

Castle & Britannia High Values

1988 - First Issue

Issued on 18th October 1988 these replaced the Photogravure High Value series. These stamps were recess printed in sheets of 100 divided into 4 panes of 25 by horizontal and vertical gutters. This issue is easily recognised by the head, a profile image 1st head.



1992 - Second Issue

Officially issued on 24th March 1992 this series saw the first introduction of additional security measures on British stamps to prevent forgery. The most obvious change was the introduction of elliptical perforations (since included on all Machin stamps, with the exception of some coil issues) and a new 'outline' head printed in OVI (optically variable ink) - 2nd head. This has the property of changing colour from gold, when viewed normally, to green when viewed at an angle to the light.



Re-engraved plates

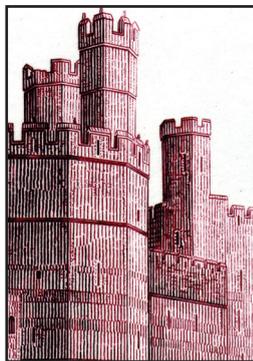
These gradually replaced the original 1992 issue as stocks were used up. There are two distinguishing differences on all the values. Looking at the Queens head under a x 8 glass will reveal a change from a square crosshatching effect to one that is diagonal. There is also much more detail visible especially around the windows and all the re-engraved issues are slightly deeper in colour. Furthermore, there are also variations in the types of paper; from 'normal' to creamy, creamy translucent and white translucent etc. These have been described as accurately as possible and most of the specialist dealers list them. The only sure way to determine which is which is by direct comparison with known examples.



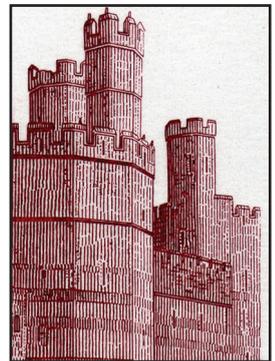
Square crosshatch original printing



Diagonal crosshatch re-engraved issue



Window detail original printing



Window detail re-engraved issue