

THE MACHIN 6/- JAY BOOKLET "GUM ARABIC" STORY

In a philatelic archaeological find, we are thrilled to acquire a small stock of the scarce Machin 6/- Booklet that had been hidden in a box for the past 45 years in New York. When the Machin definitive series began in June, 1967 the standard gum for British stamps was Gum Arabic (GA), a natural product derived only from acacia trees in the Sudan. Uncertainties about supply led the printers Harrison & Sons to develop a new synthetic gum, known as PVA. The two gums are quite easy to distinguish: Gum Arabic is very shiny, untinted, and adds stiffness to the paper; PVA is creamy and matte, with a yellowish tint added.

As a general rule of thumb, all Machins issued in 1967 were on GA paper, and with only a few exceptions, anything issued from January 22, 1968 through 1973, when bluish tinted PVA-Dextrin gum was introduced, was on PVA gummed paper. The only Machin booklet pane issued in 1967, with Gum Arabic, was the 6 x 4d Sepia from 6/- books with non-pictorial covers. The last of such books with GA panes was the May 1968 edition.

The change of colour 4d Red stamp, issued in sheets and book-



lets on January 6, 1969, was meant to be only on PVA gummed paper. Whether by error or a decision to use up some residual paper stock, some 4d Red panes of 6 were printed on GA paper. Panes with the old gum were sprinkled in among some randomly sold copies of three different editions of booklets: 6/- books dated February 199 (Barn Owl cover, issued on February 20) and March 1969 (Jay cover). And the 10/- book dated May 1969 (Mary Kingsley cover). These booklet stamps were Head A, with a flat base to the portrait, and the tete-beche format of the uncut sheets

results in either an upright or inverted direction of printing.

Later in the year, GA was again used, this time on purpose for operational reasons, on the new multi-value machine vended coil strip issued August 27, 1969. These coil strips include two copies of the 4d Red, and all examples from this coil are only with GA. Singles from the coil are readily identified as being Head B (rounded base), machine cut perf tips at top and bottom, and printed in sideways left direction.

Back in 1969 when reports surfaced of two different gums inside some booklets, it became a treasure hunt to find the elusive GA panes. Due to the production method of these stitched booklets, where fat sandwiches of booklet covers, interleaving pages and stamp panes were first manually stacked and then guillotine cut into individual booklets, the resulting panes almost always ended up with one or two edges clipped short.

WE CAN NOW OFFER – as follows, 1st Come, 1st Served. Exceptional Low Prices!

6/- MARCH 1969 WITH JAY COVER (COMPLETE BOOKLET)
Sequence of Panes GUM ARABIC (G) and PVA (p) – Perfs as they come.
SG QP47a GGP, Cat. £170 OUR PRICE..... **LESS 10%**£150.00
SG QP47b PGP, Cat. £80 OUR PRICE..... **10%**£25.00
SG QP47d GPP, Cat. £80 OUR PRICE **10%**£25.00
EXTRA SPECIAL – One of Each (3), Cat. £330£95.00

2006 50th ANNIVERSARY OF EUROPA STAMPS SMILERS SHEETS

Originally issued in 2006 were Smilers Sheets Commemorating the 50th Anniversary of Europa stamps (1956 to 2006) which depict various G.B.

Europa stamps in the borders and pre-decimal Europa stamp reproductions on the labels adjoining the 1st Class Union Flag stamp. Printed in a limited edition of just 500 sets of 3 different sheets. The first sheet (Ref. EU1) is as described above. The second sheet has a slightly different appearance to accommodate the Official 'Belgica' Exhibition logo at the bottom (Ref. EU2)

and the third sheet has the Official 'Stampex' logo at the bottom (Ref. EU3). The normal retail price is £19.50 each but we are making an exceptional offer of all 3 sheets for just **£35.00**

plus **£3.00 P&P**. You will note that we have used these stamps and/or the Europa label on the outside mailing envelope. You can collect the set of 6 different Europa labels as well.



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VERY FINE USED COMPLETE OMNIBUS COLLECTIONS

Always hard to find Fine Used, Excellent value.

1937 George VI Coronation – a total of 202 stamps from 57 countries (Cat. £250) **OUR PRICE ONLY**£99.00
1945/46 Victory – a total of 164 stamps from 62 countries (Cat. £90) **OUR PRICE ONLY**£49.00

ONE OF EACH AS ABOVE
366 Fine Used stamps (Cat. £340) **£139.00**

Enquiries for other Fine Used Omnibus Collections and individual countries welcomed.

1966 BIRDS 'MISSING LEGS'



A VERY POPULAR ERROR, SG696aj – Reddish brown omitted affecting the robin and the blackbird – an U/M Block of 4..£175.00 do. Blackbird only in pair with bluetit U/M or F/U.....£75.00

PRESENTATION PACKS

We are breaking up a collection – all in Royal Mail Double Cover Albums (new cost £18!). Only one of each available. First Come, First Served. An opportunity not to be missed!

	Face Value	Price
1 1971 Ulster Paintings to 1979 I.Y.C., 57 Packs		£65.00
2 1979 Rowland Hill to 1986 Christmas, 59 Packs		£45.00
3 1987 Flowers to 1993 Marine Clocks, 52 Packs		£60.00
4 1993 Orchids to 1998 Speed, 52 Packs		£75.00
5 1998 Christmas to 2002 Airliners, 48 Packs		£110.00
6 2002 World Cup to 2006 England Views, 49 Packs inc. Sainsbury's Fruit and Veg	£194.88	£175.00
7 2006 Brunel to 2009 Firs and Rescue, 52 Packs	£209.50	£175.00
8 2009 Royal Navy Uniforms to 2013 Great Britons, 52 Packs	£268.82	£240.00
9 2013 Football Heroes to 2014 Christmas, 36 Packs	£216.81	£195.00