

Philatelic Bulletin



Volume 4: Number 2 October 1966



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The transfer of the work of the Philatelic Bureau from London to Edinburgh is now nearing completion. The first day cover service and all mail orders including new and renewal subscriptions to the Philatelic Bulletin are now being handled by the Edinburgh Bureau.

The deposit accounts will be transferred after the 'Battle of Hastings' issue on the 14th October and all standing and 'on demand' orders from customers' credits will thereafter be dealt with by the Edinburgh Bureau. The opportunity is being taken to introduce a new indexing system under which the present alphabetical order of accounts will be converted to a numerical sequence. This will be in full operation by the beginning of November, and should materially speed up the accounting work and the execution of orders. All of our 10,000 account customers will shortly receive an individual notification of their new account number.

Every possible effort will be made to avoid any disruption to the service during the transitional period from the 15th to 31st October, but it would be of great assistance if customers could defer sending orders to, or opening new accounts with the Bureau until the 1st November. From that date the Edinburgh Bureau will provide the full range of mail order services hitherto available from the London Bureau. All orders, remittances, correspondence and enquiries should be directed to the following address:

The Manager,
GPO Philatelic Bureau,
2-4 Waterloo Place,
EDINBURGH, 1.

and *NOT* to the Philatelic Bureau in London. An announcement will appear in the next issue of the Bulletin about the opening date of the new Philatelic Sales Counter at the London Chief Office in King Edward Street, (opposite to Post Office Headquarters). In the meantime the existing Bureau counter service will remain available for personal callers.

Introduction

We offer a varied fare this month ranging over such topics as the National Postal Museum, the Christmas Stamps designed by children, the oldest Post Office and a new Air Letter form. Our usual postmark slogan feature and the unaccepted stamp designs complete the issue.

The oldest Post Office in the country

Following our recent article on the early history of rural posts we are able to give some more historical facts, this time on the oldest Post Offices. Many of the claimants to the title of the oldest Post Office are said to have been in the same building for over one hundred years, while the oldest, the Post Office at Sanquhar, Dumfries, dates from about 1800. The earliest Post Offices were usually housed at Inns, where the only duties of the Innkeeper-cum-Postmaster were the acceptance and handing-over of letters, the exchange of mail bags, and the provision of fresh horses for the Post-Boys who carried our mail over the major roads of this country before the establishment of the Mail Coach Service in 1784.

By the early 1800's many new postal routes had been opened up, and mail coaches were passing through or near towns and villages where, not so very long before, the nearest postal facilities had often been many miles away. To serve the inhabitants of such places Post Offices were established — often just a room in the Postmaster's own house, with a window to the street through which letters could be handed in or delivered to callers. Few towns then had

an official Letter Carrier, but often the Postmaster was willing to employ his own servant on the delivery of letters — for a fee! This was usually between 1d. and 2d. a letter. It was not until 1897 that a delivery was granted to every house in the Kingdom, as one of Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee concessions. Many of these early Postmasters, if they happened to be shopkeepers as well, conducted all the business of the Post Office in their shop — as do scale-payment Sub-Postmasters today. Usually, the only sign that these shops and houses were also Post Offices was the opening in the window and a number of Post Office notices and instructions displayed on the walls. For example, in those days, the whole business of the Exeter Post Office was done in a single room — although the staff consisted of the Postmaster, 3 Clerks, and 7 Letter Carriers! There was no protection from the weather for the public, and as free delivery was restricted to houses in only a small part of the City callers had to queue in the rain and then mount two or three steps to reach the opening in the wall through which their letters were delivered. At Paignton the village's incoming mail was delivered by



Sanquhar Post Office, Dumfries

the mounted Post-Boy through a pane 12 in. by 10 in. made to open in the window of the Postmaster's sitting room! *Sanquhar's* ancient Post Office dates from this time.

After 1840 and the arrival of Uniform Penny Postage — followed by a far greater use and range of postal services — better accommodation and separate counters for the sale of postage stamps, etc, became essential, and Post Offices began to develop on the lines we know so well today.

By the early 1850's the new cheap pennypostage had even encouraged the people of remote villages and hamlets to write letters and the Post Office, to meet their demands for a local Official postal service, were obliged to open Receiving Houses in places hitherto cut-off from the general post network. The Post Offices of *Edderton*, *Shipton-under-Wychwood*, *King's Worthy*, *Wormshill*, *Dennington*, *Guyhirn* and *Potterspurty* date from this period. Although an official postal service in such villages dates only from the arrival of Uniform Penny Postage, other villages throughout the country had been more fortunate, having known 'penny postage' long before 1840. These were places near large commercial cities such as Edinburgh, Manchester and Liverpool; or resorts and important market towns, where the number of letters sent through the post was enough to justify the expense of organising a local Penny-Post network, within which letters circulating to and from the controlling Post Town were only charged one penny. Penny-Post Receiving Houses were then opened at convenient points within the network at which Post-Boys could safely leave mail and collect any outgoing letters. Few such Post-Boys had a mail cart, or even a horse, and many were expected to walk up to seventeen miles in a day, seven days a week! The Post Offices of *Donaghmore*, *Penshurst*, and *Stoke Climsland* began as Penny-Post Receiving Houses.

The earliest known evidence of the existence of a Post Office in Sanquhar is an entry in the *Edinburgh Almanack* of 1763, which told the

public that the Post for Sanquhar left Edinburgh on Saturday evenings at 9.0. at night, arriving back in Edinburgh on the following Friday afternoon. The postage on a Single-letter between Edinburgh and Sanquhar was then 2d, a Single-letter being one made up of a single sheet of paper, folded, sealed, and the address written on the outside. Double postage was charged on letters made up of two sheets of paper. Few people could have afforded these, or Treble-letters, and it was common practice to write both horizontally and vertically across a single sheet of paper to save the expense of using an additional one.

By 1788 Sanquhar was receiving a Post from Edinburgh three times a week, but the postage on a Single-letter had risen to 5d.

The earliest reference to Sanquhar in English Post Office records is dated 1802, when a 3-day Post between Cumnock and Sanquhar was recommended to speed the Mail between Ayr and Dumfries. Until 1867 Sanquhar's status was that of a Head Post Office today.

The present Sub-Postmaster, Mr J. Hogarth, whose family have held the Post Office since 1908, says that there is no doubt that the Office has been in the same building since 1800, if not earlier, and that the title deeds of the premises date from 1760. The name of John Halliday, a known Postmaster of Sanquhar, appears on the deeds for 1809.

Post Office records show that a Penny-Post Receiving House was opened in Donaghmore in April 1834, with a salary of £5 a year to the Receiver of Letters.

Mrs W. A. Bell, the daughter of a former Sub-Postmistress, says that the Post Office has been in the same building since her great-grandparents' day. As her mother was born in 1860 it is quite possible that the office has been in the same premises ever since its establishment in 1834.

A manuscript dated 1906, recording the early memories of one John Brown of Donaghmore, reads: 'Until 1830 (1834?) we had no Post Office. Letters were brought from Dungannon by a messenger to the brewery and he also

carried those for the village. The mail coach from Dublin to Coleraine brought letters to Dungannon. Our first Postmaster had the munificent salary of £3 (£5?) annually'.

A further selection of old Post Offices will be printed in future issues.

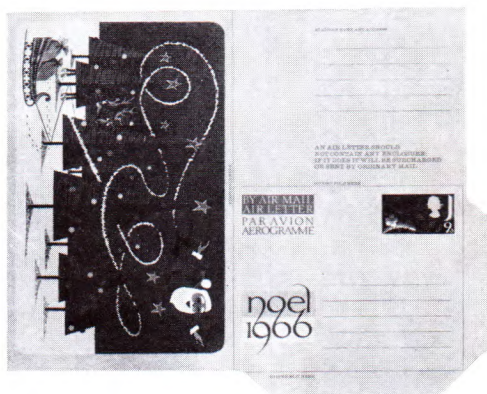
Christmas Air Letter Forms

Last year we introduced the first-ever British Christmas stamps printed on Christmas pictorial Air Letter forms for sending overseas. There were two designs (the Nativity and the Snowflakes) and as these proved to be popular we are issuing a new one this year. But for various operational reasons we decided to have one design only.

The design of this 1966 form is the combined work of three artists. The Christmas stamp printed on the form is the work of Michael and Sylvia Goaman, designers of last year's Nativity form. The stamp features a cameo portrait of the Queen, a Christmas rose, foliage, ribbon and a pine cone; and these are in soft tones of blue, violet, mauve, red, green and brown. The address panel is also attractively coloured in red and yellow. The pictorial panel by Clive Abbott, designer of the two Post Office Tower stamps, is a lighthearted representation of Santa Claus in Reindeerland. The colours are bright and festive and Santa Claus in traditional red is boldly contrasted against the deep blue sky.

The Christmas Air Letter forms may be ordered, price 10d each (which is the same price as last year) plus the normal handling charge.

We thought our readers would be interested in a preview of the design but the black and white reproduction shown here cannot do justice to the very attractive colouring of this form.



The National Postal Museum

Priceless documents and stamps from one of the world's greatest philatelic collections were on show when the National Postal Museum was opened by the Postmaster General, the Rt. Hon. Edward Short, M.P. on 12th September. The Museum is housed in the London Chief Post Office, King Edward Street, E.C.1 — only a stone's-throw from the site of the old General Post Office where the world's first adhesive postage stamps were put on sale in 1840.

With the Postmaster General was the Museum's Founder, Mr Reginald M. Phillips of Brighton, who last year presented his unique, £275,000 collection of 19th century British stamps to the nation with a gift of £50,000 towards the establishment of a National Postal Museum; at the opening ceremony Mr Phillips presented his philatelic library and die proofs of the first British Telegraph Stamps to the Postmaster General.

In converting the rooms in the Chief Post Office that house the Museum, everything possible has been done to ensure that stamps, essays, drawings, and official documents will be preserved in peak condition. Fittings in the exhibition rooms hold flat transparent sealed cases in which the exhibits are kept in an air-conditioned, temperature-controlled environment, with special lighting to prevent fading, and humidity control to check mould formation and paper deterioration.

The accommodation provided is but the first stage in the Museum. The next stage will be the opening in King Edward Building of a

greatly expanded area (some 2,000 square feet) in two years' time.

Prime mover behind the setting-up of the Museum was Mr Phillips, concerned that his irreplaceable collection, including acquisitions from other great collections, should remain intact — and in Britain. Comprising 46 volumes assembled during 40 years of painstaking work, the Phillips collection will now retain its supreme international importance. It documents the conception, planning and issue of the world's first postage stamps and traces the subsequent manufacturing and design developments in British stamp production during the nineteenth century.

To it has been added the Post Office collection of registration sheets, representing almost every issue of British stamps over the past 126 years.

Because this vast collection cannot be shown in its entirety, the Museum will show a series of changing exhibitions, each centred on a selected theme and each lasting for about two months. Items not on display will be available for inspection by approved students and historians. The first exhibition traces the general history of 19th century adhesive postage stamps.

The National Postal Museum in King Edward Street, London, E.C.1. is open to the public from 10.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. on Mondays to Fridays, with late opening to 7 p.m. on Thursday by special arrangement. Curator is Mr F. Marcus Arman, a postal official of wide experience whose father was Head Postmaster of Monmouth and of Cromer.

Postmark Slogans

'New Industry Thrives in Sunderland' has been in use in the transposed position at Sunderland since 1st August 1966 and will continue in use until 31st March 1967.

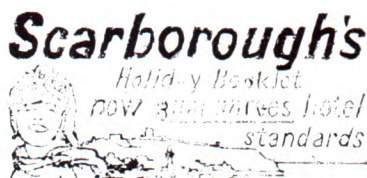
Covers for reposting to the Head Postmaster, Sunderland.



The slogan campaign 'Royal Counties Show June 22, 23, 24th 1967 Kingsclere Hampshire' has been terminated. The die at Basingstoke finished use on 5th September and the die at Newbury on 6th September 1966.



'Scarborough's Holiday Booklet Now Guarantees Hotel Standards' will be in use in the transposed position during the period 8th December 1966 to 28th February 1967. Covers for reposting to the Head Postmaster, Scarborough.



Two new dies engraved 'The Centre For The Cotswolds Send to Town Hall for Guide Cheltenham' will be used in the transposed position at Cheltenham during the periods 3rd November 1966 to 2nd January 1967 and 3rd May 1967 to 13th May 1967.

Design one 'Send To Town Hall For Guide — Cheltenham The Centre For The Cotswolds' will be used during the period 3rd January 1967 to 2nd March 1967. This slogan to a second design will be used during the period 3rd March 1967 to 2nd May 1967. Covers for reposting to the Head Postmaster, Cheltenham.



'Be In The Swim At Harlow's Own Swimming Pool' will be in use in the transposed position at Harlow during the period 1st November to 30th November 1966. Covers for reposting to the Head Postmaster, Harlow.

**Be in the
swim ...**
at Harlow's own
swimming pool

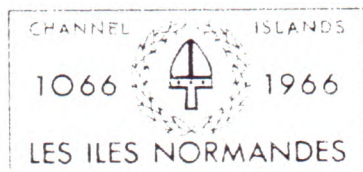
'Warwick Can Make It Exhibition at the race-course 29th October to 3rd November' will be in use in the transposed position at Leamington during the period 3rd October to 30th October 1966. Covers for reposting to the Head Postmaster, Warwick and Leamington.

WARWICK CAN MAKE IT
EXHIBITION AT
THE RACECOURSE
29th OCTOBER TO 3rd NOVEMBER

'Magee Rag November 25' will be in use in the transposed position at Londonderry during the period 16th October to 26th November 1966. Covers for reposting to the Head Postmaster, Londonderry.

Specimen not available

Two slogan dies 'Channel Islands 1066-1966 Les Iles Normandes' will be used in the transposed position at Guernsey and Jersey during the period 1st October to 31st October 1966. The present slogan dies in use will be discontinued during the above period. Covers for reposting to the Head Postmasters Guernsey and Jersey.



Two dies engraved 'City of London Road Safety Exhibition St Paul's Churchyard October 12-28th' will be used at London East Central District Office during the period 3rd October to 23rd October 1966. Covers for reposting to the District Postmaster E.C.D.O.

CITY OF LONDON —
ROAD SAFETY —
EXHIBITION —
ST. PAUL'S CHURCHYARD —
OCT. 12th -28th —

'Bring Your Factory To Bracing Skegness Lincs.' will be used in the transposed position at Skegness during the period 1st October to 30th November 1966. Covers for reposting to the Head Postmaster, Skegness.



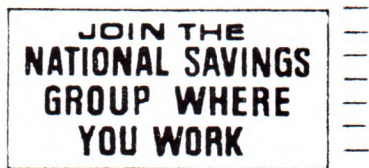
'Remember To Use Your Postal Code' has been in use in the transposed position on five dies at Croydon (2 dies) Caterham, Coulsdon and Mitcham since 28th September and will continue until further notice. Covers for reposting to the Head Postmaster, Croydon.



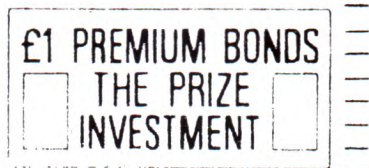
'Racing At Ayr The Ideal Holiday' has been in use since 23rd August 1966 and will continue in the transposed position until 12th November 1966. The slogan will be used again during the following periods: 12th December 1966 to 14th January 1967; 27th February to 22nd April 1967 and 5th June to 23rd August 1967. Covers for reposting to the Head Postmaster, Ayr.



Three dies engraved 'Join The National Savings Group Where You Work' have been in use in the standard position at Birmingham since 19th September and will continue in use until 13th November 1966. Covers for reposting to the Head Postmaster, Birmingham.



Three dies engraved '£1 Premium Bonds The Prize Investment' have been in use in the standard position at Nottingham since 26th September and will continue in use until 16th October 1966. Covers for reposting to the Head Postmaster, Nottingham.



Special Handstamps

'Gloucester BPA Autumn Convention' will be used at Gloucester on 22nd October 1966. Covers for reposting to the Head Postmaster, Gloucester.

'United Nations Stamp Exhibition' will be used at Trafalgar Square, WC2, during the period 23-25 October. Covers for reposting to the District Postmaster, West Central District Office.

'Federation of Middlesex & Associated Philatelic Societies 12th Juniors Stamp Day' at Mill Hill NW7 on 19th November. Covers for reposting to District Postmaster, North Western District Office

'East Anglia Philex' will be used at Ipswich on 9th-10th December 1966. Covers for reposting to the Head Postmaster, Ipswich.



23 dies engraved 'Boys Clubs NABC Club Week Oct. 28 to Nov. 5' will be used as follows:

Office	Number of Dies	Position	Period
London WCDO	Two	Standard	3rd Oct - 6th Nov, 1966
Swindon	One	Transposed	" "
Winchester	One	"	3rd - 16th Oct, 1966
Kingston-on-Thames	One	"	10th - 30th Oct, 1966
Northampton	One	"	17th - 23rd Oct, 1966
Corby	One	"	" "
Kettering	One	"	" "
Peterborough	One	"	" "
Edgware	One	"	17th - 30th Oct, 1966
Hounslow	One	"	" "
London SEDO	One	Standard	" "
Enfield	One	Transposed	" "
Twickenham	One	"	" "
London WDO	One	Standard	" "
Nottingham	Two	"	24th Oct - 6th Nov, 1966
Manchester HO	Two	"	" "
Stockport	One	Transposed	" "
Manchester South East DO	One	Standard	" "
and South West DO	One	"	" "
Southampton	One	Transposed	24th Oct - 30th Oct

Covers for reposting to the Head Postmasters of the offices concerned.

Christmas Stamps

For the first time the British Post Office features children's designs on stamps. They will be issued on 1st December 1966 priced 3d and 1s 6d.

The designs are the winning entries from 4500 submitted by children in response to the competition announced in May. They are the unaided work of children except that the Queen's profile embossed in gold and the denominations have been added.

The 3d stamp was designed by Miss Tasveer Shemza and depicts one of the three kings of orient. The colours are yellow, red, green, blue, black and gold.

The designer of the 1s 6d stamp is James Berry who shows a snowman as the central figure of his design which is in blue, pink, red, black and gold.

Both stamps are vertical and are twice the size of the normal definitive series. They are printed by photogravure by Harrison and Sons Ltd both with and without phosphor lines in sheets of 80 stamps. In choosing the winning designs the Post Office enlisted the aid of eight of its professional stamp designers: Rosalind Dease, Clive Abbott, David Gentleman, Michael and Sylvia Goaman, Peter Gauld, Jeffery Matthews and J. Andrew Restall.

The usual first day cover services will be provided by the Bureau for this issue and application forms are enclosed. Our readers are reminded that these services will be given from Edinburgh and that all covers will bear an Edinburgh date stamp. The full service using specially designed envelopes will cost 4s 9d and customers' own envelopes will be serviced for 2s 9d.

For the benefit of collectors who like to prepare and post their own covers special cancellations will again be provided at the offices shown below where philatelic posting boxes will be sited. Presentation packs will be on sale at these offices and from the Bureau price 2s 9d each. The discount rate for bulk orders of envelopes and presentation packs will apply as follows:

Envelopes: 250 £4. 3. 4. 500 £8. 1000 £15. 2500 £33. 5000 £60. 10,000 £104. (plus handling charge).

For orders of 100 or more presentation packs the charge is reduced from 2s 9d to 2s 3d each, plus handling charge. Discount orders should be sent to the Bureau.

List of Offices with philatelic posting boxes: London ECDO (Chief Office).

Trafalgar Square BO, WC2.

London SWDO.

Aberdeen	Leeds
Aberystwyth	Leicester
Belfast	Lincoln
Birmingham	Liverpool
Blackpool	Llandudno
Bournemouth	Londonderry
Bradford	Luton
Brighton	Maidstone
Bristol	Manchester
Bromley	Middlesbrough
Cambridge	Newcastle upon Tyne
Cardiff	Newport I.O.W.
Carlisle	Newport, Mon.
Chelmsford	Northampton
Chester	Norwich
Colchester	Nottingham
Colwyn Bay	Oxford
Coventry	Peterborough
Croydon	Plymouth
Derby	Portsmouth
Doncaster	Preston
Dorchester	Reading
Douglas, Isle of Man	Romford
Dundee	Sheffield
Eastbourne	Shrewsbury
Edinburgh	Skegness
Exeter	Southampton
Fareham	Southend on Sea
Folkestone	Stockport
Glasgow	Stockton on Tees
Gloucester	Stoke on Trent
Grimsby	Sunderland
Guernsey	Swansea
Harrogate	Swindon
Harrow	Taunton
Hastings	Tunbridge Wells
Hounslow	Wolverhampton
Hull	Worcester
Ipswich	Worthing
Jersey	York
Kingston on Thames	

Special Issues available from Philatelic Bureau

Pictorial Landscape	4d, 6d, 1s 3d, 1s 6d,
World Cup	4d, 6d, 1s 3d
Pictorial Birds	4d, (blocks of 4)
Pictorial Technology	4d, 6d, 1s 3d, 1s 6d
Battle of Hastings	4d, (blocks of 6)
	6d, 1s 3d

These stamps are available with or without phosphor lines.

Abu Dhabi Stamps

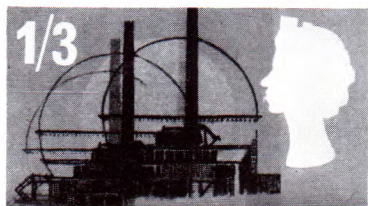
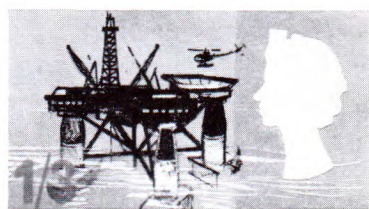
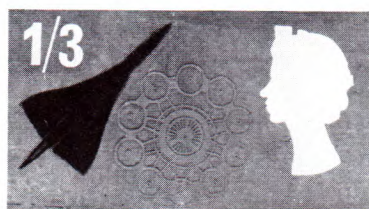
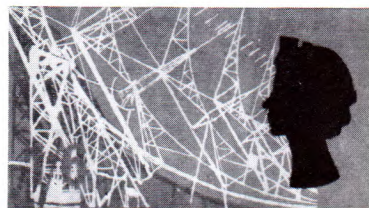
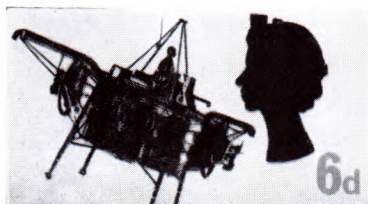
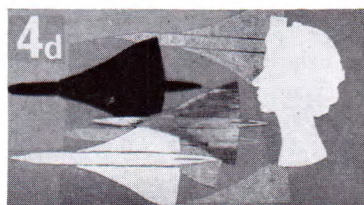
An overprint of the Abu Dhabi definitive issue has become necessary because of the changes of Ruler and currency. When the overprinted stamps become available the existing range will be withdrawn from sale.

There will be no stocks of the overprinted stamps available from the Philatelic Bureau and all future enquiries and orders should be directed to the Postal Superintendent, Abu Dhabi.

The date of issue of the overprinted stamps will be announced in due course.

Unaccepted Stamp Designs Pictorial Technology Issue

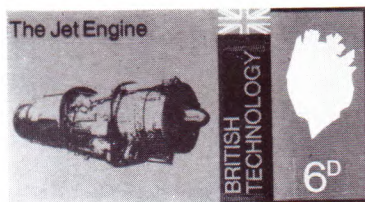
David Gillespie



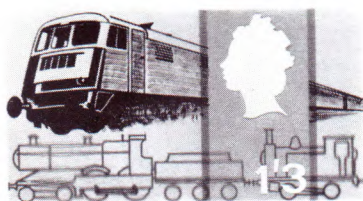
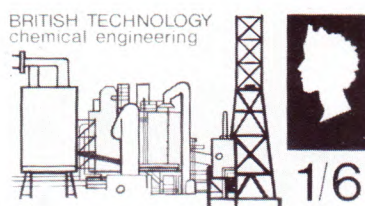
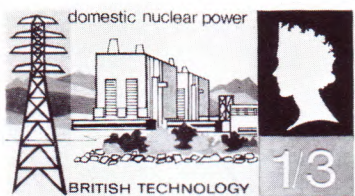
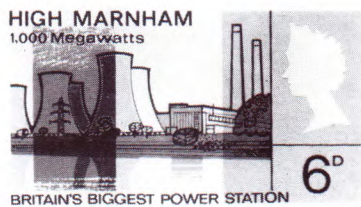
Bradbury Wilkinson



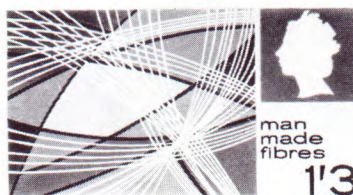
Harrison
& Sons



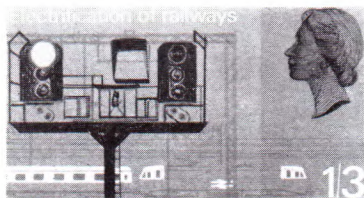
Henry
&
Joyce
Collins



Bradbury
Wilkinson



Andrew Restall



Handling Charges

Because of the increase in some Overseas postage rates, a further revision of our scale of handling charges has become necessary. These will be effective from the 15th October and for convenience and ease of reference, we have printed the new charges separately on the enclosed card.

Conditions

The Philatelic Bureau will be pleased to supply any number of stamps shown on its current stock list, subject to stocks being available, in mint condition only. For stamps not shown on the list, enquiries should be made of a stamp dealer.

We do not guarantee to supply stamps from particular cylinders or plates, position or cylinder blocks, particular editions of books or books with selected watermark.

Stamps are NOT supplied cancelled to order. Remittances, which *must* be sent with orders should be made payable to 'GPO Philatelic Bureau' and should include a handling charge of 6d for orders under 10s, and 3s 9d for orders of 10s and over (9d and 4/- respectively for orders to Overseas Countries, other than the Commonwealth). For orders to be sent by Air Mail the cost of the airmail postage should be added. Stamps are not accepted as payment for orders.

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