

The Wonderful World of Machins



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Introduction - Dorothy Wilding

Replaced the previous definitive “Wilding” series, named after the royal photographer Dorothy Wilding whose 1952 portrait defined definitive GB stamps of the new monarch until 1967.



- Wildings ran from 1952-1967. Machins were introduced in 1967
- Wilding $\frac{3}{4}$ portrait became difficult to position on different stamps layouts
- The new sculpture works well as large, small, detailed, or silhouette... AND overlaid on artwork!
- Began with L.s.d. “pre-decimal” denominations (pence, shilling, pound), before switching to decimal in 1970

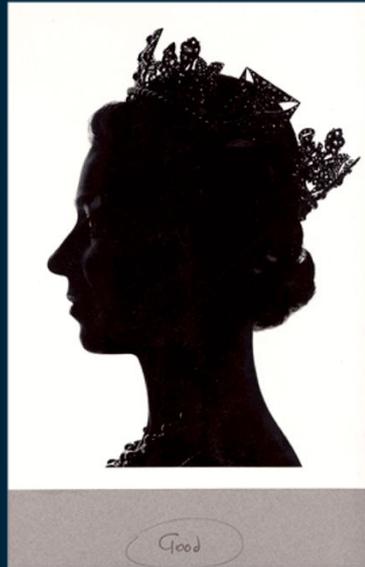


Introduction - Arnold Machin

- Named after Arnold Machin, a sculptor who designed the portrait of the Queen used on these Great Britain stamps



Wait, is that the same silhouette?



Not a “Machin”, but a “Gentleman”



David Gentleman



Mary Gillick coin design



The Gentleman Cameo

Facts

- +300 billion copies produced - Largest definitive & most reproduced piece of art in history
- +5,000 varieties of color, value, size, etc.
- Initial Set: 5 June 1967 - Final Set: 4 April 2022
- Printing methods used: Photogravure, Intaglio (Engraved), Typography, Electro-Mechanical Engraving (EME Gravure), Embossing
- +70 color variations

Ways to Collect (Primary)

- Denomination
- Color
- Issue Date
- Regional Issue
- Country Issue

Denomination

Ways to Collect (Primary)

- Pre-Decimal -
18 different denominations (4p-1L)
- Decimal -
147 different denominations (1/2p-5L)



Color

Ways to Collect (Primary)

- Pre-Decimal -
22 different colors
- Decimal -
60+ different colors



Regional

Ways to Collect (Primary)

- Isle of Man - 64 denominations
- Northern Ireland - 4 denominations
(96 different stamp varieties)
- Scotland - 60 denominations
- Wales - 60 denominations



International

Ways to Collect (Primary)

- Hong Kong
- Canada



Ways to Collect (Secondary)

- Denomination
- Color
- Issue Date
- Regional Issue
- Country Issue
- Size
- Perforation Style
- NVI (Non-Value Indicator)
- Head Style (EME or non)
- Iridescent Phosphor Banding
- Security Features (codes, slits, & backing paper)

Size

- Standard (small) - 20 x 24mm
- Medium (low value) - 29 ½ x 34 ½ mm
- Large (high value) - 29 ½ x 40mm
- Recorded/Royal Mail Signed For - 24 x 24mm
- NVI Large - 29 ½ x 24mm
- Dot Matrix Security Code - 38 ½ x 30mm
- Large (modern high value) x 30 x 35 ½ mm
- Very Large Horizon Gold - 59 x 65mm

Ways to Collect (Secondary)



Perforation

Ways to Collect (Secondary)

- Standard - 15 x 14
- Elliptical (syncopated) perfs - 14.5 x 14
- Inverted Elliptical



NVI (Non Value Indicator)

Ways to Collect (Secondary)

- First issued in Aug 1989
- In 2006, new Machins were issued for “pricing in proportion,” in which size as well as weight determined the amount of postage. Machins with the word “Large” were issued for letters over a certain size
- “E” was for standard letter rate to Europe



NVI (Non Value Indicator)

Ways to Collect (Secondary)

- Air Mail Chevron
- Special Delivery
- Recorded Signed For
- Royal Mail Signed For



Head Style

Ways to Collect (Secondary)

- By 1997, all of the printers of Machin stamps had switched from using photography to produce their gravure printing plates to images being engraved directly on the cylinder under computer control.
- This electromechanical engraving is more commonly known by its acronym of EME.
- 19 values exist with either style



Iridescent Phosphor Banding

Ways to Collect (Secondary)

Phosphor bands are applied to the stamp in an effort to trigger cancellation and sorting equipment.

- Yellow, blue, & violet bands
- 2-band (no inset)
- Center Band
- Left Band (inset)
- Right Band (no inset)
- Variations: Short, Inset, Notched, or Split



Centre band



2-band



Security Features

Ways to Collect (Secondary)

- Background Codes
- U-shaped Security Slits
- Security Backing Paper - Mint self-adhesive stamps only
- Elliptical perfs (used to prevent forgery)



Ways to Collect (Tertiary)

- Denomination
- Color
- Issue Date
- Regional Issue
- Country Issue
- Size
- Perforation Style
- Head Style (EME or non)
- Iridescent Phosphor Banding
- Security Features
- Perforation Size
- Printing Company
- Printing Method
- Head Type
- Value Tablet (Thick/Thin Values & Proximity to Head)
- Regional Symbol Types (Type I & II for Northern Ireland, Scotland, & Wales)
- Booklets, Panes, and Coils
- Counterfeits & Errors
- Back Prints

Resources

[Postal Museum: Dorothy Wilding](#)

[Postal Museum: Arnold Machin](#)

[David Gentleman: artist and stamp designer](#)

[The Machin Nut](#)

[The Complete Machin Handbook](#)

[Linn's Stamp News - Machin stamps: finite, interesting, challenging](#)

[Linn's Stamp News - Machins retain consistency over 50 years amid continual change](#)

[Wikipedia - Machin Series](#)

[Wikipedia - List of Machin Stamps](#)

Finis

40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MACHIN DEFINITIVES *Pre-decimal stamps issued 1967-69*

