

# THE PRINTING AND CHARACTERISTICS OF THE MACHIN STAMPS OF ENGLAND 1967- 2022

## **INTRODUCTION**

Machin (pronounced MAY-chin) stamps are named after Arnold Machin O.B.E, the sculptor of the plaster bas-relief portrait of Queen Elizabeth II that appears on the stamps.

The Machin stamp came into existence because of a requirement to simplify the identification of British postage stamps. Whilst the design may appear simple, there have in fact been more than a thousand varieties of different colours and values.

Initially the stamps were produced by Harrison & Sons using photogravure, with the high-value designs being larger and engraved. Starting around 1980, The House of Questa and Waddington's Security Print also took up Machin printing in order to keep up with demand, producing their versions via lithography.

An estimated 200 billion Machin stamps have been produced since The Stamp Advisory Committee chose Arnold Machin's stamp design featuring a plaster cast of The Queen wearing a tiara to be the standard United Kingdom postage stamp.

## **SCOPE**

This Exhibition only illustrates the different printings and characteristics of the Machins from 5<sup>th</sup> June 1967 to 4 April 2022.

## **PURPOSE**

A study of the Machin stamps issues and characteristics, of Great Britain from the first issue in 1967 until 4 April 2022. The death of Queen Elizabeth II on 8 September 2022 led to the termination of the Machin stamp.

## **TREATMENT**

Showing the changes and multiple colors of the stamp issues and the different printing methods to curb forgeries as well as the booklet and coil stamps.

## **EXHIBIT PLAN**

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The non-value indicator Machins - 4

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Decimal elliptical perforation - 6

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Decimal booklet

### **COIL STRIP STAMPS - 16**

Non decimal coil strip

Decimal coil strips

## **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

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