

PERFINS ON THE GRAPHITE LINED ISSUES OF G.B. Bob Schwerdt & Roy Gault

One would think that thirty years would be sufficient time for most British graphite perfins to have been discovered and reported, but occasionally new types still come to light.

The graphite lines were applied as an experiment in 1957 and again in 1959 to expedite the sorting of mail electronically, and are found on two types of watermarked paper, namely St. Edward's Crown and Multiple Crowns. This method of detection, however, was not a success, so in November 1959 the remaining stocks of Graphite lined stamps were overprinted with bands of Phosphorescent ink. A table showing the issues involved appears at the end of the article.

The following list represents the current status of the 33 known dies on this small but interesting group of perfins. Collectors are encouraged to report any new dies or values not on the list, as well as fill in some of the gaps and confirm the queries. Please keep a special lookout for signs of the stamps having come from coils, or possibly carrying phosphor bands.

PERFIN DIES ON G.B. GRAPHITE LINED ISSUES – Gibbons Nos. quoted.					
A2080.02	A/EI	587 594		K	561
	AWG	593?		L/&C°/L ^d	563
	B/BB	594		LINE	564 592
B2320.01	BE	594		M/C	593
B5150.01	BN/SH	594		MV/C°	562
C4110.01	CK	593	N0510.05	NC	562 594
	C.P/R	562 564 566 590	N1760.01	NI	594
C8280.01	C.W	562		P.H/C°	590
C8530.01	C/W/S	561 562 591 593 594	R3490.01	RM/L	593
	D&G	566 594?		SB/C	561
	DHE	594?		S&S	593
	EC	561 563	S8120.01	SW/GB	593 594
F3580.01	FRY	563 594	T4040.03	T&S	564 565 566 592
F4270.01	F.U/D.C	562 563 565 566 590	W2940.01	W/G	593
		592	W4370.01	WILLS	594
	HM/SO	588 599 605	W6680.05	W&S	593 594
	J/L ^d	562	W7020.01	W.S/M	563

POSTAGE STAMPS OF GREAT BRITAIN

GRAPHITE LINED - Watermark St. Edward's Crown (212,606,880 issued)

	Value	Issue	Date	Quantity	Sheets	Booklets	Coils	Perfin
SG561	½d	19 Nov	1957	22,748,400	Yes	----	GWY	Yes
SG562	1d	19 Nov	1957	29,620,080	Yes	----	EXZ	Yes
SG563	1½d	19 Nov	1957	10,506,720	Yes	----	N	Yes
SG564	2d	19 Nov	1957	37,686,480	Yes	----	VT	Yes
SG565	2½d	19 Nov	1957	20,578,800	Yes	----	M	Yes
SG566	3d	19 Nov	1957	91,466,400	Yes	—	S	Yes

GRAPHITE USED - Watermark Multiple Crowns (146,440,380 issued).

	Value	Issue	Date	Quantity	Sheets	Booklets	Coils	Perfin
SG587	½d	15 Jun	1959	4,181,840	----	Yes	WY	Yes
SG588	1d	18 Dec	1958	12,448,880	----	Yes	EXZ	Yes
SG589	1½d	4 Aug	1959	1,864,800	----	Yes	--	---
SG590	2d	24 Nov	1958	48,419,520	Yes	----	V	Yes
SG591	2½d	9 Jun	1959	10,022,800	Yes	Yes	--	Yes
SG592	3d	24 Nov	1958	57,222,960	Yes	Yes	CS	Yes
SG593	4d	29 Apr	1959	6,891,600	Yes	----	--	Yes
SG594	4½d	3 Jun	1959	5,388,480	Yes	----	--	Yes

PHOSPHOR(Green)/GRAPHITE - Watermark St. Edward's Crown (2,120,880 issued).

	Value	Issue	Date	Quantity	Sheets	Booklets	Coils	Perfin
SG599	½d	18 Nov	1959	707,040	Yes	----	--	Yes
SG600	1d	18 Nov	1959	709,680	Yes	----	--	----
SG601	1½d	18 Nov	1959	704,160	Yes	----	--	----
SG605a	2d	Sep	1960	See SG605	Yes	----	--	----

PHOSPHOR(Green)/GRAPHITE - Watermark Multiple Crowns (17,039,000 issued).

	Value	Issue	Date	Quantity	Sheets	Booklets	Coils	Perfin
SG605	2d	18 Nov	1959	4,509,120	Yes	----	--	Yes
SG606	2½d	18 Nov	1959	689,280	Yes	----	--	----
SG607	3d	18 Nov	1959	4,654,040	Yes	----	--	----
SG608	4d	18 Nov	1959	490,560	Yes	----	--	----
SG609	4½d	18 Nov	1959	696,000	Yes	----	--	----

NOTES: 1. A total of 378,207,640 stamps were produced with Graphite Lines
 2. All coils were made up from sheets except the ½d and 1d values which were from continuous reels. The N, T, M & S coils were sideways delivery for MULTIPOST type affixers, whereas the C coil was vertical delivery for POKO machines.
 3. Watermarks are normally upright although inverted Watermarks from Booklets exist for SG587, SG588, SG589, SG591, and SG592.