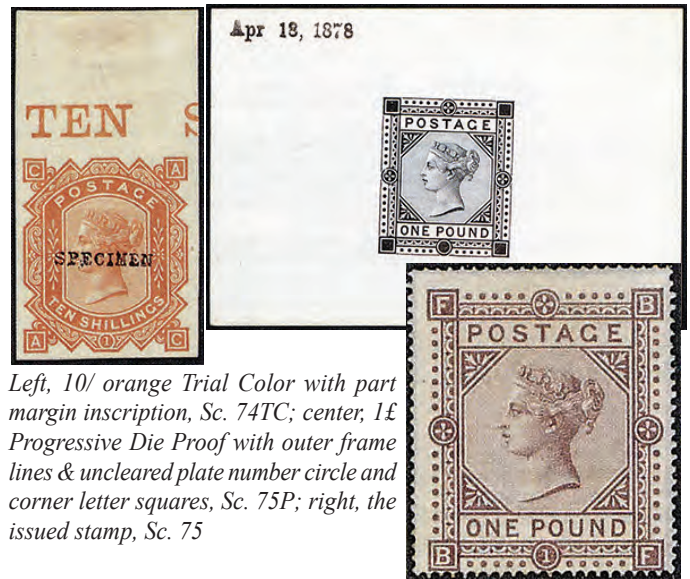
1867 5sh Rose, Maltese Cross watermark, plate 1, *Imprimatur* (first printing), Sc. 57



Left, 10/ Die Proof with uncleared plate number circle (bottom center of frame) and corner letter squares, Sc. 74P; right, 10/ greenish gray, Sc. 74

#### Check List: 1867-78. Perf. 15 1/2 x 15. Wmk. Maltese Cross.

- 5sh pale rose, plates 1, 2 (1867). Sc. 57
- 10sh greenish-gray, plate 1 (1878). Sc. 74
- £1 lilac brown, plate 1 (1878). Sc. 75



Left, 10/ orange Trial Color with part margin inscription, Sc. 74TC; center, 1£ Progressive Die Proof with outer frame lines & uncleared plate number circle and corner letter squares, Sc. 75P; right, the issued stamp, Sc. 75

In 1873, the plates of the 3p, 6p and 1sh were again modified by the check corner letters being made colored on a white ground instead of white on a colored ground, as formerly. The 6p value was further altered by removing the plate number to the center right and left, to appear more symmetrical, as in the 3p and 1sh values. They were issued on the same watermarked paper, the rose spray, as before. With the exception of plate 14, which was registered, but probably never issued in green, the series needs little comment. The 6d buff is a very rare stamp, probably issued in that color by error.



De La Rue die proofs of the 1873 3p. Sc. 61. Left, as originally submitted, with colored corner letters; left, the accepted design with "Approved 11 March 1872" and "2280/72" pencil endorsement.



Sc. 61 with imprint margin

1873-77. Perf. 14. Wmk. Spray, with colored check letters in corners.

3p rose, plates 11, 12 and 14 to 20. Sc. 61  
6p gray, plates 13, 14, 15, 16, 17. Sc. 62  
6p buff, plate 13. Sc. 63

1sh green, plates 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14. Sc. 64

The reduction of postage to certain foreign countries from 4p to 2-1/2p per 1/2 ounce, made it necessary to issue a stamp of that value in 1875. For some strange reason, it was issued on a new paper originally prepared for the revenue stamps of 1867, both blued and quite white, watermarked



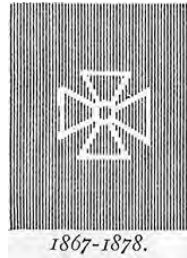
1873 6p gray, plate 16, mint corner strip of four with imprint margin



1873 6p Buff, Plate 13 (Sc. 63), lettered L-B, tied by Leeds "447" March 15, 1873 first day of issue duplex datestamp on cover to Warsaw, Poland, with "PD" and "Franco" handstamps, March 6 arrival datestamp, and London backstamp—the only recorded example of the 6p buff "abnormal" color error. Only about 30 examples are known, all used, including this copy on cover. The unusual sequence of datestamps is due to Warsaw being annexed by the Russian Empire, which used the Julian Calendar, while the rest of Europe used the Gregorian Calendar. The difference between the two calendars was twelve days, which explains why the arrival date is nine days before the departure date, so the actually transit time was three days.

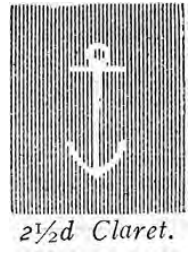


Left to right, 1873, 1sh pale green (Sc. 64) Plate 13; the rare 1sh green Plate 14 (Sc. 64), one of five known; 1880 1sh salmon (Sc. 65)



1867-1878.

Left, the Maltese Cross watermark used for the 1867 5sh rose—see page 12—and right, the "naked anchor" used for the 1875 2-1/2p



2 1/2d Claret.

with a "naked" anchor. In the second plate, an error occurred in the lettering of the stamp L—H, H—L, as L—H, F—L. The error is not exactly rare, but always finds a ready sale at about \$10. in from good to fair condition.

1874 2-1/2p De La Rue Essay, Sc. 66E, prepared at the request of Inland Revenue to meet the new postal rate for letters to the European Continent.



1875. Perf. 14. Wmk. anchor.

2-1/2p claret, blued paper, plates 1, 2. Sc. 66a

2-1/2p claret, white paper, plates 1, 2, 3. Sc. 66

To Be Continued

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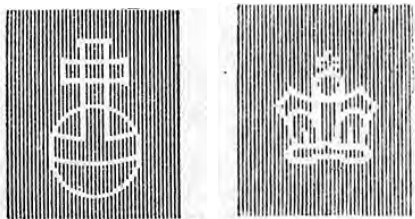


100 Years Ago in Mekeel's:

# The Postage Stamps of Great Britain, Part 14

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

The paper water-marked anchor used for the 2-1/2p being held necessary for the revenue stamps of the period, a new paper watermarked with the Royal Orb was brought into use,



Royal Orb Wmk. Imperial Crown.

but which paper in its turn was relegated for revenue stamps when the new "Crown" watermarked paper appeared in 1881. During four years no fewer than 15 different plates of the 2-1/2p in claret, were issued on the "Orb" paper. Since four plates were printed in blue on this paper in 1880, they may, for convenience sake, be kept with this issue.



Left to right, Sc. 67 Plate 1 Imprimatur first printing; Sc. 67 rare plate 17 (#s in frame below upper corner letters; Sc. 68 plate 20.

Below, Sc. 67 Plate 8 margin block of 20 with current number 531



1878. British Post Offices Abroad printed envelope from Malta to Livorno, Italy bearing 2-1/2d cancelled by "A25" Malta duplex dated JA.24.78.

**Check List: 1876-1880. Perf. 14. Wmk. Royal Orb.**

2-1/2p claret, plates 3 to 17. Sc. 67

2-1/2p blue, plates 17 to 20. Sc. 68

\*\*\*\*\*

In 1876, the printers evidently had on hand a large stock of the large garter watermarked paper used in the printing of the 4p values from 1857 to 1873, for when the new plates of the 4p with the large colored corner check letters were ready they used that paper in no less than three different colors, vermilion, sage green and grayish brown. The second and third plates of the first two colors respectively are classed among the greatest rarities of British stamps. In the fall of the same year a new value 8p was issued in orange. It had also been printed in purple-brown, registered, but was never issued to the public. This stamp was also printed on the large garter paper. (Color photo, front cover.)



Left to right: 1876 4p Vermilion (Sc. 69) Plate 15; 1877 4p Olive Green (Sc. 70) Plate 15, ex Royal Collection; 1880 4p Gray Brown (Sc. 71) Plate 17

Left: 1876 8p Brown Lilac (Sc. 72 unissued Plate 1; Right, Sc. 73 8p orange, Plate 1; Below right, Sc. 73 imprimatur, unissued Plate 2



**Check List: 1876-1880. Perf. 14. Wmk. large garter.**

4p vermilion, plates 15, 16 (March, 1876).

Sc. 69

4p sage green, plates 15, 16, 17 (Feb., 1877).

Sc. 70

4p gray brown, plate 17 (July, 1880). Sc. 71

8p orange, plate 1 (Sept., 1876). Sc. 73

Also 8p brown lilac unissued (1876) Sc. 72

\*\*\*\*\*

On the first of January, 1881, several values, the 3p, 4p and 6p, made their appearance on a new watermarked paper, that of the "Imperial Crown" which existed for thirty-two years without change through three reigns. A few months previous to this (Feb. 1880) the 2sh value had been altered in color to brown, and the 1sh (Oct., 1880) changed to a very similar color, both on rose spray watermarked paper, the former in the white check letter type and the latter with colored check letters. A few months afterwards the 2 1/2p and 1sh were reprinted on the new Crown paper.

To Be Continued

100 Years Ago in Mekeel's:

# The Postage Stamps of Great Britain, Part 15

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

On the first of January, 1881, several values, the 3p, 4p and 6p, made their appearance on a new watermarked paper, that of the "Imperial Crown" which existed for thirty-two years without change through three reigns. A few months previous to this (Feb. 1880) the 2sh value had been altered in color to brown, and the 1sh (Oct., 1880) changed to a very similar color, both on rose spray watermarked paper, the former in the white check letter type and the latter with colored check letters. A few months afterwards the 2-1/2p and 1sh were re-printed on the new Crown paper.



Scott 65

Scott 56

same lilac color of a specially prepared ink first employed for the revenue stamps as a protection against cleaning. In order to prevent confusion these two values were overprinted in carmine with large figures of value. Both values exist with varieties of the dots under the letter "d" representing pence as (a) one dot, (b) slanting dots and (c) minus dots.



Left, 1/10th plate 13 green Trial Color (Sc. 897TC); top right, 1/10th orange brown rejoined imprimatur pair (Sc. 87) with marginal guide arrow; bottom right, unissued 1/10th purple (aka lilac) plate 14 line perforated 11.

The 1sh value was printed in the "safety" lilac in both plates 13 and 14 on the Crown paper, but were never issued for sale to the public.

The high values up to £5 were also issued concurrent with this medley of designs but we shall deal with them separately.

**1880. Perf. 14. Wmk. rose-spray.**

- 1sh (colored check letters) orange brown, plate 13. Sc. 65
- 2sh (white check letters) brown, plate 1. Sc. 96

**1880-82. Perf. 14. Wmk. Imperial Crown.**

- 1/2p deep green, (no plate number). Sc. 78
- 1/2p pale green, (no plate number). Sc. 78c
- 1p venetian red, (no plate number). Sc. 79
- 1-1/2p venetian red, (no plate number). Sc. 80
- 2p deep rose, (no plate number). Sc. 81a
- 2p pale rose, (no plate number). Sc. 81
- 2-1/2p blue, plates 21, 22, 23. Sc. 82
- 3p rose, plates 20, 21. Sc. 83
- 4p gray-brown, plates 17, 18. Sc. 84
- 5p indigo, (no plate number). Sc. 85
- 6p gray, plates 17, 18. Sc. 86
- 1sh orange brown, plates 13, 14. Sc. 87

\*\*\*\*\*

In 1881 a new design was made for the penny value, bearing for the first time the words "postage and inland revenue." This was also printed in the revenue "safety" lilac.

After a few months' service, the design was slightly modified from 14 to 16 pearls in each corner of the stamp.

To Be Continued



Scott 88, 14 pearls



2-1/2p. Sc. 82, corner marginal strip with plate #17

At this same period the contracts for the line-engraved 1/2p, 1p, 1-1/2p and 2p stamps expired, and it was decreed that the future supplies of these values should be in harmony with the higher value surface printed stamps, and the same firm that printed the latter, Messrs. Thos. de La Rue, was awarded the contracts. A new value, 5p, was also added for double weight foreign postage.

Ringing the changes on watermarks must have sorely puzzled the collector of those days, and to make matters worse the 3p and 6p were issued (Jan., 1883) in the



Scott 85



Sc. 94, slanting dots



Sc. 95 imperforate 1st printing, imperf with slanting dots below d

## 100 Years Ago in Mekeel's:

# The Postage Stamps of Great Britain, Part 16

by W. Ward (From Mekeel's Weekly, July 7, 1917)

Picturing where we left off, in 1881 a new design was made for the penny value, bearing for the first time the words "postage and inland revenue." This was also printed in the revenue "safety" lilac.

After a few months' service, the design was slightly modified from 14 to 16 pearls in each corner of the stamp.



Scott 88, 14 pearls

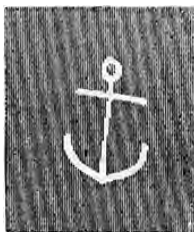
Scott 89a, 16 pearls, printed on both sides, right the gumside

Though in use for over twenty years few varieties of this stamp occur, one of which issued towards the end of the "nineties" is the "bottom" line variety in which the whole of the right and left hand bottom line of pearls are solid color, as if the plate had been struck by a metal part of the ink rollers or mobile portion of the printing machine. This stamp is also known printed on the gummed side of the paper (above).

### 1881-1882. Perf. 14. Wmk. Imperial Crown.

- 1p lilac, 14 pearls, (July, 1881). Sc. 88
- 1p pale lilac, 14 pearls.
- 1p pale lilac, 16 pearls, (Dec. 18, 1881). Sc. 89 (bluish paper 89d)
- 1p deep purple, 16 pearls.
- 1p mauve, 16 pearls.
- 1p mauve, 16 pearls, thick heavy line of color at base.
- 3p lilac, surch. "3d" 2s dots under "d". Sc. 94
- 6p lilac, surch. "6d" 2 dots under "d", Sc. 95
- 3p lilac, surch. "3d" 1 dot under "d".
- 6p lilac, surch. "6d" 1 dot under "d".
- 6p lilac, surch. "6d" no dots under "d".

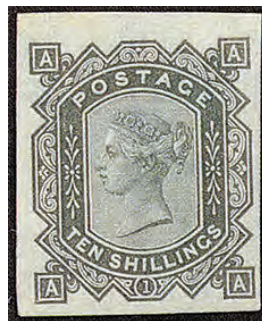
The fall of 1882 saw three high values, 5sh, 10sh and £1 together with a new high value, £5, make their appearance on the fiscal paper watermarked with the "naked" anchor (right), in both blued and plain white. Apart from postal purposes they did service for telegraph charges, replacing the special telegraph issue of 1876-77, the £5 being of the same design but with the word "postage" at the top taking the place of "tele-



£5 Telegraphs Die Proof

graphs." They were perforated the new standard 14. These stamps may be classified with three sorts of obliterations—(a) ordinary round or "killer" towns postmarks, (b) oval registered postmark and (c) telegraph cancellation. The first and

third reflect the current catalog quotations, whereas the second generally command a good per cent over catalog price according to condition.



10 sh Imprimatur, Sc. 91



10 sh, perf 14, Sc. 91



£1 Die Proof, Sc. 92P



£1 Imprimatur, Sc. 92



£5, Sc. 93, right, with Devon town cancel



"Telegraphs" stamp; right, £1, Sc. 92, with Birmingham Telegraph Office circular date stamp



- 1882-1883. Perf. 14. Wmk. "naked" anchor
- 5sh rose on white paper. 90a
- 5sh rose on blued paper. 90
- 10sh gray-green on white paper. 91a
- 10sh gray-green on blued paper. 91
- £1 brown-lilac on white paper. 92
- £1 brown-lilac on blued paper. 92a
- £5 orange on white paper. 93
- £5 orange on blued paper. 93b

(To be continued.)

100 Years Ago in Mekeel's:

# The Postage Stamps of Great Britain Part 17, The Unified Series

by W. Ward (From Mekeel's Weekly, July 7, 1917)

The success of the lilac fugitive ink used in the printing of the one penny stamp for combined postal and revenue purposes, led the authorities to decide to issue what is now philatelically termed a unified series, that is, all values of a similar appearance (if not exactly the same design) and in a colour that would resist attempts to clean after being however slightly obliterated.

Several colours of the new ink were tried and proofs were submitted by the printers in lilac, green, rose, and blue, all of which were passed as suitable.

The new series was made up of values from 1-1/2 pence to 10 shillings.

To Be Continued



1882 1/2d Unified series, De La Rue's second scheme hand painted essay in green and chinese white on thin buff paper mounted on white card, cancelled by a manuscript ink cross, one of only two sets of 10 essays produced in July 1882.



1882 Essays for a Unified Series, 1/2d to 1/ series of ten trials, including 1d in a pair, printed in lilac and each surcharged with its own face value.



1883 1-1/2d-1s set of nine die proofs with void corner letters, printed in black on white glazed card cut to stamp size and mounted in a sunken frame, from the De La Rue archives.



1883 1d Lilac & 1/2d-1s Unified "Lilac & Green" set of eleven pen "Cancelled" in black ink from the official De La Rue file set kept by the printers. Each stamp has been cut from a sheet and mounted on the record page from where these were removed.

# 100 Years Ago in Mekeel's:

## The Postage Stamps of Great Britain Part 18, The Unified Series

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



1884 1/2d Trial Color o. g. imperforate example printed in orange-brown on white watermarked paper.

For the 1/2 penny [Sc. 98] the design of the previous issue was accepted and the penny lilac in use at the time of issue [Sc. 88, 89] was considered suitable.



1884 1/2p slate blue, Sc. 98

For the £1 [Sc. 110] the then existing die for the telegraph stamp of that value was brought into use substituting, as in the [1882] £5 stamp for the word "Telegraphs" that of "Postage".

were kept back on account of large stocks of the several previous issues, until the first of April of the following year, 1884.

Owing to the size of the 2-1/2, 5 and 10sh stamps the Anchor watermarked paper of the obsolete 5sh, 10sh and £1 stamps was used, but as the £1 value just about spaced three ordinary sized stamps, the Imperial Crown watermarked paper was used, each stamp thus securing three of the crowns.

About the middle of the year 1888 the printers obtained permission to use up a stock of the 1876-80 Orb watermarked paper (used for the 2-1/2p stamps) for printing a supply of the £1. In this instance also, each stamp shows three watermarks. [Sc. 123]



1888 £1, Sc. 123

To Be Continued



Right, 1884 £1 Brown-lilac Sc. 110; left, the Telegraph stamp, Sc. 93

The whole series was ready for issue in 1883, and sheets overprinted "Specimen", perforated 12, were sent out for distribution among the post office departments of the world. Whether the printers, Messrs. de la Rue or the Government Department, Somerset House, perforated and overprinted these specimens is not known, but it is very likely that the latter department did the work as the firm mentioned never possessed a machine gauging 12, though possessing an old perforating machine gauging 12-1/2 that had been used for many Colonial issues.



1883 2s6d Lilac, overprinted "SPECIMEN", Sc. 96S

The new set contained one new value—that of half a crown, or

2-1/2 shillings [Sc. 96]. This was probably deemed of immediate use, for it made so early an appearance as July 1883, whereas the other values



1883 2-1/2d Die proof with void corner letters, cut to stamp size, mounted in sunken frame; right, issued Sc. 96.

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100 Years Ago in Mekeel's:

# The Postage Stamps of Great Britain Part 19, The Unified Series

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



1884 5sh Carmine Rose (Sc. 108, SG 180).

As in the preceding issue of the large high values on the "naked" Anchor watermarked papers, a supply was printed that showed a distinct delicate blue tint to the paper.



1884 5sh Rose, blued paper (Sc. 108a, SG 176)



1884 10sh ultramarine (Sc. 109, SG 183).

Faked copies, which have probably been boiled in water containing laundry blue, are smudgy and show small specks of blue matter that renders them a fraud fairly easy to detect.



1884 10sh ultramarine, blued paper Imprimatur (Sc. 109b, SG 177 var)

Owing to the fugitive nature of the ink, the green stamps quickly dissolve in water, and if left for some time assume a permanent pale apple green shade, whereas the colour



1883 5s Die proof (Sc. 108P) cut to size example printed in black on white glazed card, mounted on part De La Rue striking book page with manuscript annotations "Augst 14th/2 forms/112 each" and red "8 Sept 83/P".

of the issued stamp is a deep, slightly bluish green. The 9 penny, the 10sh in a full blue shade and the £1 watermarked Orbs are the scarcest values to obtain in fine condition. Registered cancellations on the used specimens add to their value.



1884 4p Green (Sc. 103) and a washed example



The 5p value is known with a short line under the "d" representing pence instead of a full point, but this was removed from the plate before the issue became general.

To Be Continued

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