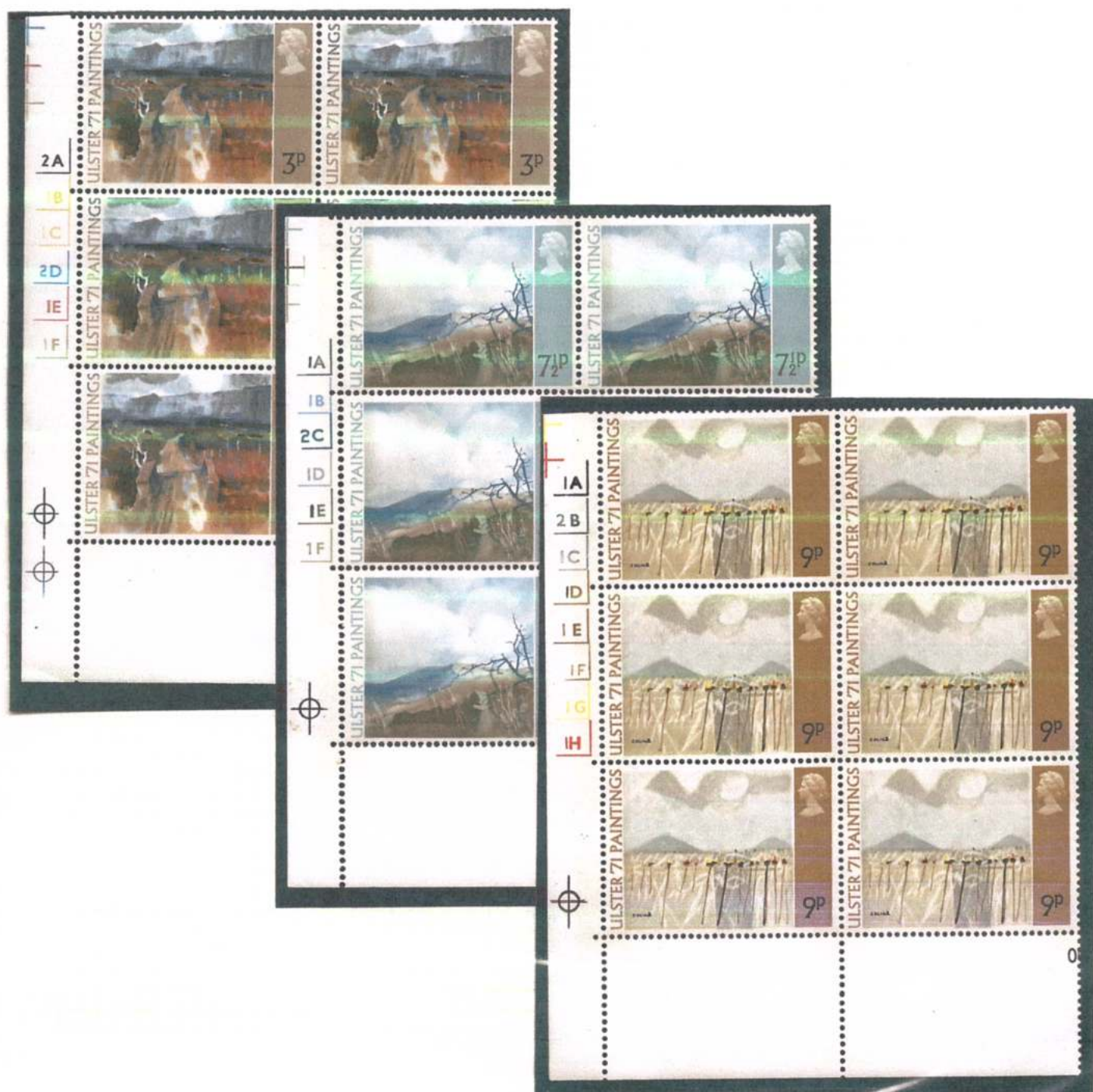


PRINTING AND PERFORATING THE GB DECIMAL SPECIAL ISSUES.

From 1971 all Special Issues were printed in multicolour on chalk-surfaced unwatermarked paper and perforated 15 x 14. Except for the 1973 Inigo Jones and Parliamentary Conference issues (Bradbury Wilkinson), they were all printed by Harrisons in photogravure.

In general use was the REMBRANDT press which printed in panes of 100 stamps (10 x 10), each sheet was fed in singly and perforation was a separate process, the trimmed sheets being fed six at a time through a GROVER two-row comb perforator. The combs advancing up the sheets in steps left the bottom sheet margins perforated through.

Different cylinders were used to print each colour, although the first cylinders produced were not always those selected for use.



PRINTING AND PERFORATING THE GB DECIMAL SPECIAL ISSUES.

Often cylinders would wear and have to be replaced.



First Printing.

Last of 8 Printings

PRINTING AND PERFORATING THE GB DECIMAL SPECIAL ISSUES.

Exceptionally large or rushed jobs, such as Christmas issues, required a faster method of production. For these Harrison's used a reel-fed WOODS press, printing double panes of 100 each side by side. The adjacent cylinders were identified by being numbered with a dot and without a dot. The printed stamps were trimmed into sheets before being perforated on the GROVER machine as before.



Dot



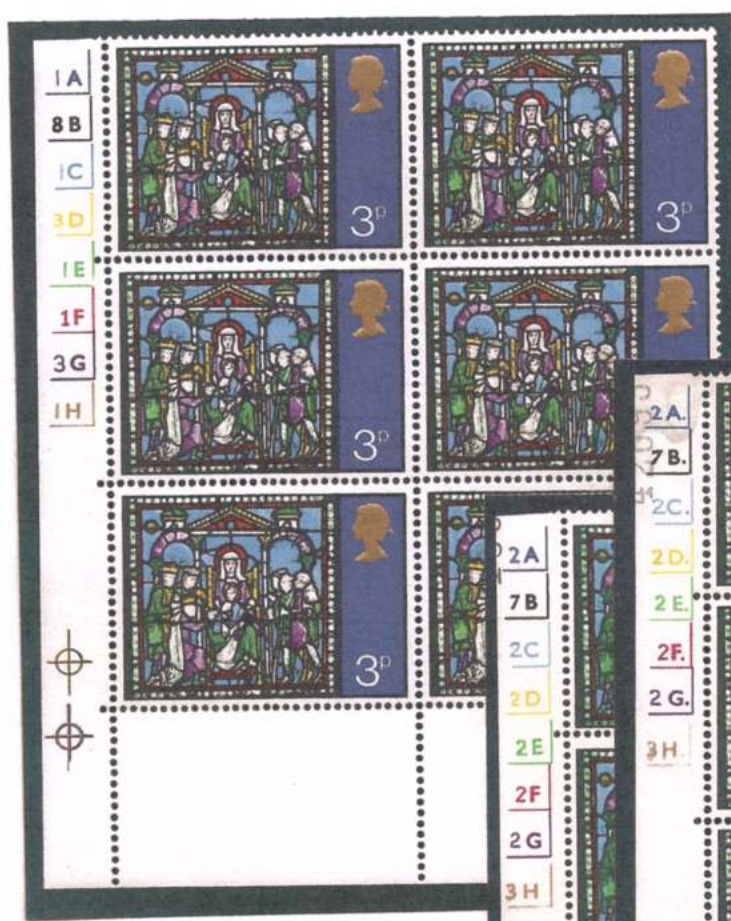
No Dot

Vertical format stamps whether sheet or reel-fed are orientated with the Queens head to the left, hence they have the left margin perforated through instead of the bottom margin.

- Other issues printed on Woods press:-
- 1971 Christmas 2½p
  - 1972 Anniversaries 3p
  - 1972 BBC 3p
  - 1973 EEC Set
  - 1973 Christmas 3p

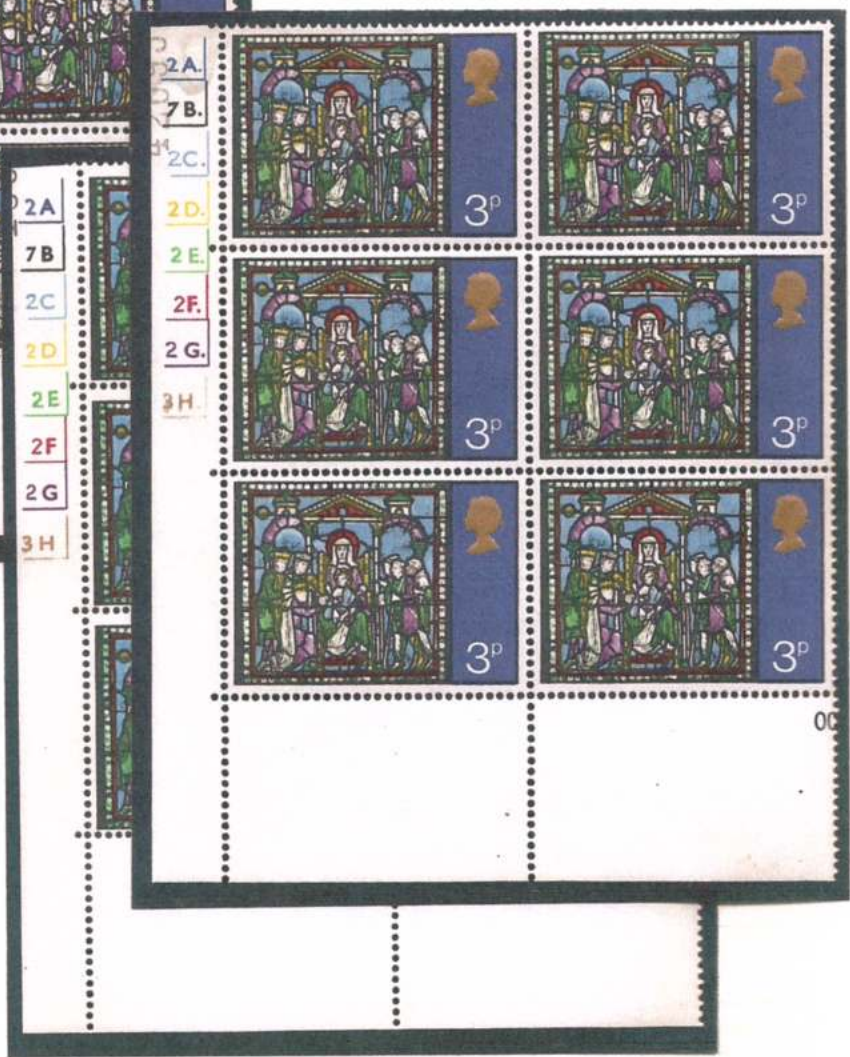
PRINTING AND PERFORATING THE GB DECIMAL SPECIAL ISSUES.

Very occasionally one denomination was printed from both presses.



Reel-fed from WOODS press where colour registration was automatically checked and adjusted whilst the press was running.

Sheet-fed from REMBRANDT press, always identified by crossed-circle colour registration marks in margin.



Only other stamps printed by both presses - 1973 Christmas 3p.

PRINTING AND PERFORATING THE GB DECIMAL SPECIAL ISSUES.

In 1972 Harrisons began using their specially designed "JUMELLE" double-pane rotary press, which was constructed by five different European nations. It used a number of new techniques enabling it to print and perforate stamps continuously in the web at speeds of up to 100,000 sheets per hour in two different processes (photogravure and recess) simultaneously if required.

It was first used to print part of the issue of the 3p stamps for the 1972 Silver Wedding Anniversary.



A new format was introduced, each pane of 100 having a gutter down the middle.

No integral rotary perforator had been fitted to the new press at this stage, and this printing was perforated by the usual sheet-fed GROVER comb perforator.

PRINTING AND PERFORATING THE GB DECIMAL SPECIAL ISSUES.

The majority of the issue was printed on the REMBRANDT press as usual. Both printings were orientated in the opposite direction from usual, hence only the right margins were perforated through on this occasion.



REMBRANDT  
sheet-fed printing.

"JUMELLE"  
Rotary printing.



PRINTING AND PERFORATING THE GB DECIMAL SPECIAL ISSUES.

The 1973 Royal Wedding set was the first issue to be entirely printed by the "JUMELLE" press in the new gutter format. The integral rotary KAMPF perforator was used, which perforated through both top and bottom margins.



All subsequent special issues were printed in this format on the "JUMELLE" press.

PRINTING AND PERFORATING THE GB DECIMAL SPECIAL ISSUES.

The "JUMELLE" press was next used for the Cricket set and the 3p value of the Paintings issue again in 1973. The GROVER perforator was used again, and the old format of 10 x 10 without central gutter reverted to.





PRINTING AND PERFORATING THE GB DECIMAL SPECIAL ISSUES.

The 1975 Sailing issue was the first to make of the dual printing processes, being produced in a combination of photogravure (multicolours) and recess (black); the latter having no cylinder numbers.



Some ink-loss in the recess process rendered the quality of the printing somewhat less than perfect.