

Finally, I wish to draw attention to the fact that the 1972 provisional overprint, "1p" in dark blue on the 9p issue, is also due to a mistake. This stamp was issued on May 1, 1972, and 3,600 copies were printed. In a letter dated September 1, 1972, Mr. Gade explained to me: "Early this year it was realized that the stock of one puffin decimal stamps would not last until the appearance of the commemorative issue on June 7, and to bridge the gap, 3,600 9p stamps of the 1930 issue were surcharged 1p. The overprinting was by the silk-screening process, and *the printers, unfortunately, used a deep blue ink instead of black.*" Mr. Gade went on to say that the issue was almost sold out. So it seems that the printers goofed again and delivered the overprint in the wrong color!

This is all I have been able to find out about these issues. If anybody has additional information, please write to M. Andre Dufresne, C. P. 112, Succ. Beaubien, Montreal, Quebec, Canada H2G 3C8.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

To the late Mr. Felix Gade, former Postmaster of Lundy, who took so much time writing to all the people related to these issues, collecting data, and transmitting same to me, I owe many thanks. Mr. Gade's invaluable assistance was my main source of information, and without his friendly assistance, this article could not have been written. I also wish to thank John Dyke, Mr. Harman-Jones, and all those who kindly answered Mr. Gade's and my own queries.

--M. Andre Dufresne

THE PUFFIN-EMBOSSSED GREAT BRITAIN STAMP OF 1973

by M. Andre Dufresne

There is a short article in The Puffin Journal Number 23 (Autumn 1974, page 10) about the puffin-embossed Great Britain stamps. Here are a few additional notes on this subject.

The embossed stamps, produced in 1973 by the Lundy Philatelic Service, were admittedly made as a "gimmick." In a way, they resemble the regional stamps issued for use in the various parts of the British Isles.

The Lundy Philatelic Service produced about 300 of these stamps before they were prohibited by the Post Office. The earliest known date of use is a January 5, 1973 Ilfracombe postmark. (The covers were dispatched from Eastleigh to Lundy on January 3, 1973.) They were prohibited by the G.P.O. sometime in February 1973, and about 60 items were returned by the G.P.O. for re-stamping.

I have seen multiples used on covers, and a few mint stamps were sold to collectors, so there must be very few covers with the embossed stamps duly cancelled between January and February 1973; in any event, less than 200 of these covers must exist. Only the 3p blue of the Machin definitive issue (Scott #627) was so treated, and the margins were also embossed. Airmail labels used by the Lundy Philatelic Service were embossed in a like manner, but I do not know how many were produced.

A lot consisting of one mint and one used embossed 3p stamps brought 55 pence in an auction in February 1974, and a cover bearing this stamp realized \$31 against a preauction estimate of \$10 in the September 5, 1980 mail auction held by Puff 'N Company! A mint copy realized \$56 against a \$40 estimate and a cover bearing seven used copies sold for \$41 against an estimate of \$30 in the Puff 'N Company October 23, 1981 mail auction!