

# The "Financial Times" £5 Prestige Stamp Book

L F NEWBERY

The £5 *Financial Times* Prestige Book will be issued on 9 February. For the first time this has been printed in offset litho by The House of Questa. This is the first book of stamps to be produced by this printer for the Post Office and also the first time that books have contained stamps printed in lithography. There are thus seven new stamp varieties contained in the book.

The book will contain 12 full colour pages and four panes of definitive stamps. All were printed in offset lithography on Heidelberg Speedmaster printing presses, sheet-fed, 12 up (three columns x four).

## Stamp panes

There are four panes of stamps each with an illustrated stub: 9 x 18p ACP; 6 x 13p central band; mixed value pane with 3 x 13p right band, 3 x 13p left band, 18p, 22p, and 34p with two bands; 6 x 18p ACP. All the stamps were printed from two plates to give added depth of tone. Printing of the stamp panes was on unwatermarked paper with a weight of 102

gsm; all the panes have a selvedge on all four sides.

The sheets were perforated on a Bickel perforator giving a single extension hole opposite every row in both left and right selvages and perforations right across the top and bottom.

No plate numbers were printed on the sheets. The necessary marginal markings occurring on sheets, interleaves and covers were all trimmed off in production and do not appear in the issued books. These were colour bars right along the lower edge, traffic lights towards the top of the left side, and various cutting lines and trimming instructions.

Of the four stamp panes the phosphor band layout was illustrated last month.

**Pane 1** 9 x 18p with the stub featuring an *FT* promotional booklet and a cartoon for Pension Day, 1 January 1909. Printed on HS6/ACP paper supplied by Harrison & Sons Ltd, on PVA Dextrin gum. In the ex-

Pane 1





Pane 2

treme left and right trimmed off portions of the sheets was a 6mm phosphor bar right across the full height of the sheet. Similar bars were on the other three sheets.

Pane 2

6 x 13p with the stub featuring book matches. The stamps have a central 4 mm phosphor bar of an organic phosphor for dry offset

Pane 3

printing. The paper was supplied by Coated Papers Ltd, gummed with PVA gum (not PVA Dextrin).

Mixed value pane (6 x 13p, 1 x 22p, 1 x 34p and 1 x 18p) with the stub featuring a poster entitled "We're not so wild about Sir John". The three 13p stamps on the left have

Pane 3





**ABCDE  
GHIJKL  
MNOPQ  
RSUVW  
XYZ** ...no comment!



Pane 4

one phosphor band on the right whilst the three 13p on the right have one left band; the remaining 22p, 34p and 18p have two bands. The paper and phosphor used is the same as for pane 2 (ie Coated Papers Ltd on PVA Dextrin gum). 6 x 18p with the stub showing a recent *FT* advertisement – “No FT – No Comment”. The paper and gum are the same as for pane 1 (ie ACP paper from Harrison and Sons Limited, with PVA Dextrin gum).

**Pane 4**

**Covers**

These are printed on Huntsman Silk paper, with a weight of 250 gsm. The saga of the *Financial Times* illustrated in colour begins on the inside of the front cover and continues through the interleaves ending on the inside of the back cover. The outside of the back cover is devoted to philatelic items sold by the British Philatelic Bureau and philatelic counters.

There are four interleaves of Huntsman Silk paper with a weight of 115 gsm. The pages are numbered at the top, but in the case of 3, 5, 6 and 7 the number is omitted.

**Book Production**

The 12-up sheets were gathered in the following

sequence: FC, 1/L, Pane 1, 2/L, Pane 2, 3/L, Pane 3, 4/L, Pane 4, BC. The mass is then guillotined into columns x 4 on a Polar guillotine and sewn on Singer sewing machines. After sewing, the columns are then backed with a white plastic strip on a backing machine. Finally, the columns are trimmed and guillotined into individual books.

**Packing**

The books are bundled in 25s with every five books reversed and card interleaved, also with card outside every 25 front and back. The bundles are shrink-wrapped and cartoned, 400 books per carton (16 bundles x 25).

For stamp booklet collectors this edition provides four new stamp booklet panes and for other collectors seven new stamps and eight set-tenant pairs.

**Spring Stampex 1988**

Spring Stampex 1988 will take place from 1 to 6 March at both Royal Horticultural Halls, London SW1. There will be a Post Office stand and the first day sees the issue of the Welsh Bible stamps.

There will also be a stand for the Stamp Bug Club and one for the National Postal Museum with activity tables and sales counters.

For the period of the exhibition there will be a special handstamp and a slogan cancellation from London SW1.