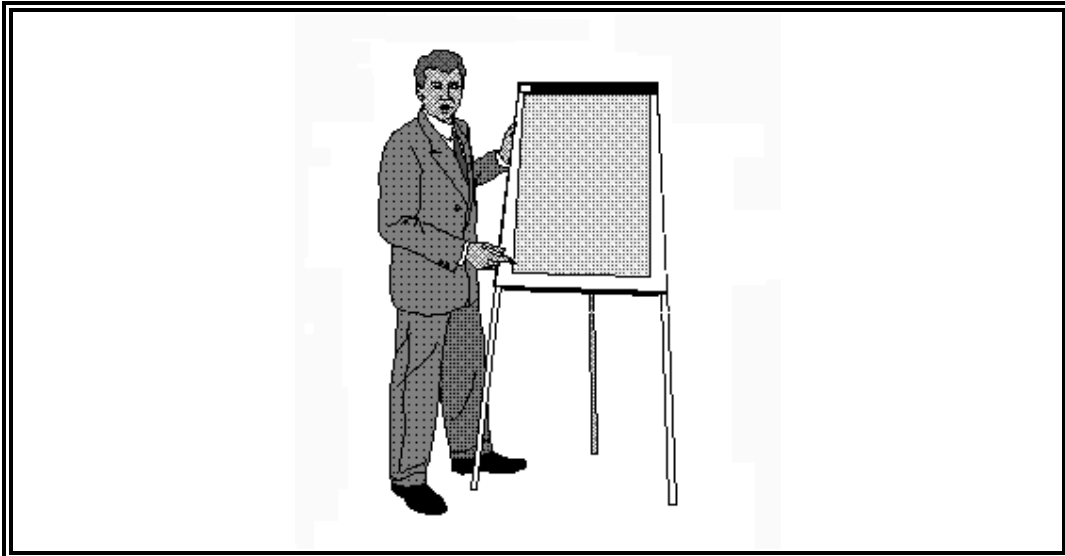


The History of Post Office Training.

The Post Office Training Schools.



A handbook and reference listing

Compiled by Tony Oliver and Allan Oliver.

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An Introduction To This Book

This book is based on two collections that were built up between 1964 and 1987, at that point they were those of Anthony Oliver and Allan Oliver. The collection of Allan Oliver developed specialist interests in the reign of King George VI, in terms of postal history, study and Cinderella. That of Anthony Oliver was postal history based. It was decided in March 1996 to combine the two collections to form one, titled the 'TALLAN' collection, (combining the names Tony, short for Anthony, and Allan). This is the reason we have used 'T' for our numbering system.

The overall view of the collection is to show the social, postal and technical developments between the introduction of marks on mail, (initially called stamps), through to the mechanical and electronic forms of mail of the present day.

The collection would have three identifiable forms

1. A general collection :- which would contain basic issues of stamps, covers, and other related items.
2. A specialist collection :- which would contain items relating to the basic issues, but having developed into studies of particular areas.
3. A postal history specialisation :- that would contain material which told the story of postal history. This would contain covers showing marks, routes, forms of service and ancillary aspects, such as printers, mechanisation and training.

This book is the result of part of the combined collection built under item three of the above list, and shows the progress of post office training up to 1971.

A word of caution.

Over a period of time, putting this collection together, we have been told about items that exist. These we have noted in the listings, but some have not actually been seen. Those we have seen are specifically noted.

Post Office Training Schools.

Introductions and background text.

The post office training schools came into being in 1920 to train staff, [in different departments], post office procedures. It was initially a way of standardising services by way of counter staff in main post offices, as well as those in sub post offices. The other branches it was used to standardise were the telephone, telegraph and the mechanical engineering sections. The sorting and delivery section was originally part of the training done with counter staff, but this was changed, and the two sections were separated sometime between the start of the school and 1924. One of the main items used in training, and used by almost all sections at some time, was, and still is the definitive postage stamps, both low and high values. At various times commemoratives were also used for specific purposes, as were postage dues. The stamps used by the training school were initially overprinted with two vertical black bars. This was done for two main reasons, as follows :-

1. to alleviate pilfering so as not to be used on normal mail
2. to save the trouble of having to account for the stamps used.

The following pages attempt to list all the postage stamps that are known to exist from the training schools, and gives a valuation for each expressed as a multiple of the cheapest stamp in the set. With regards to pricing, we have taken the minimum value to be one pound, and while we expect that some of these items can be purchased cheaper, many are disappearing from the market as collectors add them to their collections or form a sideline collection of this material. In later sections we will attempt to list items for use on various courses, and from various schools :- [Telegraphs-Savings Bank-Transport Etc.]. This process is very difficult, due to availability of material, research and its rarity. This we hope will become clearer after reading the sections on individual schools.

Items from the schools' came out in various ways, many of these being against post office regulations and for many years it was illegal to have them in your possession. These rulings have been relaxed since 1972 with the introduction of decimalisation. It would appear that in general mint stamps are more plentiful on the market than used examples but this is not always the case with documentation used in courses or instructional pieces.

JARGON / ABBREVIATIONS.

AG	Associate Grade. [Less than full timer staff].
ASM	Automatic Sorting Machine.
AWD	Authorised Working Duty.
CC & T	Counter clerk and telegraphist.
CFC	Culler Facer Cancellor.
CTO	Counter and telegraph office. (Pre 1931).
CTO	Counter training office. (Changed between 1931 and 1934)
DAM	Delivery Areas Manager.
DBF	Drop Bag Fitting. [Packet sorting frame].
FCT	Facing and Stamp Cancelling Table.
HDS	Household Delivery Service. [Unaddressed Mail].
IPS/ISS	Inward Primary / Secondary Sorting.
LPS	London Postal service.
MATE	Mail All Purpose Trolley Equipment. [Wheeled Container].
METER FRANKED MAIL	Mail stamped with a value impression by machine on customers premises.
MLO	Mechanised Letter Office.
OMV	Official Motor Vehicle.
OPS/OSS	Outward Primary / Secondary sorting.
OVO	Outward Vouching Office. [Office which sorts and despatches outgoing mail].
PBX	Private branch exchange
PCET	Pedestrian Controlled Electric Truck.
PCO	Parcel Concentration Office.
PDO	Postal Delivery Office.
PHG	Postman Higher Grade.
PMN	Postman / Postwoman.
PPI	Postage Paid Impression.
PREP	Preparing Mail Ready for Delivery.
PRU	Pallet Retention Unit. [Pallet Container].
PWR	Postal Writing Room.
QA	Quality Assurance.
Q of S	Quality of Service.
RLB	Returned Letter Branch. [Section which deals with undelivered mail].
RLE	Registered Locker Enclosure.
RRP	Revised Revision Procedures.
SA	Scheduled [and guaranteed] Attendance. An attendance which staff undertake and guarantee to cover on a specified regular basis.
SCM	Stamp Collecting Machine.
TPO	Travelling post office
WALK	A Postman's Delivery Round.
WLA	Work Load Assessment.

Introduction to the training schools.

The first school was opened in 1920, and was situated at Roman Bath Street EC2. This school was established to train staff working in the post office sales and service, post office transport, sorting, and delivery of mail departments. Following the opening of the first school, many other departments opened schools with very specific areas of training. The telephone schools were first represented by the London school for manual systems, which opened in 1923 at the Clerkenwell exchange. The second telephone school, the London automatic school, opened in October 1931 and was sited at the Terminus telephone exchange. Next in line was the engineering school which opened in 1924 at the King Edward building. This school moved after six years, and in 1930 was in new premises at Dolis Hill.

In the 75 years since the first schools opened, many changes have taken place, both in the schools and in the way that training has been given to staff. The counter and delivery of the mail aspects of training have been separated into counter training and postman/woman training. In London both of these were initially situated near to Kings Cross station which was useful when training courses were arranged on the work of the T.P.O. The training for telephone operators has been discontinued by the post office with the take over of the telephones by British Telecom. The engineering school is still at Dolis Hill, and has expanded considerably both in size and in the type of work and training given.

The London region training schools are designed so as to be representative of branch offices with all the necessary stores and equipment available in each classroom. Maps, along with enlarged copies of various documents are in use, and on display. When particular forms of documents are in use for training purposes, 'specimens' are distributed to the students. This is a feature of not only the counter school, but is a process used by all the other schools, as is the use of visits to other departments to demonstrate the connections between them. Since the early 1970's the policy on training seems to have moved towards training in the work place, and much more material is being found from sub offices as well as branch offices. Several other changes have taken place that reflect society in general. Initially men and women were trained separately and by same sex instructors. This is now in line with equal opportunities policies. The names of the classes have also changed along with the times. Originally there were three levels of class:- Junior class, Senior class and Supervising class. These now, throughout the service, reflect the work being done. Junior becoming Postal or Service operative. Instead of senior the words higher grade are used. I.E.:- Postman / Postwoman higher grade. The supervising grade seems to have been maintained.

Maintaining the training schools is quite a large operation. It has many permanent (male / female) instructors, and other supervisors are co-opted for specific courses. Many department supervisors are used as instructors when courses make visits to specific departments. The other area most often forgotten is the vast number of personnel who spend their working day making up course material for practical instruction.

The London Telephone Schools.

In the Green paper of 1935 on staff training, J.D.Pettigrew wrote "It is essential that the equipment of an operating school should conform as closely as possible to that of an actual exchange, and the conditions under which both the learners, and the teaching staff work should be conducive to the best results." Since this time it has been the post office training schools policy to use settings as near to working situations as possible, so much so that in recent years it has increasingly been that work place training has become the norm.

The manual telephone operating school.

This was installed in 1923 at the Clerkenwell telephone exchange. The school accommodation was two lecture rooms, a room for study, an examinations room and a room for practice. These facilities provided simultaneous training for 120 operators, plus 20 trainees from other courses or schools. The training program combined both theoretical and practical work, and was normally completed over a period of four weeks. Each day's work was divided into four sessions, each related to the particular aspect of the operating that was the subject of the days lecture. With the training facility being based on four areas, study/notes, examination, practice and lectures, the whole of the training was based on cycles of four, as is shown following :-

- 1 Lectures. A progressive series of 18 lectures throughout the course. Each one devoted to a specific section of the work.
- 2 Study The dictation of notes, and study sessions based on the lectures.
- 3 Practical Operating in the switch room relating to the exercises in the lectures.
- 4 Tests A test or examination of work.

The courses covered four weeks, and had four groups at a time, all entering on successive weeks. This conveniently allowed for arrangement so that each group at a different stage would follow four sub divisions of the school day. Thus, each of the four classes occupied the learning areas for two hours at a time four times a day. The time table comprised cycles of four weekly learning periods. In one of the lecture rooms a model switchboard was kept for demonstration purposes, and in the other headsets and instrumentation were fitted to the desks so that the students were able to listen to actual operators doing their work. The switchboard used by the school was of the same type as most of those used in manual exchanges throughout the country. The school switchboard was again based on four multiples of six positions. Each of the four groups of six switchboards was backed by a position occupied by a teacher. To make things more realistic each of the four groups were named :- Clissold, Clerkenwell, Museum and Victoria. An interesting feature of the training school was the provision for instructing, (without charge), operators employed by subscribers in the use of Private Branch Exchanges. (PBX). A special training course extended over one week and covering special and progressive lectures along with practical work. For this work, three of the most commonly used machines were installed. (One of the authors can remember taking this course in the mid 1960's at Paddington when these machines were still in use.).

The automatic telephone exchange school.

Automatic telephone exchanges came into use soon after the establishment of the school for manual exchanges in 1923, and initial training took place within the exchanges on an ad-hoc basis. The training school for automatic exchanges was established in October 1931 and was installed at the Terminus exchange building. The design of the school at Terminus was similar to that at the Clerkenwell exchange. It had rooms for lectures, study, practice and examination. The cycle of courses at the automatic school was based on three weeks training as a majority of the students would have already gone through the manual training school earlier. In the automatic school a suite of auto / manual positions were situated in the practice room. These were in groups of four that housed three students and a staff teacher. There were three groups, thus giving twelve desks. The monitors desks gave the same general facilities as those at the manual school. There was therefore means for originating individual calls to each student, supervising these calls and returning information to them. There were however differences of detail. The 30 calling circuits, [10 per student], include those provided for the main types of call to automatic exchanges

1. Main assistance group. (Subscribers dial '0')
2. Barred trunk assistance group. (Coin box lines - callers dial '0')
3. Monitor group. (Supervisor calls from other exchanges for verification of 'number engaged', 'no reply' etc... Changed number and service interception.

The circuits used by a student to complete calls were terminated at the teachers desk. The two main lines, [in and out], have triplicate opal dials to identify the individual student. The exchange codes of the teacher, who also has the keys for connecting either the 'engaged' or 'number unobtainable' tone to any circuit as needed for coin box calls. The teacher also has a means of sounding a gong to simulate the insertion of coins in the box. Private branch exchange operator training was also undertaken at the automatic school, but the switchboard had the addition of dials for training subscribers operators who are required to work at an installation which would be connected to an automatic system. Changes in specification have been incorporated in the course work and the modification of equipment been undertaken as necessary.

1. Toll calls. [Charged for time duration].
2. Itemised billing.
3. Call diversion.
4. Last number recording.

STATISTICS 1923 TO 1934.

From the opening in March 1923 to the 31st December 1934 the following trainees passed through the Clerkenwell manual telephone operating school :-

	Female operators	10,196
	Male operators	3,946
*	Other officers	4,499
	Total persons trained	18,641

- * This includes Trunk, Toll, Provincial transfers, Refresher courses, Subscribers PBX staff etc...

Training courses.

It was the practice to train operating staff in automatic exchanges, [via the school], staff that had previously been trained at the manual school, and a three week course was found to be sufficient. Each days work was allotted between theoretical and practical. With 12 operating positions the capacity of the school was 36, [three classes of 12], excluding the PBX staff and part time night operators. These courses were 4 weeks between 6 p.m. and 9 p.m. By 1935 it was found that the method of staffing automatic exchanges had been satisfactory to that point, but as the manual exchanges declined, new entrants would need to be trained for appointment direct to automatic exchanges, hence the first training school, [manual telephone training school, Clerkenwell], started to become obsolete after about 12 years. It was unlikely to expect operators to acquire these skills solely by school training. It was therefore decided at this date to train new entrants, [during 4 weeks], in toll work alone and to develop a course for the 'assistance' positions at a later stage. I.E. :- As necessary and as change from manual to automatic exchanges progressed.

Staffing for the Manual and Automatic schools.

The teaching duties were carried out by assistant supervisors, class II. suitably qualified for the particular duties. A number of telephonists were also employed to provide skilled operating assistance at the manual school and to furnish relief teachers on a substitution basis. The authorised staff at the two schools was as follows:-

- 1 Supervisor. Responsible for both schools.
- 2 Assistant supervisors, class I. [One at each school].
- 35 Assistant supervisors, class II. [Class teachers, monitors and supervisors].
- 11 Telephonists. ['B' operators, clerical duties and relief].

The counter and delivery training schools.

The postal training school for counter staff, and also delivery personnel was originally one school which was sited in Roman Bath Street but split into separate schools sometime in early 1924. It appears that in the years between 1920 and 1939, training for counter staff was organised in such a way as to be given in training schools at main post offices, as was that for delivery postman being held at main sorting offices for areas or regions.

	CLASS 1.			CLASS 2.			CLASS 3.			CLASS 4.		
09-00 09-30	Lecture room 1.	Study.	09-00 10-00	Examination room.	Test.	09-00 11-00	Switchroom.	Practice.	09-00 10-00	Study room.	Notes.	
09-30 11-00	Lecture room 1.	Lecture.	10-00 11-00	Examination room.	Key sending.	11-00 11-30	Switchroom.	Key sending.	10-00 11-00	Study room.	Study.	
11-00 11-30	Study room.	Notes.	11-00 12-15	Lecture room 1.	Lecture.				11-00 13-00	Switchroom.	Practice.	
11-30 12-15	LUNCH		12-15 13-00	LUNCH		11-30 12-15	LUNCH		13-00 13-45	LUNCH		
12-15 13-00	Lecture room 2.	Notes.	13-00 14-45	Study room.	Notes & study.	12-15 13-00	Examination room.	Test.	13-45 15-20	Examination room.	Test.	
13-00 15-00	Switch room.	Practice.				13-00 15-35	Lecture room.	Lecture & study.				
15-00 15-15	TEA.		14-45 15-00	TEA.		15-35 15-50	TEA.		15-20 15-35	TEA.		
15-15 17-00	Examination room.	Test & study.	15-00 17-00	Switchroom.	Practice.	15-50 17-00	Study room.	Notes.	15-35 17-00	Lecture room 1.	Lecture.	
THE LONDON TELEPHONE SERVICE												
Learners' Time Table : Monday to Friday.							ABOVE :-	Manual school.				
MARCH 1923.							BELOW :-	Automatic school.				
	CLASS 1.			CLASS 2.			CLASS 3.					
09-00 10-00	Lecture room.	Lecture.	09-00 11-00	Switchroom.	Practice.	09-00 10-00	Study room.	Study.				
10-00 11-00	Lecture room.	Lecture.				10-00 11-00	Examination room.	Examination.				
11-00 11-30	Study room.	Notes.	11-00 12-15	Lecture room.	Lecture.	11-00 13-00	Switchroom.	Practice.				
11-30 12-15	LUNCH.		12-15 13-00	LUNCH.		13-00 13-45	LUNCH.					
12-15 13-00	Study room.	Study , listening	13-00 13-45	Switchroom.	Practice.	13-45 15-15	Switchroom.	Practice.				
13-00 13-45	Study room.	& memory tests.	13-45 15-15	Study room.	Memory & listening	15-15 15-30	Lecture room.	Notes.				
13-45 15-00	Examination room.	Examination.			tests.							
15-00 15-15	TEA.		15-15 15-30	TEA.		15-30 15-45	TEA.					
15-15 17-00	Switchroom.	Practice.	15-30 17-00	Examination room.	Examination.	15-45 17-00	Lecture room.	Lecture.				

The Engineering School.

The engineering school was established in 1924. During the period from 1924 to 1930 the school was housed in King Edward buildings, then in 1930 the school was transferred to Dollis Hill. The number of students trained steadily increased from 29 in the opening year to 2,657 in 1934, and in the same period the number of courses increased from 3 to 31. The introduction of new systems and the increase in the quality of automatic apparatus account for some of the increase in student numbers. Progress was not confined to just the telephone processes, so it was necessary to open out the school, and extend its' activities to training in many other items; therefore a substantial increase in courses occurred.

Many of the new areas requiring training courses that have been introduced include :- teleprinters for telegraphs , wireless interference and tracing, cancelling of mail machines and transportation including the underground railway. Besides offices required for staff, the school accommodation consists of lecture rooms and practical work rooms. Working models were available in the practical training rooms and tables provided were equipped for apparatus adjustment work. To keep abreast of development, and to ensure that adequate training facilities were always available, the equipment in the school was constantly overhauled and updated. For the purpose of providing suitable practical training in external work, a construction park was available. It was here that instruction and practice took place on overhead and underground work. In the park there was a bungalow type building, the outside of which was used to demonstrate house attachments. This was mainly used during the period when the post office controlled the telephones and the telegraph systems.

In the early days, telegraphs would be sent via Morse buzzer and had to be transcribed to be put onto telegraph forms. This was superseded by teleprinters using tape, which was then stuck to telegraph forms for despatch. From the beginning, part of the training school was always to seek out better and fast methods of cancelling post office items, and therefore has sought to teach efficient methods to do this, either by hand or machine. This has developed over the years with the introduction of phosphor on stamps for recognition by machines for cancelling of postal packets. Included in the engineering school are courses for training operatives in the maintenance and filling of dispensing machines for both coils and booklets. The other area covered by the engineering school is the transport which includes the underground railway in London, and transport by other means, both across the country and from country to country via air, sea and by motor transport.

Counter and Telegraph office

In 1929, at a meeting held in the post office, (papers 80,337/29 C.T.O. held in the post office archives.), a suggestion was made ‘....to employ a number of those who have attained a certain degree of telegraph proficiency in the C.T.O. school on part time B.O. training instead of on collecting &c. duties in the C.T.O.’ The clerks working in post office branch offices were employed to serve at the counter and also send telegraphs. Originally the sending of telegraphs was done by Morse buzzer, this being received and hand written on to the telegraph form for delivery. This suggestion therefore, having been accepted, meant that training now continued with telegraph duties being taught at the C.T.O., which was now part of the London postal service. The counter duties training was now carried out at branch offices, with convenience to the student. By June, 1931, this system was so well established that a memo was sent from the controller of the L.P.S. to the secretary. This is transcribed below.

The secretary,

It is recommended that the manual B/139 should also make reference to the Training in the L.P.S. School and it is suggested that the paragraph should read as follows :-

“139. Training:- New entrants to the class of counter clerk and telegraphist (London Postal Service) are trained in telegraphy at the Central Telegraph Office. They are also given instruction concurrently in Counter duties, and are required to attend at Branch Offices for part of their training.”

Controller
L.P.S. 19 June, 1931.

Signed by K Clark.

Added to the bottom of this, is a hand written note which refers to changes in the wording, which have been made by the secretary. The changes made are as follows

1. The words ‘given instruction’ changed to ‘trained’
2. The words ‘in the London Postal Service’ inserted after ‘....counter duties’.

This addition is initialled by the secretary, W.D.S. (W.D. Sharp), and dated 25 June ‘31. (Papers held at post office archives Ref. 17881/29).

A further memo, to the secretary (held in post office archives ref. 84535/30), gives the date of starting these arrangements as November 1930. The memo is signed by E.J. Robinson, and dated 19 January 1931.

There are also papers of the London Postal Service, (Ref. 18049/31), which state 'On the 9th January 1931 the secretary decided that, so far as the L.P.S. is concerned training in Morse should cease and be replaced by teleprinter working; and on the same date he decided that the probationary counter clerks and telegraphists destined for the L.P.S. should not be employed half daily on collecting duties in the C.T.O., as hitherto, but should be diverted to the L.P.S. for preliminary training in counter work.' It was also stated 'The period of teleprinter training is expected to be much less than that required for Morse training, viz., about 5 to 6 months instead of about 9 months. ... the probationer will be fit for a regular counter at the end of (say) 6 months' training.' There was also a note that the syllabus of training was recast. The 1931 document, which gave details of the recast syllabus is reproduced in the appendix.

In the post office archives, there is a book dated 1934, which reviews the activities of the post office for a number of years previous to this date. The following is an extract from this book relating to training at that period.

'The additional facilities offered to the public in recent years, and the development in the older post office services, have inevitably added to the complexity of the work of the counter officer. While the bulk of the work of the post office is performed in the background, the chief contact between the department and the public is across the counter, and the need for the systematic training of counter officers is fully realised.

A school for training staff in counter work was established in London in 1931. It provides for the thorough training of all new entrants to the class of counter clerk and telegraphist in the junior duties of that grade, and for further training to be given in the more responsible counter duties after a few years' actual employment on the simpler duties at Post Office counters.

The training given is essentially of a practical nature, and the instruction is so arranged as to develop the interest of the student in their own work and to enable them to appreciate the relation which that work bears to other Post Office activities. Post Office counters of modern design, together with all the necessary stores, are provided in each classroom; specimens of all documents met with in the course of the counter duties, are supplied for use by the students, and, in order to demonstrate the connection between the counter work and the work of the other sections of the Post Office and to secure co-operation, they make visits of inspection to various branches of the Post Office, such as the sorting office, telephone exchanges, and Money Order and Savings Bank Departments.

The training of new entrants in the school consists of a series of sort lectures, each followed by practical work at the school counters where actual working conditions are reproduced. Each student in turn acts as a counter clerk, under supervision by the instructor, while another student acts as a member of the public. Dummy letters, packets, parcels, etc., are handed in and the transactions are completed in precisely the same manner as they would be under actual working

conditions. Money is used, change is given and sheets of stamps are available so that the students may get accustomed to tearing of the stamps in the correct manner. A large number of cards bearing questions on Post Office services likely to be asked by members of the public in actual practice are prepared; and the students are asked these questions, as nearly as possible, under working conditions. The students are also trained to find accurately and quickly from various books of reference any detailed information that may be required regarding Post Office services.

Similar schools to the one in London have recently been opened experimentally at Liverpool and Leeds, and if they prove successful the scheme of training is likely to be extended to other large centres in the provinces.'

In the minute book for 1937, at the post office archives, minute number 14557 makes reference to a meeting where counter training establishments were to be set up in the provinces at Manchester, Birmingham, Glasgow and Rhyl. These papers have not been stamped as destroyed but were not available.

Training school during the second world war

With the previous experience of the use of female labour during the first world war, (1914-1918), an increased number of females were employed by the post office during the second world war, (1939-1945). With the destruction of buildings on the home front services were disrupted. Many post offices and sorting offices were replaced by temporary and local buildings, and even tents. The training was very much reduced on a formal basis but considerable personnel training was done on the job, and this it is felt had great implications on post office training in the future.

It is possible that due to the hostilities of the second world war and the blitz of many British towns, that the use of the training school was a low priority for staff during the years 1940 - 1943. This would account for the very low use of the 2/6d brown, the 5/- red and the 10/- dark blue of the first issue of the King George VI high values with horizontal bars overprint from the training school. (Group C type 2). All three of these values were issued before the suspension of the training school, and by the time the school had resumed operations, two of these values had been replaced with new colours. The 2/6d was now in green and the 10/- was in ultramarine. This set is of extreme rarity and only a handful of each of the three values are known to exist. It would appear that as training of staff became a priority that most postal areas or regions set up their own schools. This was done for counter training, sorting and delivery and probably many other areas requiring a uniform process. It would also seem that there was a definite intention to produce a work force that performed tasks in a co-ordinated way. This can be seen by comparing training material from various areas or regions which, although produced on a local basis, teach the same basic process. I.E. some regions go to the extent of having standard printed material while others have the same items, but produced by hand then copied. There would seem to have been a specific method of teaching in mind, but these differences may have occurred due to managers using their own budgets.

The counter training school.

Originally male and female staff were trained in separate classes in a formal school which provided classrooms equipped as post offices. Gradually this changed, through classroom training with mixed male \ female staff, to training on the job in actual post offices. This appears to have coincided with the second world war period when the post office policy changed to employ both male and female operatives. After the war period, 1946, the post office undertook to train their staff for main post offices and sub offices.

This changed at a later date when the post office also undertook to train licensees and their staff who ran privately owned premises, such as news agents, which had post offices counters on the premises. The training throughout has entailed all forms of service provided by the post office over the counter. This has been the case since the start of the school, and over the years many variations of forms have been used. I.E. :- Certificate of posting - Registration / recorded delivery - payment of allowances (pensions) - Licence payments - savings, and payment of bills and taxes. (Many of these will be dealt with in following separate sections showing listings of forms - certificates and specialist items used.)

With many of these services over the years, there have been modifications to both services and forms used. There has also been a need for a method of payment realistic to that met with in the working situation. This has produced several types of paper money, cheques, postal orders, cheque and credit cards. (These will also be shown in separate sections.) Some services introduced, over the period of the counter school, link with mail delivery services and fall into a category of use by both training schools. I.E. :- Registered / recorded delivery. Many of these require receipts for charges. These are shown by labels and stamps, and are dealt with in a separate section as are telegraphs.

The Sorting and delivery training school

This branch of the service was one of the last to accept both male and female staff. The changes started to take place in the early 1950's following rethinks in the employment policy of the post office. Prior to this the delivery of mail was seen as a totally male province. The school, originally set up in 1920 in Roman Bath Street, at the time was a one off of it's type. The use of training was soon recognised and further schools were opened to cover a region or area. Later this was extended to allow some courses to be done in the workplace, and sorting offices were the target buildings used. Again, this happened from the 1950's onward, but again recently a combination of school - workplace, and then school again has been used.

The courses have also been changed over the years and at present as has been the case in the past, start by targeting the grades of worker. I.E. Postman/Postwoman, Postman higher grade, (this to include females), then more recently to produce courses to target specialist workers. These specialist courses include driving, sorting, (via specialist machines); this to be combined with the engineering school.

Specialist services are also targeted such as registration, special delivery, redirection of mail and charged mail, COD, postage due, customs etc. Many of the services overlap with the work done in the counter training schools, and specific items are shown under service headings such as registration - special delivery - telegraphs and savings. These sections will include items known to exist, along with standard forms, information pieces, and types of overprint or security measure.

1. Money - Bank notes.
2. Postal orders.
3. Savings stamps and premium bonds.
4. Telegraphs and airgraphs
5. Employment stamps.
6. Registration.
7. Customs fee. (Charge) including postage dues as receipts.
8. Information pieces.
9. Booklets and coils.

Many of the items in the above list would possibly have been produced on a local basis. Due to this many variations of both production and type can be found, for example, item number 1, bank notes etc. can be found either as a specific purpose printing or as used in some regions, items from toys converted for realistic transactions in the training school.

Many other items however, because of their very specific use within the postal system, were the forms which would have been in general use for these services at the given time. The variations that occur, are due to the use of different cancelled, specimen, or other types of overprint which would have been applied, again, on a local basis. This creates many types of individual items, which vary from area to area. In the listing of these items, we have endeavoured to cover as many of these variants, and the areas from which they originate.

Telegraph issues

At one time it was the procedure to cancel stamps put on to telegraph forms, to pay the charges, to be punched prior to use. This practice, it is believed, started at about the same time as the training school. It is known that the practice continued almost to the time of the introduction of decimal stamps. Stamps punched with similar holes to those used on the telegraph forms, have been seen on training items. These items include covers, used for registration, and redirection of mail for change of address standard forms. These are known with the punched holes applied to the stamps before being put on the forms and alternatively, punched after, through the forms. Almost all issues from the time of introduction of training schools, through the period covered by this book, can be found with these punched holes.

The most common of these holes is virtually identical to those punched in stamps from voucher booklets for advertising. The second most common group are the circular punched holes which have been noted elsewhere in this book. The third group, is a miscellaneous group of punched holes which are different to all the others, but very few have been seen to be able to confirm them as new groups. It is possible that they are an extension of the shaped hole type.

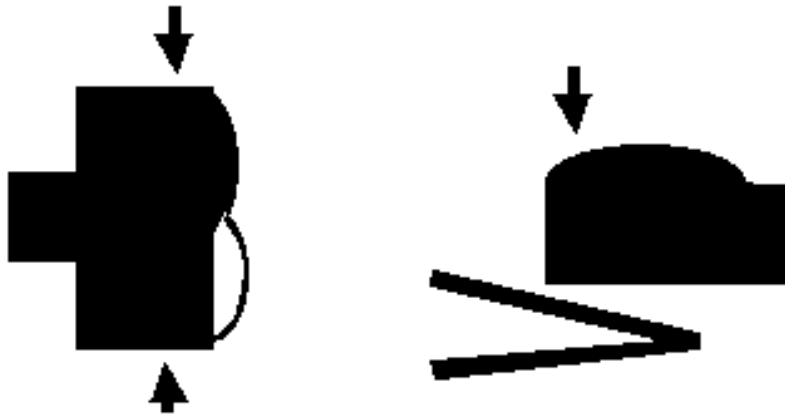
Type one, are as stated, circular punched holes. These can be found in three different sizes and can be found singularly or in groups of three, with and without other overprints. Type two appears to only come singularly, but does seem to come on the stamp, both horizontally and vertically. They do also come on stamp edges, both top, bottom and sides, with the punched hole again, horizontally or vertically. There is a further variation which is punched on the centre of the perforations on a block of four, to date this has only been seen horizontally. In the punching of the holes, if the piece punched out has not cut completely, items can be found with the piece from the punched hole adhering to them. A single variety has been seen of a stamp, with this punched hole, in combination with a stamp not punched, on a piece of form.



The circular punched hole.



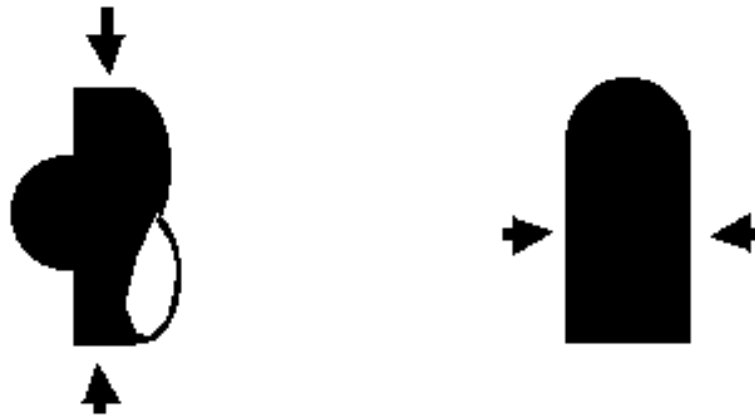
Shaped punched hole.



The ticket punch is shaped and when used to make the hole is punched through the folded item. This has the effect of making a single hole, with the same shape each end. If this is off centre and not square to the fold, it will still produce a hole the same shape at each end, but not in a straight line.

Miscellaneous types

The shaped hole, shown above, is as stated, probably made with a ticket punch on folded items. The miscellaneous types may also be produced by a similar method, as when checked, are fold in a similar fashion. This would mean that there would be several different shaped ticket punches in use. This is quite a possibility as the underground system, at this time, used ticket punches to cancel railway tickets. These punches also came in various shapes.



The above show possible ends of ticket punches, with arrows showing the position of the fold in the item. This would give concentric shaped holes.

Pricing

The pricing of stamps from the post office training school is, even at the best of times, difficult. The method adopted for this listing is to give a 'C' to the most common value in each set. Other values and variations in the set are then rated numerically against this. **Price valuations have been entered only where examples have been confirmed to exist.** It is important to realise that a 'C' rating in one set bears no resemblance to the same rating in another set.

E.G. The 'C' rating for the 1920 issue may be £5, while the same rating for the 1937 issue may only be £1.

The following codes have also been used in the listing:-

- * Very rare. Very few copies seen to exist, and a valuation therefore can not be accurately quoted.
- As far as is known this item does not exist in this condition.
- = This item has been confirmed as existing and is awaiting a valuation code.

Numbering

The numbering system adopted by this listing, is to list in chronological order, (by sets), each issue from the post office training school. The numbers used are prefixed to denote which section they fall into as follows :-

B xx	Bank notes	C xx	Commemorative issues.
D xx	Postage dues.	E xx	Etiquette
F xx	Fiscals	H xx	High value definitives
L xx	Low value definitives.	M xx	Microfilm
O xx	Postal orders	P xx	Postal stationary.
Q xx	Booklets	R xx	Coils
S xx	Savings stamps.	W xx	Course work
Z xx	Manuals		

Listing

We have decided to use our own numbering system with a ‘T’, (TALLAN), identification. This numbering system then incorporates suffixes such as a, b, c etc. to show variations. These variations may indicate shades of colour, watermark variations, overprint variations or variations of any type. Overprint types referred to in the listing, for the majority of items, are given at the start of each individual issue, or in the case of the commemoratives, at the start of the section. Overprint variations within a issue are referred to using the following system :- O/P A 1A. This indicates

1. O/P Overprint
2. A Overprint group
3. 1A Overprint type within the specified group

Illustration :-

Overprint group A type 1 unless otherwise stated.				
T	DESCRIPTION	M	U	NOTES
H8	2/6 BROWN	-	-	
H8a	O/P C 2	*		(3)
H9	2/6 GREEN	C		

This shows the box with relative information, with the items listed below it. The first item being T number H8, which is the 2/6 brown of the first high values of King George VI. It also shows that group A, type 1 overprint is not believed to exist on this item. The second line has a different T number, H8a, which shows the same item does exist with overprint group C, type 2, and has only been seen mint and is rare. The number 3, under notes, refers to a note at the base of the issue, which explains this. Line three has T number of H9, this refers to the changed colour 2/6 in green with a C rating under the mint stamp. The C rating the standard set for rarity in any issue with the most common overprint as indicated in the heading box.

Overprinting Damaged stamps Inverted watermarks Ghost bars

Many of the stamps overprinted for use in the post office training school are found to be damaged, either by creasing or tearing. It would seem likely that these damaged sheets or part of sheets come from waste items from stores, which have been written off. (See section on imperforate stamps.) These are likely to be used for training courses with their respective overprints. The residue of sheets from printings for coils and booklets are also possibilities for use with overprinting.

It is likely that much of the overprinting of bars is produced by roller printing the black bars of various widths. The clear sections between bars and the creation of variations of overprints, being achieved by spacers between the print rollers. The wear on these spacers and rollers would be the reason for bars that vary from the vertical. Smaller pieces than full sheets could also cause this by slippage and variation of grip by the print rollers due to irregular sizes. This is shown by pieces found which illustrate the points above, i.e.:- block 4 of the half penny orange of King George VI, a tete-beche strip 3 one penny photogravure King George V with one stamp inverted and one penny block showing bar slippage from top to bottom. This may be the reason for the existence of some inverted watermark stamps. Residue sheets and damaged sheets from booklet printings would be included with other sheet stamps for overprinting. It is also possible that the slippage or pressure on rollers would be responsible for some stamps showing ghost bars on the overprinting. The other possibility is off setting of bars from wet overprinted sheets put on top of each other.

Imperforate stamps

Imperforate stamps can be found with training school overprints, (group A type 1) . The four pence of King George VI that is from the original issue in grey-green colour, are from sheets specially prepared to illustrate to staff what imperforate stamps look like. Copies of this stamp un-overprinted had previously been purchased through a post office. The other stamp found overprinted and imperforate was possibly an oversight when overprinting damaged sheets and appeared at the school. This was the 2 1/2d pale blue from the 1941 King George VI issue, and was seen by the authors, in its original form, an irregular block of 35. This was later cut into pairs by a stamp dealer for sale.

Familiarisation

From the introduction of commemorative stamps, many of them have been used to familiarise staff as to their size, colour and in some cases special use. The main group of staff that this applied too were those using these items on a day to day basis, i.e. staff at exhibitions and special post offices to do with commemorative events.

Almost all the commemoratives issued between 1924 and 1948, were produced in different sizes for each issue. All of these issues except the 1925 Wembley and the one pound PUC, of 1929, have been found overprinted for use in the training school. It therefore seems reasonable that the large stamp for the PUC issue should exist overprinted as the 1925 issue were the same size and design as the 1924 issue for the same exhibition.

A set of labels in the colours of the proposed decimal issues were produced for use by both the training school and post offices, to familiarise staff at all levels with the changes that would be introduced with the new decimal stamps. These are shown as the last of the low value definitive issues in this book.

Cancelled overprints

Care should be taken when identifying stamps from the training school overprinted cancelled. To the authors knowledge, only one stamp overprinted cancelled can, at present, be associated with training. This is the one pound value of the 1948 silver wedding issue.

There are many other stamps, both commemoratives and high values, with varying sizes and types of cancelled overprint. These mainly come from stocks prepared for two purpose's.

1. Press release items released in advance.
2. Items used for forensic testing of inks, papers etc.

Many of the items included in type 1, of the above list, are overprinted with an open outlined type face. This is illustrated by the Cable stamp, which was overprinted in red and given away by the post office in issue 3 of the Philatelic bulletin. This same overprint is found printed in black on first day covers of the Botanical gardens issue. These were sent out as press release items to news agencies, and were not cancelled with date stamps.

Items from type 2, consist mainly of stamps overprinted in solid colour type face, and are used mainly by chemists and scientists for testing ink consistency, paper strength, and other issues, such as gum adhesion.

KING GEORGE V
LOW VALUE DEFINITIVES
1920 - 1924

When the post office training school started , the stamps in general use were the issue of 1912 - 1922. These stamps with the Simple Cypher watermark were perforated gauge 15 x 14. The issue was in use at the post office training school for at least four years.

Overprint group A type 1 unless otherwise stated				
T	DESCRIPTION	M	U	NOTES
L1	1/2 GREEN	C	C	
L2	1 RED	C	2C	(1)
L2a	Var.: 1 bar		10C	(4)
L3	1 1/2 BROWN	2C	4C	
L3a	Var.: 1 bar		10C	(5)
L4	2 ORANGE	2C		
L5	2 1/2 BLUE	2C		(2)
L6	3 VIOLET	4C		
L6a	PALE VIOLET	4C	4C	(3)
L7	4 GREY GREEN	C	8C	
L8	5 LIGHT BROWN	C		
L9	6 PURPLE	10C	10C	
L10	7 OLIVE	20C		
L11	8 BLACK/YELLOW	7C		
L12	9 AGATE	C		
L13	9 OLIVE GREEN	C		
L14	10 BLUE	20C	18C	
L15	1/- BISTRE	14C		

1. A single copy of the 1d is known used dated May 1922.
2. The 2 1/2d blue is known with the left and right hand sides curved, showing separation by some form of cutter.
3. Only one horizontal used pair has been seen.
4. A single copy is known dated 1st September 1920. This is the earliest known dated training school item.
5. A single copy is known dated December 1921.

Note :- The one example of L2a seen has been on paper with the watermark reversed.

The nine penny value L12 changed in colour during this period to become L13. This was done due to confusion with the eight penny black L11 which was very similar in design and appearance.

1924 - 1934

In 1924 the watermark of the definitive series was changed to Block Cypher , and the training school stamps changed along with them. This set contained a reduced number of values. The 7d and 8d values were discontinued and the 9d was now the new colour from the previous issue.

Overprint group A type 1 unless otherwise stated.				
T	DESCRIPTION	M	U	NOTES
L16	1/2 GREEN	C	3C	(1)
L16a	INV. WMK		25C	
L17	1 RED	3C	C	
L18	1 1/2 BROWN	C	5C	(2) (3) (4)
L18a	Experimental WMK		*	(5)
L19	2 ORANGE	C		
L20	2 1/2 BLUE	6C	3C	
L21	3 VIOLET		2C	
L22	4 GREY GREEN	3C		
L23	5 BROWN	6C		
L24	6 PURPLE	C		
L25	9 OLIVE GREEN	5C		
L26	10 BLUE	45C	9C	
L26a	GREENISH BLUE	45C		
L27	1/- BISTRE	3C		

1. A bottom marginal control pair are known to exist. Control V 34
2. A bottom marginal control single is known from Control F 26
3. A bottom marginal control single is known from Control Q 32
4. A single copy used on piece is known with a Kilburn double ring machine cancel dated 19 AUG. 1931.
5. Single copy has been seen which would appear to be on experimental watermarked paper.

1934 - 1936

In 1934 a new printing process (Photogravure) started to be used for the production of the definitive postage stamps. These were again overprinted for use in the post office training school.

Overprint group A type 1 unless otherwise stated.				
T	DESCRIPTION	M	U	NOTES

<i>Small format.</i>

L28	1/2 GREEN	C	C	(1) (2) (3)
L28a	Var.: 1 bar			37C
L29	1 RED	C	C	
L30	1 1/2 BROWN	C	C	
L31	2 ORANGE	3C	4C	
L32	2 1/2 BLUE	2C	C	
L33	3 VIOLET	2C		
L34	4 GREY GREEN	4C	2C	
L35	5 YELLOW BROWN	5C		
L36	9 OLIVE GREEN	5C		
L37	10 BLUE	10C		
L38	1/- BISTRE	2C		

1. One copy has been seen used on piece
2. A blk 4 is the largest multiple seen
3. A horizontal pair is known with the r/h stamp L28a

<i>Intermediate format.</i>

IL28	1/2 GREEN	C		
IL29	1 RED	2C	C	(1)
IL30	1 1/2 BROWN	C		
IL31	2 ORANGE	3C		

1. A used copy is known dated 28 June 1936

<i>Large format.</i>

LL29	1 RED	2C	C	(1)
LL30	1 1/2 BROWN			

1. A used copy is known dated March 1935

HIGH VALUE DEFINITIVES
1920 - 1934

Definitive high value stamps have been used since the beginning of the post office training school in 1920. The first of these was the original engraving of the 'Sea Horses', which were printed by Bradbury Wilkinson & Co. Ltd. Very few of these have come to light, which seems to indicate very small usage.

Overprint group A type 1 unless otherwise stated.				
T	DESCRIPTION	M	U	NOTES
H1	2/6 BROWN		C	
H1a	O/P F 2H		*	
H2	5/- RED		C	
H2a	O/P F 2H		*	
H3	10/- BLUE		4C	

The £1 green of this issue, although printed much earlier, (Circa 1913), was still current for postage purposes. Although not seen to this point, there is the possibility it could have been used via the training school. A space has therefore been allotted to it.

H4	£1 GREEN	-	-	
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1934 - 1939

The second set of high values used by the post office training school was the re-engraved version of the 'Sea Horses' design. These high values can be found with different spacing of the black bars. (See notes on overprints of group A types 1 , 1A and 1B).

Overprint group A type 1 unless otherwise stated.				
T	DESCRIPTION	M	U	NOTES
H5	2/6 BROWN		C	
H5a	O/P A 1 + F 1B		3C	
H5b	O/P A 1A		C	
H5c	O/P F 1A		3C	
H5d	O/P F 2H		*	
H5e	O/P F 3V		*	
H6	5/- RED		2C	
H6a	O/P A 1 + F 1A	3C		
H6b	O/P A 1A			
H6c	O/P A 1B			
H6d	O/P F 1A		3C	
H6a	O/P F 2H		*	
H7	10/- BLUE		=	
H7a	O/P A 1A		=	
H7b	O/P A 1B	8C		
H7c	O/P A 1B + F 1B		4C	
H7d	O/P F 3V		*	

COMMEMORATIVE STAMPS

1924

In 1924 two commemorative stamps were issued for the British Empire Exhibition at Wembley. This issue , which was both comb and line perforated was overprinted with the black bars for use in the training school.

Overprint group A type 1 unless otherwise stated.				
T	DESCRIPTION	M	U	NOTES

Stamps are comb perforated unless otherwise stated.
--

C1	1 SCARLET	C		
C1a	Line perf.	C		(1)
C2	1 1/2 BROWN	C		
C2a	Line perf.	C		

1. A bottom r/h corner marginal single is known. Unused.

It has been reported that the issue inscribed 1925 exists, this has not yet been confirmed.

C3	1 SCARLET	-	-	
C4	1 1/2 BROWN	-	-	

1929.

In 1929 , five stamps were issued to commemorate the centenary of the postal union congress. (P.U.C). In this set there were four low values , in the same format as the low value definitives that were in general use and a one pound value in a much larger format. All five values have been listed , however the one pound has not been seen to date. It could possibly exist, see text relating to familiarisation.

Overprint group A type 1 unless otherwise stated.				
T	DESCRIPTION	M	U	NOTES

C5	1/2 GREEN	C		
C6	1 RED	C		
C7	1 1/2 BROWN	C		
C8	2 1/2 BLUE	C		
C9	£1 BLACK	-	-	

1935

In 1935 four values were issued to commemorate the silver jubilee of the King George V. These are known to exist in three types, upright watermark from sheets, upright watermark from booklets and inverted watermark from booklets. All stamps in the listing below are from sheets printings with other shown as sub types where confirmed to exist.

Overprint group A type 1 unless otherwise stated.				
T	DESCRIPTION	M	U	NOTES
C10	1/2 GREEN	C		(1)
C11	1 SCARLET	C		
C11a	WMK INV.	C		
C11b	O/P A 1A	C		
C12	1 1/2 BROWN	C		
C12a	O/P A 1A	C		
C13	2 1/2 BLUE	C		
C13a	O/P A 1A	C		

1. A cyl blk 6 - cyl 60 dot is known to exist.

POSTAGE DUES
1920 - 1924.

In 1914 the first postage due set was issued. This was in use at the start of the training school in 1920. All the overprints are applied horizontally. All values were printed on Simple Cypher watermarked paper.

Overprint group C type 3 unless otherwise stated.				
T	DESCRIPTION	M	U	NOTES
D1	1/2 GREEN	C		
D2	1 RED	C		
D2a	Thick chalk surfaced paper	*		
D3	1 1/2 BROWN	2C		
D4	2 AGATE	C		
D5	3 VIOLET	C		
D6	4 DULL GREY-GREEN	2C		
D7	5 CINNAMON	4C		
D8	1/- BLUE	2C		

1924 - 1936.

In 1924 the postage dues printing contract was given to Waterlows. The stamps , of the same design as the previous issue , were this time printed on Block Cypher watermarked paper. In 1934 the contract for the printing again changed hands, this time to Harrisons.

Overprint group C type 3 unless otherwise stated.				
T	DESCRIPTION	M	U	NOTES
D9	1/2 GREEN	C		
D10	1 RED	C		
D11	1 1/2 BROWN	2C		
D12	2 AGATE	C		
D13	3 VIOLET	C		
D14	4 DULL GREY-GREEN	3C		
D15	5 CINNAMON	3C		
D16	1/- BLUE	C		
D17	2/6 PURPLE / YELLOW	4C		

KING EDWARD VIII
LOW VALUE DEFINITIVES
1936 - 1937

When King George V died , his son became King Edward VIII. As King Edward VIII only reigned for a short period , there were only four low value of postage stamps issued. All four values were overprinted by the post office training school.

Overprint group A type 1 unless other wise stated.				
T	DESCRIPTION	M	U	NOTES
L39	1/2 GREEN	C		(1)
L39a	Wmk inv.	3C		(3)
L39b	O/P F 1 + H 1	*		
L39c	O/P F 2H	*		
L39d	O/P F 4H	*		
L40	1 RED	C		
L40a	Wmk inv.	3C		(3)
L40b	O/P F1 + H 1	*		
L40c	O/P F 2H	*		
L40d	O/P F 4H	*		
L41	1 1/2 BROWN	C		(2)
L41a	Wmk inv.	3C		(3)
L41b	O/P F1 + H1	*		
L41c	O/P F 2H	*		
L41d	O/P F 4H	*		
L42	2 1/2 BLUE	2C		
L42a	O/P F1 + H1	*		
L42b	O/P F 4H	*		

1. A single used copy has been seen on piece.
2. A single R/H marginal copy has been seen.
3. These stamps are from booklets, the upright watermark from the same booklets are not distinguishable from the sheet stamps.

All values from sheet printings have been seen in blks 4, unused.

POSTAGE DUES
1936.

After the death of King George V another change of watermark took place. This time to Block E 8 R for the new King.

Overprint group C type 3 unless otherwise stated.				
T	DESCRIPTION	M	U	NOTES
D18	1/2 GREEN		C	
D19	1 RED		C	
D20	2 AGATE		C	
D21	3 VIOLET		C	
D22	4 DULL GREY-GREEN		4C	
D23	5 CINNAMON		3C	
D24	1/- BLUE		4C	
D25	2/6 PURPLE / YELLOW		6C	

KING GEORGE VI
LOW VALUE DEFINITIVES
1937 - 1941

At the end of 1936 , when King Edward VIII abdicated , his brother , Albert , became King George VI. At this time a new set of definitive stamps were produced. This new issue included values from 1/2d to 1/-. Once again these were overprinted for the training school.

Overprint group A type 1 unless otherwise stated.				
T	DESCRIPTION	M	U	NOTES
L43	1/2 GREEN	2C		(1)
L43a	INV. WMK		25C	
L43b	O/P A 2	*		
L43c	O/P F 2H	*	*	
L43d	O/P F 2V	*		
L43e	O/P F 3H	*		
L43f	O/P F 4H	*		
L43g	O/P F 5	*		
L44	1 RED	2C		(4)
L44a	O/P F 2H	*	*	
L44b	O/P F 3V		*	
L44c	O/P F 4V	*		
L45	1 1/2 BROWN	2C	C	(2)
L45a	O/P A 2	*		
L45b	O/P F 2H	*	*	
L45c	O/P F 2V	*		
L45d	O/P F 3H	*		
L45e	O/P F 3V		*	
L45f	O/P F 4H		*	
L46	2 ORANGE	2C	3C	
L46a	O/P F 2H		*	
L46b	O/P F 4V	*		
L47	2 1/2 BLUE	3C		
L47a	O/P A 2	*		
L47b	O/P F 2H		*	
L47c	O/P F 2V		*	
L47d	O/P F 5		*	
L48	3 VIOLET		3C	
L48a	O/P F 2H		*	
L49	4 GREY	6C		
L49a	IMPERF.	10C	-	(3) (5)
L49b	O/P A 2	*		
L49c	O/P F 2H		*	
L50	5 BROWN	3C	4C	
L50a	O/P F 2H		*	

Overprint group A type 1 unless otherwise stated.				
T	DESCRIPTION	M	U	NOTES
L51	6 PINK	C		
L51a	O/P F 2H		*	
L51b	O/P F 2V	*		
L51c	O/P F 3H		*	
L51d	O/P F 3V		*	
L52	7 GREEN	2C		
L52a	O/P F 2H		*	
L53	8 PINK	2C	3C	
L53a	O/P F 2H		*	
L54	9 GREEN	C	3C	
L54a	O/P A 2	*		
L54b	O/P F 2H		*	
L55	10 BLUE	6C	8C	
L55a	O/P F 2H		*	
L56	11 PLUM	10C	15C	
L56a	O/P A 2	*		
L56b	O/P F 2H		*	
L56c	O/P F 2V	*		
L56d	O/P F 4H		*	
L57	1/- BISTRE	2C	3C	
L57a	O/P A 2	*		
L57b	O/P F 2H		*	
L57c	O/P F 2V		*	
L57d	O/P F 4H		*	
L57e	O/P F 4V	*		

1. A single copy is known used on entire cancelled with the 'Post Early' slogan with no date stamp. The largest multiple seen is a L/H marginal block 4 (used) from cyl 68 no dot control D 38.
2. A single copy is known used on entire cancelled with the 'Post Early' slogan and a Cricklewood date stamp. Dated 20 September 1937.
3. A block of 6 from Cyl. 6 is known. A left hand marginal pair showing the sheet number is known. See also text on familiarisation.
4. The largest used multiple seen is a L/H marginal block 4 cyl 26 dot control D 38.
5. It has been reported that the bottom three rows from a sheet of L49a exist.

Items L43c, L44a and L45b are known to exist as bottom left control strips 3.

** Please refer to notes on imperforate stamps **

1941 - 1951

In 1941 , due to the second world war , there were many shortages. Colour pigments for printing inks was one of the major ones. It was therefore decided , by the post office , to lighten the colour of stamps most used in the definitive series. Again these low values were overprinted for use within the training school.

Overprint group A type 1 unless otherwise stated.				
T	DESCRIPTION	M	U	NOTES
L58	1/2 P/GREEN	C		
L58a	INV. WMK	5C		(3)
L58b	O/P F 2H	*		
L58c	O/P F 3V		*	
L59	1 P/RED	C	2C	(1)
L59a	O/P F 2H	*	*	
L59b	O/P F 4H	*		
L59c	O/P F 4V	*		
L60	1 1/2 P/BROWN	2C		
L60a	O/P F 2H	*		
L61	2 P/ORANGE	2C	3C	
L61a	INV. WMK	9C		(3)
L61b	O/P F 2H		*	
L62	2 1/2 P/BLUE	C	2C	
L62a	IMPERF.	14C	-	(2)
L62b	O/P F 2H	*	*	
L62c	O/P F 3V		*	
L62d	O/P F 4H	*		
L63	3 P/VIOLET	2C	2C	
L63a	O/P E1	*		(4)
L63b	O/P F 2H		*	

1. A single copy is known used on entire date 15 May 1947.
2. The largest multiples seen are pairs. All these came from an original block of 34.
3. ** Please refer to notes on booklet stamps **
4. This stamp, with overprint E1, is exceedingly rare, and may be from residue of stamps of this reign used in the training school just prior to stamps of the new reign, which are much more common with this overprint.

** Please refer to notes on imperforate stamps **

1951 -1952

In 1951 the colours of the lower values in the definitive series were again changed. At this time it was done to bring these values into line with the agreed colours of the Universal Postal Union. Once again light colours were used , as pigments were still in short supply , although the war had finished. Changes in postal rates were caused by inflation in the period following the war.

Overprint group A type 1 unless otherwise stated.				
T	DESCRIPTION	M	U	NOTES
L64	1/2 ORANGE	2C	3C	(2)
L64a	INV. WMK	35C	35C	(1)
L64b	O/P E1	*		(7)
L64c	O/P F 2H	*		
L64d	O/P F 2V	*		
L64e	O/P F 4H	*		
L65	1 BLUE	C	5C	(3)
L65a	DRY PRINT			(4)
L65b	O/P E1	*		(7)
L65c	O/P F 2H		*	
L65d	O/P F 2V	*		
L65e	O/P F 3V	*		
L66	1 1/2 GREEN	5C	6C	(5)
L66a	O/P E1	*		(7)
L66b	O/P F 2H	*		
L67	2 BROWN	8C	10C	(3)
L67a	O/P E1	*		(7)
L67b	O/P F 2H	*		
L68	2 1/2 RED	4C	6C	
L68a	O/P E1	*		(7)
L68b	O/P F 2H	*		
L69	4 BLUE	10C	20C	(6)
L69a	O/P E1	*		(7)
L69b	O/P F 2H	*		

1. Only six examples have been seen. These are a block of 4 and two singles.
2. A used block of 4 is the largest multiple seen.
3. A block 6 is the largest multiple seen.
4. Only two horizontal pairs, (formally a block of four), have been seen.
5. A block 4 is the largest multiple seen.
6. A R/H marginal block 6 is the largest multiple seen.
7. These stamps with overprint type E1, are exceedingly rare, and may be from residue of stamps of this reign used in the training school just prior to stamps of the new reign which are much more common with this overprint.

** Please refer to notes on imperforate stamps **

HIGH VALUES
1939 - 1951

The first set of King George VI high values , known as the 'arms' type , are known to exist with overprints from the schools.

Overprint group A type 1 unless otherwise stated.				
T	DESCRIPTION	M	U	NOTES
H8	2/6 BROWN	-	-	
H8a	O/P C 2	*		(3)
H9	2/6 GREEN	C		
H9a	O/P F 1		*	
H9b	O/P F 1A		*	
H9c	O/P F 2H	*		
H9d	O/P F 2V		*	
H10	5/- RED	2C		
H10a	O/P C 2	*		(3)
H10b	O/P F 2H	*		
H10c	O/P F 2V		*	
H11	10/- DARK BLUE	-	-	
H11a	O/P C 2	*		(3)
H12	10/- PALE BLUE	2C		
H12a	O/P A 1C	2C		(1)
H12b	O/P F 1B		*	
H12c	O/P F 2H	*		
H12d	O/P F 2V		*	
H13	£1 BROWN	4C		(2)
H13a	O/P A 1C	6C	5C	
H13b	O/P A 2	8C		
H13c	O/P F 2V		*	

1. A horizontal pair is the largest multiple seen.
2. The largest multiple seen is a LH corner pair.
3. Very few examples of this type of overprint have been seen.

1951 - 1955

In 1951 a new set of definitive high values was introduced. These high values seem to have been used quite frequently by the post office training school , and as such are far more common than the first set of this reign. This may be due to the increases in rates for parcel post , registration and charges for customs and postage due.

Overprint group A type 1 unless otherwise stated.				
T	DESCRIPTION	M	U	NOTES
H14	2/6 GREEN	2C	C	
H14a	O/P F 1		*	
H14b	O/P F 1A		*	
H14c	O/P F 1B		*	
H14d	O/P F 2H		*	
H14e	O/P F 2V		*	
H15	5/- RED	2C	C	
H15a	O/P F 1		*	
H15b	O/P F 1A		*	
H15c	O/P F 2H		*	
H15d	O/P F 2V		*	
H16	10/- BLUE		C	
H16a	O/P F 1		*	
H16b	O/P F 1A		*	
H16c	O/P F 2H		*	
H16d	O/P F 2V		*	
H17	£1 BROWN	5C	3C	
H17a	O/P F 1		*	
H17b	O/P F 1A		*	
H17c	O/P F 2H		*	
H17d	O/P F 2V		*	

COMMEMORATIVE STAMPS

All the commemorative stamps in this section are overprinted group A type 1 unless otherwise stated.

1937.

In 1937 a single commemorative stamp was issued for the coronation of King George VI and Queen Elizabeth. This was overprinted for use in the post office training school.

T	DESCRIPTION	M	U	NOTES
C14	1 1/2 BROWN		C	
C14a	O/P F 2H	*		
C14b	O/P F 2V	*		

1940.

In 1940 , to commemorate the centenary of the first postage stamp , the penny black , a set of six stamps was issued. These were again used in the training school.

T	DESCRIPTION	M	U	NOTES
C15	1/2 GREEN		C	
C15a	O/P F 2H	*		
C16	1 RED		C	
C16a	O/P F 2H	*		
C17	1 1/2 BROWN		2C	
C17a	O/P F 2H	*		
C18	2 ORANGE		4C	
C18a	O/P F 2H	*		
C19	2 1/2 BLUE		3C	
C19a	O/P F 2H	*		
C20	3 VIOLET		5C	
C20a	O/P F 2H	*		

1946.

After the end of the second world war , two stamps were issued to commemorate peace. These were overprinted for use in the training school.

T	DESCRIPTION	M	U	NOTES
C21	2 1/2 BLUE	C		
C21a	O/P F 2V	*		
C22	3 VIOLET	C		
C22a	O/P F 2V	*		

1948.

In 1948 two stamps were issued to commemorate the silver wedding of the King and Queen. This issue took the form of one low value and one high value stamp , the first time this had been done with a commemorative issue.

T	DESCRIPTION	M	U	NOTES
C23	2 1/2 BLUE	C		
C23a	O/P H 2 + F1	50C		
C24	£1 BLUE	50C		
C24a	O/P H 1 + F 1	40C		

1951.

The final commemorative set issued during the reign of King George VI was for the Festival of Britain in 1951. Once again both values were overprinted for use by the school.

T	DESCRIPTION	M	U	NOTES
C33	2 1/2 RED	C		
C33a	O/P F 2H		*	
C33b	O/P F 4V	*		
C34	4 BLUE	C		
C34a	O/P F 3H	*		

POSTAGE DUES
1937 - 1951.

After the abdication of King Edward VIII , the postage dues were reprinted on G VI R block watermarked paper.

Overprint group C type 3 unless otherwise stated.				
T	DESCRIPTION	M	U	NOTES
D26	1/2 GREEN	C		
D27	1 RED	C		
D28	2 AGATE	C		
D29	3 VIOLET	C		
D30	4 DULL GREY-GREEN	4C		
D31	5 YELLOW-BROWN	3C		
D32	1/- BLUE	3C		
D33	2/6 PURPLE / YELLOW	6C		

1951 - 1954.

In 1951 , as with the low value definitive postage stamps , the colours were changed. The watermark of the paper and the printers remained the same as for the previous set.

Overprint group C type 3 unless otherwise stated.				
T	DESCRIPTION	M	U	NOTES
D34	1/2 ORANGE	C		
D35	1 VIOLET-BLUE	C		
D36	1 1/2 GREEN	C		
D37	4 BLUE	4C		
D38	1/- ORCHE	3C		

QUEEN ELIZABETH II
LOW VALUE DEFINITIVES
1952 - 1955

When King George VI died , his daughter , Elizabeth , ascended the throne , and the new stamps were issued in 1953. The stamps were first introduced with the Tudor Crown watermark. As before , these stamps were overprinted for use within the training school.

Overprint group A type 1 unless otherwise stated.				
T	DESCRIPTION	M	U	NOTES
L70	1/2 ORANGE	C		(1)
L70a	O/P E1	10C		
L71	1 BLUE	2C		(1)
L71a	O/P E1	12C		
L72	1 1/2 GREEN	C		(1)
L72a	O/P E1	10C		
L73	2 BROWN	2C		(1)
L73a	O/P E1	12C		
L74	2 1/2 RED		2C	
L74a	O/P E1	12C		
L75	3 VIOLET	3C		
L75a	O/P E1	13C		
L76	4 BLUE	8C		
L76a	O/P E1	18C		
L77	5 BROWN	9C		
L77a	O/P E1	19C		
L78	6 PURPLE	6C		
L78a	O/P E1	16C		
L79	7 GREEN	35C		
L79a	O/P E1	140C		
L80	8 PINK	6C		
L80a	O/P E1	16C		
L81	9 GREEN	30C		
L81a	O/P E1	130C		
L82	10 BLUE	30C		
L82a	O/P E1	130C		
L83	11 PLUM	75C		
L83a	O/P E1	175C		
L84	1/- BISTRE	4C		
L84a	O/P E1	14C		
L85	1/3 GREEN		15C	
L85a	O/P E1	100C		
L86	1/6 BLUE	20C		
L86	O/P E1	120C		

1. The largest multiple seen is a block 4.

1955 - 1958

The watermark of the stamps was changed from Tudor Crown to Edward Crown. The stamps, overprinted and used by the training school, although looking the same as the previous issue can all be found overprinted on this watermarked paper.

Overprint group A type 1 unless otherwise stated.				
T	DESCRIPTION	M	U	NOTES
L87	1/2 ORANGE	C		
L87a	O/P E1	10C		
L88	1 BLUE	2C		
L88a	O/P E1	12C		
L89	1 1/2 GREEN	3C		
L89a	O/P E1	13C		
L90	2 BROWN	2C		
L90a	O/P E1	12C		
L91	2 1/2 RED	2C		(1)
L91a	O/P E1	12C		
L92	3 VIOLET	2C		(2)
L92a	O/P E1	12C		
L93	4 BLUE	4C		(3)
L93a	O/P E1	14C		
L94	5 BROWN	10C		(2)
L94a	O/P E1	100C		
L95	6 PURPLE	8C		(2)
L95a	O/P E1	18C		
L96	7 GREEN	10C		
L96a	O/P E1	110C		
L97	8 PINK	10C		(3)
L97a	O/P E1	100C		
L98	9 GREEN	15C		
L98a	O/P E1	155C		
L99	10 BLUE	15C		
L99a	O/P E1	150C		
L100	11 PLUM	10C		
L100a	O/P E1	180C		
L101	1/- BISTRE	4C		
L101a	O/P E1	14C		
L102	1/3 GREEN	10C		
L102a	O/P E1	100C		
L103	1/6 BLUE	10C		
L103a	O/P E1	100C		

1. A used horizontal strip 3 is the largest multiple seen.
2. A block 4 is the largest multiple seen.
3. A vertical pair is the largest multiple seen.

1958 - 1967

When the watermark was again changed from Edward Crown to Multiple Crowns , the stamps overprinted for the training school also appeared. With the introduction of this watermark the 11d value was discontinued , and a new value , the 4 1/2d was introduced.

Overprint group A type 1 unless otherwise stated.				
T	DESCRIPTION	M	U	NOTES
L104	1/2 ORANGE		C	
L104a	O/P E1		15C	
L105	1 BLUE		C	
L105a	O/P E1		10C	
L106	1 1/2 GREEN		C	
L106a	O/P 2		20C	
L106b	O/P E1		15C	
L107	2 BROWN		C	
L107a	O/P E1		10C	
L108	2 1/2 RED		C	
L108a	O/P E1		15C	
L109	3 VIOLET		C	
L109a	O/P 2		20C	
L109b	O/P E1		125C	
L110	4 BLUE		3C	
L110a	O/P E1		13C	
L111	4 1/2		2C	
L111a	O/P E1		15C	
L111b	O/P E 4		20C	
L112	5 BROWN		2C	
L112a	O/P E1		15C	
L113	6 DEEP CLARET		2C	
L113a	O/P E1		12C	
L114	7 GREEN		2C	
L114a	O/P E1		12C	
L115	8 PINK		2C	
L115a	O/P E1		15C	
L116	9 GREEN		2C	
L116a	O/P E1		12C	
L117	10 BLUE		3C	
L117a	O/P 2		20C	
L117b	O/P E1		15C	
L118	1/- BISTRE		3C	
L118a	O/P E1		15C	
L119	1/3 GREEN		3C	
L119a	O/P E1		15C	
L120	1/6 BLUE		5C	
L120a	O/P E 1		160C	

1960 - 1967

Stamps printed on multiple crown watermark paper with the addition of phosphor bands are also known to exist from the training school. All values have two phosphor bands unless otherwise stated.

Overprint group E type 1 unless otherwise stated.				
T	DESCRIPTION	M	U	NOTES
L121	1/2 ORANGE	2C		
L121a	WMK S/WAYS	8C		
L122	1 BLUE	2C		
L122a	WMK S/WAYS	11C		
L123	1 1/2 GREEN	2C		
L123a	WMK S/WAYS	10C		
L124	2 BROWN [1B]	*		
L125	2 BROWN	2C		
L125a	WMK S/WAYS	10C		
L125b	O/P E 4	15C		
L126	2 1/2 RED (TYPE II)	2C		
L127	2 1/2 RED (TYPE II) [LB]	3C		
L128	2 1/2 RED (TYPE I) [1B]	*		
L129	3 LILAC	C		
L129a	WMK S/WAYS	5C		
L130	3 LILAC [RB]	C		
L130a	WMK S/WAYS	5C		
L130b	WMK S/WAYS [CB]	5C		
L131	4 ULTRAMARINE	C		
L131	WMK S/WAYS	4C		
L132	4 1/2 CHESTNUT	2C		
L133	5 BROWN	3C		
L134	6 CLARET	4C		
L135	7 GREEN	5C		
L136	8 MAGENTA	5C		
L137	9 BRONZE-GREEN	C		
L138	10 BLUE	5C		
L139	1/- BISTRE	5C		
L140	1/3 GREEN	8C		
L141	1/6 BLUE	8C		

1968 - 1972

Stamps of a new design were introduced in 1968 , and were soon followed by stamps overprinted for use within the training school.

Overprint group A type 2 unless otherwise stated.				
T	DESCRIPTION	M	U	NOTES
L142	1/2 ORANGE [2B]	C		
L142a	O/P B1 [2B]			
L142b	O/P D1 [2B]		C	
L142c	O/P E1 [2B]	*		(5)
L143	1 OLIVE [2B]	C		
L143a	O/P D1 [2B]		C	
L143b	O/P B1 [2B]			
L143c	O/P E1 [2B]	3C		
L144	2 BROWN [2B]	C		
L144a	O/P B1 [2B]			
L144b	O/P D1 [2B]		C	
L144c	O/P E1 [2B]	3C		
L145	3 VIOLET [CB]	C		
L145a	O/P B1 [2B]			
L145b	O/P D1 [2B]		C	
L145c	O/P E1 [CB]	5C		(4)
L145d	O/P E1 [2B]	5C		
L146	4 OLIVE BROWN [2B]	C		
L146a	O/P A1 [CB]	5C		
L146b	O/P B1 [2B]			
L146c	O/P B1 [CB]			(6) (7)
L146d	O/P D1 [2B]		C	
L146e	O/P E1 [2B]	5C		
L146f	O/P E1 [CB]	5C		
L147	5 BLUE [2B]	C		
L147a	O/P B1 [2B]		C	
L147b	O/P D1 [2B]		C	
L147c	O/P E1 [2B]	5C		
L148	6 PURPLE [2B]	2C		
L148a	O/P B1 [2B]			
L148b	O/P E1 [2B]	3C		
L149	7 EMERALD [2B]	3C		
L149a	O/P B1 [2B]			
L149b	O/P E1 [2B]	3C		
L150	8 VERMILION [2B]	3C		
L150a	O/P A1 [2B]	*		
L150b	O/P B1 [2B]			
L150c	O/P E1 [2B]	4C		

Overprint group A type 2 unless otherwise stated.				
T	DESCRIPTION	M	U	NOTES
L151	9 GREEN [2B]	4C		
L151a	O/P A1 [2B]	*		
L151b	O/P B1 [2B]			
L151c	O/P D1 [2B]		C	
L151d	O/P E1 [2B]	5C		
L152	10 DRAB [2B]	5C		
L152a	O/P A1 [2B]	*		(1)
L152b	O/P B1 [2B]			
L152c	O/P D1 [2B]		C	
L152d	O/P E1 [2B]	6C		
L153	1/- VIOLET [2B]	3C		
L153a	O/P B1 [2B]	*		(3)
L153b	O/P D1 [2B]		C	
L153c	O/P E1 [2B]	6C		
L154	1/6 BLUE [2B]	3C		
L154a	O/P B1 [2B]			
L154b	O/P E1 [2B]	8C		
L155	1/9 OR/BLACK [2B]	3C		
L155a	O/P B1 [2B]			
L155b	O/P D1 [2B]		C	
L155c	O/P E1 [2B]	8C		

CHANGED COLOURS.

L156	4 VERMILION [CB]	C		
L156a	O/P B1 [CB]	C		
L156b	O/P E1 [CB]	5C		
L157	8 BLUE [2B]	5C		
L157a	O/P A1 [2B]	*		(2)
L157b	O/P B1 [2B]	C		
L157c	O/P E1 [2B]	3C		

1. A bottom L/H corner (used) block 12 is known to exist.
2. A used block 6 is the largest known multiple.
3. An irregular used block 20 is known to exist.
4. A R/H marginal block of 6 is known.
5. A R/H corner marginal block 24 is known.
6. A cyl blk 9 - cyl 14 dot is known to exist.
7. A cyl blk 9 - cyl 14 no dot is known to exist.

L156b is known as a horizontal pair with the overprint applied across the two stamps.

LOW VALUE DEFINITIVE LABELS

1971

In 1971 , when Britain changed to decimal currency , the stamps were also due to change. With this in mind the training school prepared labels in the colours of the proposed stamps that would be used initially. These labels , produced in sheets of 200 , were distributed to post offices to familiarise all staff on the new stamps which would be coming into use. The format of the stamp was a coloured tablet with the value left in white in the centre.

T	DESCRIPTION	M	U	NOTES
L158	2 GREEN	C	-	(1)
L159	2 1/2 PINK	C	-	
L160	3 BLUE	C	-	
L161	3 1/2 DRAB GREEN	C	-	
L162	4 BISTRE	C	-	

1. A block 49 from the top R/H corner of the sheet is the largest seen.

It has been reported that all values exist in full sheets, although these have not been seen and confirmed at this time.

*These labels were used to make staff aware of future issues.
They are not likely to exist used.*

HIGH VALUE DEFINITIVES

1955 - 1959

A new design of high values was introduced with the start of the new reign. These were printed on Edward Crown watermark paper by Waterlow and Sons Ltd.

Overprint group A type 1 unless otherwise stated.				
T	DESCRIPTION	M	U	NOTES
H18	2/6 BROWN	C		
H18a	O/P F 1A		*	
H18b	O/P F 1A + H 2		*	
H19	5/- RED	2C		
H19a	O/P F 1A + H 2		*	
H20	10/- BLUE	5C		
H20a	O/P F 1A + H 2		*	
H21	£1 BLACK		20C	(1)
H21a	O/P F 1A + H 2		*	

1. The £1 is printed on cream toned paper and to date only 3 copies have been seen.

1957 - 1959

In 1957 , the contract for the printing of the high values changed. The new printer was De La Rue & Co. Ltd.

Overprint group A type 1 unless otherwise stated.				
T	DESCRIPTION	M	U	NOTES
H22	2/6 BROWN	C		
H22a	O/P E1	4C		
H23	5/- RED		3C	
H24	10/- BLUE		7C	
H25	£1 BLACK		11C	

1959 - 1967

In 1959 the paper for the printing of these stamps was changed from Edward Crown to Multiple Crowns watermark. The same printers as for the previous set were still responsible for the printing.

Overprint group A type 1 unless otherwise stated.				
T	DESCRIPTION	M	U	NOTES
H26	2/6 BROWN	C		
H26a	O/P E1	4C		
H27	5/- RED		3C	
H28	10/- BLUE		4C	
H29	£1 BLACK		5C	

1962 - 1967

In 1962 the printing contract was again changed from De La Rue & Co. to Bradbury Wilkinson Ltd. The watermark of the paper remained the same.

Overprint group A type 1 unless otherwise stated.				
T	DESCRIPTION	M	U	NOTES
H30	2/6 BROWN		C	
H31	5/- RED	2C		
H32	10/- BLUE		5C	
H33	£1 BLACK		5C	

1967 - 1969

In 1967 a new paper type was used for the printing of the castle high values. This time there was no watermark. The contract for the printing of these values remained with the same printer as had been used for the 1962 - 1967 printing, Bradbury Wilkinson.

Overprint group A type 1 unless otherwise stated.				
T	DESCRIPTION	M	U	NOTES
H34	2/6 BROWN	C		
H34a	O/P A 2A		3C	
H34b	O/P E 2	9C		
H43c	O/P E 1B	10C		
H34d	O/P E 1		9C	
H34e	O/P E 3	8C		
H35	5/- RED	3C		
H35a	O/P A 2A		7C	
H35b	O/P E 2		10C	
H35c	O/P E 1		10C	
H35d	O/P E 1B	10C		
H35e	O/P E 3	8C		
H36	10/- BLUE		4C	
H36a	O/P A 2A	9C		
H36b	O/P E 2	10C		
H36c	O/P E 1		10C	
H36d	O/P E 1B	10C		
H36e	O/P E 3	8C		
H37	£1 BLACK		8C	
H37a	O/P A 2A		19C	
H37b	O/P E 2		20C	
H37c	O/P E 1B	10C		
H37d	O/P E 3	8C		

1968 - 1972

As with the low values, in 1968 a new series of high values was introduced.

Overprint group A type 1C unless otherwise stated.				
T	DESCRIPTION	M	U	NOTES
H38	2/6 BROWN	8C	4C	
H38a	O/P 2B	7C		
H38b	O/P C 1		30C	
H38c	O/P E1	*		
H39	5/- CRIMSON		C	
H39a	O/P 2B	16C		
H40	10 /- ULTRAMARINE		10C	
H40a	O/P 2B	17C		
H41	£1 BLUISH BLACK		7C	
H41a	O/P 2B	24C		
H41b	O/P C 1		24C	

All of the following commemorative issues are overprinted from group A type 1 unless otherwise stated.

1953.

Coronation.

T	DESCRIPTION	M	U	NOTES
C35	2 1/2 RED	C		
C36	4 BLUE	C		
C37	1/3 GREEN	C		
C38	1/6 BLUE	C		

1957.

World scout jubilee jamboree.

T	DESCRIPTION	M	U	NOTES
C39	2 1/2 RED	C		
C40	4 BLUE	C		
C41	1/3 GREEN	C		

1957.

46th inter-parliamentary union conference.

T	DESCRIPTION	M	U	NOTES
C42	4 BLUE		C	

1958.

6th British and commonwealth games - Cardiff.

T	DESCRIPTION	M	U	NOTES
C43	3 LILAC		C	
C44	6 PURPLE		C	
C45	1/3 GREEN		C	

1960.

Tercentenary of the establishment of the general letter office.

T	DESCRIPTION	M	U	NOTES
C46	3 LILAC		C	
C47	1/3 GREEN		C	

1960.

First anniversary of the European postal and telecommunications conference.

T	DESCRIPTION	M	U	NOTES
C48	6 GREEN AND PURPLE		C	
C49	1/6 BROWN AND BLUE		C	

1961.

Centenary of the post office savings bank.

T	DESCRIPTION	M	U	NOTES
C50	2 1/2 BLACK AND RED		C	
C51	3 BROWN AND VIOLET		C	
C52	1/6 RED AND BLUE		C	

1961.
European postal and telecommunications conference - Torquay.
C.E.P.T.

T	DESCRIPTION	M	U	NOTES
C53	2 ORANGE, PINK AND BROWN	C		
C54	4 BUFF, VIOLET AND BLUE	C		
C55	10 BLUE, GRN AND P/BLUE	C		

1961.
7th commonwealth parliamentary conference.

T	DESCRIPTION	M	U	NOTES
C56	6 PURPLE AND GOLD	C		
C57	1/3 GREEN AND BLUE	C		

1962.
National productivity year.

T	DESCRIPTION	M	U	NOTES
C58	2 1/2 GREEN AND RED		C	
C59	3 BLUE AND VIOLET		C	
C60	1/3 CARMINE , BLUE AND GREEN		C	

1963.
Freedom from hunger.

T	DESCRIPTION	M	U	NOTES
C61	2 1/2 CRIMSON AND PINK	C		
C62	1/3 BISTRE AND YELLOW	C		

1963.
Paris postal conference centenary.

T	DESCRIPTION	M	U	NOTES
C63	6 GREEN AND MAUVE	C		

1963.

National nature week.

T	DESCRIPTION	M	U	NOTES
C64	3 Multi - coloured		C	
C65	4 1/2 Multi - coloured		C	

1963.

9th international lifeboat conference - Edinburgh.

T	DESCRIPTION	M	U	NOTES
C66	2 1/2 Multi - coloured		C	
C67	4 Multi - coloured		C	
C68	1/6 Multi - coloured		C	

1963.

Red cross centenary congress.

T	DESCRIPTION	M	U	NOTES
C69	3 RED AND LILAC		C	
C70	1/3 RED , BLUE AND GREY		C	
C71	1/6 RED , BLUE AND BISTRE		C	

1963.

Opening of COMPAC.
Trans-pacific telephone cable.

T	DESCRIPTION	M	U	NOTES
C72	1/6 BLUE AND BLACK		C	

1964.

Shakespeare festival.

T	DESCRIPTION	M	U	NOTES
C73	3 Multi - coloured		C	
C74	6 Multi - coloured		C	
C75	1/3 Multi - coloured		C	
C76	1/6 Multi - coloured		C	
C77	2/6 SLATE-PURPLE		C	

1964.
20th international geographical congress.

T	DESCRIPTION	M	U	NOTES
C78	2 1/2 Multi - coloured			C
C79	4 Multi - coloured			C
C80	8 Multi - coloured			C
C81	1/6 Multi - coloured			C

1964.
10th international botanical congress , Edinburgh.

T	DESCRIPTION	M	U	NOTES
C82	3 Multi - coloured			C
C83	6 Multi - coloured			C
C84	9 Multi - coloured			C
C85	1/3 Multi - coloured			C

1964.
Opening of the Forth road bridge.

T	DESCRIPTION	M	U	NOTES
C86	3 Multi - coloured			C
C87	6 Multi - coloured			C

1965.
Churchill commemoration

T	DESCRIPTION	M	U	NOTES
C88	4 BLACK AND OLIVE BROWN			C
C89	1/3 BLACK AND GREY			C

1965.
700th anniversary of Simon de Montfort's parliament.

T	DESCRIPTION	M	U	NOTES
C90	6 OLIVE GREEN			C
C91	2/6 BLACK , GREY AND DRAB			C

1965.
Salvation army centenary.

T	DESCRIPTION	M	U	NOTES
C92	3 Multi - coloured		C	
C93	1/6 Multi - coloured		C	

1965.
Centenary of Joseph Lister's discovery of antiseptic.

T	DESCRIPTION	M	U	NOTES
C94	4 INDIGO , BROWN AND BLACK		C	
C95	1/- BLACK , PURPLE AND BLUE		C	

1965.
Commonwealth arts festival.

T	DESCRIPTION	M	U	NOTES
C96	6 BLACK AND ORANGE		C	
C97	1/6 BLACK AND VIOLET		C	

1965.
25th anniversary of the battle of Britain.

T	DESCRIPTION	M	U	NOTES
C98	4 OLIVE AND BLACK		C	
C99	4 OLIVE, GRY AND BLACK		C	
C100	4 RED, BLUE, OLIVE, GRY AND BLK		C	
C101	4 OLIVE, GREY AND BLACK		C	
C102	4 OLIVE, GREY AND BLACK		C	
C103	4 OLIVE, GREY , BLUE AND BLACK		C	
C104	9 VIOLET, ORANGE AND SLATE		C	
C105	1/3 GREY, BLACK AND BLUE		C	

1965.
Opening of the Post Office tower.

T	DESCRIPTION	M	U	NOTES
C106	3 YELLOW , BL AND GREEN		C	
C107	1/3 GREEN AND BLUE		C	

1965.
20th anniversary of U.N.O. and international co-operation.

T	DESCRIPTION	M	U	NOTES
C108	3 BLACK , ORANGE AND BLUE			C
C109	1/6 BLACK , PURPLE AND BLUE			C

1965.
International telecommunications union centenary.

T	DESCRIPTION	M	U	NOTES
C110	9 Multi - coloured			C
C111	1/6 Multi - coloured			C

1966.
Burns commemoration.

T	DESCRIPTION	M	U	NOTES
C112	4 BLACK AND BLUE			C
C113	1/3 BLK, BLUE AND ORANGE			C

1966.
900th anniversary of Westminster Abbey.

T	DESCRIPTION	M	U	NOTES
C114	3 BLACK , BROWN AND BLUE			C
C115	2/6 BLACK			C

1966.
Landscapes.

T	DESCRIPTION	M	U	NOTES
C116	4 BLACK, GREEN AND BLUE			C
C117	6 BLACK, GREEN AND BLUE			C
C118	1/3 BLK, YELLOW AND BLUE			C
C119	1/6 BLK, ORANGE AND BLUE			C

1966.
World cup football competition.

T	DESCRIPTION	M	U	NOTES
C120	4 Multi - coloured			
C121	6 Multi - coloured			
C122	1/3 Multi - coloured			

1966.
British birds.

T	DESCRIPTION	M	U	NOTES
C123	4 Multi - coloured	C		
C124	4 Multi - coloured	C		
C125	4 Multi - coloured	C		
C126	4 Multi - coloured	C		

1966.
England's world cup football victory.

T	DESCRIPTION	M	U	NOTES
C127	4 Multi - coloured	C		

1966.
British technology.

T	DESCRIPTION	M	U	NOTES
C128	4 BLACK AND LEMON		C	
C129	6 RED , BLUE AND ORANGE		C	
C130	1/3 BLACK , RED , SLATE AND BLUE		C	
C131	1/6 BLACK , GREEN AND BLUE		C	

1966.
900th anniversary of the battle of Hastings.

T	DESCRIPTION	M	U	NOTES
C132	4 Multi - coloured		C	
C133	4 Multi - coloured		C	
C134	4 Multi - coloured		C	
C135	4 Multi - coloured		C	
C136	4 Multi - coloured		C	
C137	4 Multi - coloured		C	
C138	6 Multi - coloured		C	
C139	1/3 Multi - coloured		C	

1966.
Christmas.

T	DESCRIPTION	M	U	NOTES
C140	3 Multi - coloured		C	
C141	1/6 Multi - coloured		C	

1967.
European free trade association. (E.F.T.A.).

T	DESCRIPTION	M	U	NOTES
C142	9 Multi - coloured		C	
C143	1/6 Multi - coloured		C	

1967.
British wild flowers.

T	DESCRIPTION	M	U	NOTES
C144	4 Multi - coloured		C	
C145	4 Multi - coloured		C	
C146	4 Multi - coloured		C	
C147	4 Multi - coloured		C	
C148	9 Multi - coloured		C	
C149	1/9 Multi - coloured		C	

1967.
British paintings.

T	DESCRIPTION	M	U	NOTES
C150	4 Multi - coloured		C	
C151	9 Multi - coloured		C	
C152	1/6 Multi - coloured		C	

1967.
Sir Francis Chichester's world voyage.

T	DESCRIPTION	M	U	NOTES
C153	1/9 BLK, RED, GREEN AND BLUE		C	

1967.
British discovery and invention.

T	DESCRIPTION	M	U	NOTES
C154	4 YELLOW , BLACK AND RED		C	
C155	1/- GREEN , BLUE AND PURPLE		C	
C156	1/6 BLK, GRY, OCHRE AND BLUE		C	
C157	1/9 BLK, BLUE, GRY AND ORANGE		C	

1967.
Christmas.

T	DESCRIPTION	M	U	NOTES
C158	3 Multi - coloured		C	
C159	4 Multi - coloured		C	
C160	1/6 Multi - coloured		C	

1968.
British bridges.

T	DESCRIPTION	M	U	NOTES
C161	4 Multi - coloured		C	
C162	9 Multi - coloured		C	
C163	1/6 Multi - coloured		C	
C164	1/9 Multi - coloured		C	

1968.
British anniversaries.

T	DESCRIPTION	M	U	NOTES
C165	4 GREEN, OLIVE, BLUE AND BLK			C
C166	9 VIOLET , GREY AND BLACK			C
C167	1/- BROWN, BLUE, RED AND BLK			C
C168	1/9 OCHRE AND BROWN			C

1968.
British paintings.

T	DESCRIPTION	M	U	NOTES
C169	4 Multi - coloured			C
C170	1/- Multi - coloured			C
C171	1/6 Multi - coloured			C
C172	1/9 Multi - coloured			C

1968.
Christmas.

T	DESCRIPTION	M	U	NOTES
C173	4 Multi - coloured			C
C174	9 Multi - coloured			C
C175	1/6 Multi - coloured			C

1969.
British ships.

T	DESCRIPTION	M	U	NOTES
C176	5 BLK, GREY, RED AND BLUE			C
C177	9 Multi - coloured			C
C178	9 Multi - coloured			C
C179	9 Multi - coloured			C
C180	1/- Multi - coloured			C
C181	1/- Multi - coloured			C

1969.
First flight of concord.

T	DESCRIPTION	M	U	NOTES
C182	4 Multi - coloured		C	
C183	9 Multi - coloured		C	
C184	1/6 Multi - coloured		C	

1969.
Anniversaries.

T	DESCRIPTION	M	U	NOTES
C185	5 BLACK, GREEN AND BLUE		C	
C186	9 BLACK, GREEN AND BLUE		C	
C187	1/- PURPLE, BLUE AND LILAC		C	
C188	1/6 RED, BLUE, GRN, BLK AND LEMON		C	
C189	1/9 OLIVE, YELLOW AND GREEN		C	

1969.
British architecture.

T	DESCRIPTION	M	U	NOTES
C190	5 Multi - coloured		C	
C191	5 Multi - coloured		C	
C192	5 Multi - coloured		C	
C193	5 Multi - coloured		C	
C194	9 Multi - coloured		C	
C195	1/6 Multi - coloured		C	

1969.
Investiture of HRH the prince of Wales.

T	DESCRIPTION	M	U	NOTES
C196	5 Multi - coloured		C	
C197	5 Multi - coloured		C	
C198	5 Multi - coloured		C	
C199	9 GREY , BLACK AND GOLD		C	
C200	1/- OLIVE AND GOLD		C	

1969.
Ghandi centenary year.

T	DESCRIPTION	M	U	NOTES
C201	1/6 BLK, GREEN, ORANGE AND GRY	C		

1969.
Post office technology commemoration.

T	DESCRIPTION	M	U	NOTES
C202	5 Multi - coloured	C		
C203	9 Multi - coloured	C		
C204	1/- Multi - coloured	C		
C205	1/6 Multi - coloured	C		

1969.
Christmas.

T	DESCRIPTION	M	U	NOTES
C206	4 Multi - coloured	C		
C207	5 Multi - coloured	C		
C208	1/6 Multi - coloured	C		

1970.
British rural architecture.

T	DESCRIPTION	M	U	NOTES
C209	5 Multi - coloured	C		
C210	9 Multi - coloured	C		
C211	1/- Multi - coloured	C		
C212	1/6 Multi - coloured	C		

1970.
Anniversaries.

T	DESCRIPTION	M	U	NOTES
C213	5 Multi - coloured	C		
C214	9 Multi - coloured	C		
C215	1/- Multi - coloured	C		
C216	1/6 Multi - coloured	C		
C217	1/9 Multi - coloured	C		

1970.
Literary anniversaries.

T	DESCRIPTION	M	U	NOTES
C218	5 Multi - coloured		C	
C219	5 Multi - coloured		C	
C220	5 Multi - coloured		C	
C221	5 Multi - coloured		C	
C222	1/6 Multi - coloured		C	

1970.
9th British commonwealth games.

T	DESCRIPTION	M	U	NOTES
C223	5 Multi - coloured		C	
C224	1/6 Multi - coloured		C	
C225	1/9 Multi - coloured		C	

1970.
Philympia 1970 stamp exhibition.

T	DESCRIPTION	M	U	NOTES
C226	5 BLACK, BISTRE AND PURPLE		C	
C227	9 DRAB, GREEN, BLK AND PURPLE		C	
C228	1/6 RED, DRAB, BLK AND PURPLE		C	

1970.
Christmas.

T	DESCRIPTION	M	U	NOTES
C229	4 Multi - coloured		C	
C230	5 Multi - coloured		C	
C231	1/6 Multi - coloured		C	

POSTAGE DUES
1954 - 1955

In 1954 the watermark was changed to Tudor crowns.

Overprint group C type 3 unless otherwise stated.				
T	DESCRIPTION	M	U	NOTES
	D39 1/2 ORANGE	C		
	D40 2 AGATE	C		
	D41 3 VIOLET	C		
	D42 4 BLUE	3C		
	D43 5 BROWN	3C		
	D44 2/6 PURPLE ON YELLOW	3C		

1955 - 1959

In 1955 the watermark was again changed to St. Edward's crown.

Overprint group C type 3 unless otherwise stated.				
T	DESCRIPTION	M	U	NOTES
	D45 1/2 ORANGE	C		
	D46 1 BLUE	C		
	D47 1 1/2 GREEN	C		
	D48 2 AGATE	C		
	D49 3 VIOLET	C		
	D50 4 BLUE	C		
	D51 5 BROWN	3C		
	D52 1/- OCHRE	3C		
	D53 2/6 PURPLE ON YELLOW	5C		
	D54 5/- RED ON YELLOW	5C		

1959 - 1968

In 1959 the watermark was again changed to multiple crowns.

Overprint group C type 3 unless otherwise stated.				
T	DESCRIPTION	M	U	NOTES
D55	1/2 ORANGE		C	
D56	1 BLUE		C	
D57	1 1/2 GREEN		C	
D58	2 AGATE		C	
D59	3 VIOLET		C	
D60	4 BLUE		C	
D61	5 BROWN		3C	
D62	6 PURPLE		3C	
D63	1/- OCHRE		3C	
D64	2/6 PURPLE ON YELLOW		5C	
D65	5/- RED ON YELLOW		5C	
D66	10/- BLUE ON YELLOW		5C	
D67	£1 BLACK ON YELLOW		5C	

1968 - 1969

In 1968 the labels were printed on paper with no watermark. All values are typograph unless otherwise stated.

Overprint group C type 3 unless otherwise stated.				
T	DESCRIPTION	M	U	NOTES
D68	2 AGATE		C	
D69	3 VIOLET		C	
D70	4 BLUE		C	
D71	4 BLUE photogravure printing		2C	
D72	5 BROWN		3C	
D73	6 PURPLE		3C	
D74	8 RED photogravure printing		3C	
D75	1/- OCHRE		5C	

Training school related material

This section deals with material which is associated with the training school, but which does not fall under the headings of postage stamps, (low and high value definitives, commemoratives and postage dues). It is in this section that we will deal with items such as bank notes, postal orders, savings stamps for car tax, telephones and the cards they are used on, along with other items used in the school. Most items have been given a 'C' rating, as most items in a section are as rare as any others in the section, however it must be noted that all are rare and in some cases there may only be a few examples available on the open market at the present time.

The numbering of this section follows the same system as used in the rest of this work and you are advised to see section one, with reference to the section on pricing / numbering.

Bank notes

To allow the training in the schools to represent as closely as possible the working situation of an actual post office, bank notes were produced for use in the classes. It is suspected that these were in use at the counter training school and that they date from circa 1965. It may be however that these notes were only used in certain areas and that the other areas made use of items from sources such as children's toys.

T	DESCRIPTION	M	U	NOTES
B1	£1 GREEN			C
B1a	Var. number on face side			2C
B2	£5 BLUE			C
B2a	Var. number on face side			2C
B2b	£5 INDIGO			2C
B3	£10 RED BROWN			C

Descriptive notes :-

B1 Face

This has the wording G.P.O. TRAINING CENTRE on the left in white lettering on a green background, with Representing £1 on the right. The value is repeated in the centre in words. At the base is a rectangular box with the wording 'FOR TRAINING PURPOSES ONLY' in green.

Reverse

This has the wording 'FOR TRAINING PURPOSES ONLY' printed twice, the value £1 is then in white within solid green circles on the left and right hand sides with the line of text repeated again below. Below this on the left is the serial number M115 and in some cases SR/45590X10/71 20m. Examples with the serial number printed on the face side as well as the reverse are also known and these are scarcer than the standard notes.

B2 Face

The shows a representation of the helmeted head of Britannia on a white background within an elongated oval vertically on the left hand side. The centre is a blue horizontal lined background with white tablets and the wording 'REPRESENTING FIVE POUNDS' and 'FOR TRAINING PURPOSES ONLY' at the base. Also in the centre is a stylised '£5' within a dark blue border.

Reverse

A stylised frame with diagonal lines as a background has a white circle on the left hand side with a lion rampant to the right. This has superimposed on to it the wording 'FOR TRAINING PURPOSES ONLY' in the main colour. The top right hand corner shows a stylised '£5', also in the main colour. The bottom left hand corner has the serial number 'M. 121' and 'SR/41833' or 'SR/45772' in two lines. The second part of the serial number with additions is known printed on the face of the note and these are rarer than the standard issue. The serial number on the front of the note is 'SR/41833Z9/70 14m. This note, in indigo, is known with the serial number 'M. 121' on the reverse and 'R8189Z61' on the face.

B3 Face

This is the same basic design as the £5, with the exception of having the stylised £10 in the centre contained within a white oval and '10' within a white circle in the top right hand corner.

Reverse

This is identical to the £5 note with just the figures for the value and the colour changed.

The only other difference between the £5 and £10 notes is the addition of the printing 'TEN 10 TEN 10' repeated along the base of the £10 note on both the face and reverse sides. No serial numbers have been noted on this note.

Savings

This section will cover many sub sections, but in all cases the material noted will be related to stamps which would normally be purchased over the counter to save for larger sums to pay for services, licences or purely for savings for the future.

Post office savings stamps

These stamps were used to accumulate larger sums to either put into an account, or to purchase savings bonds.

Overprint group E type 5 unless otherwise stated.				
T	DESCRIPTION	M	U	NOTES
S1	2/6 RED	5C		
S2	5/- GREEN	C		

Notes :-

S1 This shows a hand holding a flaming crucifix with a white panel at the base covering one third of the stamp. This contains the wording 'NATIONAL SAVINGS 2/6' in red.

S2 This has 5/- in the top corners, with a central laurel wreath and a crown on top, in white on a green background. The words 'NATIONAL SAVINGS' is in two lines on the centre of the wreath.

Overprint group D type 1 unless otherwise stated.				
T	DESCRIPTION	M	U	NOTES
S3	2/- RED, BLACK + BLUE	C		

Notes :-

S3 This shows a flying union flag with 2/- below its' lower right hand corner. The wording 'SAVE FOR' and 'BRITAIN' are in black above and below the flag. 'NATIONAL SAVINGS' is in white on a blue background along the base.

Overprint group C type 2 unless otherwise stated.				
T	DESCRIPTION	M	U	NOTES
S4	6 BROWN + GREEN	3C		
S5	2/6 BLUE, BROWN + RED	C		

Notes :-

S4 A picture of Princess Anne within a brown circle with a green frame.

S5 A picture of Prince Charles in brown on a square blue background.

Savings bank accounts

An accounts is one form of continued savings that smaller sums, either in cash, or as an accumulation of national savings stamps could contribute to.

T	DESCRIPTION	M	U	NOTES
S6	Instruction sheet	C		
S7	Course material		3C	

Notes :-

S6 Part of a page from a manual showing transaction procedure for savings bank deposit and withdrawal.

S7 Part receipt from a withdrawal warrant with postage stamps attached as receipt stamps and cancelled with a training school hand stamp. The stamps known to have been used as receipts are from the machin definitive series of 1968, with group A, type overprint.

Premium Savings Bonds

These items represent one of the services that savings stamps could be used to purchase. The idea of the premium savings bond was basic saving, with no interest, the incentive being in the form of a monthly prize draw.

Overprint group K type 1 unless otherwise stated.				
T	DESCRIPTION	M	U	NOTES
S8	£1 PINK + BLACK		C	
S9	£5 BLUE + BLACK			
S10	Form PB 24	3C		

Notes :-

S8 A bond document with security printing, serial numbers and value. There are two variations known, simulated issued via post office or bank. These have been seen from the Essex and London areas.

S9 Little is known of this item, except that it has been offered in auction with a very limited description.

S10 A standard departmental letter form sent with the actual bonds to the customer who had purchased them at either a post office or bank. This would indicate that this item came via specialist training for issuing these bonds

Overprints :-

The overprint is applied twice on the £1 bonds and once diagonally at the base of the form. The overprint on the £5 is as yet unknown. It is particularly noticeable that this overprint is in royal blue rather than the black commonly used for overprinting.

Postal Stationary

Several forms of postal stationary have been seen used by the training schools. This would include different types of printing, embossed and surface printed, and for use by varying services, postal and registration.

Embossed postal stationary.

Overprint group E type 6 unless otherwise stated.				
T	DESCRIPTION	M	U	NOTES
P1	2 1/2 RED	2C		
P2	3 VIOLET	C		
P3	4 OLIVE BROWN	-	-	
P3a	O/P E 1A		3C	

Notes :-

All the above, that have been seen, have some form of additional postage added to them, either printed or by adding low value definitive stamps. The low value definitives are all overprinted from group A, type 1. It may be that the embossed covers are old stock issued to training schools and the additions made to increase the postal rates to those in effect at the time.

P1 This has been seen with an additional 1/2 orange.

P2 This has been seen with an additional 1 blue and also a separate piece with a pair of 1/2 orange.

P3a This has been seen with a printed one penny postage extra, in circle.

Embossed registration stationary

These items are all from registered envelopes. The embossed stamp therefore contains different wording to that of the postage embossed. It states value, registration and in some cases also postage.

Overprint group E type 6 unless otherwise stated.				
T	DESCRIPTION	M	U	NOTES
P4	6 ROSE	5C		
P5	3/4 GREY	10C		

Surface printed postal stationary

Overprint group E type 7 unless otherwise stated.				
T	DESCRIPTION	M	U	NOTES
P6	4 OLIVE BROWN		C	

Notes :-

P6 This item has only been seen on a letter card.

<h2>Possible gifts to guests</h2>

There are pairs of covers known to exist that fall within the group of embossed postal stationary. One of the covers, in the pairs, has on it a full set of low value definitives of the 1955 - 1958 issue, all overprinted with group A, type 1. The other cover, has a set of the 1955 - 1958 high values, also overprinted group A, type 1, but with the addition of a 'CANCELLED' hand stamp. The embossed stamp is overprinted group E, type 7, on both covers.

T	DESCRIPTION	M	U	NOTES
P7	3 VIOLET + low values		C	
P8	3 VIOLET + high values		C	

Notes :-

These covers have part of the overprint on the embossed stamp, or part of the hand stamp, blanked out. It is believed that these were prepared as gifts for special visitors to a training school, which did not want to be identified. This may have been due to the fact that removal of training items from the school was against post office regulations.

Microfilm

During the second world war the armed forces and the post office encountered major problems caused by the number of letters that had to be transmitted around the world. Many nations decided that an efficient way of doing this was to reduce the size of the message in the letter, and thus transport more in the space available. The space available at this time was mainly in aircraft flying from one destination to another.

It was decided that a special type of service was required, this was called V-MAIL, and was in the form of messages reduced by the photographic process. There are in existence pieces of photographic film produced in the same way as the original film used for this mail, which is called microfilm, for use by the training school. This microfilm, is in fact 9mm cini-film, which is used with single frame exposure for each message.

The film pieces used by the training school have information on them to allow the operatives reprinting them, back to original size, to allow for different images caused by methods of writing on the original. They also have the word 'SAMPLE' in the exposure, along with a note, in small type at the bottom, which states 'For use by the Post Office Training School.'

Overprint group L type 1 unless otherwise stated.				
T	DESCRIPTION	M	U	NOTES
M1	9mm MICROFILM		C	
M2	PRINT FROM MICROFILM		C	
M3	V-MAIL FORM			

Notes :-

M2 This is the reproduced message from the film on photographic paper. The known examples measure 100 mm x 130 mm.

M3 The original V-MAIL form used to make the film. This must have existed but no copies have been seen. From the reproduced prints, it would seem that M2 is a quarter the size of the original form. This would make the 'SAMPLE' hand stamp on the original 20 mm x 80mm, and this was probably applied in black. The form also had two bars, vertically, which would have been 30 mm apart on the original form. This, it is suspected was applied in red, the original colour of the form. The bars overprint is not listed as a separate type as the details have not been confirmed.

Fiscals

Over the years the post office counter school has taken on more and more revenue tasks for the government. Many of these transactions need the use of varying types of revenue stamps. These revenue stamps can be found overprinted for use in the post office training school. The main government departments are customs and excise, national insurance and transport. Customs and excise and national insurance come within the scope of this volume. Transport, in the form of road tax, came into use at a later date.

Circa 1937 - 1971

Customs and Excise

Overprint group A type 1 unless otherwise stated.				
T	DESCRIPTION	M	U	NOTES
FE1	1/2 GREEN			
FE2	1 RED		C	
FE3	1 1/2 BROWN			
FE4	2 ORANGE			
FE5	2 1/2 BLUE			
FE6	3 LILAC			
FE6	4 GREY		C	

National insurance

At present, four separate issues of national insurance stamps have been identified. Not all of the values within any issue have been seen. This would probably be due to courses coinciding with the use of specific values.

The first series, dates from the later part of the King George V reign, and are single coloured with the value tablet shaded. The second series, which is the same basic design, but from the reign of King George VI, show the value in an un shaded tablet. The third series, also from the reign of King George VI, is again the same design, but the value is printed in a second colour. It is suspected that these date from the later part of the reign, just prior to Queen Elizabeth. The final series, from the reign of Queen Elizabeth, are of a different design, with the value tablet being a central, un shaded diamond. The value again, is printed in a second colour.

It is intended, in the listing of the two coloured stamps, to list the stamp colour first, with the value colour following.

Overprint group C type 2 unless otherwise stated.				
T	DESCRIPTION	M	U	NOTES

FN1	5 ORANGE	C		
FN2	7 CLARET		C	

Overprint group E type 5 unless otherwise stated.				
T	DESCRIPTION	M	U	NOTES

FN3	4 BLACK	C		
FN4	7 ROYAL BLUE	C		
FN5	1/8 GREEN	C		

Overprint group E type 5 unless otherwise stated.				
T	DESCRIPTION	M	U	NOTES

FN6	6 BROWN + GREEN	C		
FN7	7 1/2 PURPLE + RED	C		
FN8	1/0 1/2 ORANGE + BLUE	C		
FN9	1/1 ULTRAMARINE + BISTRE	C		
FN10	1/11 PURPLE + RED	C		

Overprint group E type 5 unless otherwise stated.				
T	DESCRIPTION	M	U	NOTES

FN11	3/8 SAGE GREEN + ORANGE	C		
FN12	4/8 RED + BLUE	C		

Notes :-

The overprint 'SCHOOL SPECIMEN' is applied, on all these four issues, in a horizontal format, even though some values are a vertical format.

Course work

It would seem that a majority of course work found in the period covered by this book, comes from the postal delivery schools. The bulk of this seems to originate from the London area, and would appear to have been used on the higher grade courses. (PHG). The items found seem to fall into two groupings

1. Practical material which consists of standard post office documentation. Some of these items are found with overprints, while others are identified by having special training school hand stamp postmarks.
2. Examination material which is specially prepared sheets showing postal situations. These can be found printed in large questionnaire sheets, which can contain several situations. They are also found in smaller sheets, cut from the larger forms, which only have one task. The authors are not sure if this is done at the training school, for some reason, or dealers have cut these to spread the material further.

Some of the items from the examination sheets have, what appears to be, a marking system applied to them. This consists of a cross with initials beside it, where something is incorrect, and possibly comments added in manuscript. Correct entries seem only to be initialled by a trainer.

On the examination sheets, there are also numerous other markings which are consistent with post office regulations, and will be shown in an appendix to this volume. These include hand stamp postmarks, hand stamp instructional marks and other cancellations. These can be used to identify training material as they have in their wording, identification of the school, or in the case of cancellations, would be on other training material. There will also be an appendix covering labels seen to date on these items. These are not listed in the main catalogue, as a majority of them have no indication as mint items, and so are identifiable due to being on piece. The appendix is added purely for information.

The labels found on these examination sheets, if found separately, used, would have indication of training use, in the post mark or cancellation. To date none of these labels has been seen individually.

Practical course material

No Overprint unless otherwise stated.				
T	DESCRIPTION	M	U	NOTES
W1	FORM P553B O/P G 1		C	
W2	Internal telegram O/P G 1		C	
W3	Cert. of posting O/P K 1		C	
W4	FORM P429H		C	
W5	FORM P1174G		C	
W6	FORM P1120H		C	

Notes :-

For descriptions of the forms see appendix.

Items W1 and W2 are overprinted in purple.

Item W2 is a printed and gummed label.

Item W3 is overprinted in black.

Examination course material

No Overprint unless otherwise stated.				
T	DESCRIPTION	M	U	NOTES
W7	EXAMINATION PIECE		C	

Notes :-

Five pieces have been seen, two of these are for parcel delivery situations. These are on piece, approximately A5 size. The other three, are relating to postage due charges. One of these is again A5 size, with the others being half A5.

Postal orders

Postal orders are used as one of the documents by the counter training office. In the period covered by this book, very few have been seen, with all those known coming from the period of King George VI. All those seen have similar features, these being, the head is overprinted with two bars from group A, type 1, except that they are limited in length to 40 mm and there is only one pair of bars on the order. They also have punched holes from group F, either type 1 or 1B. These holes are a group of three, and placed in the order, in a similar format to those on high value stamps but covering a larger area.

Overprint group A type 1 unless otherwise stated.				
T	DESCRIPTION	M	U	NOTES
O1	6 BLUE		C	
O2	20/- ROSE		C	

Etiquette's

The main etiquette's used by the training school, that can be identified, are registration labels. Only one type of these has been seen for this period. They are the standard registration label, but instead of having the place used as a named post office, they have 'PHG Training Centre'. Others have been seen on registered envelopes, of course material, but have obviously been from workplace courses as they have post office names. These are identified as being training items, as they are used in conjunction with other overprinted items.

No Overprint.				
T	DESCRIPTION	M	U	NOTES
E1	BLUE		C	(1)

1. Items seen are individual copies and also a coil strip of four, separated by perforations.

Coils

In the previous listings, there are a number of items, that are possibly from printings for coil stamps. These may possibly have come from excess pieces produced for making into coils, which were overprinted and used up for training. There are however, also pieces which are from actual coils. These are identified either by being in strips larger than is possible from sheets, or showing the slitting process on the perforations. All those seen are from the Queen Elizabeth II, multiple crowns watermarked paper.

Overprint group E type 1 unless otherwise stated.				
T	DESCRIPTION	M	U	NOTES
R1	1/2 ORANGE	C		(1)
R2	2 BROWN	C		(2)
R3	3 VIOLET	C		(2)

1. Those seen are from end delivery first coils.
2. Those seen are from sideways delivery coils.

Booklets and Panes

In the listing of low values, there are inverted watermark stamps, which may be from surplus booklet sheets, overprinted, and used in training. This section deals with setant values, which must come from booklet printings, panes with edging, which shows stitching holes and complete booklets. All the items seen are from the reign of Queen Elizabeth II.

Booklet panes from Wilding printings.

Overprint group A type 1 unless otherwise stated.				
T	DESCRIPTION	M	U	NOTES
Q1	1/2 ORANGE	C		(1)
Q1a	1/2 orange + 2 1/2 red	5C		(3)
Q1b	1/2 orange + 2 1/2 red O/P H 2	20C		(4)
Q2	1 BLUE	C		(1)
Q2a	With advertising labels.	2C		(2)
Q2b	1 blue + 3 violet O/P E 1	5C		
Q3	1 1/2 GREEN	C		(1)
Q4	3 VIOLET	C		(1)

1. This item seen in panes of six from the 3/- booklet, March 1965. It is also reported that these items also exist from a broken 4/6d booklet of the same period.
2. This item is from a pane of three stamps + 3 labels, showing the 'please post early in the day' advert.
3. This pane of four, is from the 1964 2/- holiday booklet, with black stitching.
4. The overprint is applied diagonally twice on the pane of four. This is also from the 1964 holiday booklet with black stitching.

Booklet panes from Machin printings.

Overprint group E type 1 unless otherwise stated.				
T	DESCRIPTION	M	U	NOTES
Q5	4 RED	C		(1)
Q5a	4 RED O/P E 4	C		(1)
Q5b	4 RED O/P E 4A	C		(1)
Q6	5 BLUE	C		(1)
Q6a	5 BLUE O/P E 4	C		(1)
Q6b	5 BLUE O/P E 4A	C		(1)

1. The overprint is applied four times on the pane of six and comes from the 10/- booklet of 1968 - 1970.

Complete booklets.

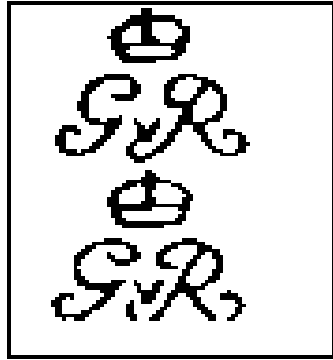
Overprint group H type 2 unless otherwise stated.				
T	DESCRIPTION	M	U	NOTES
Q7	2/- 1964 holiday	C		(1)
Q7a	2/- 1964 holiday O/P A 1	3C		(1)
Q8	2/- undated holiday booklet	5C		(2)
Q9	3/- rose March 1965 O/P A 1	3C		(3)

1. This item has the overprint on the front of the booklet, as well as on the stamps, and has only been seen from booklets with black stitching.
2. This item has the overprint on the front of the booklet, as well as on the stamps, and has been seen from booklets with black and white stitching.
3. Although the stamps are all overprinted A 1, there is no overprint on the cover.

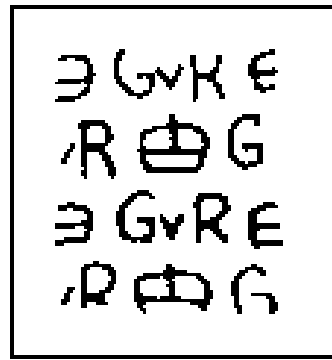
<h2>Manuals</h2>

To date, only one manual has been seen, which falls within the remit of this book, but it is possible that others will come to light. It is believed that manuals, produced for the training school, contain notes on the course itself and trainers reference notes. The trainers reference notes give information to the trainer to expand on the course information and to allow them to prepare any equipment, materials or questions before starting.

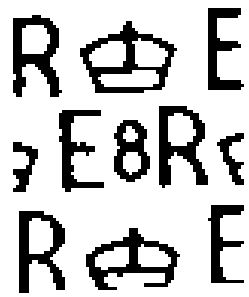
No Overprint unless otherwise stated.				
T	DESCRIPTION	M	U	NOTES
Z1	MANUAL	C		



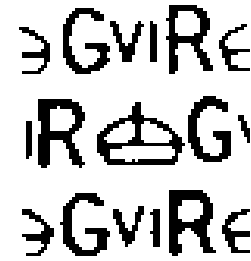
SIMPLE CYPHER



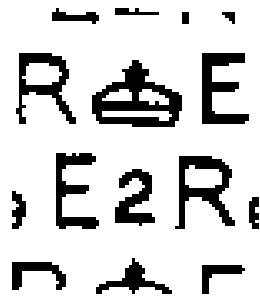
BLOCK CYPHER.



E 8 R CROWNS.



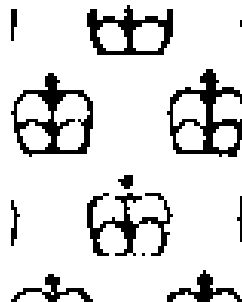
G VI R CROWNS.



TUDOR CROWN.

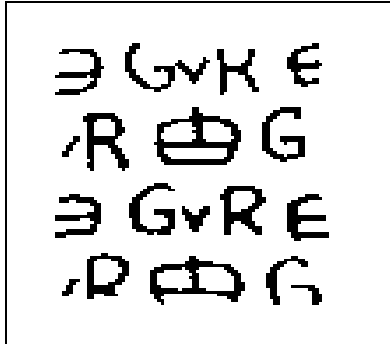


St EDWARD'S CROWN

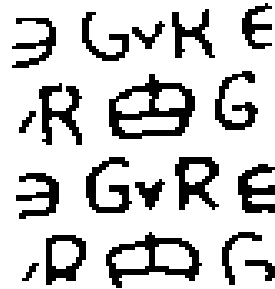


Multiple crowns

The block cypher watermark , as used on the low values and postage due definitives of King George V , is known to exist in two states. The first , and by far the most common , is the original block cypher as shown below left. With the experimental watermark , shown below right , the spacing of the watermark is about 2mm less than on the original. The lettering is shorter as well as being thicker in appearance compared to the original type.



BLOCK CYPHER.



**BLOCK CYPHER.
EXPERIMENTAL.**

Overprint Types.(Groupings)

The overprint types, as described on the following pages, have been assigned to groups.

- GROUP A Two bars vertically on the item.**
- GROUP B A single bar vertically on the item.**
- GROUP C Two bars horizontally on the item.**
- GROUP D A single bar horizontally on the item.**
- GROUP E 'SCHOOL SPECIMEN' on the item.**
- GROUP F Punched holes on training items.**
- GROUP G 'SPECIMEN' printed on the item.**
- GROUP H 'CANCELLED' printed on the item**
- GROUP K 'FOR TRAINING PURPOSES ONLY' printed on the item.**
- GROUP L 'SAMPLE' printed on the training item.**
- GROUP M 'SCHOOL' printed on the training item.**

Many of the overprint bar types are felt to be applied by rollers with spacers between. Wear to these rollers and spacers would account for the variations of width, both to the bars and spaces of the overprints. This fact could also account for the ending of bars irregularly in the margins of sheets. It may also account for the misalignment of bars and for the non parallel nature of overprints. This it is felt would be due to wear causing slippage on the central spindle. It would also seem that items from the training school were overprinted in other ways. A listing of the methods of overprinting follows :-

1. Rolling of bars with inked rollers with various spacers.
2. Hand stamping.
3. Printing plates to match sheets of stamps; possibly made up in formes.
4. Ruled lines by hand with pen.
5. Freehand lines, also applied by pen.

NOTE :-

Of the group A, type 1 overprint, examples are known with only a single bar. These are believed to be due to misplacement of the bars during overprinting. As these are varieties of the 'normal' overprint, they have not been listed as a sub type. At the present time, this is only known to occur on the issues of King George V. These are rare and at present very few copies have been confirmed.

Of late, the theory has evolved that the first stamps of the training school may have been overprinted with a single bar, and after a short period, this was changed to two bars. This would make the items with a single bar a type previous to that already recorded. This is highlighted by the fact that the known copies, with a single bar overprint, are used with early dated postmarks, however, this is not able to be confirmed as actual dated piece, on forms, covers, etc., have not been found.

GROUP A

TYPE 1 TWO ORIGINAL BLACK BARS.
[Bar width 2.5mm Spacing 5.00mm.]

This is two thick vertical black bars and appears on definitive stamps from the start of the post office training school. This is the most common type of overprint on the pre-decimal stamps. It would seem that two bars were originally intended to cancel a low value definitive stamp. Stamps can be found from this period, which have misplaced overprints, and these show parts of three bars. The first high value definitives, which are listed as this type, have two bars to the width of a low value definitive, this produces a high value with four bars as the stamp is twice the width of a low value definitive. The size, 2.5mm bars and 5mm spacing, is the size most often found. However this does vary to some degree, mainly smaller rather than larger, except the spacing between the bars which tends to be larger. From this it would seem possible that the variations are due to wear.

TYPE 1A TWO ORIGINAL BLACK BARS.
[On high value definitives.]

This would seem that alternate pairs of bars have been removed to give a separate overprint, possibly for a different course. This produces an overprint of two bars to the width of a high value definitive.

TYPE 1B TWO ORIGINAL BLACK BARS.
[On high value definitives.]

This again has two bars removed to give an overprint of two bars to the width of a high value, however instead of pairs of bars being removed, one bar from each pair is removed, thus making a further possibility of courses. [Bar width 2.50mm spacing 9.00mm].

TYPE 1C TWO ORIGINAL BLACK BARS.
[On high value definitives - King George VI - Arms type.]

It would seem that due to the new size of the King George VI, (Arms type), high values, a new type of overprint was prepared. This was to give an overprint similar to type 1A, but as the stamps were narrower the spacing was reduced so as to give the same effect.

TYPE 2 TWO THIN BARS.

This is the same basic type as type 1 in as much as there are two bars to the width of the low value stamp , but the bars are much narrower. This first appears on the 1937 King George VI issue. Stamps from the 1939 high value issue , as with type one , are also known to exist with two bars to the width of a low value definitive. This gives three bars to the width of the stamp.

**TYPE 2A TWO THIN BARS.
[On high value definitives.]**

A new overprint was created to give two thin bars to the width of the Queen Elizabeth castle high values. This would seem to have been introduced between 1967 and 1969. This looks similar to type 1A of this group , but with thin bars.

**TYPE 2B TWO THIN BARS.
[On high value definitives.]**

A further sub-type giving a similar appearance to type 1C , but with thin bars , was produced for the new stamps of the 1968 - 1972 high values in square format.

GROUP B

TYPE 1 1 BAR (VERTICAL).

This first appears on the pre-decimal machins of Queen Elizabeth II

TYPE 2 1 BAR (VERTICAL).

This is similar to type 1 of this group, but the bar is much thinner.

NOTE :-

For a single bar overprint, as group A, type 1, but showing one bar instead of the normal two, see the note under overprint types; groupings.

GROUP C

TYPE 1 2 THIN BARS (HORIZONTAL).

This type shows two thin bars spaced as noted with group A type 1B , with every alternate bar removed. The bars however , are as group A type 2.

TYPE 2 2 THICK BARS (HORIZONTAL).

This type of overprint is known on the first high value issue , (Arms' type) , of King George VI. It is similar to type 1 of this group but with much thicker bars.

TYPE 3 2 THICK BARS (HORIZONTAL).

This is group A type 1 overprint applied sideways, on stamps of horizontal format. For details see group A type 1.

GROUP D

TYPE 1 1 BAR (HORIZONTAL).

This is a single thick bar as group A, type 1, applied horizontally on the stamp.

GROUP E

TYPE 1 SCHOOL SPECIMEN.

This overprint has 'SCHOOL SPECIMEN' in two lines. The wording is centralised and the overall measurements are 12 mm x 20 mm. Until recently this overprint was first notified as appearing on the Wilding low values of Queen Elizabeth II. Some low values from the King George VI colour change issue , (1951) , along with the three pence from the pale colours series , (1942) , have been seen with this overprint. Additionally all low value definitives of the Queen Elizabeth II Wilding issue have been seen with this overprint type.

TYPE 1A SCHOOL SPECIMEN AND BAR

This overprint is felt to be a variation of type 1, of this group. It has the two words 'SCHOOL SPECIMEN' in two lines, with the initial letters in line, where as type one has the two words centralised.

TYPE 1B SCHOOL SPECIMEN AND BAR

This overprint may be a combination of the above, type 1, with an additional bar similar to that of type 1 from group A. The single bar appears to be printed separately, as it is positioned across the school specimen overprint, but does not appear in the same positioning every time. This would appear to be the first use of two overprints in combination.

TYPE 2 SCHOOL SPECIMEN.

This is a larger type than type 1 , and is only found on the 1967 castle high values of Queen Elizabeth II.

TYPE 3 SCHOOL SPECIMEN.

This overprint is similar to type 1 of this group, but is slightly smaller in print type. It is also found to be more uniform when found on multiple pieces. This would seem to indicate that it is a plate overprint rather than a hand stamp. The colouring of the overprint is also more uniform, and deep in colour.

It may be that this overprint exists in two states as the settings for the castle high values and the low value definitives of the same period, is different. It may be possible in the future to confirm this as the printing plate maybe a forme consisting of a number of impressions but not large enough for a complete sheet.

TYPE 4 SCHOOL SPECIMEN.

This type is a larger version of type 1 of this group, giving a single impression on two definitive low values or a single impression on a commemorative. The 'S' of 'school' is directly above the 'S' of "specimen", the first time this has been noted on a stamp.

TYPE 4A SCHOOL SPECIMEN.

This is the same size as type 4, with the wording centralised.

TYPE 5 SCHOOL SPECIMEN.

This is a similar overprint to type 3 of this group. The differences are that the spacing between 'SCHOOL' and 'SPECIMEN' is approximately three times that found on type 3. The other main difference is that the overall length of the word 'SPECIMEN' is 1.5mm longer. As with type 3, this is probably an overprint produced by a plate and so is very deep in colour. It may be that this overprint is specifically used on non postal items, as it appears on savings stamps and national insurance duty stamps. It would seem that there are variations of thickness of lettering and spacing over a period of time. This is probably due to various formes being made to allow for the variation in size of these revenue stamps.

TYPE 6 SCHOOL SPECIMEN.

The overall dimensions of this overprint are 22mm x 25mm, with 'SCHOOL' and "SPECIMEN" 14mm apart. This overprint would seem to be machine printed, as the location on the items that it appears is very consistent. This type would appear to have been mainly used on embossed postal stationary. Being machine printed, it is always of very solid colour.

TYPE 7 SCHOOL SPECIMEN.

This overprint appears to be a hand stamp of type 6. There are slight variations, the lettering is slightly larger, less pronounced and slightly bigger overall.

GROUP F

TYPE 1 Punched hole.

This is a circular punched hole. It has a diameter of approx. 5 mm and first appeared on the re-engraved seahorses' of George V. This punched hole may be found as one per stamp and three per stamp. The three are punched in such a way as to form a right angle, but are not exact enough to say that they have been punched from a die.

TYPE 1A Punched hole.

This is the same as type 1 , except that the diameter is smaller , measuring 4mm. The same punching pattern seems to appear as with type 1 of this group.

TYPE 1B Punched hole.

This is the same as type 1 , except that the diameter is smaller again, measuring 3mm. This hole has only been seen individually punched.

TYPE 2 Punched hole.

This punched hole is made by folding the item, stamp or form, and then punching with a ticket type punch. The actual punch is a small rounded corner square, with an elongation of one third width at the end. When punched, this is intended to give a lozenge shape with extensions at both ends. This will have, in the listing, a suffix of 'H' for horizontal, or 'V' for vertical.

TYPE 3 Punched hole.

This is the same as type 2 of this group, except the punched hole lies along the horizontal perforations. This punch can also be horizontal or vertical, and will be suffixed in the same manner.

TYPE 4 Punched hole.

This is the same as type 2 of this group, except the punched hole lies along the vertical perforations. This punch can also be horizontal or vertical, and will be suffixed in the same manner.

TYPE 5 Punched hole.

This is the same as type 2 of this group, except the punched hole lay on the centre cross of the perforations. This punch is only known horizontal.

GROUP G

TYPE 1 SPECIMEN

This hand stamp overprint comprises the word 'SPECIMEN', which is 6 mm x 38 mm, with serifed letters. This is contained in a box 10 mm x 47 mm.

GROUP H

TYPE 1 CANCELLED

This overprint is the same as type 34, which is used in the majority of reference books the subject of cancelled and specimen overprints.

TYPE 2 CANCELLED

The word 'CANCELLED', in this overprint, is approximately four times the size of type 1, of this group.

GROUP K

TYPE 1 FOR TRAINING PURPOSES ONLY

This overprint measures overall 15mm x 75mm. The type face is standard capitols without serifs.

GROUP L

TYPE 1 SAMPLE

This overprint measures 20 mm x 80 mm, and at present is only known on film at a quarter of it original size. It is the word 'SAMPLE' in capitols without serifs.

GROUP M

TYPE 1 SCHOOL

This overprint has only been seen in photographs. As far as is known, none are available on the market at the present time. By enlarging photographs it has been possible to establish an approximate size of 12 mm x 72 mm. The word is in capitol letters with serifs. The photograph shows this item on an early telegraph form.

The following is a complete document from those held at the post office archives relating to the development of training schools in the early 1930's.

LONDON POSTAL SERVICE SCHOOL.
SYLLABUS AND LECTURES.
GENERAL ARRANGEMENTS.

SYLLABUS.

The syllabus shows the order in which the lectures are given. This order is based, broadly, on the principle that the work should progress from the generally simpler forms of the Inland treatment to the more complicated Imperial and Foreign treatment.

LECTURES.

Each lecture has been designed to occupy approximately one hour, and is followed by about 1 1/2 hours' practical work on the subjects dealt with in the lecture. Tests written and practical are set after a group of work, usually dealt with in about 5 lectures, has been completed. A general written test and a general practical test are set at the end of the course.

The notes from which the lectures are given serve as a guide to the instructor by indicating the points which should be explained to the students. A summary of each subject in the lectures is included. These summaries are dictated at intervals to the students after the instructor has explained the subjects, and the students thereby obtain a permanent record in their note books of the important features of the work. By this method of lecturing the instructor has an opportunity of explaining matters in an individual manner, and thus making the lecture "alive", while being sure that the students have recorded an accurate summary of the subjects covered by the lecture.

The students are instructed to make notes on the right hand page of their note books, and to leave the left hand page for affixing specimens of the forms, etc., mentioned in the notes. These forms, etc., are distributed to the students by the instructor. The importance of reading their notes out of school hours is impressed on the students and they are recommended to take them for reference to the Branch Offices where they attend to watch the work which they have been taught at the school.

PRACTICAL WORK.

The practical side of the work is considered to be of vital importance, and an endeavour is made to reproduce, as far as possible, the conditions at the counter. One student acts as a counter clerk under supervision by the instructor, while another acts as a "member of the public". Dummy letters, packets and parcels are handed in, weighed, charged, etc. Counters showing various values are used by the "member of the public" to represent money, but actual money is used by the counter clerk, who places the change in front of the instructor for checking before returning the cash to the till. Sheets of dummy stamps are available, and the students get accustomed to tearing stamps in the correct manner.

Question cards in respect of each letter, packet, or parcel handed in at the counter have been prepared by the instructors, the queries being based on actual experiences with the public. These question cards are distributed to the class, and the students put the questions in turn to the counter clerk. The whole class is consequently frequently “at the counter” and is kept alert. The instructor is able to correct the replies as necessary, and to check the knowledge gained by the students. The students are continually being instructed in the best method of “handling” the public.

A small stock of stamps and cash is checked by each student in turn as part of the practical training.

August, 1931.

LONDON POSTAL SERVICE SCHOOL.
PROVISIONAL SYLLABUS.
ORDER OF SUBJECTS.

1. Introductory lecture.
2. Post Office Guide, Post Office Circular, Rule Books.
3. Stamp Stocks and Cash.
4. Classes of Postal Matter (1)
5. Classes of Postal Matter (2)
 - Test, written, on items 1-5
 - Test, practical, on items 1-5
6. Inland Parcels.
7. Inland Parcels, C.O.D. and despatching.
8. Inland Registration (1)
9. Inland Registration (2)
10. Inland Registration (3), Despatching &c.
 - Test, written, on items 6-10
 - Test, practical, on items 6-10
 - Test, practical, recapitulative, on items 1-5
11. Express - Service I and II.
12. Express - Service III and IV and Railway Letters.
13. Inland Mails - General - Late Fees, Poste Restante, Redirection
 - Ships' Letters, Sunday Arrangements, &c.
 - Test, written, on items 11-13
 - Test, practical, on items 11-13
 - Test, practical, recapitulative, on items 1-10
14. Inland Telegrams (1)
15. Inland Telegrams (2)
16. Inland Telegrams (3)
17. Inland Telegrams (4)
18. Inland Telephones
 - Test, written, on items 14-18
 - Test, practical, on items 14-18
 - Test, practical, recapitulative, on items 1-13

19. General Postal Geography of Europe including the foreign equivalents for the countries and important towns as shown in the Berne list. Explanations of posting and late fee tables in the Post Office guide.
20. General Postal Geography of Asia and Africa including the foreign equivalents for the countries and important towns as shown in the Berne list. Use of daily list.
21. General postal Geography of North and South America, and Australia including the foreign equivalents for the countries and important towns as shown in the Berne list. Use of daily list.
22. Imperial and Foreign letters, Packets, etc., (1)
23. Imperial and Foreign letters, Packets, etc., (2)
 - Test, written, on items 19-23
 - Test, practical, on items 19-23
 - Test, practical, recapitulative, on items 1-18
24. Imperial and Foreign Registration and Insurance (Letters).
25. Imperial and Foreign Insured Boxes.
26. Imperial and Foreign Parcels (1).
27. Imperial and Foreign Parcels (2).
 - Test, written, on items 24-27
 - Test, practical, on items 24-27
 - Test, practical, recapitulative, on items 1-23
28. Imperial and Foreign Insured Parcels.
29. Imperial and Foreign C.O.D. Parcels.
30. Imperial and Foreign Free of Charge and Express Parcels.
31. Imperial and Foreign Mails - General - Poste Restante, Redirection, Ships' Letters, Sunday Arrangements, &c.
32. Air Mails.
 - Test, written, on items 28-32
 - Test, practical, on items 28-32
 - Test, practical, recapitulative, on items 1-27
33. Imperial and Foreign Telegrams (1).
34. Imperial and Foreign Telegrams (2).
35. Imperial and Foreign Telegrams (3).
36. Radio telegrams. Foreign Press.
37. Imperial and Foreign Telephones.
 - Test, written, on items 33-37
 - Test, practical, on items 33-37
 - Test, practical, recapitulative, on items 1-32
 - Test, general, written (2 days).
 - Correction and revision.
 - Test, general, practical (2 days).

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