

## The Unissued Stamps of Queen Elizabeth II

- David Horry -

from the Hedley Adams Mobbs Collection

Hedley Adams Mobbs was an architect, crackshot, cartoonist, fervent Christian, Cambridge City left-wing, horticulturist, bee-keeper, ragtime pianist, naturalist, astronomer and the man who invented the non-dip headlight. He put together one of the finest collections of unissued stamps for some three reigns. *The Keeper of the Queen's Philately*, Sir Burton Pedwardine maintained him with many of the 'unissueds', as they were a possible cause of embarrassment to their Majesties due to their somewhat bizarre nature.



### Ascension



### Roller Coaster

The 1956 6d Ascension definitive originally showed the magnificent *Bay City Roller Coaster*, the only one in the world that has ever been built in the ocean.

It cost a staggering two and a half million pounds but due to operating difficulties never opened and by 1960 had collapsed into a watery grave.

The designers Bradbury, Wilkinson, under guidance from the Crown Agents, had to hastily amend the stamp.

This is the reason that the issued design "ROLLERS" is so unutterably, mind-numbingly dull.

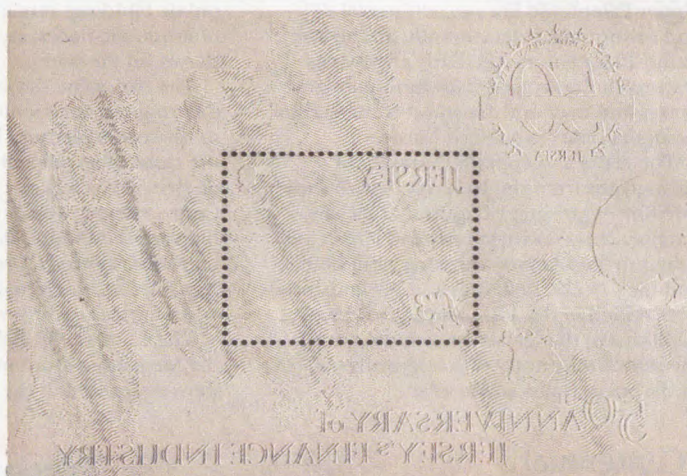
This unhappy event was finally ended when the stamps were issued in November 1956, eleven months later than originally planned



The revised 6d design - the end of a roller coaster ride.

## Catalogue Column

Hugh Jefferies reports



### Imitation recess-printing!

The miniature sheet issued by Jersey on 12 September to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the island's finance industry was listed in the November catalogue supplement as MS1611.

It was described there as having been printed 'recess and litho' by Cartor, but I regret to say that this is incorrect. The sheet was, in fact, printed by litho and then 'micro-embossed' to simulate the effect of recess printing, with the raised surface lines and indented reverse, characteristic of that process. I illustrate the reverse of the sheet to demonstrate the effect.

I am most grateful to Glenn Morgan for drawing my attention to the error in the supplement—as he says 'clearly the (new process) did its job admirably!' He does point out, however, that, in order to achieve its objective, 'the micro-embossing technique requires that it is totally in register with the fine lines of printing that it is raising'. Unfortunately, in the example of the sheet that I have seen this has not quite been achieved.

### Stamps from prestige booklets

Back in May, I discussed the problem posed by Royal Mail's decision to sell 'prestige' stamp booklets for more than the face value of the stamps they contained.

Technically, this automatically placed any stamps which only appear in such booklets as 'outside the scope of the catalogue', since they could not be obtained at face value.

I had some useful feedback from that column, although readers were by no means unanimous in their views! Subsequent discussions with collectors of modern GB and one or two dealers as well have persuaded me that in this case we should make an exception to the rule and to list all such stamps in the catalogue.

The new 2012 *Collect British Stamps* accordingly includes such items from the 'Morris and Company' and 'First Aerial Post' booklets, including the 50p. engraved Windsor Castle stamp, SG 3221.