

MACHIN CORNER – PRE DECIMAL MACHINS

- **THE MACHIN CORNER PART TWO**

- **THE PRE-DECIMAL MACHIN ISSUES 1967 – 1971**

- **THE PRE-DECIMAL ISSUES HAD A SHORT LIFE. THEY CAME ABOUT AS A REDESIGN FOR THE DEFINITIVE ISSUES SINCE THE PRECEDING WILDING ISSUES HAD BEEN PRODUCED OVER A FOURTEEN YEAR PERIOD. CONSIDERABLE DEVELOPMENT WORK HAS BEEN CHRONICLED IN MULTIPLE VOLUMES AND THE CONCEPT WAS TO SHED THE ORNAMENTATION OF THE WILDING ISSUES TO A MORE MODERN, SIMPLIFIED AND VISUALLY CLEANER APPEARANCE WHERE VALUE SORTING ONCE AGAIN, WAS INITIALLY DONE USING COLOUR ALTHOUGH THE IDEA OF USING BLACK FOR THE 4D ISSUES PROVED TO BE A LITTLE TOO MUCH FOR THE HIGH SPEED SORTING MACHINES AND POSTAL EMPLOYEE VERIFICATION SO THE COLOUR CHANGED TO BRIGHT RED IN RESPONSE FOR CALLS FOR CLARITY. AS WITH ALL OF THE QUEEN ELIZABETH ISSUES, THE MONARCH WAS HEAVILY INVOLVED WITH THE STAMP DESIGN PROCESS.**

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- **THE PHOSPHOR EXPERIMENTATION THAT OCCURRED WITHIN THE WILDING ISSUES, WAS LARGELY CONCLUDED BY THE TIME THE NEW MACHIN DESIGNS WERE BEING DESIGNED, SO THAT THESE ISSUES WOULD CARRY PHOSPHOR BANDING AS STANDARD. ADDITIONALLY OTHER “FIRSTS” RECORDED ARE THE SLOW SWITCH FROM GUM ARABIC TO POLY VINYL ALCOHOL AND THE USE OF PHOSPHORISED PAPER ON SOME OF THE HIGHER VALUES AND LASTLY THE INTRODUCTION OF THE PRESTIGE BOOKLETS DESIGNED FOR STAMP COLLECTORS.**
- **SCOTT LISTS THESE STAMPS AS MH1 THROUGH MH21 IF WE INCLUDE THE FOUR HIGH VALUE LARGE FORMAT MACHIN ISSUES ALTHOUGH THESE FOUR STAMPS (MH18-MH21) WERE ISSUED IN 1971. ALSO LISTED BY SCOTT AS MINOR LISTINGS ARE SOME BOOKLET PANES AS WELL AS A COUPLE OF ERRORS, THE IMPERFORATES AND MISSING COLOUR ISSUES, BOTH OF WHICH COMMAND A SIZEABLE PREMIUM. A FOOTNOTE TO THE LISTINGS STATES THAT MISSING PHOSPHOR OCCURS ON MANY OF THE ISSUES. (LOWER VALUES CHIEFLY).**



Scott MH1 – MH21

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- DEEGAM BREAKS DOWN THE CRITERIA INTO SORTING THIS WAY:
- PRINTING METHOD (PHOTOGRAVURE VS. LITHOGRAPH)
- PERFORATION
- PHOSPHOR (TYPE, COLOUR AND LOCATION)
- DIE IDENTIFICATION
- COIL ISSUES (HORIZONTAL OR VERTICAL)
- STAMP LOCATION (FOR BOOKLET ISSUES)
- MOST DEALERS IN GREAT BRITAIN NOW USE THE DEEGAM LISTINGS ALONGSIDE THAT OF STANLEY GIBBONS SO THAT THIS DUAL SYSTEM OF LISTINGS EXISTS. ON THE VARIOUS EBAY SITES YOU CAN SEE MANY DIFFERENT LISTINGS USING MULTIPLE CATALOGUES.

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- THERE IS NO RIGHT WAY TO COLLECT THESE ISSUES. THEY ARE ALL RELATIVELY CHEAP TO OBTAIN AND COLLECT WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE RARE ERRORS. THIS ALSO INCLUDES COLLECTING THE VARIOUS BOOKLET ISSUES SO A MINI COLLECTION WITHIN A COLLECTION IS EASILY FEASIBLE. ONCE AGAIN HAVING A PERSONAL REFERENCE LIBRARY OF PHOSPHOR EXAMPLES WILL SIMPLIFY THE SORTING PROCESS SO LONG AS YOU HAVE A POWERFUL SHORT WAVE UV LAMP.
- AFTER GREAT BRITAIN REVALUED IT'S CURRENCY FROM £,S,D TO THE NEW £ AND P VALUES THE NEED FOR NEW STAMPS WAS KEENLY ANTICIPATED/PLANNED AND ALL OF THE STERLING ISSUED PRE-DECIMAL MACHIN STAMPS WERE DEMONETARISED QUICKLY AND WITHDRAWN FROM STOCKS FOR RETURN TO THE POST OFFICE TO BE INCINERATED. ONLY THE £1 ISSUE (MH21) REMAINED VALID FOR POSTAGE AND IT LASTED UNTIL 2022, A PERIOD OF FIFTY ONE YEARS! IT IS NOT UNCOMMON TO SEE MIXED USAGE OF THE MACHINS WITH PRE-DECIMAL AND DECIMAL POSTAGE ON THE SAME PIECE. THIS WAS AN ATTEMPT TO USE UP PRIVATELY HELD STOCKS BEFORE THEY WERE REFUSED FOR SERVICE. THESE EXAMPLES OF MIXED USAGE HAVE SOME LIMITED VALUE.

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- **GIVEN THE SHORT LIFE OF THE PRE-DECIMAL MACHINS, THERE WAS A LARGE AMOUNT OF PRIVATELY HELD DEALER STOCKS, SO THIS IS THE MAIN DRIVER OF PRICES REALISED TODAY. HAVE FUN COLLECTING THESE AT YOUR LEVEL OF COMFORT. HAPPY HUNTING!**

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- **MARK COOPER.**

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