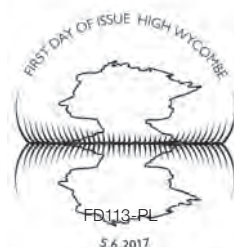




FD113-TH



FD113-PL



FD113-NP

Above: special handstamps have the location of HIGH WYCOMBE, chosen because this was where Harrison & Sons, the printers who worked closely with Machin, were based for many years



Machin Anniversary 1967 - 2017 Celebrating 50 years of the iconic Machin definitive stamp design, one of the most reproduced images of all time

On Monday 5 June 1967, Royal Mail issued the first of the new definitive stamps featuring the classic portrait of The Queen designed and sculpted by Arnold Machin. Next month, fittingly on Monday 5 June (the calendars for 1967 and 2017 are the same), the 50th anniversary of this iconic stamp design is to be marked with a Special Stamp issue.

The chosen profile of The Queen wearing the diadem deliberately echoed the design of the Penny Black. The design was conceived by sculptor Arnold Machin and at first based on his bas relief sculpture for the new decimal coins. He sculpted plaster casts, looked to incorporate text and symbols and essays were produced. A number of simplifications of the head, text and framing devices were explored, and ultimately the Stamp Advisory Committee preferred the Queen to wear a diadem (the crown worn by Victoria on Penny Black). Machin used a photograph by John Hedgcock to



Above: The Golden Anniversary Celebration Miniature Sheet. The background has an image of one of the 4d stamp which was one of the first values issued in 1967. Also displayed is a quote from Edward Short, Postmaster General. Left: First day cover for other Miniature Sheet, The Machin Definitive – 50 Years Of A Design Icon

model the diadem and then he created a further new sculpted plaster cast, later adding a corsage for the final sculpture. A cast of this was photographed and used for the artwork for the first stamp.

The Machin head image has been reproduced more times than any other image in history, having been printed on more than 200 billion stamps. ‘Machins’ are the subject of avid collecting and study for many philatelists.

To mark the 50th anniversary of this iconic design, Royal Mail’s Special Stamp issue centres on two Miniature Sheets, as follows.

The Machin Definitive 50 Years of a Design Icon Miniature Sheet, with six First Class stamps:

January 1966 One of Arnold Machin’s preliminary sketches based on the Penny Black.

February 1966 In this early preparatory work, Machin has used a photograph of his coin mould to experiment with the dimensions of the portrait. ►

The Machin Definitive 50th Anniversary Miniature Sheets – Technical Details

Golden Anniversary/50 Years

Date of issue	5 June 2017
Number of stamps	Seven/Six
Stamp design	Atelier Works
Stamp format	Portrait, 1993 landscape/landscape
Stamp size	Stamp size: 20 x 24mm 1993 25 x 20mm 2017 30 x 35mm/34 x 24mm
Printer	International Security Printers
Print process	Gravure with gold foil on £1 stamp/ Gravure
Perforations	15 x 14, 1993 & 2017 14 x 15/14 x 14
Phosphor	Bars as appropriate
Gum	PVA

Royal Mail Mint Stamps

THE MACHIN DEFINITIVE

50TH ANNIVERSARY

THE MACHIN DEFINITIVE

50 YEARS OF A DESIGN ICON



March 1966. Reixed plaster cast of the 'Coronet' head, with The Queen wearing a tiara

January 1966

One of many preliminary sketches by Arnold Machin based on the Penny Black



February 1966

Preliminary work by Machin using a photograph of his (coronet)



April / May 1966

One of many essays with the 'Coronet' head surrounded by country symbols



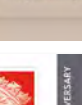
October 1966

Essay of the 'Coronet' head cropped and simplified, with only the denomination



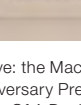
August 1966

Photograph by John Hedgeroe with The Queen wearing the tiara



October 1966

Essay of the first glass cut of the 'Coronet' head, without corsage



THE MACHIN DEFINITIVE

50TH ANNIVERSARY

"After months of extremely hard work by Mr Arnold Machin and the printers... a design was evolved which in my opinion will be one of the classics of stamp history."
Edward Short, Postmaster General, 1967



THE MACHIN DEFINITIVE 50TH ANNIVERSARY

Above: the Machin Definitive 50th Anniversary Presentation Pack for the 50 Years Of A Design Icon Miniature Sheet.

Left: the Machin Definitive 50th Anniversary Stamp Book.

Below: Press Sheets, each with eight Miniature Sheets.

Right: the Presentation Pack opens to this info card, written by Douglas Muir

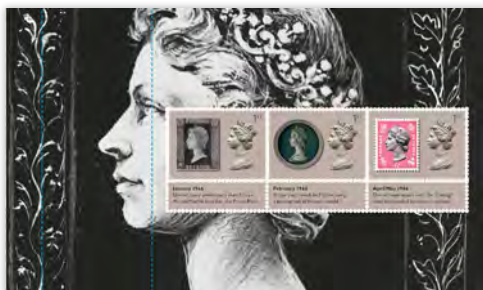
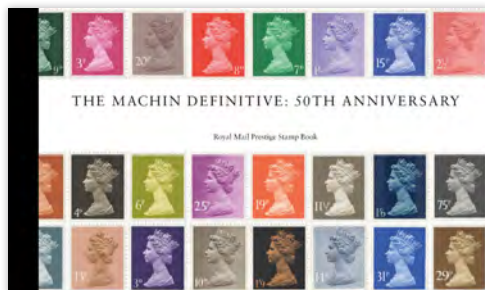


April/May 1966 One of many of Arnold Machin's essays using the coinage head and four country symbols.

October 1966 The coinage head simplified and cropped, with a plain background containing only the tariff typography.

August 1966 The chosen profile photograph by John Hedgeroe.

October 1966 Arnold Machin's first plaster cast of the 'Diadem head' modelled from Hedgeroe's photograph and with no corsage.



Pane 1



Pane 2



Pane 3



Pane 4



Pane 5

Above: this Prestige Stamp Book is the jewel in the crown of next month's special issue

The Machin Definitive 50th Anniversary Prestige Stamp Book

The elegant Prestige Stamp Book (PSB) contains five panes, as follows.

Pane 1 and 2 each carry three of the stamps from the First Class Miniature Sheet.

Pane 3 has a 2nd Class stamp with an iridescent overprint, as well as make-up value stamps – 1p, 2p, 5p, 10p, 20p, 50p and £1. The central label displays the number 50 reversed out of gold.

Pane 4 carries the stamps from the mixed-value Miniature Sheet in a block, with an iridescent overprint where appropriate (Gold bottom left and Royal Mail Red bottom right). The central label has the number 50 in white on grey.

Pane 5 has a block of four £1 Machins with no elliptical perforations or iridescent overprint, as they were not part of the specification for Large Definitives in 1969.

First day covers can be pre-ordered at www.royalmail/shop, with the alternative PSB handstamp, for panes 1 and 4 •

See page 261 for a full list of different items in this very special issue. Details of the Machin Definitive 50th Anniversary Medal Cover will appear in your June edition of 'Bulletin'.



Anniversary Post & Go Six self-service classics pay tribute to the Machin anniversary

IN ADDITION TO THE SPECIAL STAMP SET described on the previous pages, Royal Mail will provide a variation of the current Machin Post & Go stamps as part of the philatelic celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Machin. The definitive dressed head of The Queen by Arnold Machin has been replaced by his Commemorative Head, as used on all special stamps. It shows the full relief portrait rather than the silhouette normally used.

Six pastel colour variations inspired by the December 1966 essays have been carefully selected, with the help of Douglas Muir of the Postal Museum, to reflect some of those used on the original pre-decimal Machin definitives chosen by Machin himself. The stamps also have the lettering 'Machin Anniversary 1967-2017' as background text. The carrier card information is written by Douglas Muir.

Alternative handstamps features a quote from Post Master General in a letter to the Queen and the location of Stoke-on-Trent, chosen because it is the birth place of Arnold Machin ●
Machin commemorative head © Royal Mail Group Ltd 2017, courtesy of The Postal Museum.

Above: six First Class Post & Go Machin Anniversary stamps are available in a Collectors Pack with an informative carrier card.

Top: three special handstamp options for FDC orders. See www.royalmail.com/shop

Post & Go Machin Anniversary – Prices

Stamp Set with Carrier Card	£3.90
First Day Cover (with choice of three handstamps)	£5.10
First Day Envelope	30p

Post & Go Machin Anniversary – Specifications

Date of issue	5 June
Number of stamps	Six
Stamp design	Royal Mail Group Ltd
Carrier design	Atelier Works
Words	Douglas Muir
Stamp format	Landscape
Stamp size	56mm x 25mm
Printer	International Security Printers
Print process	Gravure
Perforations	Die-cut simulated
Phosphor	Bars as appropriate
Gum	Self-adhesive