

THE MACHIN SERIES: 1971-1993

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The Collectors Club

June 3, 2015

The Machin Series



First issued 1967...48 years to date...and ongoing

Issued in sterling, decimal and NVI form,
printed in a wide variety of sizes, via photogravure, lithography, intaglio, typography,
with regular or elliptical perforations,
with and without phosphor bands,
using gum arabic, PVA, PVAD or SA adhesives,
with and without security slits, and, most recently, with iridescent security under-printed codes.

...and they appear limitless in their number

AGENDA – THE MACHIN SERIES (1971-1993)

- I. *A very basic Primer*
- II. **Decimalisation**
- III. *A sampling of varieties*
- IV. **A brief postal history view**

THE MACHIN SERIES: A *VERY* BASIC PRIMER

The initial QEII series: The Wildings



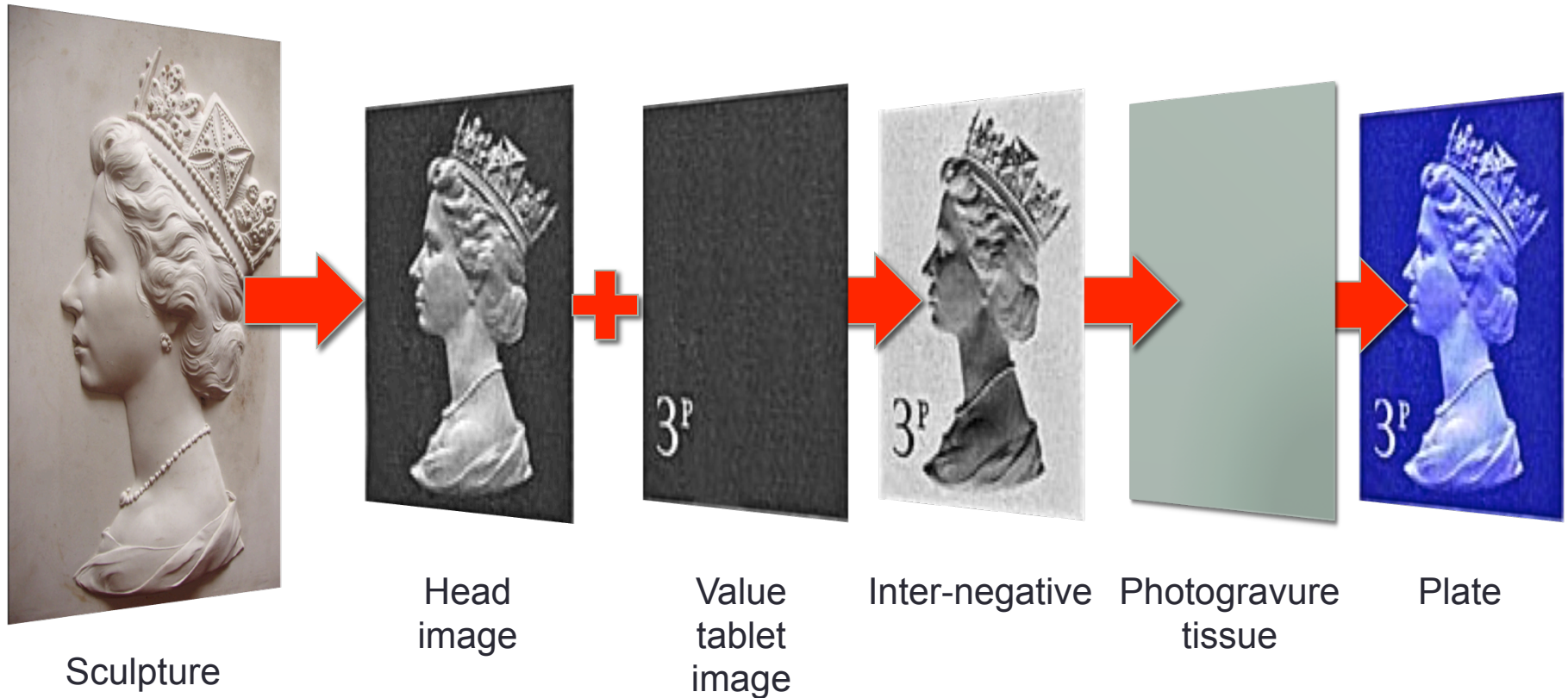
...unfortunately they came with some problems

A new image created.....



...with an echo from the past

The Machin photogravure process



(Note: the process has been stylized for the sake of clarity)

...utilizes photographs of 3-dimensional object



...not without their “subtleties”

Photogravure has its subtleties...



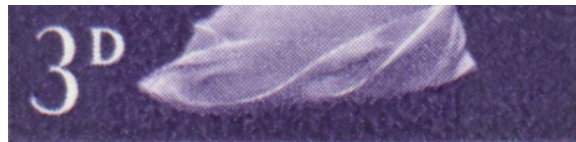
Head A



Head B



Head C



And, these subtleties may create rarities...



Catalog value

10p

£1,400

Why?

2B
Gum Arabic
Head A

2B
Gum Arabic
Head B

Original pre-decimal Machin range



...the first Machins were issued on 5 June 1967

Visible Machin architecture

Printing method



intaglio



photogravure



lithography



embossed



letterpress

Visible Machin architecture

Size, shape and orientation



Small
format

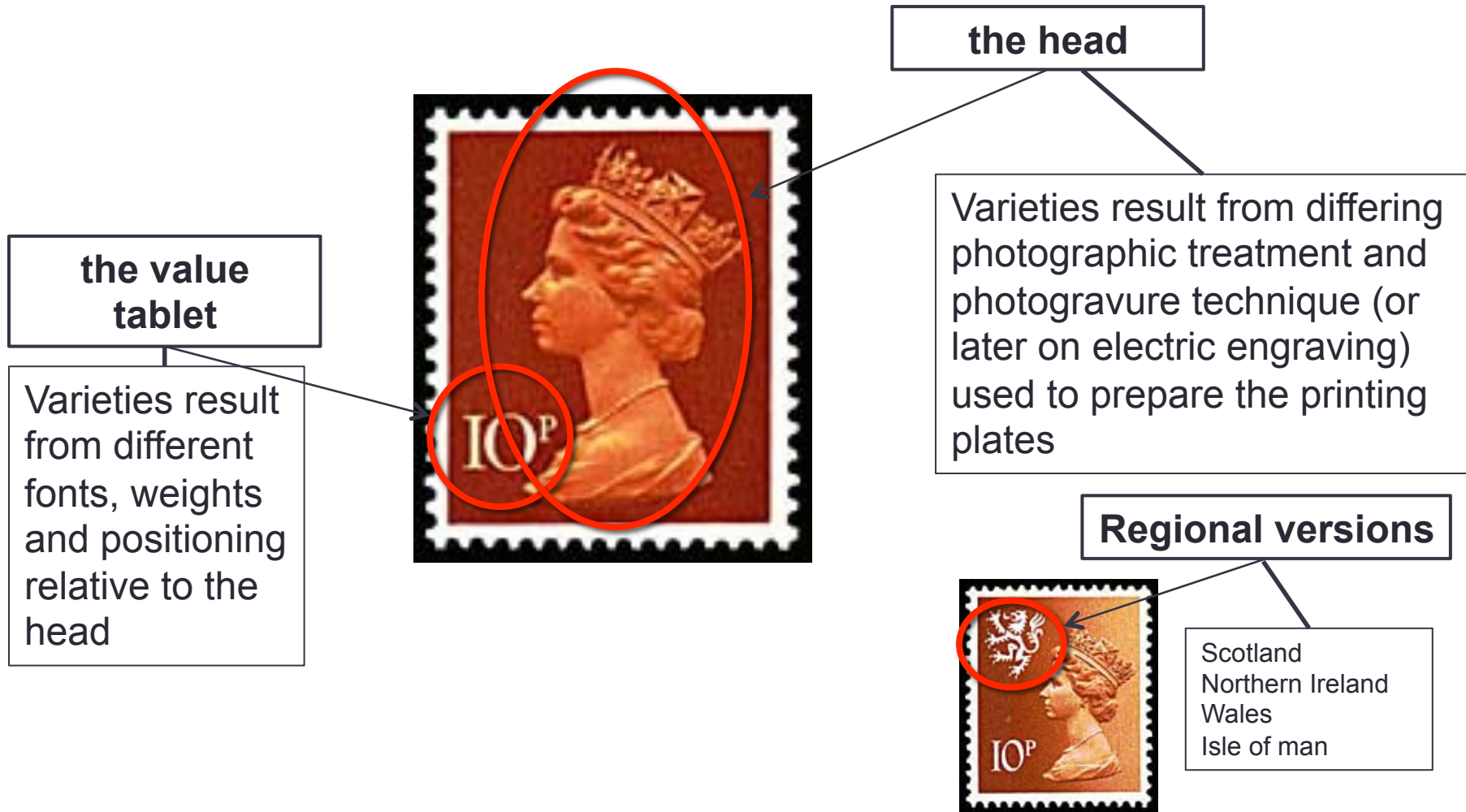
Large
format

Really
Large
format

Horizontal

Geography of the face

Size, shape and orientation



Visible Machin architecture

denomination



Sterling
(£ s/d)



Decimal



No Value
indicated
(NVI)

Architecture of the Machin

colour



solid



graduated



bi-colour

Architecture of the Machin

Security measures



Elliptical
perforations



Security
slits



Iridescent
under print

Architecture of the Machin (invisible)

Phosphor



2B



CB



LB



RB



All over
phosphor

Architecture of the Machin (invisible)

Coatings:

- OCP “original coated paper”

- FCP “fluorescent coated paper”

- NFCP “non-fluorescent coated paper”

Adhesives:

- PVA “polyvinyl chloride”

- Gum Arabic

- PVAD “PVA + dextrin”

- Self-adhesives

Perforation machinery:

- APS

- Kampf

THE MACHIN SERIES: DECIMALISATION

February 15, 1971 D Day

On this date, the United Kingdom switched from the ancient system of shillings and pence to a new currency system, based on a decimalised new penny



The stamps would switch as well, with a transition beginning prior to Decimal Day.

The Post Office prepares



Postal services

A stack of envelopes is shown, with a 1p coin and a 2p stamp placed on top. The address on the top envelope is: Mr. P. Nicholson, 16, ... Avenue, DUNBURG, EH4 9DA.

The new postage stamps
 We already have the high value decimal stamps, which were issued last June. Their values are 10p (2s) 20p (4s) 50p (10s). The £1 stamp remains unaltered.
 On 15th February, 12 new low value decimal stamps will be issued. Their denominations are: ½p, 1p, 1½p, 2p, 2½p, 3p, 3½p, 4p, 5p, 6p, 7½p, 9p.

Using up your £sd stamps
 From 15th February onwards, we won't be selling any more £sd stamps (except at philatelic counters). But you can still use up any £sd stamps you may have, probably until the end of the changeover period.
 This is how you do it. Convert the total £sd value of your stamps to decimal, using the DCB Shoppers' table, and then add any decimal stamp necessary to make up the new postage charge.
 £sd stamped stationery can be used in the same way throughout the changeover period by converting the total £sd value to decimal by the DCB Shoppers' table and adding any decimal stamp necessary to make up the new postal charge.
 The Post Office will also repurchase stamps bought for postal purposes within the last two years. This is the normal repurchase scheme and a charge of 12½% is made.
 In addition, an extension to the normal repurchase scheme allows for all £sd stamps issued within the current reign to be repurchased whether or not they were bought for postal purposes. The charge for this service is 15% of the face value of the stamps.

Below is a convenient guide for use in making £sd stamps up to the new inland post charges (First class 3p, Second class 2½p for the first 4oz.).

Total value of your £sd stamps	To make the postage up to 3p, add	To make the postage up to 2½p, add
7d	—	—
6d		—
5d		
4d		
3d		
2d		
1d		

4

5

Cambridge colour trials

During two years preceding D-Day, Harrison & Sons, printers of the Machin series, conducted colour trials using pre-decimal Machin designs.

It is believed that a small format proofing press was used and that there can only be a maximum of 4 copies of each trial.

3 colour designs were run through trials by the printer.

The 8d was used for solid backgrounds, the 1/- for light and graduated backgrounds, and the 1/6 for bi-coloured.



adopted



adopted



Not adopted



September
1989



February
1971

Initial set of decimal stamps

Issued
5 March 1969



≠

≠

=



Issued
17 June 1970

.....introduction via the large formats

Decimal use, prior to decimalisation




...airmail to Bolivia 10 August 1970
a 1/- Machin + 10p (2/-) large format decimal Machin totaling 3/- (3 shillings)
satisfying the double weight airmail rate to Zone "B"

D-Day approaches: Postal Worker strike

20 January to 8 March 1971

G11

 **POST OFFICE**

Head Post Office
Eden Street
KINGSTON UPON THAMES
Surrey

Telephone
01-546 3131

Head Postmaster
J P Ryan

Giro Account
312 2212

In reply please quote
Date 12 March 1971

Mr R C B Smith
62 Holme Chase
St George's Avenue
WEYBRIDGE
Surrey

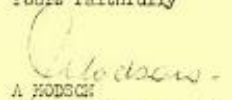
Dear Sir

POSTAL MONOPOLY

Our records show that during the recent industrial dispute you were given authority to run a postal service for letters within the Post Office's Monopoly.

Now that the First Class letter post service has been restored I am writing to put on record formally that this authority is withdrawn.

Yours faithfully




A. HODGSON
for Head Postmaster

KINGSTON UPON THAMES
Surrey

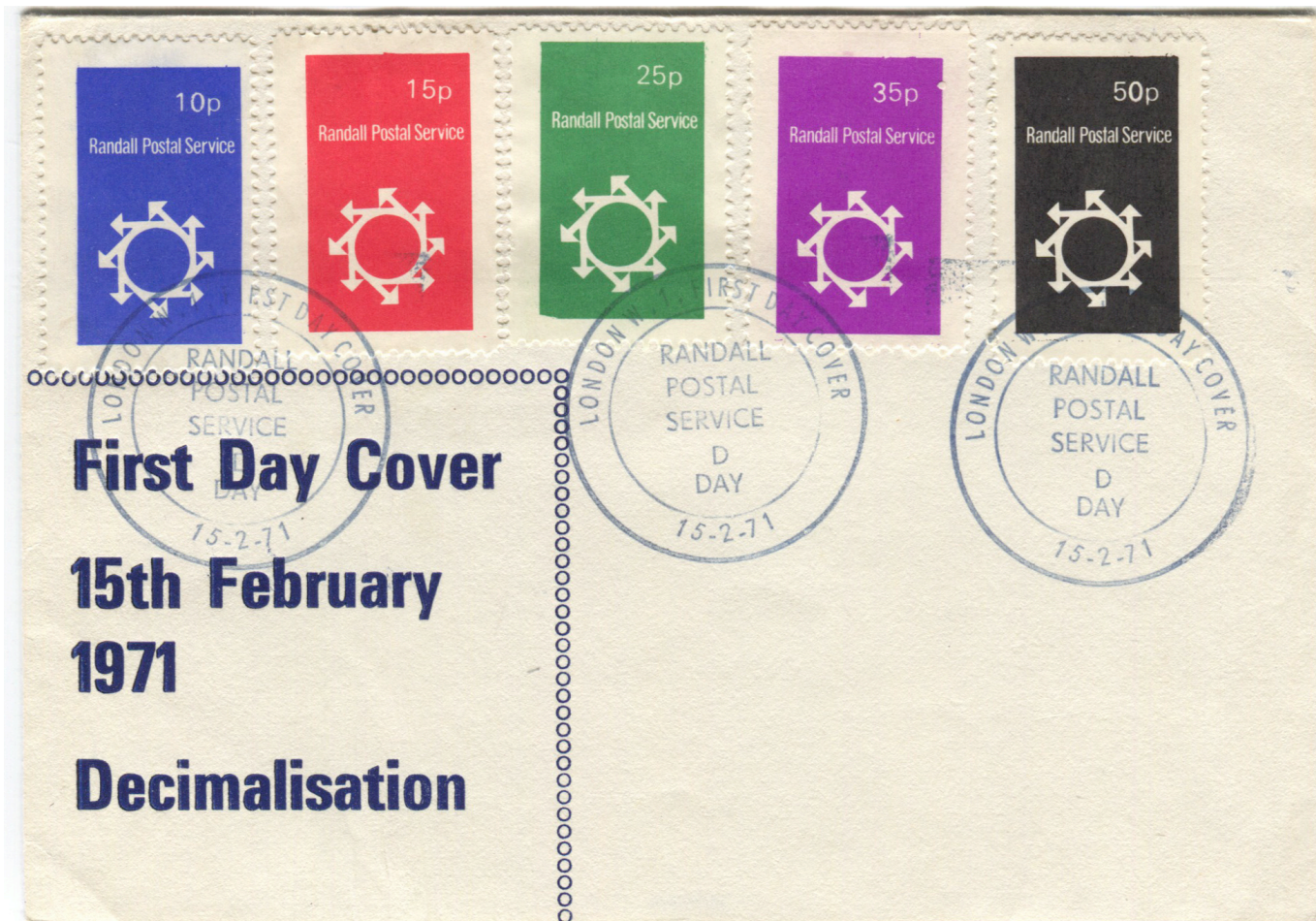
February 1971

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

This is to certify that Mr R C B Smith of
62 Holme Chase, St Georges Avenue, Weybridge,
is temporarily licensed to carry mail for
places in London, provinces and overseas.
This licence extends only for the period
of the current strike of members of The
Union of Post Office Workers and automatically
ceases as and from the date of the end of that
strike.

First Day of Decimal Currency (strike cover)



...privately serviced, mixed franking

First Day Cover (*after the fact*)



...serviced by the Post Office

First Day Cover (*after the fact*)



...serviced privately serviced

First Day Cover (*on the day*)



...Little Paxton was a sub-post office located in Cambridgeshire, approximately 70 miles north of London, evidently remained open during the strike.

First Day Cover (*on the day*)



...British Forces Post Offices were not effected by the strike.

First Day of Post Office Usage? (*after the strike*)



...postmarked the first day postal workers returned to work, 8 March 1971.

Two “classic” instances of mixed franking



...the old 1st & 2nd class pre-decimals being up rated to the new decimal rates.

A slightly more unusual instance....



...4p Machin pays the Recorded Delivery fee & the 4d commemorative is equivalent to 1½p plus two ½p Machins combine to satisfy the 2½p rate for 2nd class Inland service.

An unusual instance....



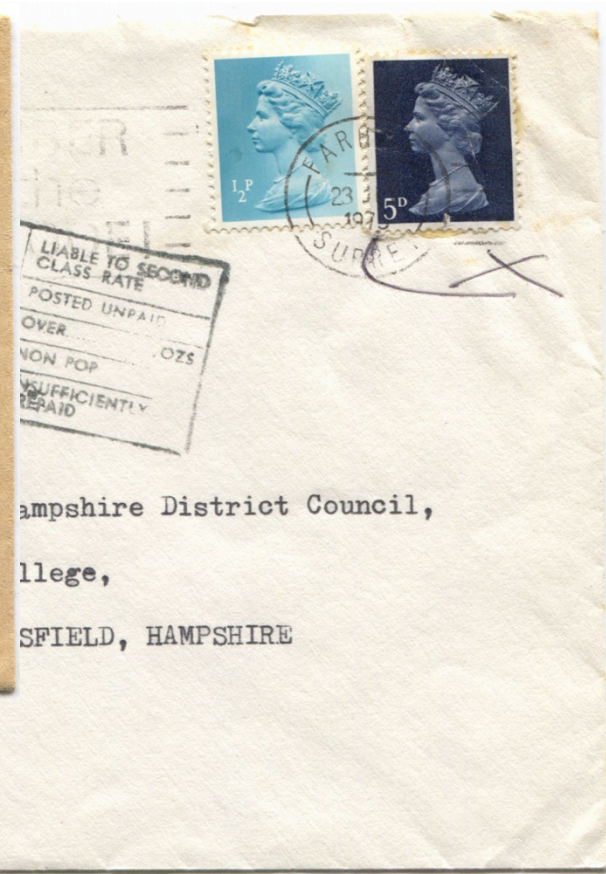
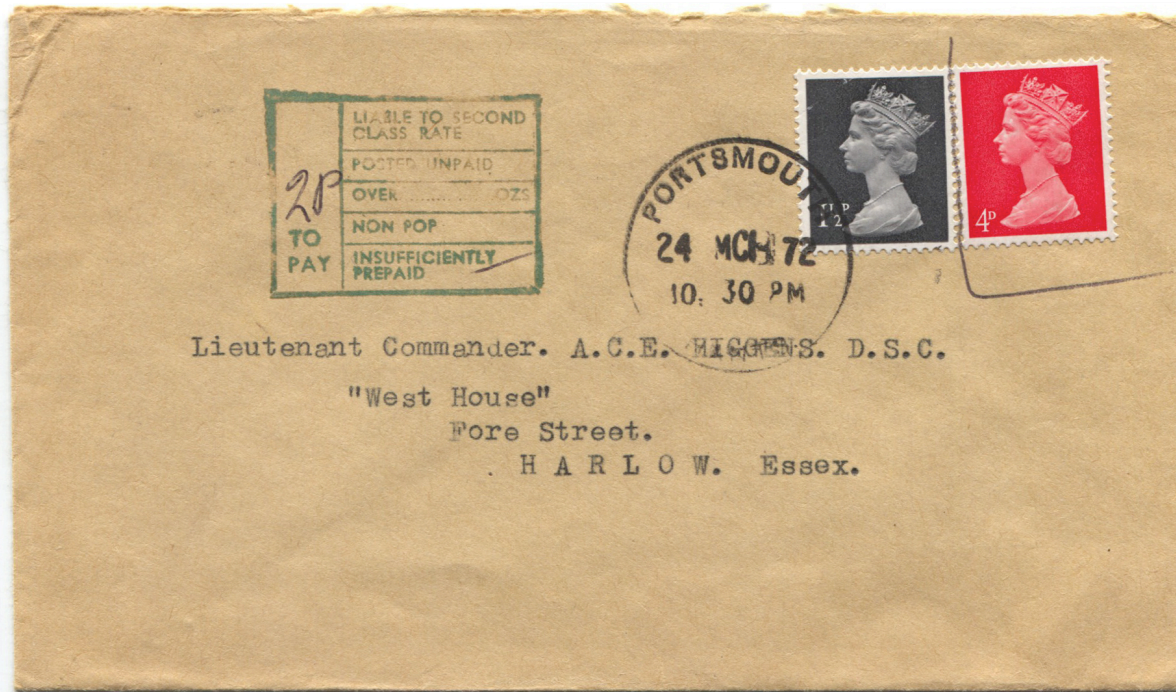
...Express service to Italy. The 10p large format Machin pays the express fee, the 9d commemorative, equivalent to 4p pays the airmail rate to Europe.

Pre-decimals were demonetised on 29 February 1972



...the “change-over” period for pre-decimal to decimal acceptance was a mere 12 ½ months.

“Illegal” use occurred past 29 February



...one of these sent 24 days following demonetisation, the other nearly 3 years later!

THE MACHIN SERIES: A *SAMPLING* OF VARIETIES

Multiplicity of issues placed great pressure on the colour schemes.....



8d
Light turquoise
January 1969



1½p
Turquoise blue
February 1971



6½p
Greenish blue
Sept 1974



4p
Greenish blue
August 1981



20p
Turquoise green
August 1988



64p
Turquoise green
April 1999



47p
Turquoise green
July 2002

There was a major colour palette adjustment in the transition to decimal and later in the decimal period, starting in 1988, a complete revision to the palette



Comparative colour schemes

**Pre-decimal
palette**



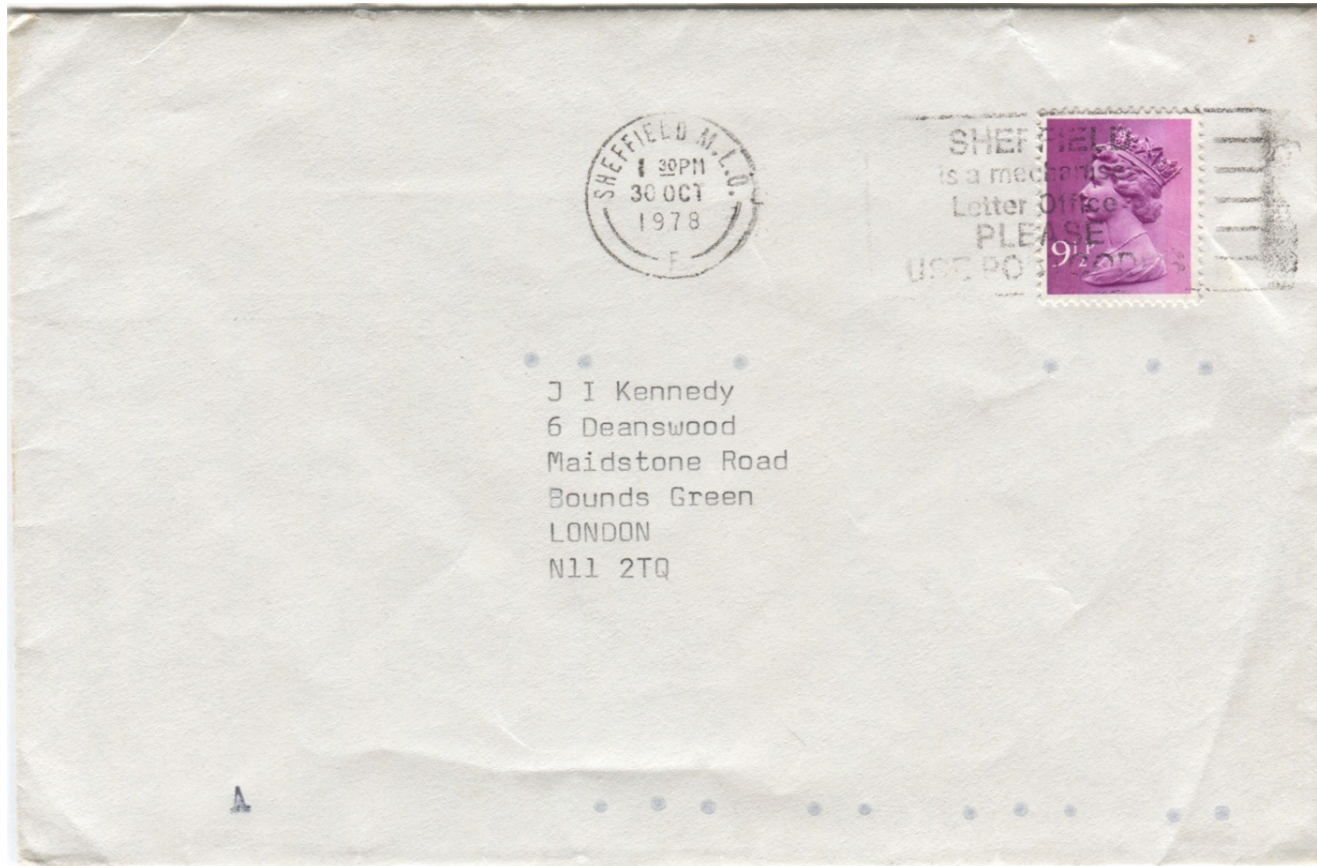
**“1971”
palette**



**Matthews
palette**



There was the “planned” and also the “unplanned”



Bright purple
magenta



Purple
(as issued)

The 1976 9½p was issued in “purple” but the use of the wrong ink solvent caused a “bright purple magenta” variety to be created

Phosphor layout of the ½p Machin

The ½p Machin as originally issued had 2 bands on each stamp. This was true for stamps derived from sheets, coils and booklets.



The “traditional” phosphor varieties....



Phosphor
missing



Broad band
left



Broad band
right

The £1 Wedgwood Prestige booklet

£1 book of stamps and the story of Wedgwood

18 at 3p 17 at 2½p 7 at ½p



to the Irish Republic and Channel Islands)

cond class	Not over	First class	Second class
14oz	15p		9½p
1lb 0oz	17p		11½p
1lb 8oz	24p		13½p (max)
2lb 0oz	34p		
Each additional 1lb	17p		



na

produced in the
nd has remained
duct. Its strength,
lucency (mainly
ined bone), and
colours that can be
make it extremely
nt delicacy of

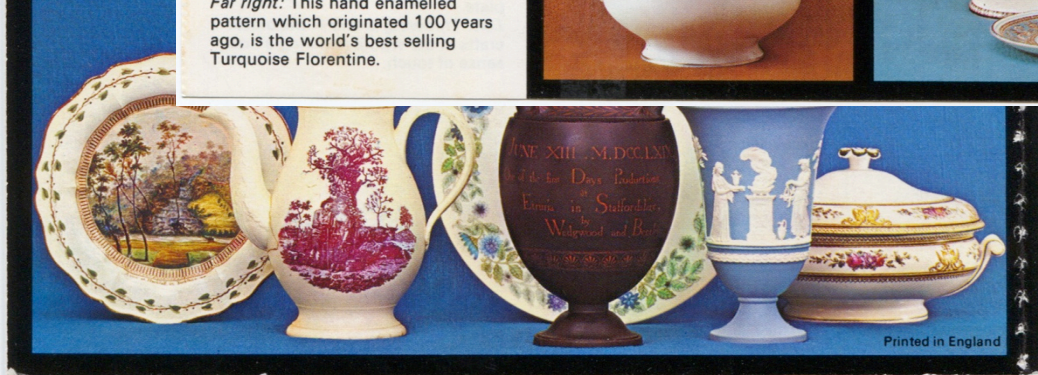


Some china derives its intrinsic toughness.

Right: Modern sophisticated bone china design: Caernarvon—black and gold.

Far right: This hand enamelled pattern which originated 100 years ago, is the world's best selling Turquoise Florentine.

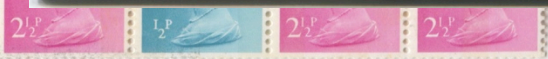
Front cover (left to right) in Jasper, 1775. Josiah Wedgwood's Ruby Whitehall bone china, 1775. Back cover (left to right) Great's Service, 1775.



Printed in England

Early Jasper vases were often made in sets, to form a *garniture de cheminée*. Such vases were particularly admired by late 19th century collectors, many of whom left their collections to museums.

Canals interested Josiah Wedgwood, and he was a pioneer in promoting this form of transport in England.



And, then the “accident”...

Inland letter rates (and to the Irish Republic and Channel Islands)							
Not over		First class	Second class	Not over		First class	Second class
2oz	3p	2½p	14oz	15p	9½p		
4oz	4p	3½p	1lb 0oz	17p	11½p		
6oz	5p	5p	1lb 8oz	24p	13½p (max)		
8oz	6p	6½p	2lb 0oz	34p			
10oz	7p	7½p	Each additional				
12oz	8p	8½p	1lb	17p			

Overseas rates : Air			
Europe: for letters and postcards surface rates apply.			
Outside Europe			
Zone A: N. Africa, Israel, Lebanon and neighbouring countries.			
Zone B: Americas, most of Africa, India and neighbouring countries, S.E. Asia.			
Zone C: China, Japan, Australasia.			
	Zone A	Zone B	Zone C
Letters (per ½ oz)	5p	7½p	9p
Printed papers (per ½ oz)	3p	4p	5p
Postcards	3p	4p	5p
Letter forms	5p: 6½p	5p: 6½p	5p: 6½p

Overseas rates : Surface				
Foreign includes Europe except Cyprus, Gibraltar and Malta.				
Weight step	Letters		Printed papers	
	For-eign	Common-wealth	Ordinary	Re-duced
up to 1oz	5p	3p	3p	1½p
1-2oz	9p	5p	4p	2p
2-4oz	12p	7½p	5p	2½p
4-8oz	30p	10p	8p	4p
8oz-1lb	50p	20p	15p	8p
1-2lb	80p	35p	25p	15p
2-4lb	130p	70p	40p	25p

Postcards to all countries: 3p.

For full details see leaflet or P.O. Guide at any Post Office. These rates apply at time of printing.

Edition date: May 1972.

Advertisement Contractors: Canonsreach Ltd. TEL 01-437-6542



A left band ½p Machin comes “naturally” only from this single position form this single pane.

An “ordinary” 2B ½p Machin stamp catalogs for 10p but the LB version for catalogs at £55.



The Reader's Digest coil



'£55,000 Cash Giveaway'

THESE STAMPS COULD HELP YOU WIN A BONUS WORTH £12,000!

Returning your four Prize Draw 'Computer Cards' promptly could win you a Bonus Award worth £12,000 – or, if you preferred, £10,000 in cash! To save you time and trouble – and to speed your numbers into the Draw – here are the postage stamps to pay for your reply. Entry to our Draws is free: you don't even have to pay postage on your entry! Don't forget: a prompt reply could bring you winnings of more than £40,000!

See the Prompt-reply Bonus Award Card alongside!



STICK THESE STAMPS NOW ON THE ENVELOPE THAT BRINGS US YOUR REPLY TO OUR OFFER AND YOUR ENTRIES IN OUR DRAW.

PROMPT-REPLY BONUS AWARD

RUB THE BOX BELOW FOR NEWS OF A BONUS WORTH

£12,000

THAT COULD BE YOURS!

This valuable Bonus will be awarded *in addition to* the £30,000 First Prize in this '£55,000 Cash Giveaway' if the winning number was returned for entry **WITHIN 14 DAYS OF RECEIPT**. Return your six Prize Draw numbers *straight away!*



Using the edge of a coin, gently rub the box alongside, and all will be revealed.

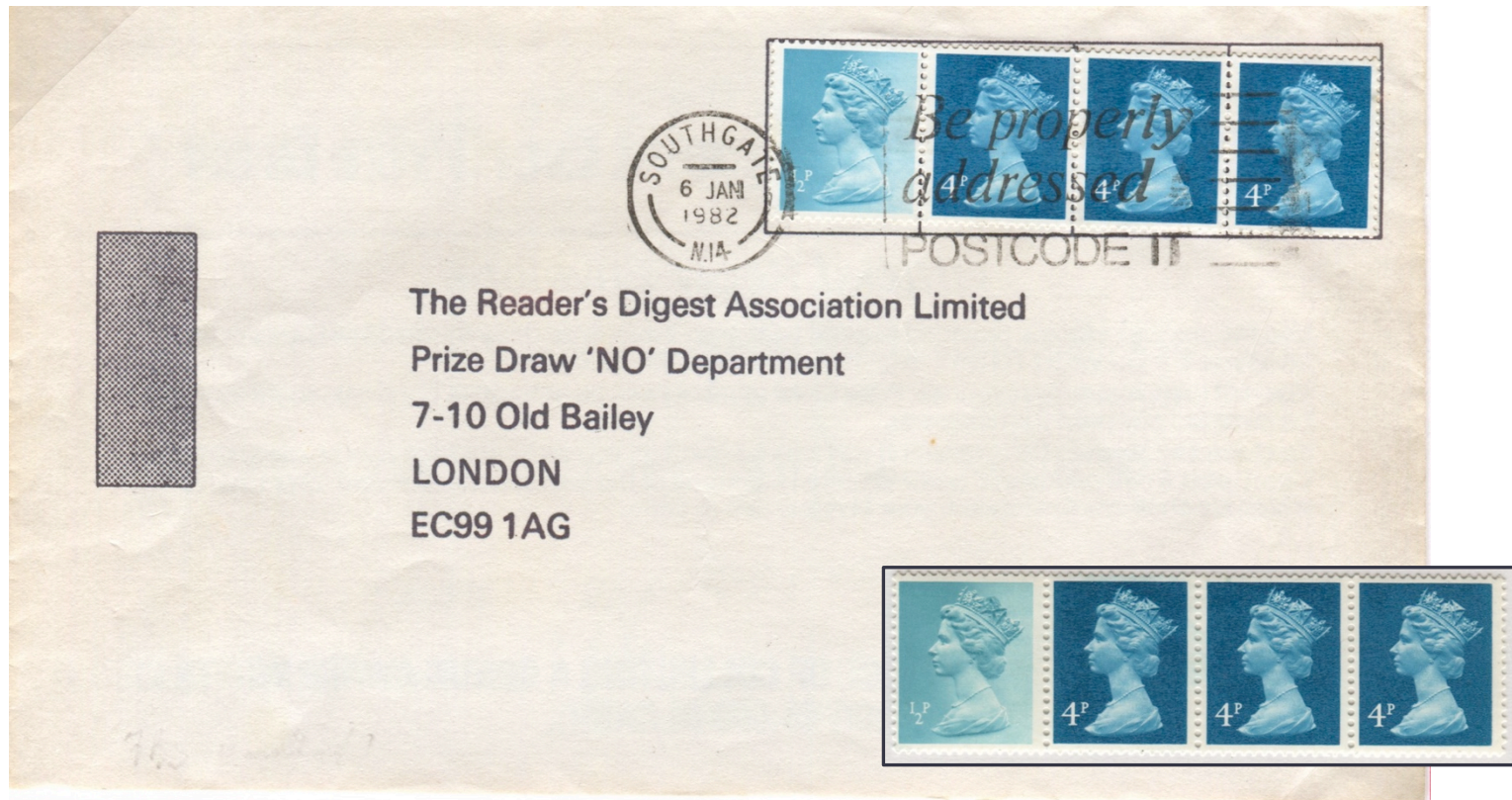
OR, if preferred, £10,000 IN CASH!
DON'T MISS YOUR CHANCE OF THIS VALUABLE EXTRA PRIZE: DETACH THIS CARD AND USE THE STAMPS PROVIDED TO RETURN IT WITH YOUR PRIZE DRAW NUMBERS — TODAY!

DETACH HERE

M-A-B0HG



The Reader's Digest coil, but without fluorescent brightener



Both strips, on cover and mint, unmounted, lack fluorescent brightener.

The single strip has no wax tracks on the rear and is one of 5 known

Imperforates



Phosphor coated paper, PVAD
adhesive
(PCP/PVAD)

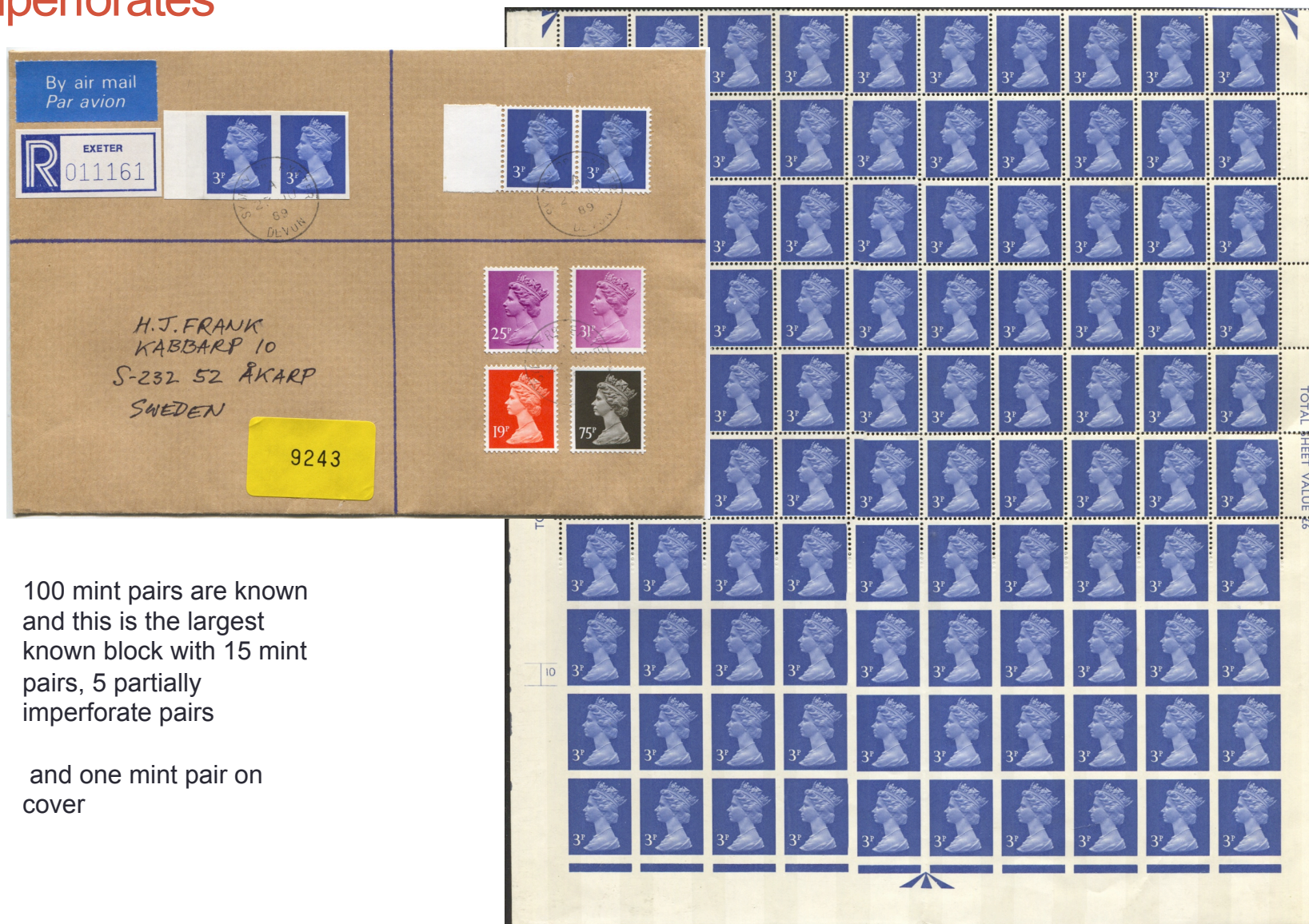
600 imperforate pairs are known,
but cylinder blocks are “known”



Fluorescent coated paper,
gum arabic adhesive
(FCP/GA)

4 to 5 imperforate pairs
are known, with this
example we have half the
known pairs.

Imperforates



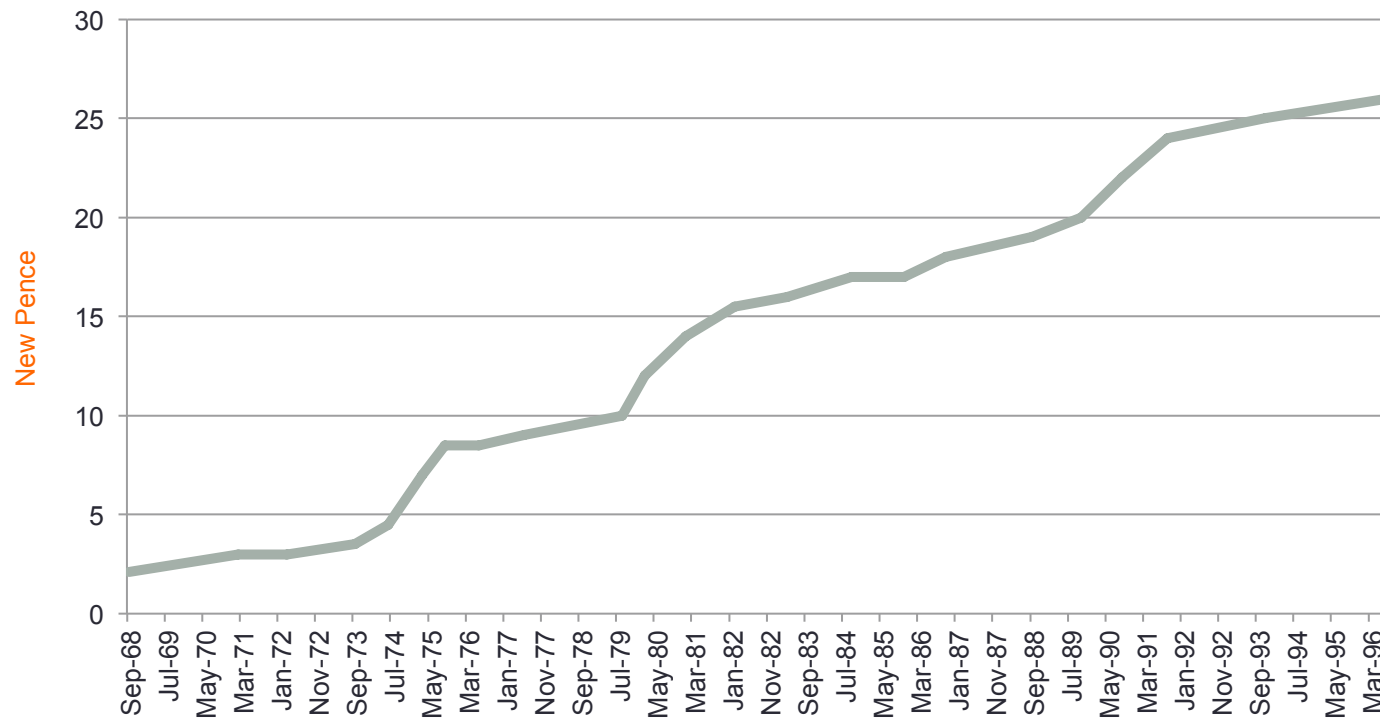
100 mint pairs are known
and this is the largest
known block with 15 mint
pairs, 5 partially
imperforate pairs

and one mint pair on
cover

THE MACHIN SERIES: A BRIEF POSTAL HISTORY VIEW

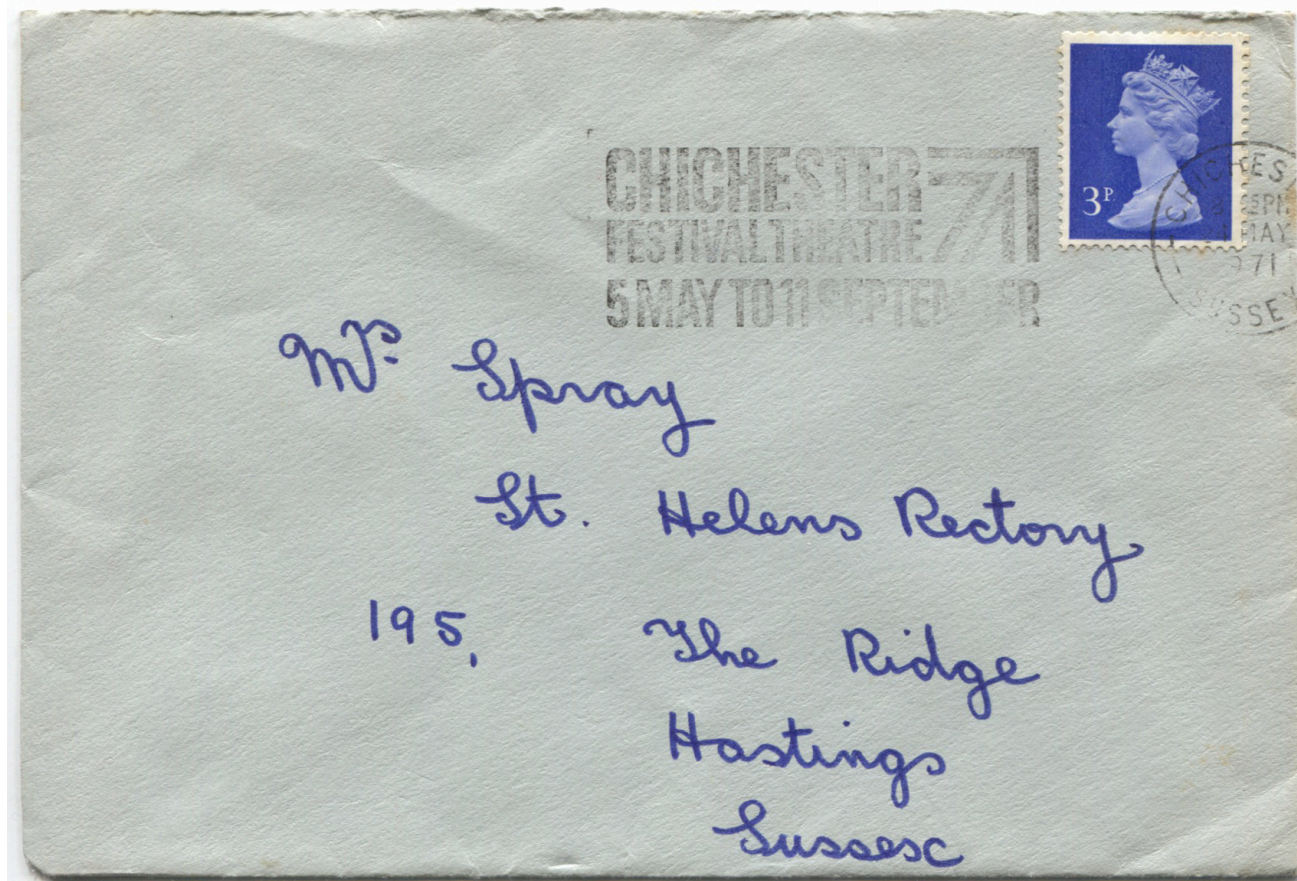
Basic Inland surface rate

1968 to 1996



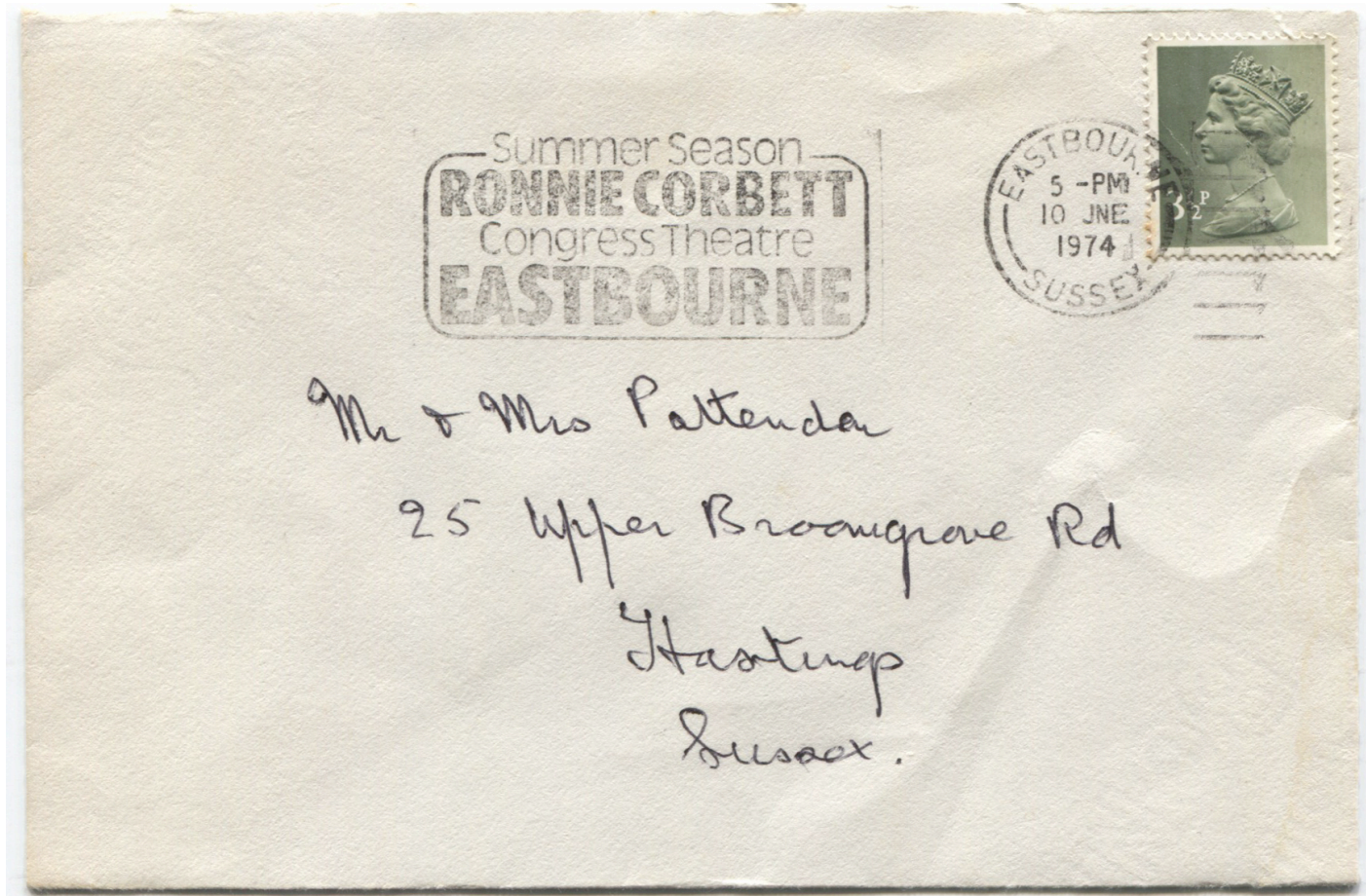
The basic Inland surface rate just prior to D Day was 5d (2p), on D Day it became 3p, an increase of 50%. During the 25 years from 1971 to 1996, this rate increased 21 times, and averaged increases of over 9% per annum

1st Class Inland rates....initial 3p rate at decimalisation



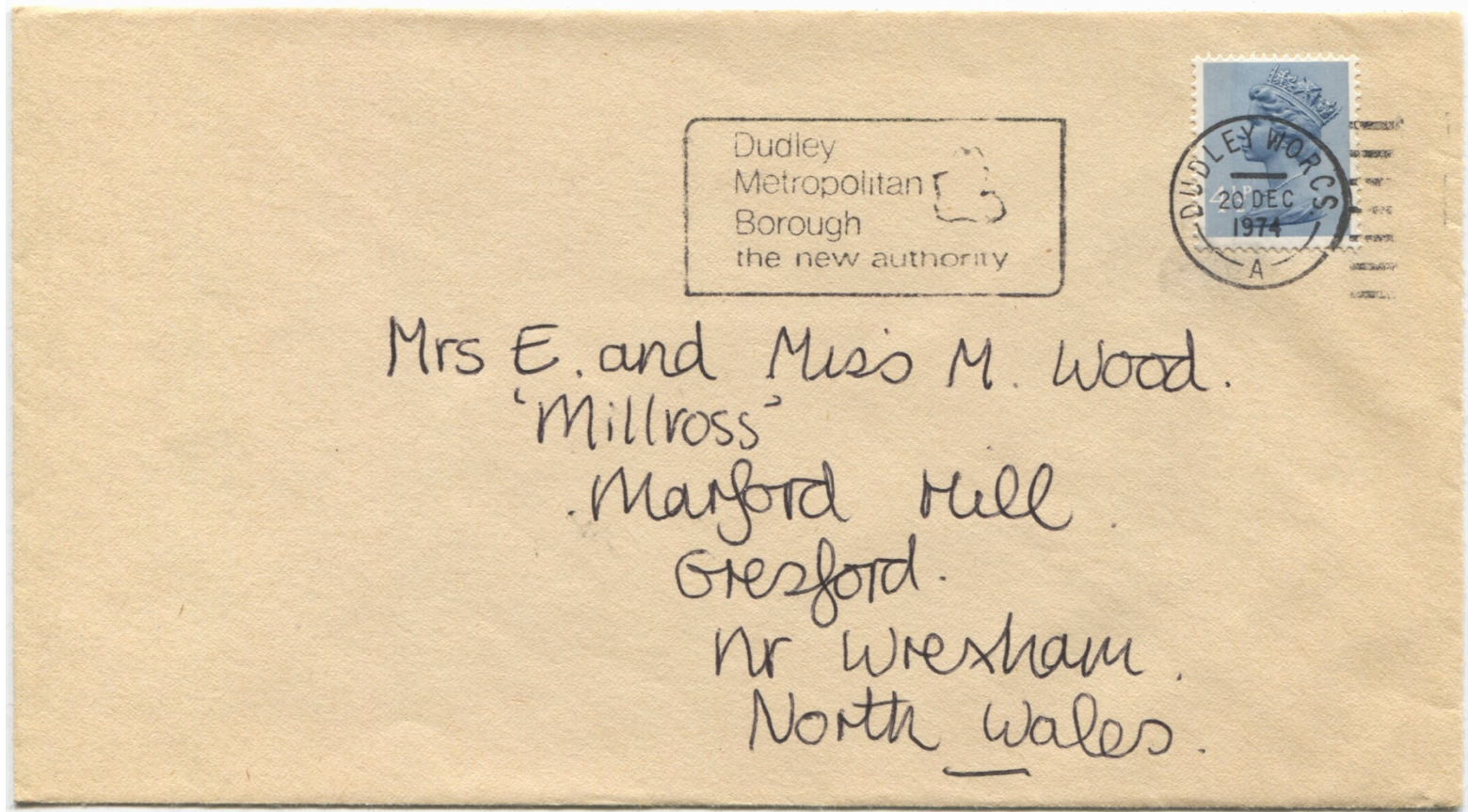
...effective 15 February 1971 and will last 671 days until 9 September 1973

3½p, effective 10 September 1973



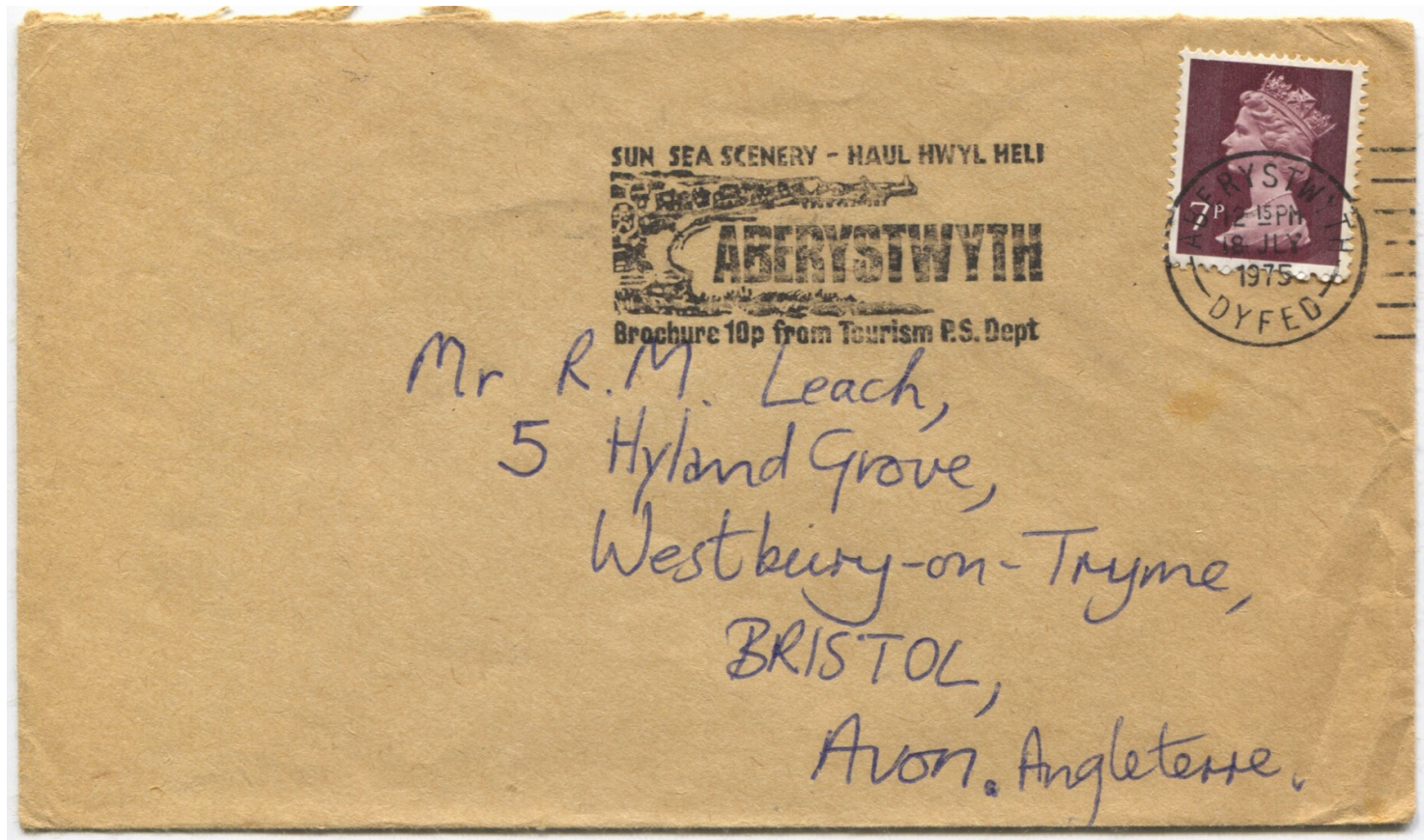
...lasts 206 days until 23 June 1973

4½p, effective 24 June 1974



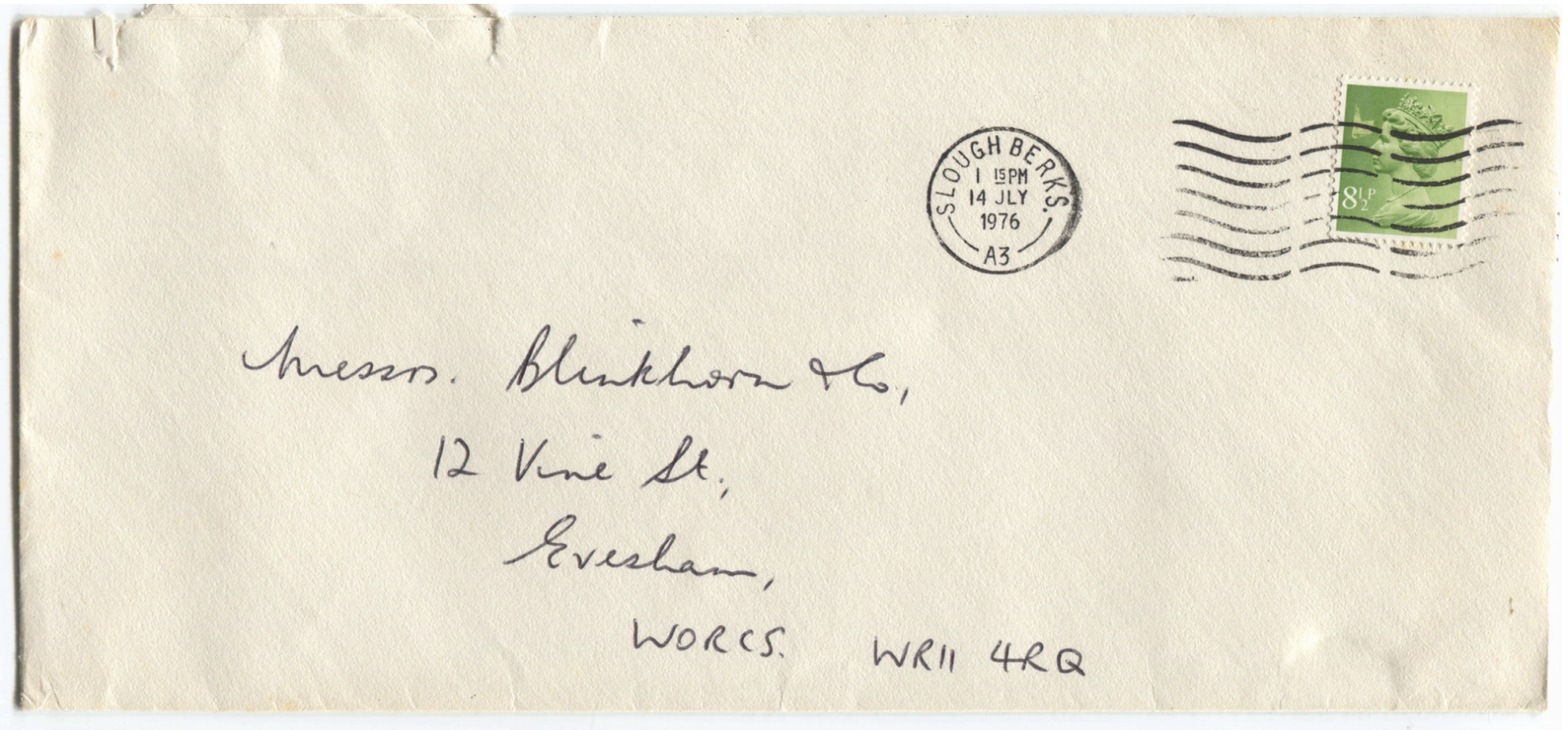
...lasts 191 days until 16 March 1975

7p, effective 17 March 1975



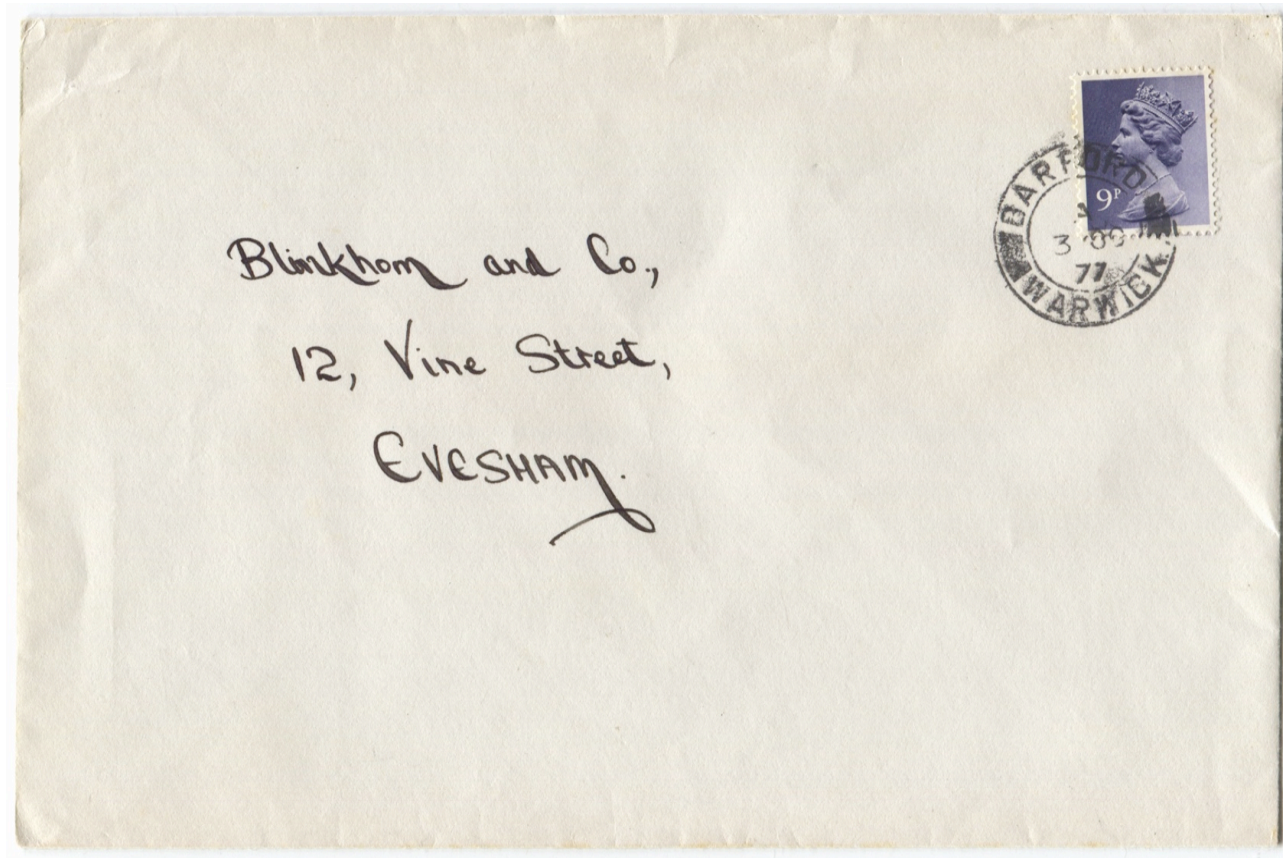
...lasts 141 days until 28 September 1975

8½p, effective 29 September 1975



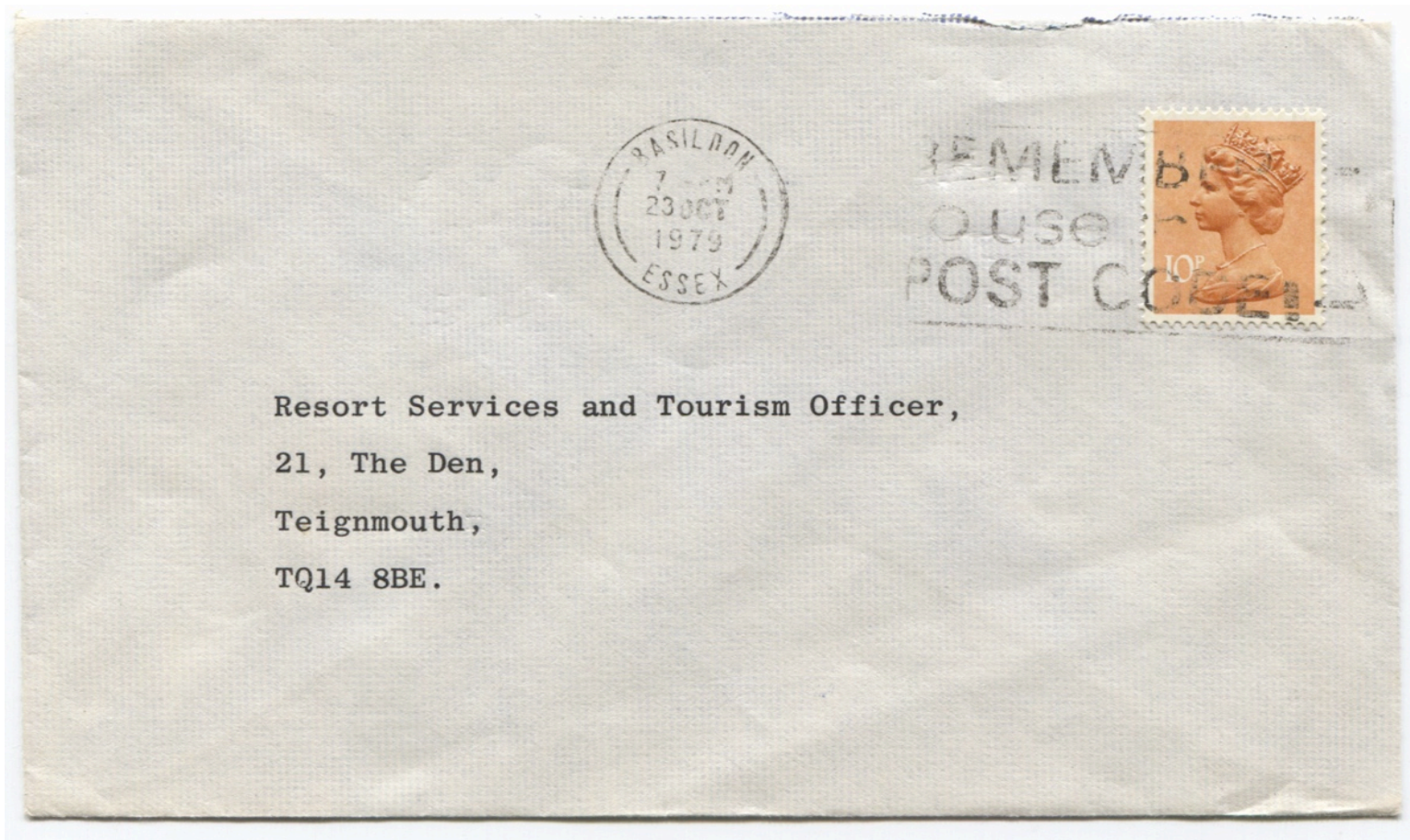
...lasts 446 days until 12 June 1977

9p, effective 13 June 1977



...lasts 571 days until 19 August 1979

10p, effective 20 August 1979



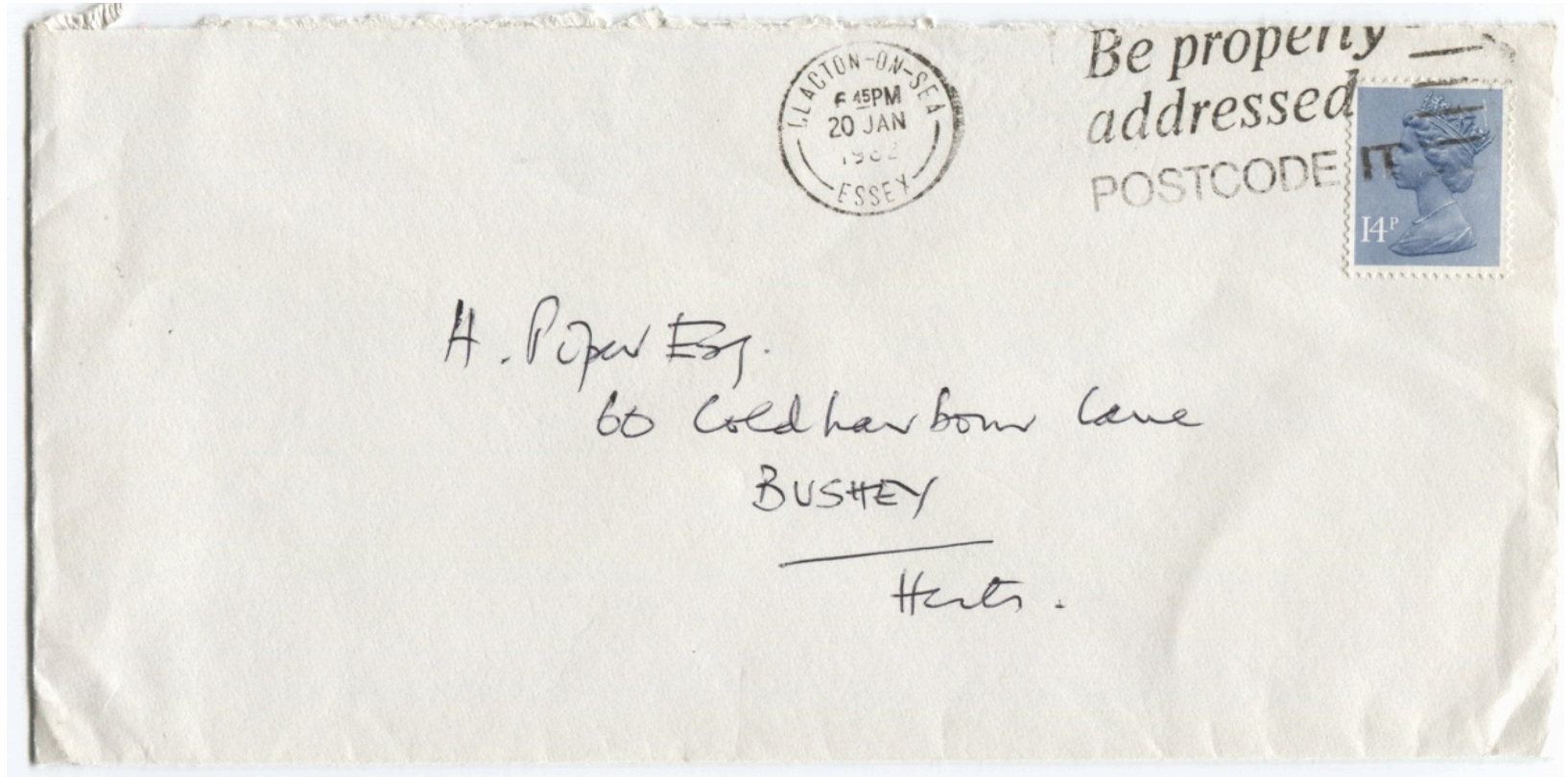
...lasts 121 days until 3 February 1980

12p, effective 4 February 1980



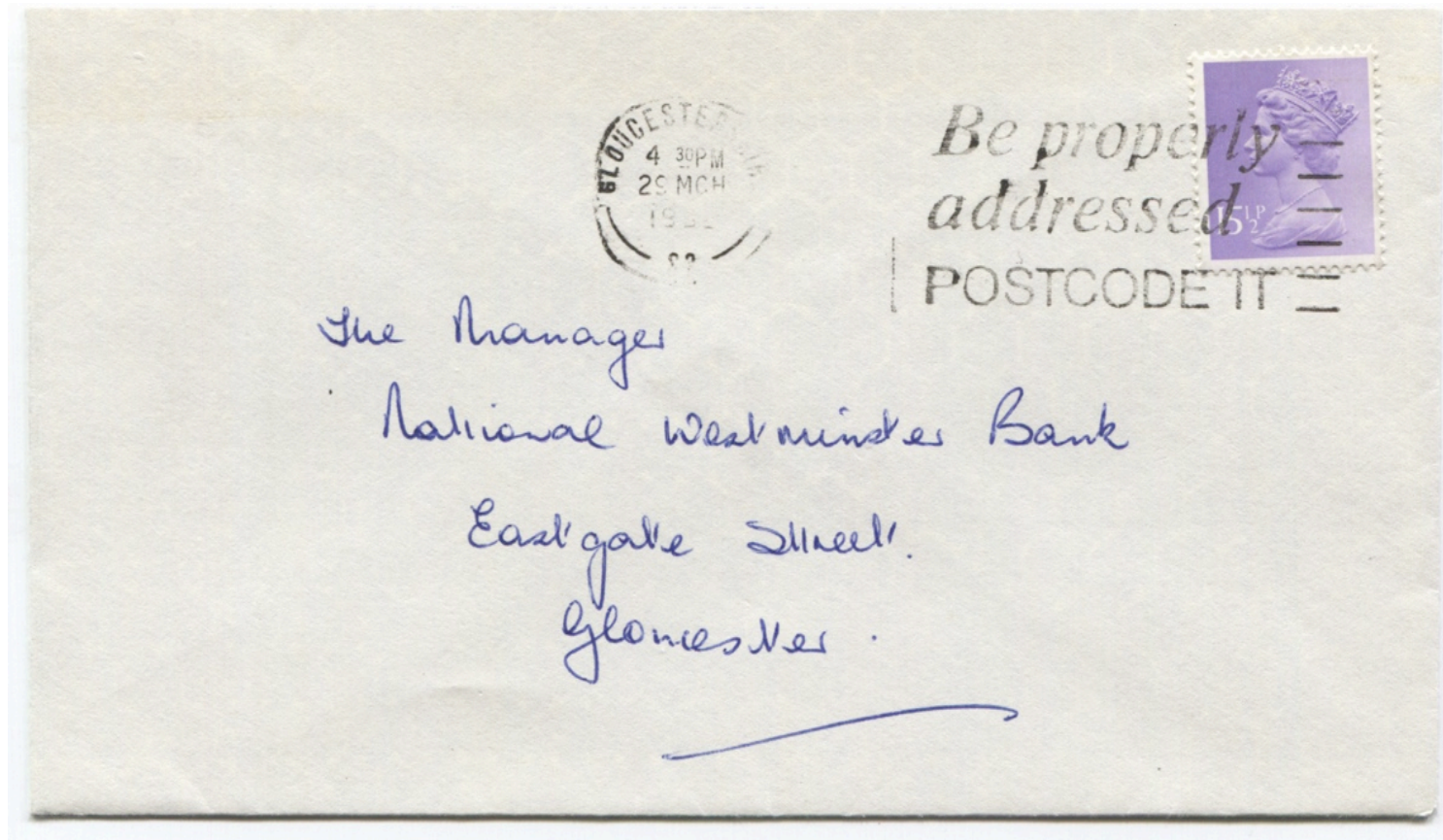
...lasts 256 days until 25 January 1981

14p, effective 26 January 1981



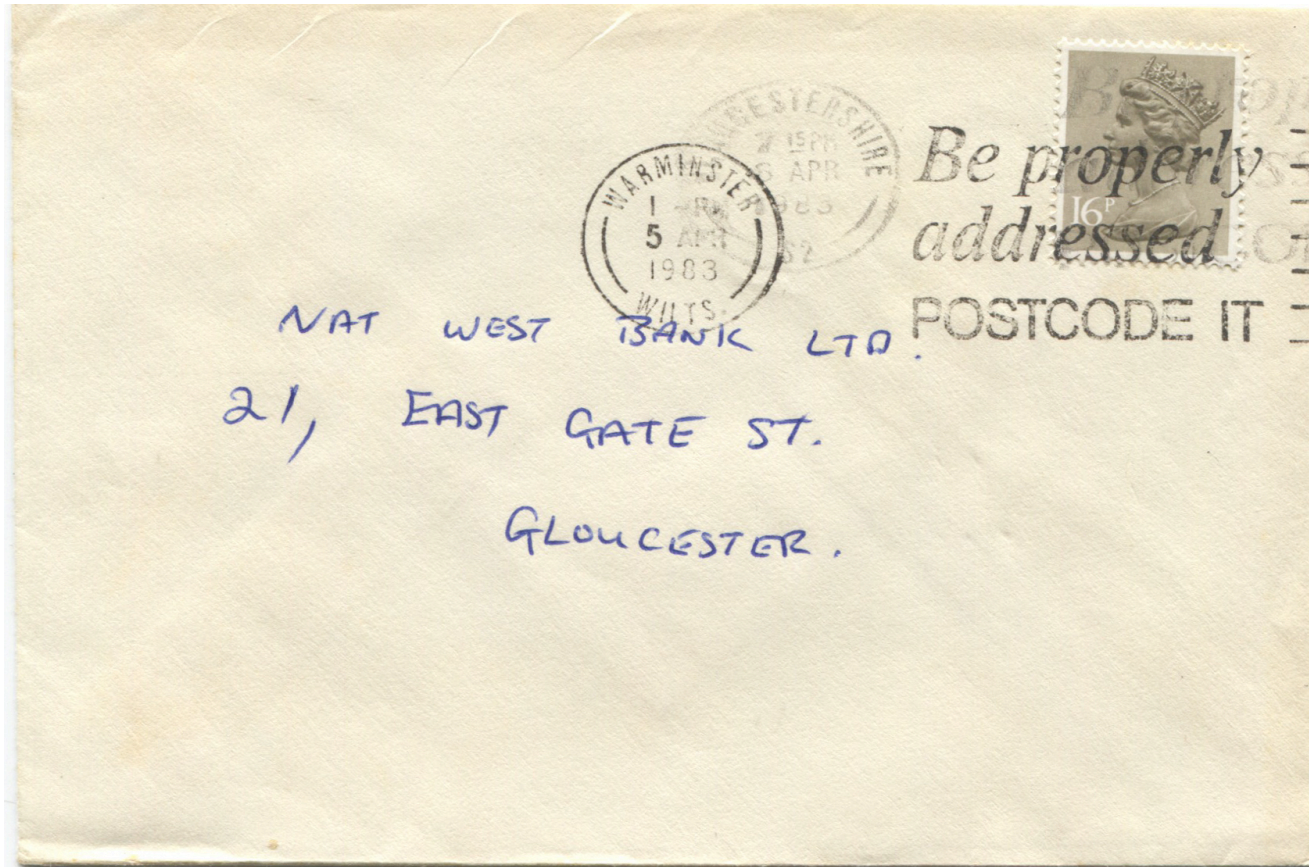
...lasts 266 days until 31 January 1982

15½p, effective 1 February 1982



...lasts 307 days until 4 April 1983

16p, effective 5 April 1983



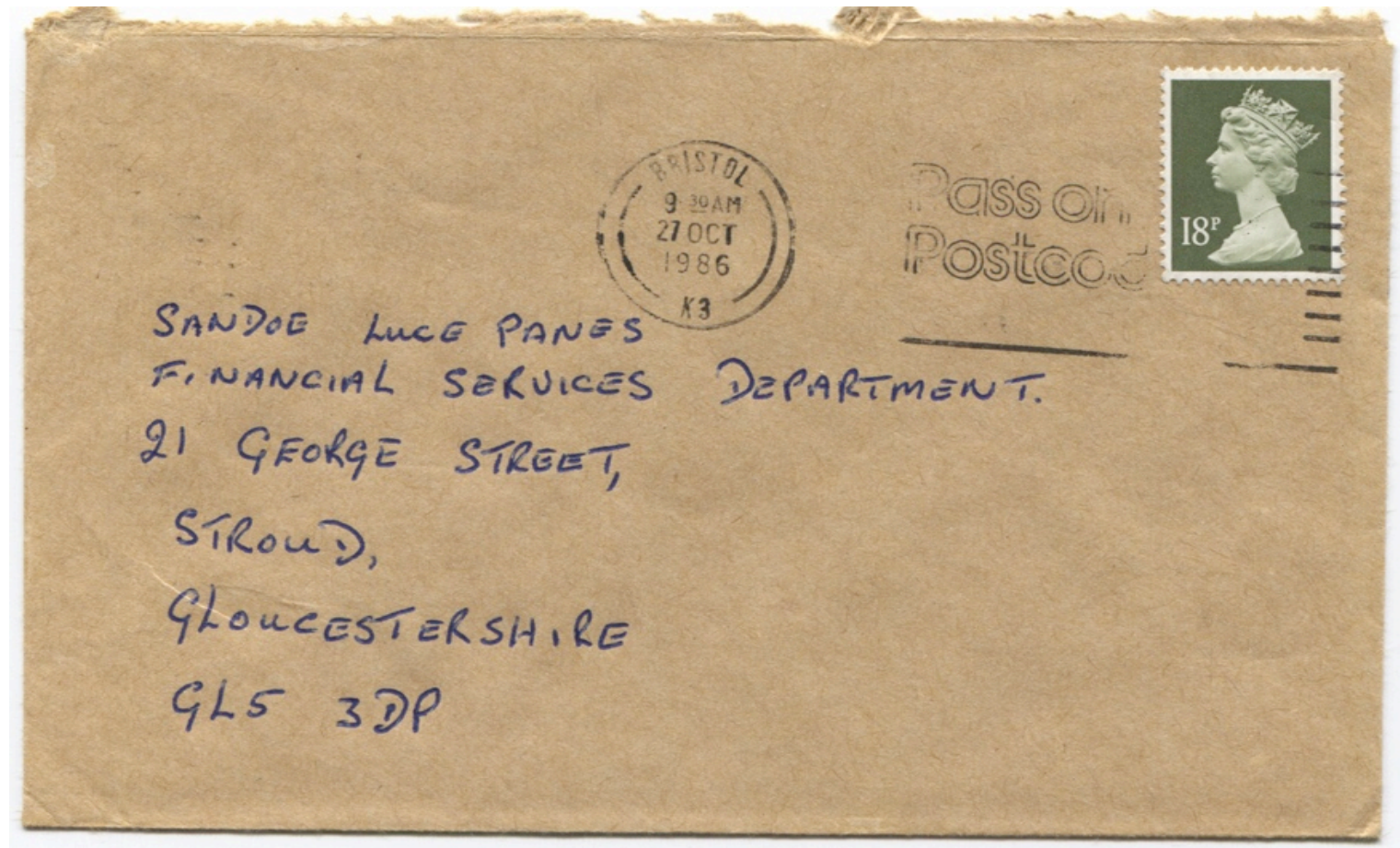
...lasts 370 days until 2 September 1984

17p, effective 3 September 1984



...lasts 556 days until 19 October 1986

18p, effective 20 October 1986



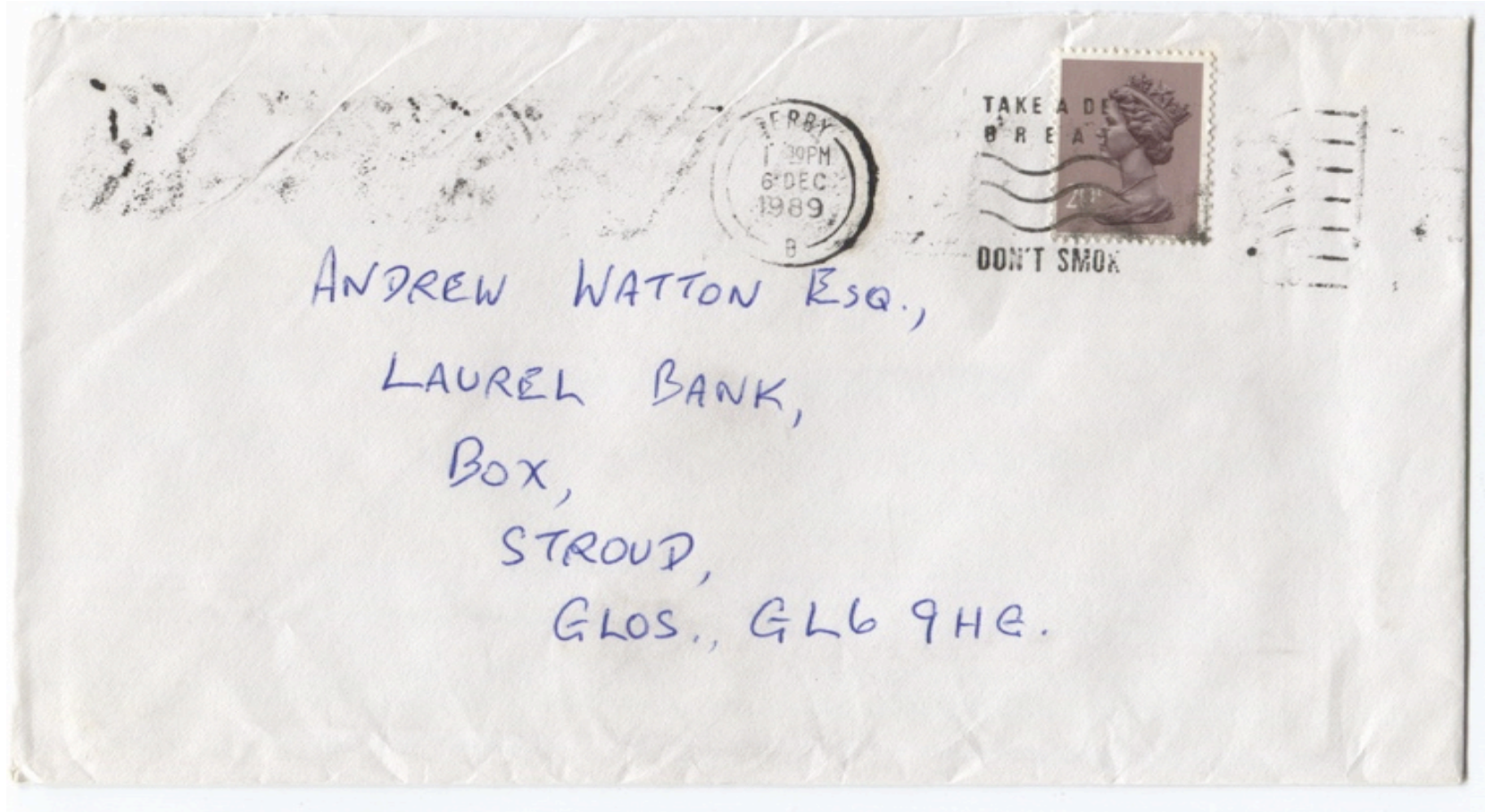
...lasts 491 days until 4 September 1988

19p, effective 5 September 1988



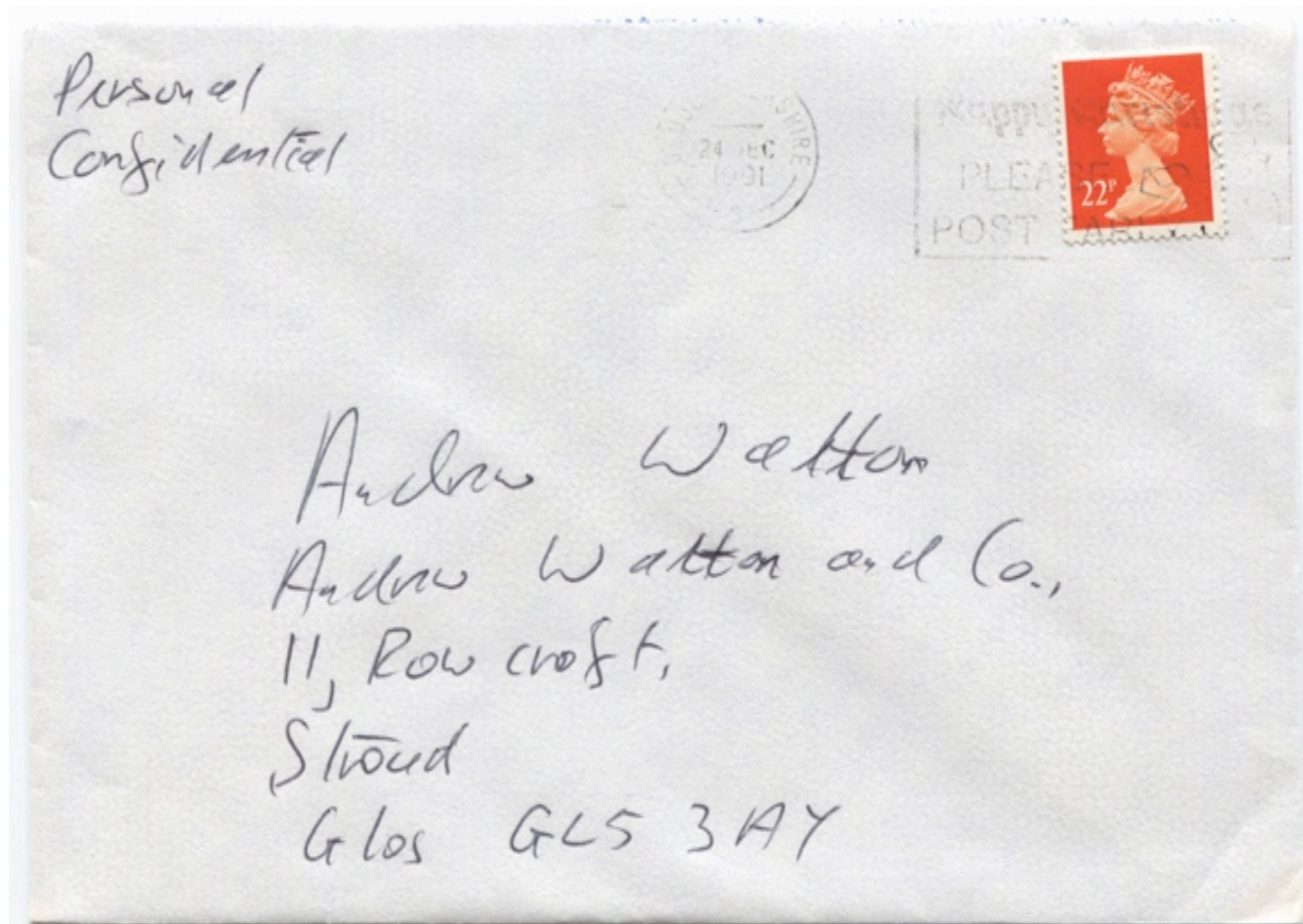
...lasts 281 days until 1 October 1989

20p, effective 2 October 1989



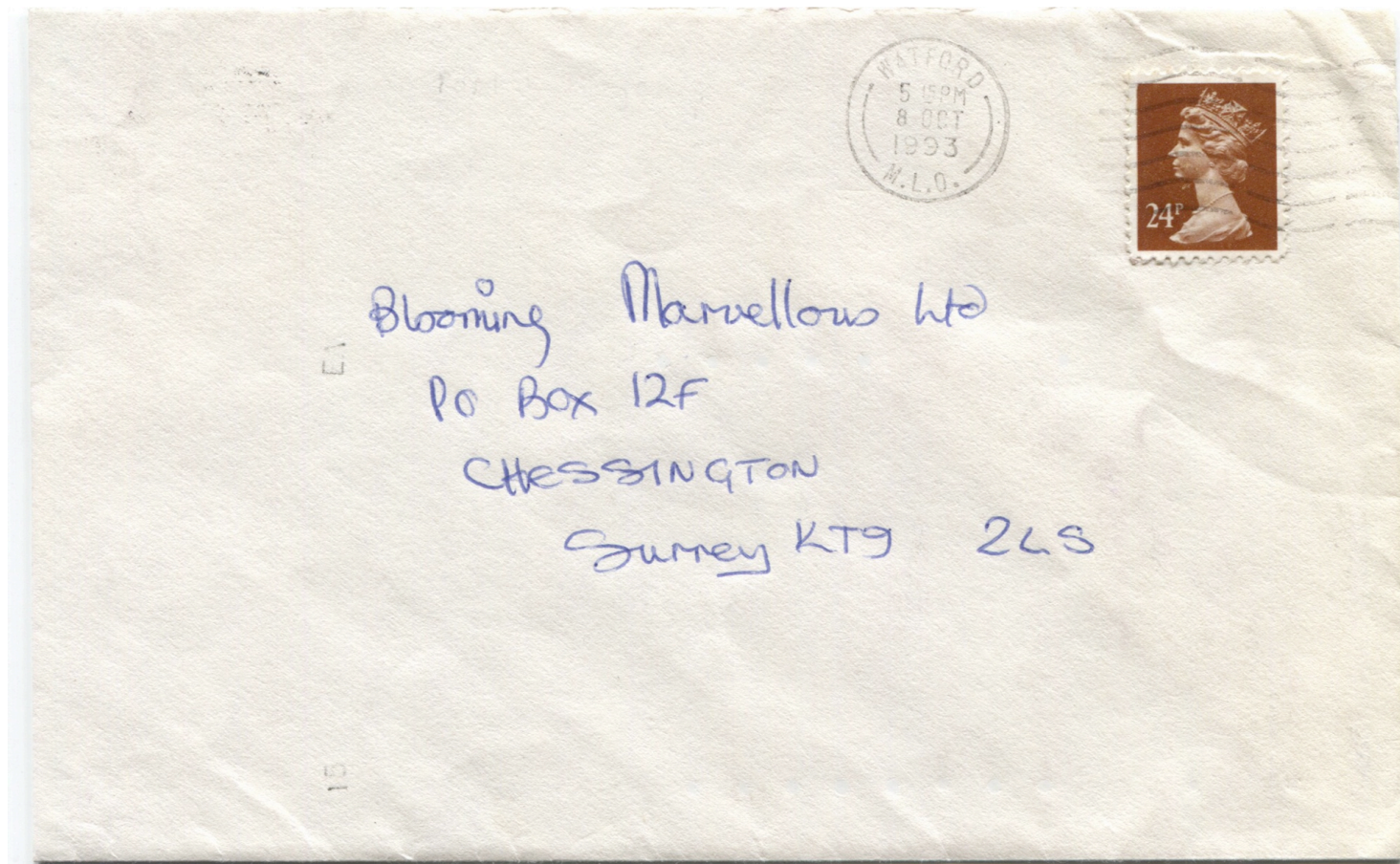
...lasts 251 days until 16 September 1990

22p, effective 17 September 1990

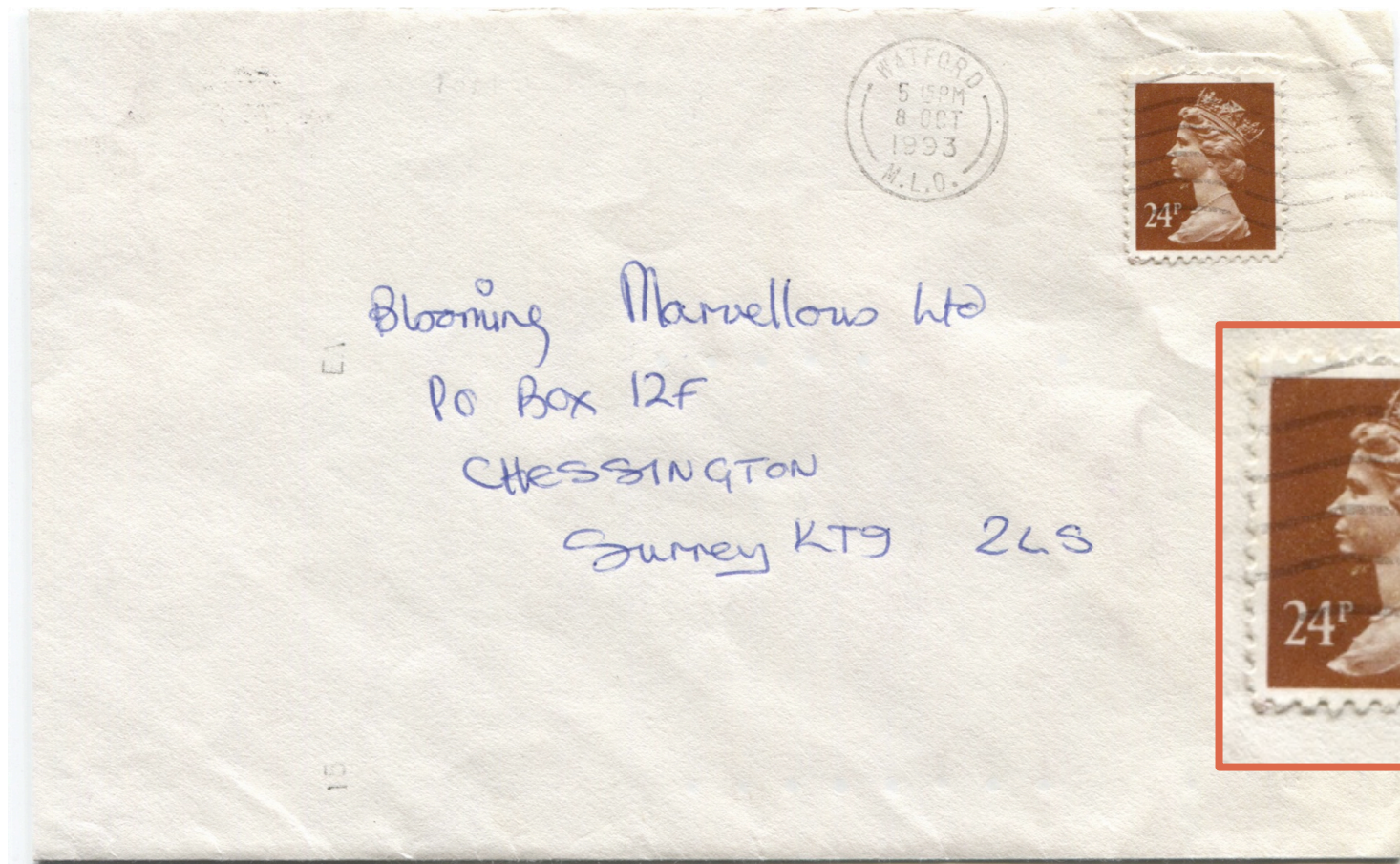


...lasts 261 days until 15 September 1991

24p, effective 16 September 1991



...the stamp is a forgery



...in period, single usage, postal forgery

A genuine 24p on cover



Genuine & fakes compared.....



...the great fear of the Post Office...since the days of Rowland Hill...how to respond?

Introduction of elliptical perf

The 24p Machin satisfied the 1st class inland rate until 1 November 1993 at which time a new 25p Machin was introduced with an elliptical perforation



It was felt that these elliptical perforation would inhibit forgery.

Progressively, the entire range was converted to elliptical perforation and thereby brought to a close the first stage in the development of the decimal Machin



CLIVE. WILSON.
CROXTON CROFT
ECCLESHALL
STAFFORD.

Archie Macdonald

...signed by the man, himself