

(iii) White Border Designs with redrawn value tablets

With the new tariff values of 2017, Royal Mail took the opportunity to redesign the value tablets so that they were consistent across all countries and values. Up until that point each Country had used their own typeface, originally designed for ease of legibility against the separate designs which they overlaid. This wasn't really a problem as each Country had been treated as a separate set – the main body designs were not in the same style so there should have been no problem in using different typestyles. In practice, however, the results were always a bit hit and miss, with some value tablets very much harder to read than others. The worst offender here was the N.Ireland top value which was almost impossible to read against the Belleek China background. Initially it affected just the two higher rate denominated values from each country, but at the 2018 tariff revision they also took the opportunity to update 2nd and 1st values

If the intention with value tablet unification was to make them easier to read, they fell well short of the mark. The N.Ireland top value is certainly no better and many others are significant less legible than before. This is simply because the adopted serified typestyle, which matches the Machin issues, is far too spindly and light to work against anything other than a solid dark background, as is the case on most Machin values for which it is ideal. The “2nd” values on both England and Scotland values are particularly bad examples.

We illustrate the revised value tablets along with a 2nd value in the original type versions at the start of each country section.

Sales of country stamps have taken a nose dive in recent years as customers tend to prefer their national self-adhesive cousins, which are also on sale in most of the regions offices. Very few offices now stock them and sales seem to be restricted to patriots particularly keen to promote their country and are prepared to put up with the minor inconvenience of having to lick their stamps, or to tourists who want something of a souvenir to put on their postcards.

1st and 2nd values remain printed in sheets of 50 whereas the £1.25 and £1.45 values are in compact sheets of 25, much like Machin issues. There is no silver ink used on any values, any longer. In what seems likely to be a money saving measure, where appropriate, the formerly silver elements are now simulated by a greyish tone, a tint of black, the gold on the top rate Welsh design is made up out of the 4 process colours and in some cases the value has become white.

(K) England

CC Value Design Bands Issued Source Price

**(a) Litho. Cartor. OFNP/PVA. Perf 14½ x 14 (E1). A2(B)
phosphor with blue fluor additive. 4.5mm (2nd) or 13mm vignetted phosphor
bands. Sheets of 25 or 50 (2nd & 1st).**

EERWS1	2nd	Three Lions, pale grey-blue	CB	20.3.18	pl C1C1C1C1	1.75
EERWS2	2nd	Three Lions, very deep grey-blue shade	CB	25.6.20	pl C2C2C2C2	2.95
EERWF1	1st	Lion & Shield, reddish terracotta	2B	20.3.18	pl C1C1C1C1	1.85
EERWF2	1st	Lion & Shield, deep terracotta shade	2B	11.2.20	Visions of Universe DP564	3.55
EERWF3	1st	Lion & Shield, dark terracotta shade	2B	25.6.20	pl C2C2C2C2	2.95
EERW1170	£1.17	Oak	2B	21.3.17	pl C1C1C1C1	2.50
EERW1250	£1.25	Oak	2B	20.3.18	pl C1C1C1C1	2.50
EERW1350	£1.35	Oak	2B	19.3.19	pl C1C1C1C1	2.50
EERW1420	£1.42	Oak	2B	17.3.20	pl C1C1C1C1	2.75
EERW1700	£1.70	Oak	2B	23.12.20	pl C1C1C1C1	3.45
EERW1400	£1.40	Tudor Rose	2B	21.3.17	pl C1C1C1C1	2.50
EERW1450	£1.45	Tudor Rose	2B	20.3.18	pl C1C1C1C1	2.75
EERW1550	£1.55	Tudor Rose	2B	19.3.19	pl C1C1C1C1	2.85
EERW1630	£1.63	Tudor Rose	2B	17.3.20	pl C1C1C1C1	3.00

(L) Northern Ireland

**(a) Litho. Cartor. OFNP/PVA. Perf 14½ x 14 (E1). A2(B)
phosphor with blue fluor additive. 4.5mm (2nd) or 13mm vignetted phosphor
bands. Sheets of 25 or 50 (2nd & 1st).**

NERWS1	2nd	Giants Causeway	CB	20.3.18	pl C1C1C1C1	1.75
--------	-----	-----------------	----	---------	-------------	------

10B : Country Emblem Definitives – Redrawn Value Tablets – Northern Ireland & Scotland

<i>CC</i>	<i>Value</i>	<i>Design</i>	<i>Bands</i>	<i>Issued</i>	<i>Source</i>	<i>Price</i>
NERWF1	1st	Patchwork of Fields	2B	20.3.18	pl C1C1C1C1	1.85
				11.2.20	Visions of Universe DP564	2.95
NERW1170	£1.17	Irish Linen	2B	21.3.17	pl. C1C1C1C1	2.50
NERW1250	£1.25	Irish Linen	2B	20.3.18	pl C1C1C1C1	2.50
NERW1350	£1.35	Irish Linen	2B	19.3.19	pl C1C1C1C1	2.50
NERW1420	£1.42	Irish Linen	2B	17.3.20	pl C1C1C1C1	2.75
NERW1700	£1.70	Irish Linen	2B	23.12.20	pl C1C1C1C1	3.45
NERW1400	£1.40	Belleek China	2B	21.3.17	pl. C1C1C1C1	2.50
NERW1450	£1.45	Belleek China	2B	20.3.18	pl C1C1C1C1	2.75
NERW1550	£1.55	Belleek China	2B	19.3.19	pl C1C1C1C1	2.85
NERW1630	£1.63	Belleek China	2B	17.3.20	pl C1C1C1C1	3.00

(M) Scotland



**(a) Litho. Cartor. OFNP/PVA. Perf 14½ x 14 (E1). A2(B)
phosphor with blue fluor additive. 4.5mm (2nd) or 13mm vignetted phosphor
bands. Sheets of 25 or 50 (2nd & 1st).**

SERWS1	2nd	Saltire, bright fluor	CB	20.3.18	pl C1C1C1C1	1.75
SERWS2	2nd	Saltire, steel blue shade, dull fluor	CB	10.18	pl C2C2C2C2	2.75
SERWS3	2nd	Saltire, deep blue shade, dark grey Queen's head, bright fluor	CB	17.3.20	James Bond DP570	3.30
SERWS4	2nd	Saltire, very deep blue shade very bright fluor	CB	6.4.20	Declaration of Arbroath MS	2.75
SERWS5	2nd	Saltire, very deep blue shade, very dark grey Queen's head, bright fluor	CB	6.20	pl C1C1C1C1	3.25
SERWF1	1st	Lion	2B	20.3.18	pl C1C1C1C1	1.85
				11.2.20	Visions of Universe DP564	2.95
SERWF2	1st	Lion, dull fluor	2B	10.18	pl C2C2C2C2	2.95
SERWF3	1st	Lion, deep red lion, very bright fluor	2B	9.19	pl C1C1C1C1	3.50
				6.4.20	Declaration of Arbroath MS	3.50
SERW1170	£1.17	Thistle	2B	21.3.17	pl C1C1C1C1	2.50
SERW1250	£1.25	Thistle	2B	20.3.18	pl C1C1C1C1	2.50
SERW1350	£1.35	Thistle	2B	19.3.19	pl C1C1C1C1	2.50

10B : Country Emblem Definitives – Redrawn Value Tablets – Scotland

<i>CC</i>	<i>Value</i>	<i>Design</i>	<i>Bands</i>	<i>Issued</i>	<i>Source</i>	<i>Price</i>
SERW1420	£1.42	Thistle	2B	17.3.20	pl C1C1C1C1	2.75
SERW1421	£1.42	Thistle, bluish violet shade, pale Queen's head	2B	6.4.20	Declaration of Arbroath MS	2.95
SERW1700	£1.70	Thistle	2B	13.12.20	pl C1C1C1C1	3.45
SERW1400	£1.40	Tartan	2B	21.3.17	pl C1C1C1C1	2.50
SERW1450	£1.45	Tartan	2B	20.3.18	pl C1C1C1C1	2.75
SERW1550	£1.55	Tartan	2B	19.3.19	pl C1C1C1C1	2.85
SERW1630	£1.63	Tartan	2B	17.3.20	pl C1C1C1C1	3.00
SERW1631	£1.63	Tartan, pale Queen's head	2B	6.4.20	Declaration of Arbroath MS	3.45

Declaration of Arbroath Miniature Sheet



To mark the 700th Anniversary of the Declaration of Arbroath, Royal Mail issued a miniature sheet on 6th April. The declaration formally denoted Scotland's independence from England, acknowledging Robert the Bruce as king. It was validated by the Pope in Avignon. The sheet background shows pale grey images of the declaration and seals of the clans, validating the declaration. The sheet itself measures 134 x 70mm (including the barcode tab). Versions of the sheet also exist without the barcode tab attached.

<i>CC</i>	<i>Value</i>		<i>Phos Bands</i>	<i>First Issued</i>	<i>Price</i>
SERSMS1	£4.46	Declaration of Abroath Miniature sheet	CB/2B	6.4.20	8.00
		Sheet without barcode tab		6.4.20	8.50

(N) Wales



<i>CC</i>	<i>Value</i>	<i>Design</i>	<i>Bands</i>	<i>Issued</i>	<i>Source</i>	<i>Price</i>
(a) Litho. Cartor. OFNP/PVA. Perf 14½ x 14 (E1). A2(B)						
phosphor with blue fluor additive. 4.5mm (2nd) or 13mm vignetted phosphor bands. Sheets of 25 or 50 (2nd & 1st).						
WERWS1	2nd	Leek, dull fluor	CB	20.3.18	pl. C1C1C1C1	1.95
WERWS2	2nd	Leek, yellowish brown shade, bright fluor	CB	6.20	pl. C1C1C1C1	2.95
WERWF1	1st	Welsh Dragon	2B	20.3.18	pl. C1C1C1C1	1.95
WERWF2	1st	Welsh Dragon, btight turquoise backgourd, pale grey dragon	2B	11.2.20	Visions of Universe DP564	3.55
WERW1170	£1.17	Daffodil	2B	21.3.17	pl. C1C1C1C1	2.50
WERW1250	£1.25	Daffodil	2B	20.3.18	pl. C1C1C1C1	2.50
WERW1350	£1.35	Daffodil	2B	19.3.19	pl. C1C1C1C1	2.60
WERW1420	£1.42	Daffodil	2B	17.3.20	pl. C1C1C1C1	2.75
WERW1700	£1.70	Daffodil	2B	13.12.20	pl. C1C1C1C1	3.45
WERW1400	£1.40	Feathers	2B	21.3.17	pl. C1C1C1C1	2.50
WERW1450	£1.45	Feathers	2B	20.3.18	pl. C1C1C1C1	2.75
WERW1550	£1.55	Feathers	2B	19.3.19	pl. C1C1C1C1	2.85
WERW1630	£1.63	Feathers	2B	17.3.20	pl. C1C1C1C1	3.00