

G.B. POSTAGE DUES

SIR,—The G.P.O. *Philatelic Bulletin* article on Postage Dues (reprinted by you) contains two “clangers”. First of all, they say that the 2d. value was issued in a colour unlike any current G.B. stamp, especially, I gather, to make it distinct. Well, if the 2d. is not exactly like the 9d. of 1913 then I am a ———. Even Gibbons gave the same description to the colours of both stamps. Further on, in dealing with the new value, the 3d. issued in 1918, they say that it was issued in the colour of the current ordinary postage stamp for the first time.

I admit that by hair-splitting on shades you might say this is true, but to all intents and purposes the original $\frac{1}{2}$ d. was green like the ditto postage (it was emerald against the green shades of the ordinary), the 1d. was carmine, and the postage issue wandered through all sorts of red shades including carmines, whilst the 5d. matched up very well with the bistre-browns of the 5d. postage.

The 3d. Due of 1918 was just as much a variation of the current postage colour as these other values.

If the shades are legitimate differences, then it blows up their later statement that the new colours of the 1951 Dues were those of the current postage stamps—just compare the 4d.; and the 1s. is a poor match of the deep bistre of the K.G.VI 1s.

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