

Army & Navy Co-operative Society Ltd,
105 Victoria St, Westminster, London SW. [Est 1871]
Renamed **Army & Navy Stores Ltd** in 1934.

Close inspection of hundreds of loose stamps and covers sent in by collectors as a result of Rosemary's article about the company, have enabled me to reduce the "plethera" of catalogue numbers currently listed in the Old Illustrated Catalogue to just three basic types - the same three that Harvey Tilles listed in 1975!

C0270.02M Spec: 8/10,13/9-4/8½/4½

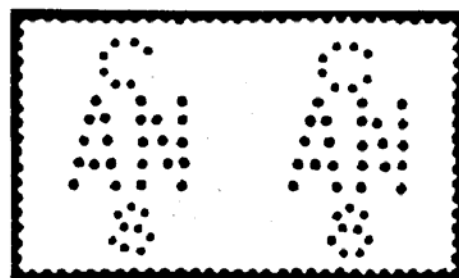
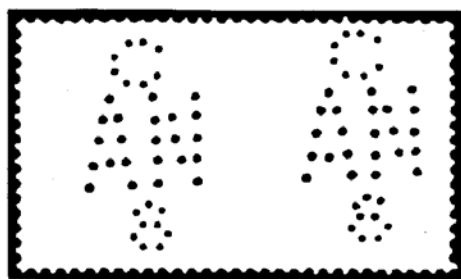
The earliest, longest lived, and arguably the ugliest of the three dies. Multiple patterns on large format stamps show minor variations indicating it to have been multi-headed (6x2?).



ED: 3/7/1887 LD: 24/6/1939

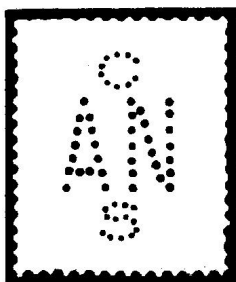
Die in use: 1885-1969

- Issues: B 1d D 1½d, 2½d, 3d, 9d
 E ½d(both), 1½d-4½d, 6d, 9d, 10d, 1/-(both)
 F ½d(both), 1d-4d(both), 5d-7d, 9d. 1/- H ½d, 1d
 I(RC/BC) ½d-9d, 1/- L ½d, 1½d, 2½d
 M ½d-2d, 3d-5d, 9d, 1/- N ½d-1½d O ½d-1½d, 2½d
 P 1½d Q ½d-4d, 6d-9d, 1/- R ½d, 1d, 2d-3d
 S ½d, 1½d, 4d, 10/- T 2½d (SG491)
 U(TC/SEC) 1d, 2d-3d, 6d, 8d-10d, 1/- V 4d(both), 5d



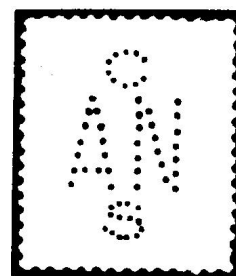
Typical variations that can be found. Note the shape to the base of the 'S' and the position of the stop forming the bar in the 'A'

C0270.01M Spec: 10/15,20/13 or 14 - 3½/8/3½



13 pin "S"

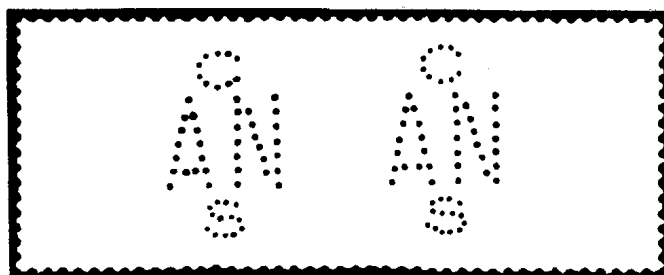
Characterised by the use of fine pins in the 'C' and 'S'. Both 13 and 14 pin S's can be found but they are now known to be part of the same multi-headed die.



14 pin "S"

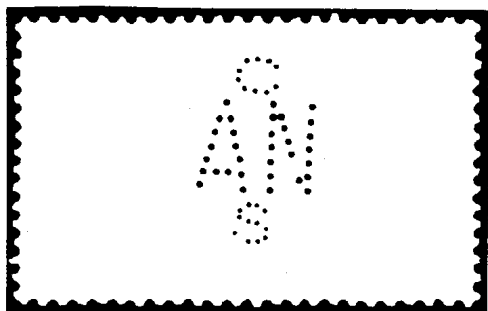
ED: 11/10/1892 LD: 18/11/1907 Die in use: 1890-1912

Issues: B Id C 2/6d, 5/-, 10/-, £1 (SG212)
E ½d(verm), 1½d, 3d, 9d, 1/-(gn)
F Id, 6d H (value n/k)

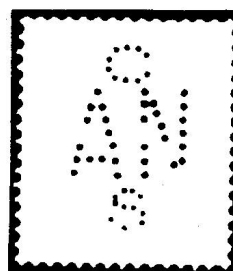


Both 13 and 14 pin S's can be seen on this QV £1 dated 6/4/1894.

A similar die appeared c1952 which may have been the old die re-discovered and pressed into service. However, the same missing pins and "single, central strikes" on large format stamps indicate a single headed die, so perhaps only one pattern was being used. The die was in a poor state at the end as shown in the illustration of a 3d Wilding.



ED: ..n/k



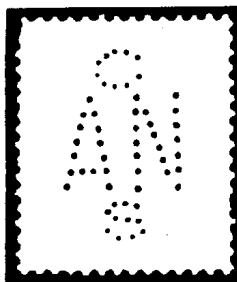
LD: n/k

Die in use 1952-1960

Issues: S 2/6d, 5/-, £1 U(MC) 3d, 4d, 1/-

The third die, C0270.03M, is also characterised by fine pins in the 'C' and 'S', but this time the 'S' only has 11 pins. The die, in use for around 50 years, was used mainly on high value stamps and is thought to have been multi-headed, probably 2x2.

Spec: 10/15,20/11-3/8/3



C0270.03M

ED: ..1898 LD: 15/8/1935 Die in use: 1895-1945

Issues: B 1d
 E ½d(both), 1½d, 2½d, 3d, 4½d-6d
 F 4d(gr/br) G 2/6d, 5/-
 J 2/6d, 5/- (both types)
 O 1½d
 Q 1d, 2/6d(both), 5/-



Logos showing the company names taken from receipts and covers.

Acknowledgements go to Jack Brandt, Ian Burns, Joe Dooley, George Greenhill, Harry Skinner, Rosemary Smith, Stephen Steere, and Terry Wood for supplying information and allowing me to inspect their material.