

## DECIMAL ELLIPTICAL PERFORATION

27 APRIL 1993

In 1993, syncopated perforations appeared. Two large, elliptical perforations, one on each side, were added to the Machins. These were to deter counterfeiting and have become standard on all British definitives. To try and prevent the former problem a series of security features – elliptical perforations, optical brightener free paper and fluorescent additives to the fluor in phosphor bands – were added to definitive issues in 1993. They succeeded in slowing down the forgery problem.



## DECIMAL ELLIPTICAL PERFORATION ENGRAVED

9 MARCH 1999

£1,50 Terracotta, £2 Deep Grey Blue, £3 Dull Purple and £5 Brown

A further change to their high value range in early 1999, reducing the stamp size down to the traditional low value definitive dimensions of 20.5 x 24mm, commissioned Czeslaw Slania. These stamps had a very **short life-span** and must have been printed in relatively modest quantities. £2 and £3 are particularly awkward to come across, having found their way into circulation in only a very limited number of areas up and down the country.



## THE SELF-ADHESIVE MACHINS

19 OCTOBER 1993

A further notable landmark for Machin stamps occurred on 19<sup>th</sup> October 1993 when the first self-adhesive Machin stamp, 1<sup>st</sup> Orange Red with small 1<sup>st</sup>, was made available. It was initially sold for 24p which was increased to 25p from November 1993. The stamps was only issued in booklets containing 20 stamps each surrounded by die - cut perforations.



18 MARCH 1997

The self-adhesive stamps of 1997 were sold for 20p and 26p respectively in rolls of 100 with the stamps separate on the backing paper. The stamps, 2<sup>nd</sup> Bright Blue with Large 2<sup>nd</sup> and 1<sup>st</sup> Orange Red with large 1<sup>st</sup> with elliptical holes on each side with perforation 14 x 15.

