GREAT BRITAIN/QV

THE 1887 'JUBILEE' STAMP ISSUE

Date Issued : Mar.1900 , Process : Surface Ptg.

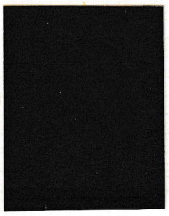
Watermark : Imperial Crown , Printer : Thomas De La Rue

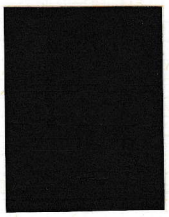
Perforation : 14p x 14p , Qty Issued: 10,854,777 sheets

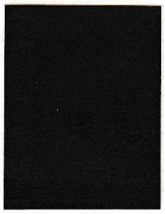
I. General Comments

In 1900 the colour was changed from vermillion to blue-green. This was made to conform to U.P.U. regulations.The Post Office was solely responsible for the change and not the I.R. dept.

S.G. No.213(1) S.G. No.213(1) S.G. No.213(1)







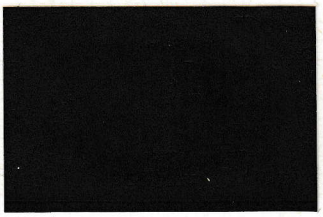
Brt.blue-green Brt.blue-green Brt.blue-green

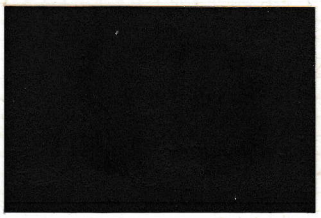
II. Ink/shades

The new ink selected,contained ingredients of deep seiden grn, zinc grn.,and milori blue.This ink was reported to contain lead which was forbidden in the printing contract.

S.G. No.213(2) S.G. No.213(2)

Dull blue-green

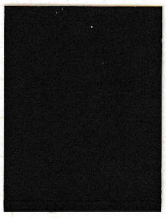


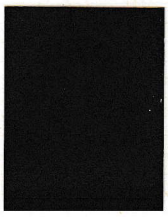


Dull blue-green

S.G. No.213(2) S.G. No.213(2)

Dull blue-green





Dull blue-green

The differences in shade are again due to production variations most of the time than the change in ink composition used in the printings.

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III. Type of Ink

There are generally two distinct shades found in this issue. The darker one may be due to the blue-green lead,or zinc chromate ink & the lighter,blue-green organic ink.

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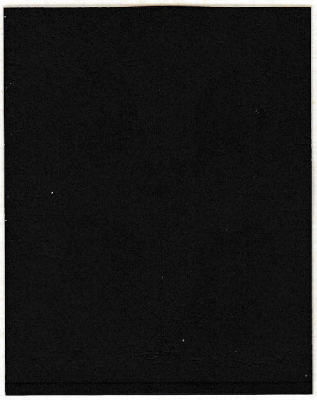
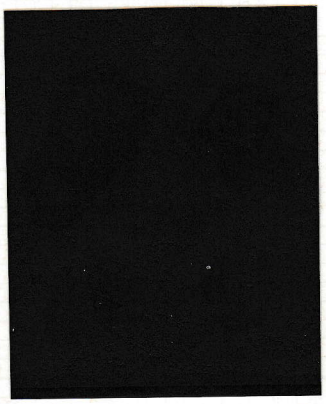
Blue-grn. lead or Zn Chromate Ink



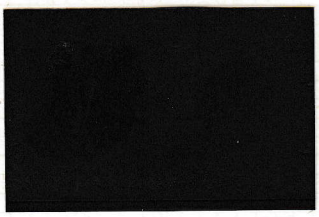


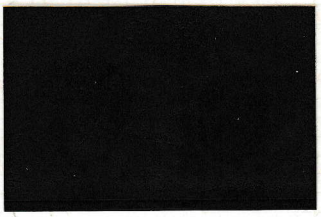
Blue-grn. 'Organic' Ink

The organic ink is slightly green under the long wave U.V. light while those in the other ink become grey or blackish in colour.

S.G. No.213(2) S.G. No.213(2)

Blue-green (Lead Chromate)



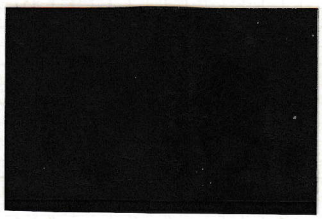


Blue-green (Organic)

Dublin Oct.1901 Sandon Dec.1900

S.G. No.213Var

Blue (Organic)



Colour changeling

Postmark dates are very useful in determining the types of ink in use.Those of May 1900 are in lead chromate ink,while those of Jan. & Oct. 1901 represente stamps printed in Organic ink.

Lead green ink-Jan-May 1900, Organic ink - Nov.1900-Nov.1901
Zinc green ink-Jun-Oct.1900

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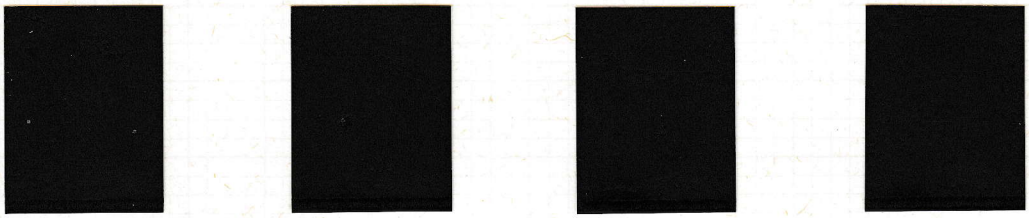
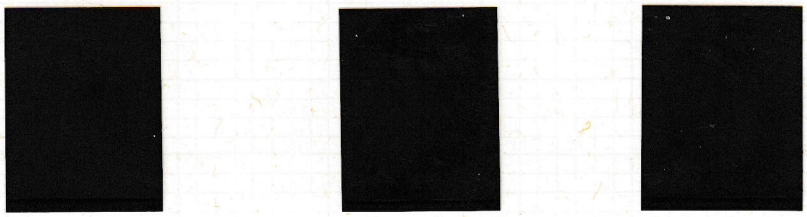
IV. Shade/Colour changeling

The blue-green ink used was highly susceptible to moisture in the air, due to its fugitive nature. This results in a wide range of shades as shown in the examples below.

S.G. No.213(1) S.G. No.213(1) S.G. No.213(2) S.G. No.213(2)

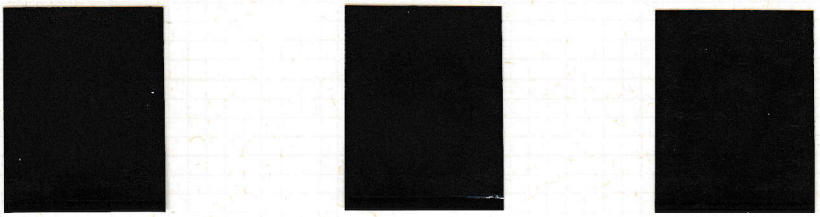
Blue-green 

S.G. No.213(1) S.G. No.213(1) S.G. No.213(2)

Blue-green  Brt.ble-green Early state in colour changeling

The early printings contain lead chromate which was poisonous, it was later replaced by a mixture of prussian blue & Zn chromate pigment, being soluble in water causes the colour to change.

S.G. No.213Var S.G. No.213Var S.G. No.213Var

Greenish-blue  Intermediate stage in colour change

S.G. No.213Var S.G. No.213Var

Blue  Colour changeling completed

The above two examples shows the yellow Zn chromate has completely dissolved in the moisture/water in the air leaving the blue pigment behind.