

THE REGIONAL STORY

by Glenn H. Morgan

On 18th July 1956 an announcement was made from the House of Commons which said that consultative committees had been appointed to advise on "individual stamps for the regions in small size showing the Queen's portrait framed by heraldic or symbolical subjects."

By June 1957 the committees had presented their findings and so a team of artists set about preparing designs for Northern Ireland, Scotland, Wales and Monmouthshire, the Isle of Man and, of course, Guernsey and Jersey. In view of the Channel Islands having their own Parliaments, the word revenue was omitted from the artwork.

Mr. Newport states that a total of eight designs were submitted for Guernsey and several for Jersey. From these, the final designs were chosen by the respective advisory committees in the islands. Increases in inland postal rates on 1st October 1957 necessitated a change in the face value of the stamps from 2½d to 3d, which delayed production considerably. However, at a press conference held in July 1958 the stamps were at last displayed for the first time.

They were subsequently issued on 18th August 1958 in a pale lilac colour.

In response to continual requests from the tourist authorities for a cheaper postal rate for postcards, a 2½d stamp was issued on 8th June 1964 in rose-red. In order to avoid having to consult the advisory committees again it was decided to use the second-choice designs that had been submitted for the 3d stamps. First Day Cover posting facilities were made available at St. Peter Port, Guernsey and St. Helier, Jersey Head Post Offices, where covers were cancelled with a First Day of Issue machine cancellation.

A 4d denomination in ultramarine appeared on 7th February 1966 to meet the increased inland postal rates.

Although Automatic Letter Facing equipment, (ALF), was not planned for installation in the Channel Islands at any stage it was decided that all future stamp issues would bear phosphor lines (which ALF could 'read') in common with the rest of the United Kingdom. This ensured that mail bound for the mainland could be processed speedily as it would not have to be sorted manually.

The General Post Office introduced a two-tier postal service on 16th September 1968 giving the customer the choice of (almost) guaranteed delivery the next day of first-class mail, or delivery as soon as possible with the second-class service. In anticipation of this on 4th September, a new 4d stamp in sepia and a new 5d in royal blue appeared.

Finally, on 26th February 1969 the colour of the 4d value changed again, this time to bright vermilion.

The change of the 4d value from ultramarine to sepia was to bring it in line with the (then) new Machin head definitive series used in the rest of the United Kingdom. The change to vermilion was due to the similarity in colour of sepia and

royal blue when viewed under the artificial lights of the sorting office.

The 1st October 1969 saw the transfer of the postal affairs of the Channel Islands from the General Post Office to the newly formed States of Guernsey Post Office Board and the Jersey Department of Postal Administration. It was intended that United Kingdom stamps would no longer be valid from vesting day, but an amnesty was granted to allow local people to use up their stocks. It was possible, therefore, to use either United Kingdom, regional or the post-independence stamps on mail and some unusual combinations involving all types exist.

The amnesty ceased on 31st October 1969 in both islands. From vesting day until 31st December 1969 the public were able to exchange United Kingdom stamps for post-independence issues at the Guernsey or Jersey Head Post Offices. After this date they were told to send their surplus stamps to Postal Headquarters, London, together with form P674G where a refund, less 12½% for commission, would be made.

The regional stamps were still available from the Philatelic Bureau and Counters until 30th September 1970 when they were taken off sale. On 1st March 1972 they were invalidated in common with all other issues that were expressed in £sd.

Technical Details

Designers	E. Piprell 8 Guernsey (all) E. Blampied - Jersey (2½d) W. Gardner - Jersey (others)
Portrait	Dorothy Wilding Limited
Printer	Harrison & Sons Limited
Process	Photogravure
Paper	Made by Portals (John Allen & Sons) Limited
Watermark	Multiple crown
Gum	Gum Arabic or PVA
Performations	15 x 14 comb
Sheet size	240, 20 rows of 12 stamps



Guernsey

GUERNSEY

CAT. No.	VALUE	ISSUE DATE	COLOUR	PAPER	GUM	PHOSPHOR	CYL.	PERF.	NUMBER	SOLD	OUTWITHDRAWN
									ORATORSOLD	BY	ON
1	2½d	8.6.64	pale rose red	cream	gum arabic	—	III	1	see 1a	—	31.8.66
1a	2½d	1964	deep rose red	cream	gum arabic	—	III	3	3,485,760	—	31.8.66
2	3d	18.8.58	deep lilac	cream	gum arabic	—	I and II	4	see 2a	6.3.68	—
2a	3d	5.7.62	deep lilac	white	gum arabic	—	I, II and III	4	25,812,360	6.3.68	—
								5			
2b	3d	24.5.67	deep lilac	white	gum arabic	1 violet central band	III	5	see 2c	11.68	—
2c	3d	1967	reddish lilac	cream	gum arabic	1 violet central band	III	5	Yet to be released	11.68	—
3	4d	7.2.66	ultra- marine	white	gum arabic	—	III	1	4,415,040	6.3.68	—
3a	4d	24.10.67	ultra- marine	white	gum arabic	2 violet 9.5mm bands	III	1	see 3b	10.68	—
3b	4d	16.4.68 (in U.K.) 22.4.68 (Guernsey)	pale ultra- marine	white chalky	P.V.A.	2 violet 9.5mm bands	III	1	Yet to be released	3.69	—

4	4d	4.9.68	olive scpia	white chalky or cream no wmk.	P. V. A. 1 violet 4mm central band	I	III	Yet to be released	—	30.9.70
5	4d	26.2.69	bright vermillion	white chalky no wmk.	P. V. A. 1 violet 4mm central band	I	III	Yet to be released	—	30.9.70
6	5d	4.9.68	stuart blue	white chalky no wmk.	P. V. A. 2 violet 9.5mm bands	I	III	see 6a	—	30.9.70
6a	5d	8.69	deep stuart blue	white chalky no wmk.	P. V. A. 2 violet 9.5mm bands	I	III	Yet to be released	—	30.9.70

First Day Covers Serviced

Cat. No.	Quantity
1	10,100
3	12,350
4 & 6	52,449

Errors

Stamp 3a exists in a partially imperforate condition due to a fold in the paper at the time of perforating.

Phosphor Varieties

Stamps 3b and 4 exist with the phosphor bands omitted.

Stamp 3b exists with one wide band at the left of the stamp due to mis-placing.

Stamp 4 exists with the phosphor band horizontal instead of vertical.

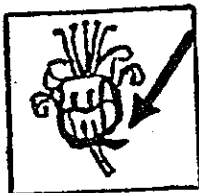


Jersey

PRESENTATION PACKS

In 1960 two presentation packs containing the 12 regionals current at that time in Northern Ireland, Scotland, Wales and Monmouthshire, the Isle of Man, Guernsey and Jersey were made available. The stamps were contained in a window envelope together with a 6 page explanatory leaflet and were intended primarily for sale at temporary exhibition Post Offices in the United Kingdom and at the New York British Show, 10th to 26th June 1960.

The first was inscribed in sterling '7s 3d', whilst the second was in dollars '\$1.20'. Both bore an April 1960 imprint. Very few were sold and they now command an extremely high price whenever they are offered for sale. As the envelope was sealed it was necessary to slit the pack open in order to gain access to the contents thus reducing the total number of unopened packs and increasing prices still further.



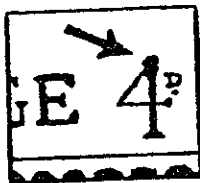
Positional Varieties

Stamps 3, 3a, 3b and 4

Flaw on stem of lily, row 12 stamp 8.

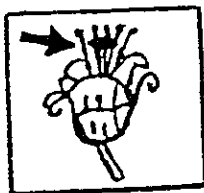
Stamp 5

Flaw on stem of lily retouched but still visible.



Stamp 4

Retouch on 4 of 4d, row 16, stamp 10.



Stamp 6

Flaw on stamen of lily, row 12. stamp 1.

Stamp 6a

Flaw on stamen of lily retouched but still visible.

First Day Covers Serviced

<i>Cat. No.</i>	<i>Quantity</i>
1	12,800
3	14,487
4 & 6	57,500

Perfins

Stamp 2 exists with the perforated initials of A. de Gruchy.

Errors

Stamp 1 exists imperforate on three sides. One sheet was found at St. Helier Post Office in 1965. Apparently, the stamps were perforated from the left through right side margins and it would appear that the sheet in question was not correctly aligned when it entered the perforating machine thus skipping the bottom row.

A second sheet of stamp 1 was also found to be partially imperforate, the lower right hand corner of the sheet had been folded over before perforating leaving the last stamp on the sheet imperforate on two sides.

Stamp 2 exists in a vertical strip with the design missing from the bottom stamp and a partial omission on the adjacent stamp. 12 strips exist.

Stamp 2b also exists thus, a similar quantity being known.

Phosphor Varieties

None have been recorded from Jersey.

Positional Varieties



Stamp 1

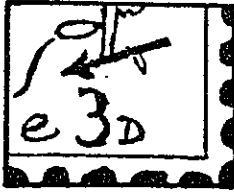
Thin letters in the word *POSTAGE* row 18 stamp 1



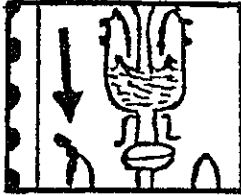
Stamp 2

White line joining tomato to leaf row 19 stamp 9

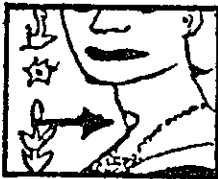
Subsequently retouched



Stamp 2a, 2b and 2c
Scratch above e of postage row 9 stamp 8



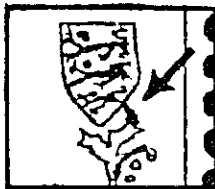
Stamp 3
Flaw on top of leaf to left of Mace row 3 stamp 6
Subsequently retouched



Stamp 3, 3a, 4 and 5
Chunk out of neck row 18 stamp 9



Stamp 6
Dot by tomato leaf
Row 16 stamp 6



Stamp 6
Shield flaw
Row 19 stamp 12

JERSEY

CAT. No.	VALUE	ISSUE DATE	COLOUR	PAPER	GUM	CYL. PERF.	NUMBER	SOLD OUT WITHDRAWN	
								No. ORATORS	BY ON
1	2½d	8.6.64	carmine red	cream	gum arabic	—	I III	4,770,000	— 31.8.66
2	3d	18.8.58	deep lilac	cream	gum arabic	—	I I and II	sec 2a 10.67	—
2a	3d	23.9.62	deep lilac	white	gum arabic	—	I I, II and III	35,169,720 10.67	—
2b	3d	9.6.67	deep lilac	white	gum arabic	1 violet 4mm central band	2 III	sec 2c 10.68	—
2c	3d	1967	reddish lilac	white	gum arabic	1 violet 4mm central band	2 III	Yet to be released 10.68	—
3	4d	7.2.66	ultra-marine	white	gum arabic	—	I III	6,623,040 11.67	—
3a	4d	5.9.67	ultra-marine	white or cream	gum arabic	2 violet 9.5mm bands	I III	Yet to be released 10.68	—
4	4d	4.9.68	olive sepia	white chalky or cream no wmk.	P. V. A.	1 violet 4mm central band	I III	Yet to be released 30.9.70	—
5	4d	26.2.69	bright vermilion	white chalky no wmk.	P. V. A.	1 violet 4mm central band	I III	Yet to be released 30.9.70	—
6	5d	4.9.68	stuart blue	white chalky or cream no wmk.	P. V. A.	2 violet 9.5mm bands	I III	Yet to be released 30.9.70	—

Bibliography

Great Britain Q. E. II Pre-Decimal Issues, Stanley Gibbons Publications Limited, London 1976

Stamps and Postal History of the Channel Islands, O. W. Newport, Heinemann, London 1972

Specialised Priced Catalogue of Channel Islands Stamps, O. W. Newport, Jersey 1976

Ten Years of British Regional Issues, E. C. Ehrmann, A.I.J.P., Stamp Collecting Weekly, 1968

The Guernsey Press and Star, Various issues

Channel Island Spcialialists' Society Bulletin, Various issues

Perforation Types

Three types of perforation exist on the Regional issues. (Referred to as type I, II or III in stamp listing)

They may be identified as follows:

Type I

Top margin: Perforated through
Bottom margin: Perforated through
Left margin: Imperforate
Right margin: Single extension hole

Type II

Top margin: Perforated through
Bottom margin: Perforated through
Left margin: Single extension hole
Right margin: Imperforate

Type III

Top margin: Perforated through
Bottom margin: Single extension hole
Left margin: Imperforate
Right margin: Perforated through