



ROYAL CYPHER, POST OFFICE, MAIN STREET BANGOR

This royal cypher is rare because although it has the monogram E VIII R and the Tudor Crown above it, it is for a king who was never crowned. Edward VIII had a reign of less than 11 months in 1936, and because he abdicated, he never received a coronation in Westminster Abbey. When the cypher was put on the new post office, we may suppose that those who did it expected that Edward would be crowned as king. As he was never crowned, UK stamps issued in September 1936 have the crown to the right of the king's profile, as if it were a 'crown in waiting'. These Accession issue stamps were intended to be replaced in May 1937 by Coronation issue ones showing Edward VIII crowned, but on that date, his younger brother as King George VI got both the crown and the stamps instead. How many folk buying their 24 hour stamps in Bangor today are aware of the history linked to the bronze cypher alongside that stamp machine?

There were only three Edward VIII post offices in the UK. The other two were at Havant in Hampshire, and Bradford-on-Avon in Wiltshire. Unlike the Bangor PO, both these offices are now closed. However, Edward has his crown forever on Bangor Main Street, one that he never got in the Abbey.