

Philatelic Bulletin

Volume 11 Number 4 December 1973



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Introduction

The ever increasing interest in stamp book collecting is reflected in this month's issue. The leading article features the first part of the fascinating story of the early trials while our book reviewer highlights the upward rise in prices of some of the recent GB booklets.

Society secretaries will be interested in our article about our philatelic films which are now available for use in 8mm projectors. All the films are full of interest and can be recommended to make a huge success at a Society evening.

RAF Cover

A flown cover will be issued to commemorate both the 50th Anniversary of the Granting of the Royal Charter to Princess Mary's Royal Air Force Nursing Service and the connection of the Royal Air Force Hospital Ely with the City of Ely and the Cathedral which is now involved in its 13th Century Celebrations. The cover shows a Maurice Farman flying over the Cathedral and it will be cancelled by a special BFPS commemorative handstamp (1422) on 24 December. It will be flown from PMRAF Hospital Ely to PMRAF Hospital Wegberg, Germany. It should be available on or about 20 January 1974 from The Philatelic Officer, PMRAF Hospital Ely at 25p plus 3p postage. All proceeds from this cover will be donated to RAF Charities.

Low Value Definitive Presentation Pack

This pack will, in future, if purchased from the Bureau or one of our philatelic sales counters, contain the 4½p, 5½p and 8p definitive stamps. The pack will cost 78½p.

Customers who already have the pack may wish to update it by purchasing the 3 new stamps.

New Stamped Stationery

A new "G" registered envelope impressed with a 23½p stamp and made from duplex manilla for experimental use in Scotland only is now available from The Philatelic Bureau and sales counters priced 25p.

Stocks of a "second class tariff" postcard bearing a 3p stamp are also available.

Experimental GB Postage Stamp Books

The 25-year Story of the First Post Office Stamp Book (1904) Part 1 – Early Trials

Curiously enough, the first scheme for selling British stamps in handy, pocket-sized booklets concerned revenue, not postage stamps. On 4 November 1879 the Board of Inland Revenue (responsible until 1914 for stamp production) wrote to Thomas De La Rue and Company saying that it had been suggested to them that “it would be a convenience if 1d Inland Revenue adhesive stamps could be obtained by the public made up book-wise, the book to be of such a size as could be conveniently carried in the breast-pocket”. The Board asked for De La Rue’s general observations on the suggestion and for a quotation for making up such books worth, say 2/- each.

De La Rue replied on 23 February 1880 stating their support for the idea and enclosing two specimen books each containing 24 one penny revenue stamps (See fig 1) for which they quoted a printing and preparation cost of 34/- per thousand books. The stamps in these sample books were held in by stitching through the perforation between the top and bottom rows of stamps. The idea seems to have been pigeon-holed as there is no further correspondence until five years later.

On 4 February 1885 De La Rue wrote to Somerset House returning a letter dated 5 January that year from a Mr Unett Coates who had suggested to the Postmaster General (as early as 1877) that “if stamps were issued in booklet form rather like cheque books they would meet with a favourable response from the Public.” De La Rue enclosed with their letter three sample 10/- stamp books (with grey, red and blue covers respectively) each containing 15 panes of 8 perforated white stamp-sized labels (to represent the stamps) (fig 2). This time the labels were made with a $\frac{1}{2}$ inch selvedge, the selvedges of each pane being glued into the book, one on top of the other. De La Rue estimated that they could produce such books for 35/- per thousand thus enabling them to be retailed to the public at 10/0 $\frac{1}{2}$ d each”.

The quotation and the samples were duly shown to the Post Office which, ever mindful of the taxpayer’s money, commented on 25 May that while the PMG was “inclined to make trial of the scheme” it was not clear whether the extra half-penny would be sufficient to meet the necessary Departmental expenses as well as the cost of manufacture. Further, the PMG considered the specimen books somewhat unsightly and wondered if De La Rue could suggest any modifications.

The firm replied on 15 June enclosing further samples in the same format but bound in enamelled covers on which the selling price had been altered to 10s. 1d., and hoped that these “being handsomer in appearance” could meet with the approval of the PMG. Once again the idea was dropped for a number of years.

In The Reginald M Phillips Collection in the museum there are three sample 2/- booklets; (two pink and one blue) which contain perforated De La Rue dummy stamps of the large Queen’s head with “De La Rue & Company” and “London” horizontally across the top and bottom respectively. Two of these have blank covers, one contains ten blocks of six of the dummy stamp in dull purple, the other five blocks of six in green. The third book is the most interesting as the (pink) cover is inscribed “POST OFFICE OF AFRICA” “2/-” and this book contains 12 Penny stamps and 24 halfpenny stamps (fig 3). This book which, unusually, opens on the left hand side contains two blocks of six of the dummy stamps in red and four blocks of the stamp in green. The blocks are stapled into the cover in the same way as the early issued stamp books. So far no file copies of these particular dummy books have been found in the De La Rue GB archives. On the other hand, similar dummy booklets containing the same design of dummy De La Rue stamps, are known with the cover inscribed “POST OFFICE OF INDIA”. These were submitted by De La Rue as specimens to the Egyptian Government in



Fig 1

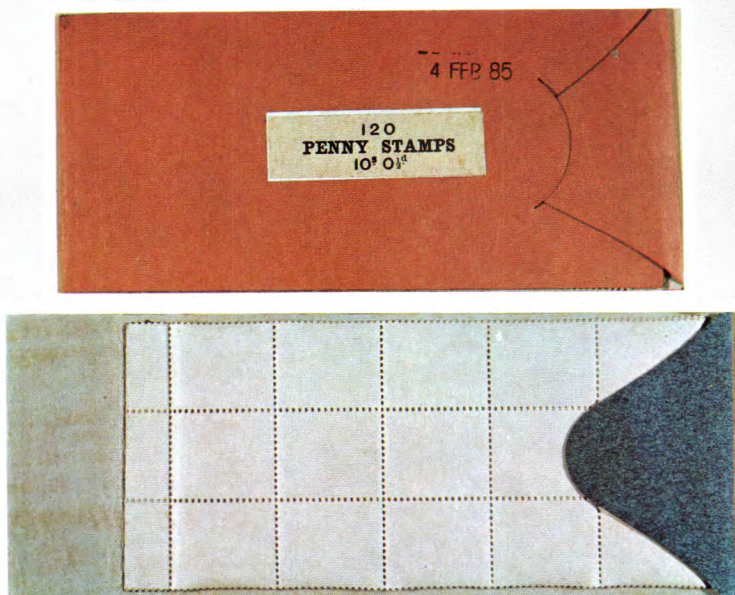


Fig 2



Fig 3

July 1902 when that Government was considering the issue of stamp books and similar books were almost certainly shown

to the British Post Office in May 1903, as will be indicated in the second part of this article (to be continued). A G RIGO DE RIGHI

Book Reviews

Special Event Postmarks of the United Kingdom by George R Pearson

The first edition of this catalogue was in 1963 and this book now brings the listed cancellations up to date – to the end of March 1973. The listed items begin in the 1850s and continue up to the present day. It is a must for the serious collector of special handstamps and other cancels; all in all, nearly 2300 items are listed with about 450 illustrations. It costs £1.75p and 25p post and packaging and is published in the United Kingdom by the author. It is available from Mr George R Pearson, 42 Corrance Road, London SW2 5RH.

The Commonwealth Queen Elizabeth II Stamp Catalogue

The 22nd Edition of the catalogue follows the trend towards colourful covers with a

montage of stamps. The change will be worthwhile if it attracts more collectors to this excellent listing of the finer points of modern Commonwealth issues. Although published on 31 October, it continues to include addenda references to the bulk of the Royal Wedding issues.

The rationalisation of the GB definitive listings has continued with the watermark varieties now grouped separately behind each of the basic lists. As in the last edition, the relevant booklet panes follow each watermark section. Another thoughtful change is the provision of sub-headings at the top of each page of the GB section, which makes for faster reference.

Upward price changes are frequent, and demonstrate that the present buoyant state of the philatelic market affects even comparatively recent Commonwealth issues.

Space consideration forbids extensive comment on the GB stamp increases, but it is interesting to see that the Commonwealth catalogue confirms the trend in certain presentation packs which we saw in the Gibbons' 1974 prices (see the August issue of the 'Bulletin'). The De Montfort Parliament pack rises from £2.50 to £6.50 and the Battle of Britain pack from £2.00 to £5.50. The 1969 Collector's Pack, which showed a substantial rise in Gibbons, increases in the CW listing from £1.75 to £7.50!

Stamp booklet prices have also been extensively revised. A highlight is the 1969 "Stamps for Cooks" £1 book which rises from £2.50 (stapled) and £1.75 (stitched) to £10 and £3.50 respectively in the 1974 edition. It is also significant that the earlier decimal books already show a general increase.

The Commonwealth Catalogue of Queen Elizabeth II Postage Stamps is published by Urch, Harris & Co Ltd., 7, Richmond Hill Avenue, Bristol BS8 1BQ, price £2.25.

The Stamp of Royalty— A Christmas Gift

In our September Bulletin we told you about an exciting new book published by The National Postal Museum in London.

As the season of Christmas approaches we feel it timely to suggest what an interesting gift The Stamp of Royalty will make.

With over 90 illustrations, mostly in full colour, the book gives a fascinating account of the creation of six very special issues of British postage stamps commemorating Royal Occasions from The Silver Jubilee of King George V in 1935 to The Royal Silver Wedding of Her Majesty and Prince Philip in 1972.

At £1 a copy including postage you can obtain The Stamp of Royalty by sending your order and remittance to The Manager (Publications), British Post Office Philatelic Bureau, 2-4 Waterloo Place, Edinburgh EH1 1AB. As there is a limited number of

copies printed you will be wise to get your order off now.

The Stamp of Royalty is just the right Christmas gift from one collector to another. Or to yourself.

Air Mail Souvenir

Following publication of our August "Bulletin" article on a 1911 Coronation Air Mail souvenir, a number of readers wrote to say that the gentleman who identified the autographed propeller could not have been Mr G W Hamel, who disappeared following an air accident in 1913.

We have now discovered that the visitor was the other signatory, Mr Clement Greswell, who resided at Grantown-on-Spey for some years until his death in 1968.

Intercontinental Parachute Flight

It was announced in the Bulletins of October 1972 and April 1973 that this flight had been postponed and people who had ordered covers were asked to write to obtain their money back or to say that they would wait until the flight was successfully completed.

On 2 October 1973 the flight was successfully carried out between Asia and Europe across the Dardanelles in Turkey.

Customers who have ordered and paid for their covers will automatically receive them. Those who have not ordered or paid should now do so. They should write to:

Captain B C A Lee RE
HQ 16 Para Bde
ALDERSHOT
Hants.

Two types of cover are available as follows:-
A flown cover signed by Captain Lee on the day of the flight bearing a 3½p stamp and a BFPO number, price £1.

As above, unsigned, price 30p.

Chelmsford and District Philatelic Society

The Second Philatelic course, organised by the Chelmsford & District Philatelic Society, was held recently at Wansfell College of Residential Education. The course was fully booked, "students" having come from towns as far as Newcastle upon Tyne and Bristol.

The course opened by Miss Jennifer Toombes taking us through her work as a stamp designer for the Crown Agents, with particular reference to her work on stamps for the Pitcairn Islands and her visit to that territory.

Mr A G Rigo de Righi gave a very enlightening talk on the purpose of and the facilities offered by the National Postal Museum. Much interesting material in the possession of the National Postal Museum has still to be sorted and prepared before it can be shown.

Mr A R Butler, librarian of the Royal Philatelic Society, London, traced the history of the development of the stamp catalogue, from the first one edited in France in 1861 to to-day's bumper size edition required to list all the issues! Mr Butler was able to display many of the earlier catalogues. During the Saturday afternoon most of the members of the course were able to visit the "Stampin 73" course and exhibition arranged by the Cheshunt and District Philatelic Society.

On Saturday evening Mrs Kay Goodman, in her own typical way, took us through the "Philympia Story", with her many behind the scenes stories of her work as secretary to the team who organised this international exhibition.

Sunday morning was devoted to a series of demonstrations on the use of U.V. lamps in philately. This was organised by 3 members of the Marconi Philatelic Society and included identifying the different printings of issues of U.N. stamps, identifying the different phosphors used on British stamps, a look

at how other countries were using phosphor in marketing or "tagging" their stamps and a display of British postal coding marks.

Last but not least, Miss A Grunberg talked on "Thematics", illustrating her lecture with material being prepared for a collection on "Communications". She demonstrated how the material had been accumulated on a broad basis, how it was sorted in accordance with different aspects of the theme and showed the refining down of the material that will be needed to that which is relevant. This talk ended with a lively discussion on judging.

The success of the week-end resulted in plans being put in hand for a further week-end course on general philately to be held in the autumn of 1974 and special postal history week-end course for the spring of 1975.

New Paper and Gum for Stamps

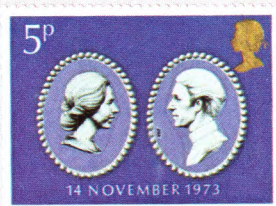
A number of low value definitives - $\frac{1}{2}p$, $1p$, $2p$, $2\frac{1}{2}p$, $3p$, $3\frac{1}{2}p$, $4p$, $4\frac{1}{2}p$, $5\frac{1}{2}p$, $6p$, $8p$, and $10p$ are now being printed on heavier paper supplied by the printer, Harrisons. In due course, all the low values will be printed on this type of paper which improves the performance of the perforating machine used in stamp production.

Introduction of the new paper coincides with the use of polyvinyl alcohol/dextrin to replace gum arabic and PVA 1 on low value denominations.

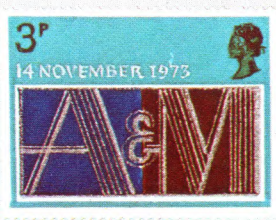
Turning to the high values, the £1 stamp is now being printed by Bradbury Wilkinson on paper provided by this firm.

Supplies of this item have already been issued to some offices. The remaining high values ie, $20p$ and $50p$ will also be produced on the new paper and issued accordingly when current stocks of these items are exhausted.

Preliminary Designs— Royal Wedding Stamps



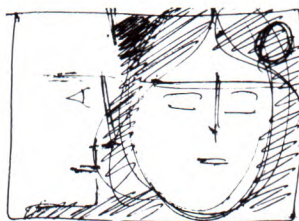
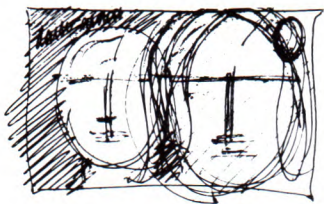
Peter Branfield



Jeffery Matthews MSIA



Martin Stringer



In these initial sketches, the permutations, positions and tonal contrast of portrait elements were considered in relation to the stamp format (horizontal).



Collis Clements MSIA & Edward Hughes MSIA

Various visual techniques were used to indicate elements of the designs. Amongst these were portraits cut from magazines used to emphasise the effectiveness of close up photography when reduced to stamp size and also to indicate a possible approach to colour photography.

New First Class Lettercard

Name and address of sender

Please stick on postage stamps to cover any additional postage which may be payable

LETTER CARD



To open tear off the edge at the perforation

Illustrated is the new first class lettercard which is now available at the Philatelic Bureau and all Philatelic sales counters.

The British High Value Stamps of the 20th Century

4. King George VI, 1939-48

Albert Frederick Arthur George – all ‘down-to-earth’ names which must have endeared him to his loyal subjects – was the second son of George V. He ascended the throne upon the abdication of his brother, King Edward VIII, on 11 December 1936, three days before his 41st birthday.

The first British definitive stamps for the new reign – $\frac{1}{2}d$, $1d$ and $2\frac{1}{2}d$ denominations – were issued on 10 May 1937, just before the King’s Coronation on the 12th. The profile head on the stamps was the work of the distinguished French-born artist, Edmond Dulac (who also designed the $1\frac{1}{2}d$ Coronation commemorative). It was based on a photograph by Bertram Park, and it became the ‘prototype’ for virtually all the postage stamps of the reign, similarly for the coinage, but for very few British Commonwealth issues.

Philatelists (and, presumably, those with heavy parcels to post!) had to wait until August 1939 for the first of the KGVI high-value definitives – this was the $5s$ red, issued on the 21st, and followed shortly by the $2s\ 6d$ brown (later changed to yellow-green) on 4 September. The uniform design for both stamps, again the work of Edmond Dulac, featured the Royal Arms (with supporters) of King George VI, surmounted by the King’s profile, facing left – a miniature engraved version of Dulac’s design for the low values which bears the hallmark of Waterlow’s chief portrait engraver, J. A. C. Harrison.

John Easton, in his book *British Postage Stamp Design*, was unstinting in his praise of Dulac’s latest effort – ‘... a magnificently simple design ... the best stamps issued for Britain since 1840, that Golden Age when Perkins Bacon set out to conquer the stamp world.’

It was indeed an attractive, well-balanced design, the figures of value fitting neatly into the upper left and right corners, and with the single word ‘POSTAGE’ across the foot. Dulac’s style of lettering may have been

inspired by his collaboration with his equally distinguished partner in the design of the low-value stamps – the typographer, Eric Gill.

Edmond Dulac, born in Toulouse in 1882, painted portraits and illustrated books until 1935, when he first came into prominence with his successful design for the King’s Poetry Medal. This led to his commission to design the Coronation stamp of King George VI. Later, during World War II, he designed numerous stamps for De Gaulle’s ‘Free French’ territories and some ‘Marianne’ issues for France. Then, for the British Post Office, he designed the $1s$ Olympic Games’ stamp of 1948, the Festival of Britain $2\frac{1}{2}d$ (1951) and the $1s$, $1s\ 3d$ and $1s\ 6d$ QE ‘Wilding’ definitives of 1953.

His greatest success, with which he literally ‘crowned’ his career, came in June of that year – his beautiful stamp for the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II. Dulac died at his studio-home in St. John’s Wood, London, a few weeks before his Coronation stamp was issued.

The $10s$ dark blue was issued a month after the $2s\ 6d$, on 3 October 1939. The design, in the same vertical format, showed a larger version of Dulac’s profile of the King within an oval medallion, surmounted by a crown and set in a rather complex and tangled floral frame. Its designer was the Hon. George R. Bellew, MVO, FSA, then Somerset Herald, an officer of the College of Arms in London, who, with his expert knowledge of the armorial bearings of the nobility, might have been happier designing the Royal Arms of the $2s\ 6d$ and $5s$ denominations!

John Easton called it a ‘make-believe masterpiece’ and was scathing in his comment – ‘The King’s head is in its oval *again* ... ‘POSTAGE’, small and insignificant, crouches beneath a canopy of herbage: laurels are mixed with the emblems which, in turn, cluster about the shield which supports the oval. De La Rue were doing



this sort of thing in 1903 . . . ' However, the Post Office must have been satisfied with the design, for the Hon. George Bellew subsequently designed the 1s UPU stamp of 1949.

The colour of the 10s stamp was changed to ultramarine in late 1942, but the £1 brown stamp in the same design was not released until October 1948, almost two years after

the first issue of the high-value series. Indeed, it was preceded by the Royal Silver Wedding £1 stamp issued in April of that year.

The four high values were engraved and recess-printed by Waterlow & Sons on Crown and 'GVIR' watermarked paper. Their catalogue value now totals about £30 for the six stamps including the colour changes, unused.

JAMES WATSON

Post Office Films become available in 8 mm

Last year we had a record audience of over a quarter-million seeing our 16mm films in the United Kingdom.

Even so, many clubs, groups and individuals have been rather quick to point out that they are being denied the opportunity of seeing these Postal and Philatelic films because they only have ready access to 8mm projectors. But that gauge barrier is now being removed because, starting at the end of November 1973, the Post Office is making available in STANDARD 8MM *only*, with magnetic stripe sound, the following titles:

'PICTURE TO POST'

(Colour 23 mins)

'AFTER THE ARROW'

(Colour 21 mins)

'THE RAINBOW VERDICT'

(Colour 22 mins)

and the exciting Transatlantic air race documentary,

'THE FIRST AND THE FASTEST'

(Colour 26 mins)

These films will all be available on *free loan* to UK borrowers – it is regretted that we cannot extend this service to overseas readers.

Those at home interested in borrowing 8mm copies should write direct to:

The Barry Wiles Film Library
Screen House
19 Hales Road
SITTINGBOURNE,
Kent, ME10 1SR

Of course, 16mm copies of all our films will still be available for those with facilities for screening them and if anyone would like to receive a free copy of our 16mm Postal & Philatelic Film Catalogue, please write to:

The Films Officer
Postal Headquarters
FREEPOST
LONDON EC1B 1HX
(no stamp required).

In either case, please mention the 'Bulletin' when writing.

Preliminary Designs— Christmas Stamps



Jerzy Karo FSIA



Moira Buj



Gordon Drummond

Churchillphilately

Readers who are interested in the 1974 Churchill stamps may like to know that the International Churchill Society, publishes a magazine "Finest Hour". Full details of the Society and a copy of the magazine may be obtained from the United Kingdom representative. F B Hambrook Esq, 91 Park Road, Farnborough, Hants GU14 6JL, who would appreciate a stamped addressed envelope or return postage.

Design Seminar

On Saturday, 8 December the University of Sussex Philatelic Unit will be staging a Seminar on the question of stamp design. All are welcome to attend at 2.30 pm in the Applied Sciences Block. The panel will include Mr Stuart Rose, Design Director of the British Post Office, and other well-known designers.

Special Handstamps

Unless otherwise stated items for reposting bearing at least 3½p in postage should be sent to the Head Postmaster of the town where the special posting box is located, or the relevant District Postmaster in London, marking the outer cover "Special Handstamp. 15 December 1973 (R)

Rotary Club Golden Jubilee 15 December 1973 Littlehampton Sussex. Special posting box at HW Baylis Bookshop, The Arcade, Littlehampton.

24 December 1973 (P/C)

RAF Hospital Ely 50th Anniversary Princess Mary's Royal Air Force Nursing Service 24 December 1973 British Forces 1422 Postal Service. Special posting box at Home Postal and Courier Communications Depot RE, Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill, London NW7 1PX. Items for reposting to the Philatelic Officer at the same address.

Postmark Slogans

Unless otherwise stated items for reposting should be forwarded to the Head Postmaster of the town where the slogan is to be used, with the outer cover marked "Postmark Slogan".

19 October 1973 – 28 October 1973 (P)

Forfar for Quality Living. To be used at Forfar.

29 October – 8 December 1973

(2nd Class only)

Leigh Industrial Exhibition Turnpike Gallery 22 November – 8 December 1973. To be used at Wigan, Lancs.

18 November – 15 December 1973

Twenty-Fifth Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights 10 December 1973. To be used at 30 offices throughout the country.

1 November 1973–UFN

Remember To Use The Postcode. To be used at Lutterworth, Leics.

19 November 1973 – 3 February 1974 at London SW3

Landscape in Britain 1750-1850 The Tate Gallery 21 November – 3 February 1974.

31 December 1973 – 3 February 1974 at South Western DO

16 – 22 December 1973

Make Friends with a Deaf Child. To be used at 43 offices throughout the country.

17 December 1973 – 12 January 1974 (P)

New Domestic Appliances Gallery, Now Open at Science Museum London. To be used at South Western DO London SW7.

18 November – 15 December 1973 (P)

SGB Day December 15 Ascot Races. To be used at Ascot.

1 – 31 December 1973

1873 Echo 1973 Sunderland Centenary. To be used at Sunderland.

31 December 1973 – 30 March 1974

Ideal Home Exhibition Olympia London March 5 – 30 1974. To be used at :-

London: Eastern Central DO
 Northern ",
 North Western ",
 South Eastern ",
 South Western ",
 Western Central ",
 Mount Pleasant "

Until 27 July 1974

Portsmouth and Sunny Southsea for The Holiday of a Lifetime. To be reused at Portsmouth and Cosham.

Until 27 July 1974

Portsmouth and Southsea Naval Port Premier Resort. To be reused at Portsmouth.

Until 10 September 1974

Holiday at Dunoon. To be reused at Dunoon.

29 October – 23 November 1973

Shrewsbury Historical Centre Brochure from Information Bureau Shrewsbury Salop. To be reused at Shrewsbury.

Repeat Campaigns

Until 15 December 1973

23 December 1973 – 31 March 1974

Lincoln, City for Engineering Enterprises. To be reused at Lincoln.

Until 22 September 1974

Hartlepool Britain in Bloom Winners. To be reused at Hartlepool.

Bexhill on Sea Desirable Residential Resort. To continue in use at Bexhill on Sea until further notice.

1 – 31 December 1973

Bridge of Allan Welcomes Visitors at All Times. All to be reused at Stirling.

'P' denotes Pictorial

'C' denotes Circular

'R' denotes Rectangular

'O' denotes Oval

Letters to the Editor

Sir,

May I be allowed to add my comment on the subject of high value commemoratives, which so many collectors appear to resent.

My son, who is also a stamp collector, is in the Merchant Navy, and for the last 12 years has been commanding vessels based at Hong Kong. His usual runs take him to Malaysia, Japan and Taiwan.

We correspond frequently, often voluminously, and always by air mail. For Hong Kong and Malaysia the rate for a $\frac{1}{2}$ -oz letter was 7½p (now 8p), while for Japan and Taiwan 9p (now 10p) is required for this minimum weight. When news or comment runs to many pages, or when there are enclosures, the letter may weigh 1½ ozs. Imagine having to affix 27p worth of commemoratives in denominations of 3p or less!

I usually buy a fair number of each high value on their first day of sale (Mrs Godfrey's English correspondents please note!) so that future air-mail letters sometimes carry a selection of different issues. Of course, a sensitive and accurate letter balance is essential in the home, but in this way calls at the post office are confined to First Days.

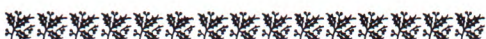
Since there must be thousands of people who, like me, have regular correspondence with countries beyond Europe, I would ask all those disgruntled collectors to please spare a thought for others who not only enjoy the hobby, but who have, too, a *practical need* for the higher denominations.

Yours faithfully,

BEATRICE WHITE



The Post Office sends best wishes to the readers of the *Philatelic Bulletin* for a very Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.



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