

A Study of the Stamps of the Reign of King Edward VIII

Year of the Three Kings

The year 1936 is marked greatly by the monarchs of Royal Britain; at least in the philatelic world. While the year is marked by the reigning kings of the British monarch; in the philatelic world it is dotted by printed issues of these reigning monarchs.



This study explores the stamps that were issued during the short span of King Edward VIII reign.

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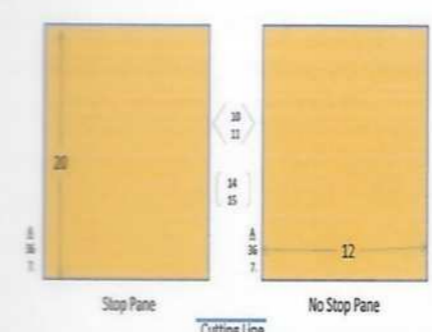


Edward VIII (Edward Albert Christian George Andrew Patrick David; later The Duke of Windsor; 23 June 1894 – 28 May 1972) was King of the United Kingdom and the Dominions of the British Commonwealth, and Emperor of India, from 20 January to 11 December 1936 following the demise of King George V, his father.

A few days after the accession of King Edward VIII on the 20th January 1936, the Post Office started preparing designs of the postage stamps of the new reign. The selection process was lengthy; but eventually the King approved the one favoured by the Post Office and the four values in this design were issued in September 1936.

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Post Office Sheets



The issued stamps were printed on highly glazed paper with Watermark "E88", made by Portals (John Allen) Ltd and were perforated 15 X 14.

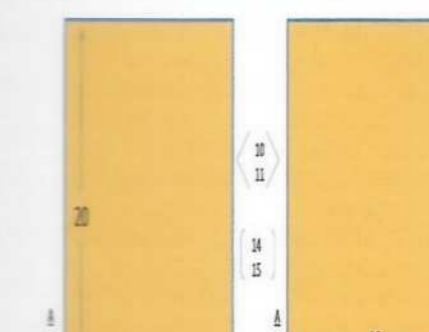
All of the 3 values comes with two Different cylinder numbers (A36, A37); Except for the two penny half penny Cylinder that has a line engraved below the A36 to denote the printings that Took place in the A37 account.

The cylinders were etched in two Panes, side by side, each consisting Of 240 stamp images arranged in 20 rows of 12.

Example of half sheet of a No Stop Pane and Stop Pane

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Post Office Sheets



Additional Markings:

- Divisional arrow: etched in Half tone at both panes opposite the 10th and 11th horizontal gutter rows
- Control: etched in varying Tones opposite the 18th row on the left of both panes
- Cylinder number: engraved slightly below the control. That on the left hand pane Without a stop; whilst that On the right hand pane was followed by a stop. The Cylinder number is the Printers' record of each and Every cylinder etched, whether it was put to press or not
- Cutting Lines: short horizontal line engraved directly below the interpane gutter about 18mm, below the bottom of the stamp images, to assist Separation of the web sheets.
- Three-sided Square: engraved in each outer margin opposite The gutter between the fourteenth and fifteenth horizontal rows, with The open side either towards or Away from the stamps.

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Perforating Machines



Example of Machine Type I, Stop and No-Stop pane

Three types of perforating machines were used.

Type I – generally used and had a comb head set to perforate the entire width of the web. After horizontal separation from the web the unsevered double sheets comprising of the stop and no-stop panes were fed into the perforating machine bottom first, thus leaving the bottom margin of both panes imperforate, with a single extension hole in the left hand margin

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Perforating Machines

Type II – this was a supplementary machine which had the comb head set to perforate the continuous web from top to bottom



Example of Machine Type II, Stop pane

Type III – this was a reserve machine and had a comb head set to perforate the sheets from side to side after the stop and no-stop panes had been separated.

| Machine Type | Pane | Left Hand Margin | Bottom Margin |
|--------------|---------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| I | Stop | Single Extension Hole | Imperforate |
| I | No Stop | Single Extension Hole | Imperforate |
| II | Stop | Single Extension Hole | Perforated Through |
| II | No Stop | Imperforate | Perforated Through |
| III | Stop | Perforated Through | Perforated Through |
| III | No Stop | Imperforate | Single Extension Hole |

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Errors

Crown Jewel / Missing Pearl Flaw – there was a flaw on the multipositive used to prepare the cylinder which appears as a small sphere to the right of the crown on stamp 20/2 of the stop pane.



Coil Flaw – subsequent rechromed of the cylinder rendered an irregular mark; disarranging the hair to stood up, hence the designation of the "coil" flaw.



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Errors

State 2 Thin Lines (No-Stop Pane) – initial vertical smudge in the margin extending down to the entire length of the sheet; but after rechromed appear as two thin lines.

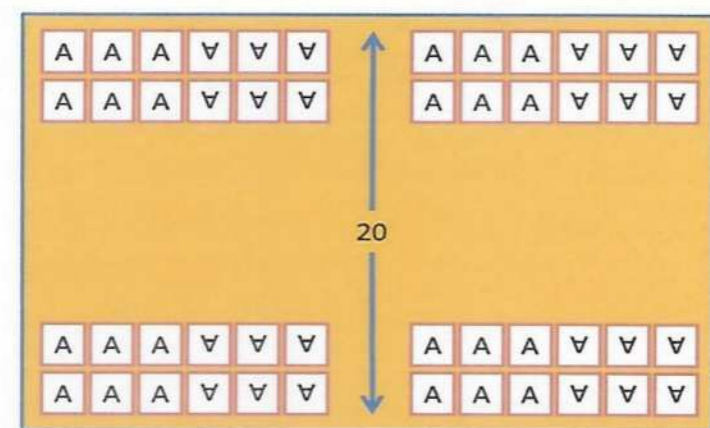


State 2 Additional Line (Stop Pane) – faint cutting line below 8mm from the bottom of the stamps, apart from the regular 18mm cutting line



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Post Office Booklets



The cylinders prepared to print stamps intended for inclusion in booklets were two panes side by side comprising 20 rows of 12 images. A narrow gutter bisected each pane between 6th and 7th vertical rows, and the images in rows 4, 5, 6 and 10, 11, 12 were inverted in relation to the rest.



Example of a Three Shilling Booklet

Four different combinations of stamps issued in book form

| Booklet | Color | Stamps | Issued | Serialized |
|----------------|-------|---|------------|------------------------|
| One Shilling | Buff | a. One pane of 6 x 3 1/2 d b. One pane of 6 x 1 1/2 d c. One pane of 6 x 1 1/2 d d. One pane of 6 x 1 1/2 d plus two advertising labels | 254 385 | 23-Jan-37 28-Oct-36 |
| Two Shilling | Blue | a. One pane of 6 x 3 1/2 d b. One pane of 6 x 1 1/2 d c. Three panes of 6 x 1 1/2 d d. Two Airmail labels | 320 332 | 31-Oct-36 |
| Three Shilling | Red | a. One pane of 6 x 3 1/2 d b. One pane of 6 x 1 1/2 d c. Three panes of 6 x 1 1/2 d d. One pane of 6 x 1 1/2 d plus two advertising labels | 35-17 | 19-Mar-37 |
| Five Shilling | Buff | a. Two Airmail labels | | |

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Post Office Booklets

There are three types of perforating machines for stamps in booklet form.

Type I – generally used with comb head set to perforate entire width of the web at one operation



Example of Type I perforated – No-Stop Pane with extension hole in margin

Type II – equivalent of Type III sheet perforator; perforating the No-Stop pane from left to right and the Stop Pane from right to left.



Example of Type I perforated – Stop Pane with imperforate margin

Type III – used during the reign of King George V period was never brought into use during this reign

| Type I - Stop | Stop Pane | No-Stop Pane |
|-----------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| I | Imperforate margin | Extension hole in margin |
| Type I - Stop E | Extension hole in margin | NIL |
| Type II | Perforated margin | Imperforate margin |

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Post Office Booklets

Following shows a chart highlighting the various cylinders used in the printing of the various denominations.

| Values | Cylinder No. |
|-------------------|--------------|
| Half Penny | E2, E4 |
| One Penny | F3, F6 |
| Three Half Penny | G4, G5 |
| Advertising Panes | G7 |

There are sixteen known different advertising panels and they are listed in their relative positions, with the booklet edition numbers in parentheses.



Example of advertising labels – "Your friend are on the telephone. Are you?"

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Validity of Stamps outside the United Kingdom

For use in the International Zone

The only British Post Office was situated at Tangier, the principal of the town of the zone. As this post office accounted in British currency, no surcharge was necessary.



Another British Post Office located at Morocco, comes overprinted with or without surcharge.

The word Morocco in two settings.

Setting 1 – Morocco measures 15 X mm

Setting 2 – Morocco measures 14 X mm

This variation can be found on the same sheet of stamps.



Example of setting mismatch

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For use in the Spanish and French zone



British Post Offices established at Alcazar, Larache and Tetuan imposed a surcharge in Spanish currency on Morocco Agencies overprinted stamps.

- 5 centimos on 1/2 d
- 10 centimos on 1d
- 15 centimos on 1 1/2 d
- 25 centimos on 2 1/2 d

While those British Post Offices established in Casablanca, Fez, Mazagan, Marakesh, Maquines, Rabat and Saffi impose instead a surcharge in French currency on Morocco Agencies overprinted stamps.

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Postage Due Labels

These labels are in use for the collection of amounts due on underpaid postal matter.

In December 1936, the 4d in dull grey-green was issued



And in March 1937, the 3d in dull violet was issued



This was later followed by 2d agate in May 1937



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Meter Marks

A Meter Stamp is the impression denoting prepayment of postage made by a franking machine which prints the 'stamp' in the value required direct onto the envelope or card etc or on to a hummed label.

There are 5 machines used with the E VIII R Opher, details of which denotes 2 as follows

- Midget Machine Key Letter "M" – base on the Inversal NZ model developed in New Zealand, came into use in 1926 in UK. Rates known were 1/2 d, 1d, 1 1/2 d, 2d, 2 1/2 d

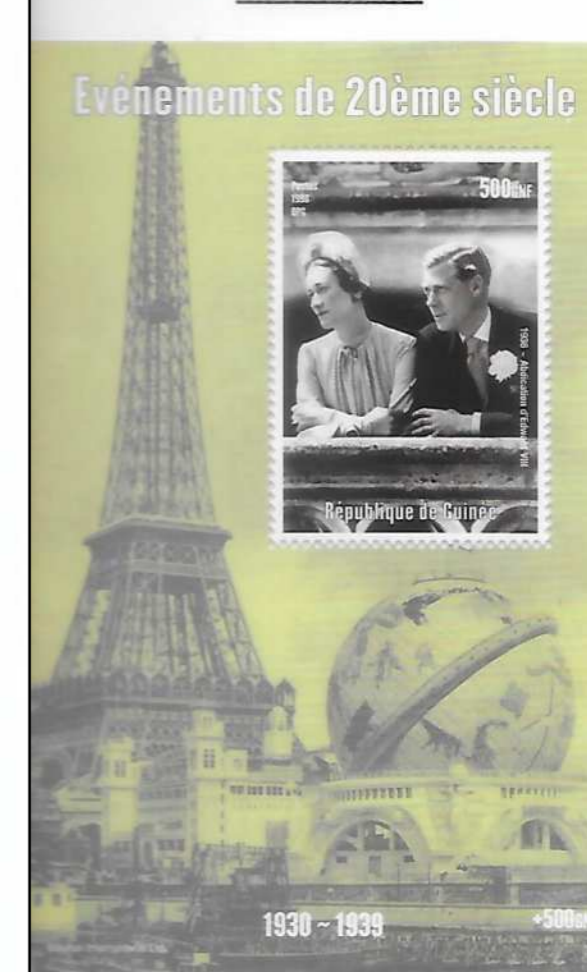


- Neopost Machine Key Letter "N" – manufactured in England by Roneo-Neopost Ltd and came into use in 1925 in UK. Rates known were 1/2 d, 1d, 1 1/2 d, 2d, 2 1/2 d, 3d, 4 1/2 d, 6d, 9d, and 1s.



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The Abdication



Edward chose to be with an American socialite Wallis Simpson, and thereby abdicated. He was succeeded by his younger brother Albert, who chose the regal name George VI.

With a reign of 326 days, Edward was one of the shortest-reigning monarchs in British and Commonwealth history. He was never crowned.

After his abdication, he was given the title Duke of Windsor. He married Simpson in France on 3 June 1937, after her second divorce became final. Later that year, the couple toured Germany.

After the Second World War, he was never given another official appointment and spent the remainder of his life in retirement in France.



The reign of King George VI started from 11th December 1936 to 6th February 1952.

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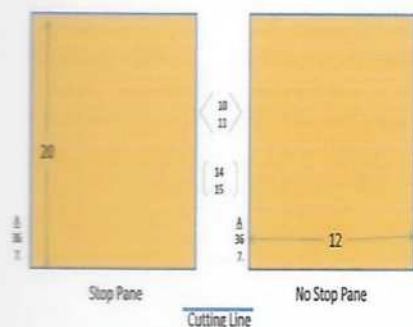


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Post Office Sheets



The issued stamps were printed

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Watermark "E8R", made by Portals

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15 X 14.

All of the 3 values comes with two

Different cylinder numbers (A36, A37);

Except for the two pence half penny

Cylinder that has a line engraved below

The A36 to denote the printings that

Took place in the A37 account.

The cylinders were etched in two

Panes, side by side, each consisting

Of 240 stamp images arranged in

20 rows of 12.

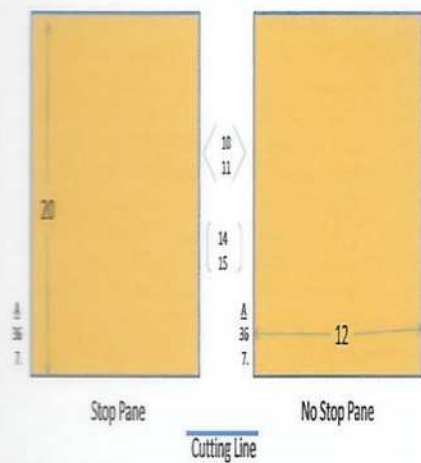
Example of half sheet of a

No Stop Pane and Stop Pane



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Post Office Sheets



Additional Markings:

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Example of Machine Type I, Stop and No-Stop pane

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Type II – this was a supplementary machine which had the comb head set to perforate the continuous web from top to bottom



Example of Machine Type II, Stop pane

Type III – this was a reserve machine and had a comb head set to perforate the sheets from side to side after the stop and no-stop panes had been separated.

| Machine Type | Pane | Left Hand Margin | Bottom Margin |
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Crown Jewel / Missing Pearl Flaw – there was a flaw on the multipositive used to prepare the cylinder which appears as a small sphere to the right of the crown on stamp 20/2 of the stop pane.



Coif Flaw – subsequent rechromed of the cylinder rendered a irregular mark; disarranging the hair to stood up, hence the designation of the "coif" flaw.



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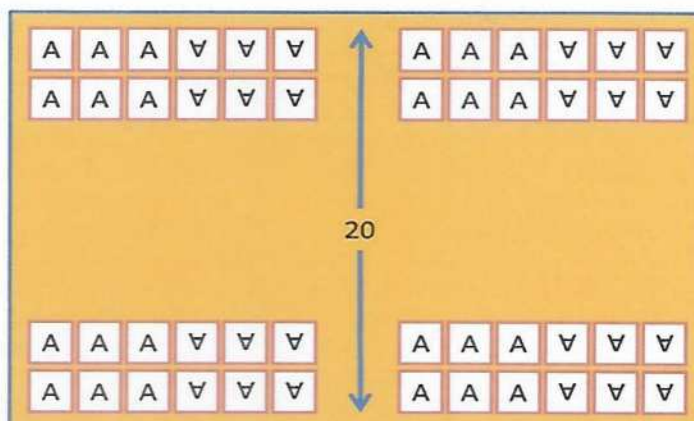


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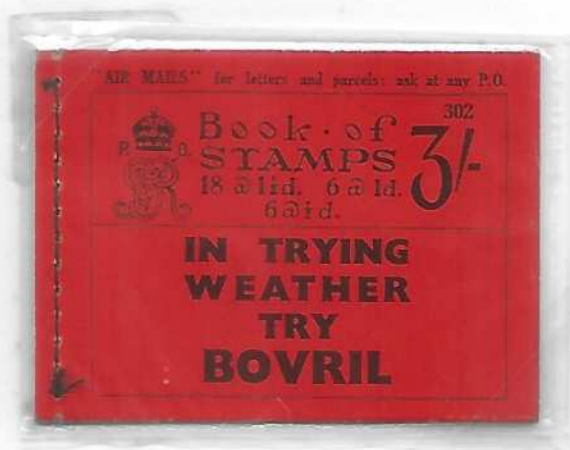


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Example of a Three Shilling Booklet

Four different combinations of stamps issued in book form

| Booklet | Color | Stamps | Issued | Serialized |
|----------------|-------|--|---------|------------|
| Six Pence | Buff | 2 x 1 1/2 d | NA | 23-Jan-37 |
| Two Shilling | Blue | a. One pane of 6 X 1/2 d b. One pane of 6 x 1d c. One pane of 6 X 1 1/2 d d. One pane of 4 x 1 1/2 d plus two advertising labels e. Two Airmail labels | 354-385 | 28-Oct-36 |
| Three Shilling | Red | a. One pane of 6 X 1/2 d b. One pane of 6 x 1d c. Three panes of 6 X 1 1/2 d d. Two Airmail labels | 320-332 | 31-Oct-36 |
| Five Shilling | Buff | a. One pane of 6 X 1/2 d b. One pane of 6 x 1d c. Five panes of 6 X 1 1/2 d d. One pane of 4 x 1 1/2 d plus two advertising labels e. Two Airmail labels | 16-17 | 19-Mar-37 |

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Example of Type I perforated – Stop Pane with imperforate margin

Type III – used during the reign of King George V period was never brought into use during this reign

| | | |
|--------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Type I - Stop I | Stop Pane | No-Stop Pane |
| | Imperforate margin | Extension hole in margin |
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Validity of Stamps outside the United Kingdom

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The only British Post Office was situated at Tangier, the principal of the town of the zone. As this post office accounted in British currency, no surcharge was necessary.



Another British Post Office located at Morocco, comes overprinted with or without surcharge.

The word Morocco can be found in two settings.

Setting 1 – Morocco measures 15 ¼ mm

Setting 2 – Morocco measures 14 ¼ mm

This variation can be found on the same sheet of stamps.



Example of setting mismatch

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| | | |
|----|-------------|-------|
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| 10 | centimos on | 1d |
| 15 | centimos on | 1 ½ d |
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There are 5 machines used with the E VIII R Cypher, details of which denotes 2 as follows

1. Midget Machine Key Letter "M" – base on the Iniversal NZ model developed in New Zealand, came into use in 1926 in UK. Rates known were ½ d, 1d, 1 ½ d, 2d, 2 ½ d



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