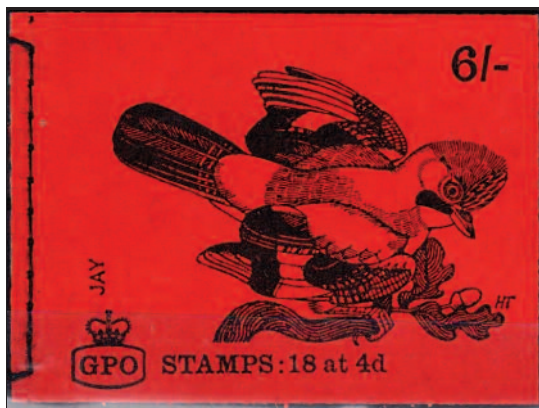


THE MACHIN 6/- JAY BOOKLET "GUM ARABIC" STORY

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 booklets 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 resulted 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.....**£50.00**
 SG QP47b PGP, Cat. £80 OUR PRICE.....**£25.00**
 SG QP47d GPP, Cat. £80 OUR PRICE.....**£25.00**
 EXTRA SPECIAL – One of Each (3), Cat. £330.....**£95.00**

G.B. ROYAL MAIL 'BOXED BOOKLETS' ISSUED IN 1977 AS AN EXPERIMENT FOR MACHINE VENDING



Experimental and limited sales!

There are two different types of Booklets that were issued in 1977 in Scotland which we now offer as follows:

Horizontal Format

30p Red Booklet containing Scottish 6½p and 8½p Regionals (1st Experimental Booklets), now getting scarce.....**£3.00 £2.50**
 60p Bright Blue containing Scottish 6½p and 8½p Regionals (1st Experimental Booklets), now getting scarce.....**£4.00 £3.50**
 60p Dark Blue containing Scottish 6½p and 8½p Regionals (1st Experimental Booklets), now getting scarce.....**£5.00 £4.50**
 60p Bright Blue (Squared Tab) containing 7p and 9p Machins (2nd Experimental Booklets) due to Postal Rates increases, Scarce.....**£6.00 £5.00**

Vertical Format - Please enquire.

1980 EUROPA

Permission was authorised by the British Post Office for an edition of only 10,000 to be used on behalf of 'War on Want'. Although not postally valid but printed in full colour, perforated and on PVA Gummed Paper this attractive item is the subject of controversy. The Post Office is embarrassed and would prefer the Souvenir Sheet to be withdrawn, as it gives the impression that it was officially released.



LAST FEW £25.00

do. Se-tenant Block of 4 (9p, 10½p, 11p and 13p) ex Sheet **£12.50**

do. Sheet with 'Cancelled' overprint - few only available **£30.00**

We have acquired a few copies Imperf, very rare **£200.00**