

# Great Britain

## Machins

### Proofs

In preparation for the decimal Machin issues (in 1971) some color trials took place in the preceding two years; they were printed by the then 'Harrison & Sons Ltd.'. Pre-decimal denomination stamps were used for the trials and the 8d, 1/- and 1/6 values were chosen.

It is probable that a small format proofing press would have been used for such trials and it is believed that there can only be a maximum of 4 copies of some examples, whilst there are apparently only one or two remaining of others. All are on (OCP/PVA) paper from the time and none have phosphor bands.

In 1989 a group of them were auctioned in Switzerland and they were subsequently offered in the UK.

The 8d was used to trial solid backgrounds, the 1/- for light and gradated backgrounds, and the 1/6 for bi-colored, and each value was printed in several colors of which some were adopted for use in the decimal range whilst others were never used. Because we tend to associate some colors with particular denominations a few of the color trials are especially stunning; for example, light emerald is a color we all instinctively associate with the 6p Machin from 1971 and to see it as a 1/- Machin is somewhat surreal! Other colors are minor variations on issued pre-decimal Machins but all are fascinating and, although are pre-decimal are intrinsic to the decimals.

Where a color was used for issued stamps the decimal denomination(s) is (are) shown.

All are with PVA gum (hinged), without phosphor, and they each have a pencil annotation on the reverse.

They are recorded by Pierron, and are also noted in the 12th edition of the S.G. Specialised Volume 3.

# Great Britain

**Machins**

**Proofs**

**Bi-colored backgrounds on the 1/6**



Pierron GBR1488n  
Deep Carmine &  
Pale Magneta  
color trial  
no phosphor  
photogravure  
Harrison

color not adopted

only 4 believed to exist

# Great Britain

**Machins**

**Proofs**

**Bi-colored backgrounds on the 1/6**



Pierron GB1488i  
deep blue-green &  
rose-pink  
color trial  
no phosphor  
photogravure  
Harrison

only 4 believed to exist  
(2 damaged)

color not adopted

# Great Britain

**Machins**

**Proofs**

**Bi-colored backgrounds on the 1/6**



Pierron GBR1488h  
Deep ultramarine &  
pale bright blue  
color trial  
no phosphor  
photogravure  
Harrison

pencilled "22" on the reverse  
only 1 believed to exist

color not adopted

# Great Britain

**Machins**

**Proofs**

**Light and graduated backgrounds backgrounds on the 1/-**



Pierron GBR1486d  
Light violet-blue  
color trial  
no phosphor  
photogravure  
Harrison

pencilled "I" on the reverse  
only 4 believed to exist  
(1 damaged)

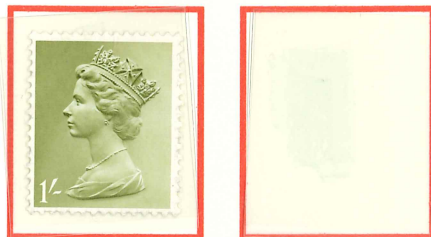
color not adopted

# Great Britain

**Machins**

**Proofs**

**Light and graduated backgrounds backgrounds on the 1/-**



Pierron GBR1486I

Pale olive green

color trial

no phosphor

photogravure

Harrison

pencilled "X" on the reverse

only 1 believed to exist

but 2 are here evident

color not adopted

# Great Britain

Machins

Proofs

Light and graduated backgrounds backgrounds on the 1/-



Pierron GB1486g  
dull olive grey  
color trial  
no phosphor  
photogravure  
Harrison

pencilled "Y" on the reverse  
only 2 believed to exist

color not adopted

# Great Britain

**Machins**

**Proofs**

**Solid backgrounds on the 8d**



Pierron GB1481f

Ultramarine  
color trial  
no phosphor  
photogravure  
Harrison

only 4 believed to exist



X855

ultramarine

# Great Britain

Machins

Proofs

Solid backgrounds on the 8d



Pierron GB1481g  
plum color trial  
no phosphor  
photogravure  
Harrison

pencilled "27 G" on the reverse  
only 2 believed to exist



X979  
deep mauve  
phosphor paper  
photogravure  
Harrison



X987  
deep mauve  
phosphor paper  
photogravure  
Harrison

# Great Britain

**Machins**

**Proofs**

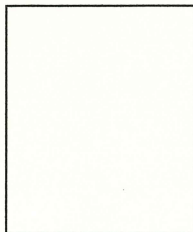
**Solid backgrounds on the 8d**



Not listed in Pierron

Purple  
color trial  
no phosphor  
photogravure  
Harrison

pencilled "G" on the reverse  
unique



X987

Deep mauve

# Great Britain

Machins

Proofs

Solid backgrounds on the 8d



Pierron GBR1481j  
Dull greenish blue  
color trial  
no phosphor  
photogravure  
Harrison

no annotation on back  
only 1 believed to exist



X862  
greenish blue

# Great Britain

Machins

Proofs

Solid backgrounds on the 8d



Pierron GBR1481h  
Deep bright mauve  
color trial  
no phosphor  
photogravure  
Harrison

pencilled "E" on the reverse  
only 3 believed to exist



X991  
bright mauve



Y1697  
bright mauve

# Great Britain

**Machins**

**Proofs**

**Solid backgrounds on the 8d**



Pierron GBR1481k

Deep bright  
magenta

color trial

no phosphor  
photogravure

Harrison

pencilled "B" on the reverse  
only 4 believed to exist



X930

magenta

# Great Britain

Machins

Proofs

Light and graduated backgrounds backgrounds on the 1/-



Pierron GB1486c  
mauve  
color trial  
no phosphor  
photogravure  
Harrison

pencilled "3" on the reverse  
only one believed to exist



X970  
purple



X987  
deep mauve

# Great Britain

**Machins**

**Proofs**

**Solid backgrounds on the 8d**



Pierron GBR1481c

Greenish- blue

color trial

no phosphor

photogravure

Harrison

color not adopted

only 2 believed to exist

"T" in pencil on back

# Great Britain

**Machins**

**Proofs**

**Solid backgrounds on the 8d**



Pierron GBR1481d

Blue

color trial

no phosphor

photogravure

Harrison

color not adopted

only 1 believed to exist

# Great Britain

**Machins**

**Proofs**

**Solid backgrounds on the 8d**



Pierron GBR1481m

Maroon  
color trial  
no phosphor  
photogravure  
Harrison

pencilled "30" on the reverse  
only 1 believed to exist

# Great Britain

Machins

Proofs

Light and graduated backgrounds backgrounds on the 1/-



Pierron GBR1486h  
Pale chestnut  
color trial  
no phosphor  
photogravure  
Harrison

only 2 believed to exist



x877  
Pale chestnut

# Great Britain

**Machins**

**Proofs**

**Light and graduated backgrounds backgrounds on the 1/-**



Pierron GBR1486i  
Light emerald  
color trial  
no phosphor  
photogravure  
Harrison

pencilled "O" on the reverse  
only 3 believed to exist



X870  
Light emerald

# Great Britain

**Machins**

**Proofs**

**Light and graduated backgrounds backgrounds on the 1/-**



Pierron GBR1486j

Slate blue  
color trial  
no phosphor  
photogravure  
Harrison

pencilled "J" on the reverse  
only 4 believed to exist

color not adopted

# Great Britain

**Machins**

**Proofs**



1973 undenominated multipostive proof pull of Machin design

unperforated and not gummed

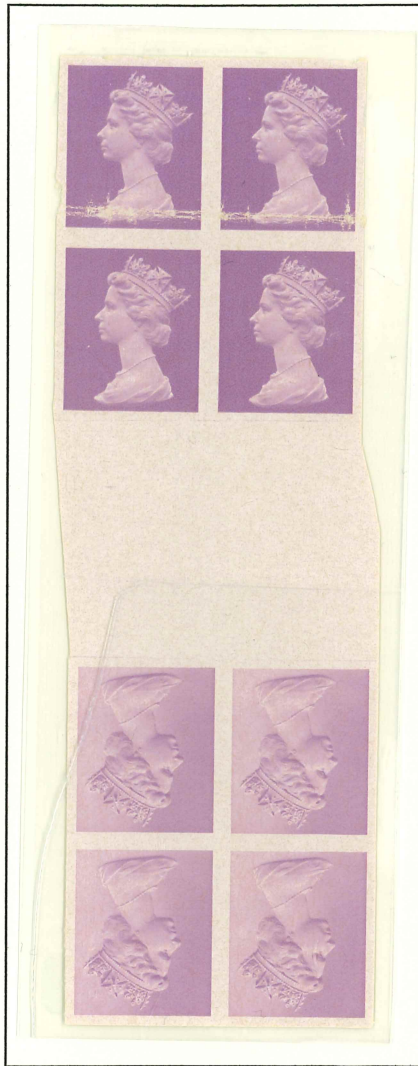
produced 10 October 1973 during commissioning of the Jumelle press

in violet (approximating color of 5p)  
turquoise (1/2p) and,  
new blue (later issued 4p)  
in horizontal pairs

# Great Britain

**Machins**

**Proofs**



1973 undenominated multipositive proof pull of Machin design

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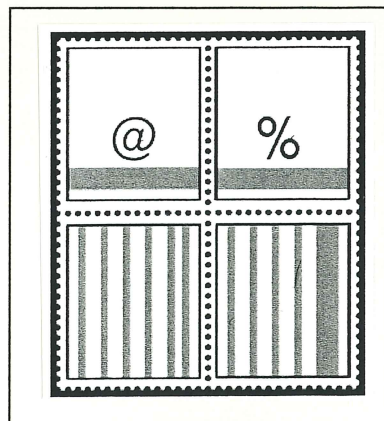
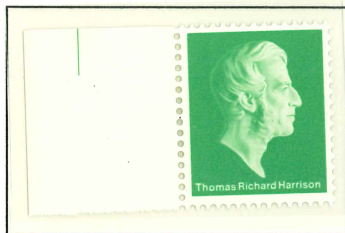
tete-beche block of 8

4 stamps in colour of 5p light violet and 4 in a dark shade

# Great Britain

Machins

Phosphor Tagging Trials

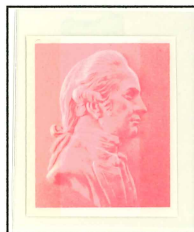
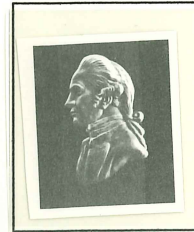
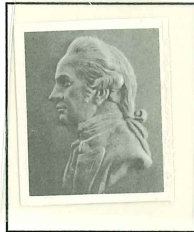


1984c Harrisons dummy stamp phosphor tagging trials  
Thomas Richard Harrison in light emerald green on FCP/DEX  
Originating from a sheet of 100 stamps with each quarter of the sheet showing a different phosphor design of either @, %, thin  
barcode or thick barcode  
marginal singles

# Great Britain

**Machins**

**Proofs**



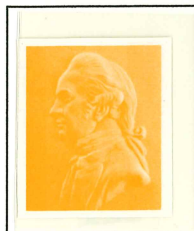
Sept. 1968 De La Rue Lithograph Phosphor band trial

These trials are believed to be the first successful phosphor printing by De La Rue

The phosphor bands are printed by letterpress using a rubber stereo

Three different colors; grey, turquoise blue and rose-pink each with two designs: larger head of Captain Cook in half tone and small head in full tone.

only 4 believed to exist  
(2 damaged)



Sept. 1968 De La Rue Lithograph Phosphor band trial

These trials are believed to be the first successful phosphor printing by De La Rue

The phosphor bands are printed by letterpress using a rubber stereo

The scarcer orange color with two designs: larger head of 18th century gentleman (Capt. Cook) in half tone and smaller head in full tone.

# Great Britain

## Machins

### Training stamps

In anticipation of decimalization and the forthcoming changes to the Machin series, the Post Office prepared sets of training labels. Each label was prepared with the same color as the soon to be issued decimal Machin.

