

# **BRITISH PHILATELIC VARIATIONS**

**1989 to Date**

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**NOT COMPLETED, BUT MAY BE OF SOME USE**

There is one growing aspect of modern British philately of the past twenty years that is not given much – or sometimes any – mention in the specialist or general philatelic literature.

This article aims at rectifying this omission by recording what I have found that meets the criteria set-out below. Some items will be well known to you, while others may come as a surprise. Several of the collectables listed here have not previously been recorded and certainly all have not appeared in one place before now.

So, what is this “new” subject? Well, the title somewhat gives the game away! It is stamps that are sold to collectors in a variant that is not intended for sale to the general public at a Post Office counter for *operational use*, i.e. to be used for posting an inland or overseas letter, postcard, packet or parcel, for let’s not lose sight of why stamps were first introduced.

## **DEFINITION**

David Mallen is author of a catalogue entitled *The Australian Stamp Variations Catalogue* and is webmaster of [www.users.bigpond.net.au/asv](http://www.users.bigpond.net.au/asv). He states on his site: "A Stamp Variation is a different version or format in which the stamp was issued (usually compared with the original single gummed sheet stamp). Variations are produced on purpose."

This definition applies equally to British variations, although I take issue with the final sentence in that the variations covered here were often NOT intentionally produced by Royal Mail or its printers. Most were created to enable them to meet the demands of collectors (such as the stamps needed to service First Day Covers, insert into Presentation Packs or for Stamp Year Books, etc.), or were not deemed to be of significant difference to prevent them being issued as a variant (such as the annual Royal Mail staff gift of first class stamps with the matrix retained instead of being stripped away by the printers).

Interestingly, Royal Mail has not even publicised or tried to sell many of these variations, so for once they cannot be accused of trying to extract more revenue from the collector.

## **EXCLUSIONS**

It has been difficult to clearly define exclusions, but generally for the purposes of this article I have not included the following differences that one might encounter:

- Change of face values, perforation, gum, printer, printing process, phosphor, etc.
- Stamps available in both self-adhesive and water-activated versions.
- Stamps appearing in more than one product, such as in counter sheets and within a stamp book, MS or Smilers sheet.

I consider the above items to be outside the scope so if you think that I have omitted an item, please check it against these exclusions first and you may soon discover why it does not appear below.

These excluded items are all of great interest to many collectors, of course, and the likes of Rushstamps sell these additional stamp types without difficulty, largely to fill spaces in pre-printed stamp albums.

## **GROUPINGS**

I believe that all stamp-related products produced by Royal Mail fall into two distinct groupings, namely:

**Stamps intended for sale primarily to the general public.** For the purpose of setting the criteria for this first group, I have concluded that none of the format types included are philatelically inspired (a decision that is bound to generate debate among some readers!).

Therefore all mint stamps, whether in sheets (counter or business), books (counter, vending, retail, Christmas or Greetings), coils (vending by PO/privately, or affixing by businesses) or exclusively sold by retailers (Boots-type labels) are a part of this product grouping. This is regardless of whether the product comprises definitives (National, Country, NVI, Universal or Pictorial/Smilers), special/commemorative issues or any combination of these.

**Stamp Products created primarily for purchase by collectors.** The second group comprises the rest of the stamp products that have been marketed to philatelists or memorabilia collectors by Tallents House, or its predecessor the Philatelic Bureau. These include:

- A4-sized sheets (Generic Smilers, Personalised Smilers, Business Customised Sheets and the new Commemorative Sheets).
- Covers (Commemorative Covers, Tallents House FDCs, Philatelic Numismatic Covers).
- Miniature Sheets (sold singly, in Presentation Packs or as Uncut Printers' Sheets).
- Stamps in Packs (Presentation Packs and Stamp Year Packs).
- Prestige Stamp Books.
- Stamp Year Books.

## CATALOGUE LISTING

### A4-SIZED SHEETS (Generic Smilers, Personalised Smilers, Business Customised Sheets and Commemorative Sheets): Water-activated and Self-adhesive

None of these products have knowingly created variations that meet the laid-down criteria at this point. However, a pair of Machin anniversary PNC covers was produced by TH in 2007 and 2008 that bore the water-activated stamp depicting the portrait of Arnold Machin (as used on the Generic Smilers, PSB and the MS). As I have not examined these covers, it would be interesting to see whether the stamps vary in any way, as special coil printings might have been produced to service these covers and so they made bear perforations that are TCTC. If not, then it is suspected that the covers utilised the strips of five from the Generic Sheet and were therefore either 'burst' from their neighbouring stamp by machine or by hand.

### DEFINITIVE STAMPS: Water-activated "Boots"-Type NVI Greetings Card / Gift Voucher Label Panes

In 1994, Boots the Chemist utilised small sheets comprising a single 1<sup>st</sup> class flame coloured stamp folded within shrink-wrapped greetings cards resembling a flash across the top right corner. These sheets were subsequently reissued without the Boots logo, which continued to be used by them and also the Kingfisher Group (Comet, Woolworth's, Superdrug and B&Q). TH sold both versions as mint flat panes to ensure that collectors without access to Boots branches could still obtain these issues. Different printings can be identified and the usual missing phosphors and short/inset bands exist.

Many were, indeed still are, privately overprinted or hot-foil stamped, mainly for publicizing philatelic organisations or events around the world.

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>STAMP DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>VARIATION DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>SOURCE</u>
1994	<i>"Boots" branded</i>	Printed by Qesta.	TH only
1995	<i>Unbranded</i>	Printed initially by Qesta and then by Enschede.	TH only

### "Label Pane" NVI Stamp Books

This series comprised stamp books of four 1<sup>st</sup> class definitives (Flame or Millennium) each with a pictorial label attached that covered an event that never quite made it into the special stamps programme. The first book had the label positioned to the left of the stamps in such a way that it was supplied folded through the label. As a result, and to "make the block easier to mount for collectors or postmarking", this initial issue was supplied as an unfolded flat mint pane without its book cover.

Subsequent issues had the pane reversed, i.e. to the right of the stamps, to avoid the folding problem, but flat panes continued to be supplied for the second and subsequent books as they had proved to be very popular. Panes exist with cylinder numbers and these always attract a premium.

PNC covers were created by TH for some of these unfolded mint panes and the *Queen's Birthday* issue was used within a couple of exhibition packs, but they did not differ from the normal flat panes, so are not separately listed.

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>STAMP DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>VARIATION DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>SOURCE</u>
1994	<i>Tercentenary of the Bank of England</i>	Flat mint pane with or without cylinder numbers in margin.	TH only
1995	<i>R J Mitchell Birth Centenary</i>	As above description.	TH only
1996	<i>Queen's 70<sup>th</sup> Birthday</i>	As above description.	TH only
1997	<i>Hong Kong Stamp Exhibition</i>	As above description.	TH only
1997	<i>Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting</i>	As above description.	TH only
1998	<i>Prince of Wales' 50<sup>th</sup> Birthday</i>	As above description.	TH only
1999	<i>50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Berlin Airlift</i>	As above description.	TH only
1999	<i>Rugby World Cup</i>	As above description.	TH only
2000	<i>Stamp Show 2000 – Postman Pat</i>	As above description.	TH only
2000	<i>National Botanic Gardens of Wales</i>	As above description.	TH only

Note: An eleventh issue was produced for the *Centenary of Queen Victoria's Death*, but this was on self-adhesive paper and not available as a separate mint flat label pane due to its method of construction.

## DEFINITIVE STAMPS: Self-adhesive

### “National” NVI Stamps

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>STAMP DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>VARIATION DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>SOURCE</u>
1993	<i>1st class flame: horizontal design</i>	Trial book pre-folded once only vertically at first fold. Post Office stock always comprised of two pre-folds.	PP 29
1997	<i>1st class flame: horizontal design</i>	Single stamp cut from roll and inserted into PP.	PP 000
	<i>2nd class blue: horizontal design</i>	Description as first class value.	PP 000
1998	<i>1st class flame: vertical design</i>	With so-called error 'dagger' perforations from singles printed by WSP as a special print run made at the request of TH to avoid collectors having to purchase full Business Sheets of 100. These singles (die-cut 14x13.5 instead of the correct 15x14) were sold to some TH standing order customers. The die-cutter had not been intended for use on British stamps. Now a very expensive stamp due to its scarcity.	TH only
	<i>2nd class blue: vertical design</i>	'Dagger' perforations, description as above.	TH only
2005	<i>1st class gold: vertical design</i>	Stamp fully punched-out as die-cut single with blank unprinted reverse from an internal WSP printing made for the purpose of enabling this stamp to be included in PPs.	PP 71
	<i>2nd class blue: vertical design</i>	Stamp fully punched-out, description as above.	PP 71

### “Pictorial (Smilers)” NVI Book Stamps

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>STAMP DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>VARIATION DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>SOURCE</u>
2005	<i>First series</i>	Royal Mail serviced FDCs appeared with the stamps in a straight line of six and not in the book format of 2 rows of 3 stamps. It is understood that these came from an internal WSP coil printing made for the purpose.	THFDC
2006	<i>Second series</i>	Royal Mail serviced FDCs, description as 2006 issue.  Book of six folded inside out (OFC affixed with glue spot to the OBC) enabling the stamp pane to be visible through the mounting strip.	THFDC  PP M13
2007	<i>First series: 'Union Flag'</i>	Horizontal coil strips of six stamps had been used on the <i>Act of Union</i> PNC covers. Mint coil strips exist in collectors' hands, as sold to them by dealers who had purchased 'overs' from TH. The strips (often longer than six) were not supposed to be sold mint by the dealers, as only use on covers had been authorised by TH. If they are sold mint, then the account holder risks having their account privileges terminated.	PNC

### “Universal” NVI Book Stamps

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>STAMP DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>VARIATION DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>SOURCE</u>
2003	<i>Worldwide 40g Letter/Card rate</i>	Ex-book of four fully punched-out as a die-cut single stamp. Available from either stamp position 1, 2, 3 or 4 with relevant part of red book cover printing visible on reverse.	PP 60
2003	<i>Europe 40g Letter/Card rate</i>	Ex-book of four, description as above. Blue cover printing.	PP 60
2004/5	<i>Worldwide Postcard rate</i>	Stamp fully punched-out as a die-cut single with blank unprinted reverse from an internal WSP coil printing made for the purpose.	PP 67 2004 PP 71 2005 TH singles
2005	<i>Worldwide 40g Letter/Card rate</i>	Stamp fully punched-out, description as above.	PP 71
2005	<i>Europe 40g Letter/Card rate</i>	Stamp fully punched-out, description as above.	PP 71

## GREETINGS STAMPS: Water-activated

### Stamps in Books

It is understood that Greetings THFDCs were created from flat sheets and not from pre-formed booklets. These flat sheets were not made available to dealers or collectors.

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>STAMP DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>VARIATION DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>SOURCE</u>
1989	<i>First issue</i>	All to do with folding (or lack of) and trimming of edges. Look closely before recording!!! HAS ANYONE GOT AN EXAMPLE TO CHECK FOR DIFFERENCES????	THFDC
1990	<i>First issue</i>	The <i>Times Supplement</i> gave away a 1990 Valentine's Day postcard with the Cupid stamp from the first Greetings book pre-affixed at top right of card. A special coil printing of all designs from the book was produced by Harrison and the other four stamp designs were destroyed as waste. Vertical coil strips are not in collectors' hands. The pre-affixed stamp bears TCTC perforations.	TIMES PC
1991	<i>Good Luck Symbols</i>	Look closely before recording!!! Note lack of labels on THFDC. HAS ANYONE GOT AN EXAMPLE TO CHECK FOR DIFFERENCES????	THFDC
1991	<i>Smiles</i>	The Sealed Pack (listed below) was reissued as a book. All to do with folding (or lack of) and trimming of edges. Look closely HAS ANYONE GOT AN EXAMPLE TO CHECK FOR DIFFERENCES????	THFDC
1992	<i>Memories</i>	Right vertical margin (none on issued book) with cross hair. Pane folded once (four times on issued book). As above, but with one colour bar. Description as above. As above, but with four colour bars. Description as above. Do Other marginal symbols (or blank margin?) exist????	PP G1 PP G1 PP G1 PP G1
		Look closely before recording!!! HAS ANYONE GOT AN EXAMPLE TO CHECK FOR DIFFERENCES????	THFDC
1993	<i>Giving</i>	No margins left or right. Pane folded once (XX times on issued book). Blank gutter margin. As above, but with cylinders in gutter margin.	PP G2 PP G2
		Look closely before recording!!! HAS ANYONE GOT AN EXAMPLE TO CHECK FOR DIFFERENCES????	THFDC
1994	<i>Messages</i>	No margins left or right. Pane folded once (XX times on issued book). Blank gutter margin. As above, but with cylinders in gutter margin. EXIST????	PP G3 PP G3
		Look closely before recording!!! HAS ANYONE GOT AN EXAMPLE TO CHECK FOR DIFFERENCES????	THFDC
1995	<i>Art: Mixed Media</i>	No margins left or right. Pane folded once (XX times on issued book). Blank gutter margin, torn left and right edges As above, but with cylinders in gutter margin.	PP G4 PP G4
		Look closely before recording!!! HAS ANYONE GOT AN EXAMPLE TO CHECK FOR DIFFERENCES????	THFDC
1996	<i>Cartoons</i>	No margins left or right. Pane folded once (XX times on issued book). Blank gutter margin, torn left and right edges As above, but with cylinders in gutter margin.	PP G5 PP G5
		Look closely before recording!!! HAS ANYONE GOT AN EXAMPLE TO CHECK FOR DIFFERENCES????	THFDC
1997	<i>Flowers</i>	No margins left or right. Pane folded once (XX times on issued book). Blank gutter margin, cut left and right edges As above, but with cylinders in gutter margin.	PP G5 PP G5
		Look closely before recording!!! HAS ANYONE GOT AN EXAMPLE TO CHECK FOR DIFFERENCES????	THFDC

### Stamps in Sealed Packs

Exceptionally, this issue was initially not sold in books, but was only available in sealed packs. However, see above for the reissued version in book format.

It is understood that Greetings THFDCs were created from flat sheets and not from pre-folded sheets. These flat sheets were not made available to dealers or collectors.

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>STAMP DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>VARIATION DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>SOURCE</u>
1990	<i>Smiles</i>	THFDCs never bore the margins or labels. To do with folding (or lack of) and trimming of edges. Look closely before recording!!! TCTC????? <b>HAS ANYONE GOT AN EXAMPLE TO CHECK FOR DIFFERENCES???</b>	THFDC

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## MINIATURE SHEETS

### Water-activated

Oversized singles, vertical or horizontal pairs and blocks exist by cutting copies in your preferred layout from the whole sheet.

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>STAMP DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>VARIATION DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>SOURCE</u>
2006	<i>Victoria Cross</i>	Oversized MS(s) from uncut Press Sheet of 10. Sold at £71.20*	UPS
2007	<i>40th Anniversary of Machin Stamps</i>	Oversized MS(s) from uncut Press Sheet of 10. Sold at £43.45*	UPS
2008	<i>Ian Fleming's James Bond</i>	Oversized MS(s) from uncut Press Sheet of 12. Sold at £53.75*	UPS
2008	<i>House of Lancaster and York</i>	Oversized MS(s) from uncut Press Sheet of 21. Sold at £63.50*	UPS
2008	<i>St Paul's 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary</i>	Oversized MS(s) from uncut Press Sheet of 16. Sold at £63.50*	UPS
2008	<i>50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Country Stamps</i>	Oversized MS(s) from uncut Press Sheet of _____. Sold at £61.95*	UPS

\* Original selling price.

### Self-adhesive

Oversized singles, vertical or horizontal pairs and blocks exist by cutting copies in your preferred style from the whole sheet.

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>STAMP DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>VARIATION DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>SOURCE</u>
2007	<i>Diamond Wedding</i>	Oversized sheet(s) from uncut Press Sheet of 12. Sold at £34.85*	UPS
		<i>A dummy horizontal coil was produced by WSP to test the servicing of THFDCs. Unavailable to collectors and included here for record purposes only.</i>	N/a
		<i>No photographic imagery on backing paper. From horizontal coils used to service THFDCs. Unavailable to collectors and included here for record purposes only.</i>	N/a
		<i>A Commemorative Cover was produced by TH with a 1972 Silver Wedding, 1997 Golden Wedding and 2007 Diamond Wedding stamp affixed. The 2007 design is of the Queen and Prince Phillip SA stamp extracted from the MS. This cover has not been examined, but it is feasible that a special horizontal coil printing was made to assist affixing.</i>	CC

\* Original selling price.

## **PRESTIGE STAMP BOOKS**

All Prestige Stamp Book FDCs serviced by Key Account customers of TH from the 1996 *Football* book to date exist with panes without their normal stitching holes. These were supplied especially by TH to stamp dealers to make their covers look more attractive and should not (but all do!) exist in collectors' hands in mint condition. If they are sold mint, then the account holder risks having their account privileges terminated.

For reasons of space, they are not separately listed here, either mint or on cover.

<b><u>YEAR</u></b>	<b><u>STAMP DESCRIPTION</u></b>	<b><u>VARIATION DESCRIPTION</u></b>	<b><u>SOURCE</u></b>
2004	<i>Locomotives</i>	A so-called "REDUCED PANE" of the 28p / E and 42p designs was available from TH. A couple of packets of 500 sheets were purchased by stamp dealers. It differed from the FDC panes normally available to dealers by not having the left hand 'tab' portion of the sheet, which had been guillotined off instead of being rouletted. Only available mint.	TH only

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## SPECIAL / COMMEMORATIVE STAMPS

Note that for convenience purposes, the annual Royal Mail Christmas gift of 50 self-adhesive stamps to its employees is included in this section, rather than creating a separate section just for these variations.

### Self-adhesive Counter-type Sheets

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>STAMP DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>VARIATION DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>SOURCE</u>
2003	<i>Christmas: Full Set</i>	Internal coil printing used for TH FDCs. Unavailable mint. Ian Billings advised me: "The 2003 Christmas Ice Sculptures stamps were produced in coils for FDCs for the first time with six stamps on the coil printed in sequence. The coils have joins in them (one or two joins per coil) but this should not impact upon the quality of the product. I found this when a fellow dealer offered on eBay an official FDC which had red transparent mending tape diagonally across part of two adjacent stamps. Obviously caused by a paper-join, the matrix must have been removed, cleanly leaving the red tape on the stamps, which were then stripped off the backing paper when they were automatically affixed to the FDC My guess is that the dealer got this in their bulk stock from TH, because it was cancelled with a special handstamp, not with either the TH or alternative postmark."	THFDC
	<i>1<sup>st</sup> Class value only</i>	For the first time Royal Mail gave employees 50 stamps as a gift. These were rouletted and die-cut 2003 only. With matrix.	GIFT
2004	<i>Christmas: Full Set</i>	Internal coil printing used for TH FDCs. Unavailable mint.	THFDC
	<i>1<sup>st</sup> Class value only</i>	Not rouletted between, simply die-cut. With matrix.	GIFT
2005	<i>Christmas: Full Set</i>	The printer (DLR) supplied guillotined philatelic stock requirements for TH as pre-cut singles from specially created coils (for internal use only) without rouletting between. Post Office counter sheets had rouletting between each stamp to enable them to sell singles.	PP 000, YB, YP TH only
	<i>1<sup>st</sup> Class value only</i>	Internal coil printing used for TH FDCs. Unavailable mint. Full counter-type sheet, but not rouletted between, simply die-cut and with the matrix retained.	THFDC GIFT
2006	<i>Christmas: Full Set</i>	Pre-cut unrouletted singles. Description as Christmas 2005.	PP 389, YB, YP TH only
	<i>1<sup>st</sup> Class value only</i>	Internal coil printing used for TH FDCs. Unavailable mint. Full counter-type sheet, but not rouletted between, simply die-cut and with the matrix retained.	THFDC GIFT
2007	<i>The Beatles</i>	Internal coil printing used for TH FDCs. Unavailable mint.  <i>There is a rumour that some of this issue was needed late on to produce extra PPs and that they were made-up from pre-cut unrouletted singles. No examples seen by compiler.</i>	THFDC  PP 000
2007	<i>The Sky at Night</i>	Internal coil printing used for TH FDCs. Unavailable mint.	THFDC
<b>DOES THE THFDC BEAR STAMPS WITHOUT THE UNDERPRINT TEXT?????????</b>			
2007	<i>World of Inventions</i>	Pre-cut unrouletted singles. Description as Christmas 2005. * Some of the YB and YP stock had a mixture of pre-cut and rouletted versions.	PP 395, YB*, YP* TH only
		Internal coil printing used for TH FDCs. Unavailable mint.	THFDC
<b>DOES THE THFDC BEAR STAMPS WITHOUT THE UNDERPRINT TEXT?????????</b>			
2007	<i>Christmas: Madonna – Full Set</i>	Pre-cut unrouletted singles. Description as Christmas 2005.	PP 404, YB, YP TH only
		Internal coil printing used for TH FDCs. Unavailable mint.	THFDC
2007	<i>Christmas: Angels – Full Set</i>	Pre-cut unrouletted singles. Description as Christmas 2005.	PP 404, YB, YP TH only
		Internal coil printing used for TH FDCs. Unavailable mint.	THFDC

- 1<sup>st</sup> Class value only

Full counter-type sheet, but not rouletted between, simply die-cut and with the matrix retained.

GIFT

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### Self-adhesive Books Supplied as Flat Panes

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>STAMP DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>VARIATION DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>SOURCE</u>
2001	<i>Cats and Dogs</i>	The first time the self adhesive affixing machine was used was for this stamp issue. Different vertical spacing between stamps (normally 2 x blocks of four, plus pair). Ex internal coil with stamps evenly spaced. Unavailable mint.	THFDC
2002	<i>Kipling's 'Just So Stories'</i>	Different vertical spacing between stamps (normally 2 x blocks of four, plus pair). Ex internal coil with stamps evenly spaced. Unavailable mint.	THFDC

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## **GLOSSARY OF TERMS**

CC	Commemorative Cover.
DLR	De La Rue Security Print.
GIFT	Given to Royal Mail staff as a Christmas gift.
Matrix	The surplus paper surrounding stamps with self-adhesive gumming. This is either retained or stripped away.
MS	Miniature Sheet.
N/a	Not available to collectors.
NVI	No Value Indicated (i.e. 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2 <sup>nd</sup> , Europe 40g Letter/Card, Worldwide 40g Letter/Card, Worldwide Postcard).
OBC	Outside back cover.
OFC	Outside front cover.
PC	Postcard.
PNC	Philatelic Numismatic Cover. A product comprising stamp(s) and coin/medal/ingot.
PP [No.]	Presentation Pack with its allocated series number shown.
PSB	Prestige Stamp Book.
TCTC	The four edges are (clockwise) torn, cut, torn, cut.
TH	Royal Mail Tallents House (ex Philatelic Bureau).
THFDC	Tallents House serviced First Day Cover. 120,000 commemorative FDCs were being serviced by Tallents House at the time of compiling this article. Covers serviced elsewhere and by dealers and collectors are not relevant.
UPS	Uncut Press Sheet.
WSP	Walsall Security Printers.
YB	Year Book containing a mint set of all that year's issues.
YP	Year Pack containing a mint set of all that year's issues.

If nothing else, compiling and writing this article has encouraged me to look at modern British stamp issues of the past two decades in a totally new way. Some readers may think that these variations have little, or no, philatelic significance, but as one interested in the processes adopted in the production of postage stamps, I challenge that viewpoint.

It is primarily the introduction of self-adhesive gumming and the production techniques that are required to manufacture these stamps that has seen the growth in these philatelic variations. This is because they often cannot be processed in the same way as water-activated gummed stamps.

I would therefore encourage any interested reader to closely examine all products offered by TH from now on, as any of the stamps used could bear the tell-tale signs of being a variation – especially if they utilise self-adhesive gumming. For example, it is always feasible that in the future mint stamps issued with text on the reverse of them may have this text omitted from the coils used to service THFDCs, for it serves no useful purpose.

I would be interested in knowing whether any other readers already collect in this way and would particularly like to hear from you if there are any additions that meet the criteria for inclusion laid-down.

(3922 words)