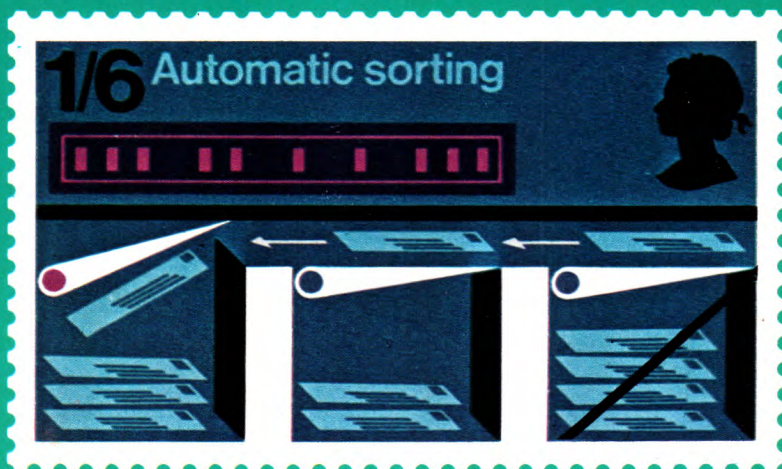


Philatelic Bulletin



Volume 7 Number 2 October 1969



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Introduction

We dislike introducing thoughts of Christmas before the autumn has properly started but this year's Christmas stamps are due to be issued on 26 November and we have let you have the FDC application forms in good time. Full details are on this page.

The main article this month is about Delacryl – the new process used for printing

the Post Office Technology issue. Our thanks to Thomas de la Rue Ltd for providing the information.

The Curator of the National Postal Museum has asked us to thank all the children who sent essays to him after their visits. The winning entry and a charming drawing appear in our pages this month.

Christmas Stamps – First-Day Cover Services

This year's Christmas stamps are to be issued on 26 November and will be denominations 4d, 5d and 1s 6d.

We are again offering a choice of postmarks, either the normal 'Philatelic Bureau' or 'Bethlehem Llandeilo Carms' and care should be taken in completing the relevant forms which are enclosed with this *Bulletin*.

The charges are:

Service A = 5s 3d

Service B = 3s 3d

Service C = 4s 3d

Application forms for the Bethlehem cancellation must be sent to the Head Postmaster (Philatelic Section) Llanelli Carms. Applications for the Philatelic Bureau postmark only and combined applications for covers with the Bethlehem postmark and covers with the Bureau postmark MUST be sent to the Philatelic Bureau, Edinburgh.

Special philatelic posting boxes will be available where collectors can post their own covers which will receive a 'First Day of Issue' cancellation free of service charge.

Philatelic Posting Boxes

Special posting boxes will be available on future first days of issue at Reigate and Redhill, and Yeovil.

Delacryl – a New Process for GPO Stamps

The latest commemorative issue is the first full series which the GPO has issued to celebrate its own programme of technological innovation and development. It is fitting, then, that the printing of this issue should itself be a new technical departure for the GPO. For the first time GPO stamps will be printed in Delacryl – a relatively recent process, devised specifically for the production of postage stamps. The inventors are Thomas de la Rue & Company Limited – familiar to postal historians and philatelists as one of the first firms to enter the field of stamp printing. Their first GPO contract was for the engraving and printing of the 4d Carmine in 1855. Since that time they have been honoured frequently with commissions to print issues for the GPO by the engraved process and have become one of the foremost printers serving the overseas market and the only stamp printer to be able to offer all the known processes.

It is now three years since Thomas de la Rue (TDLR) first introduced Delacryl. They did so after conducting an international market research survey which revealed that the facilities offered by most printers were in danger of losing touch with the needs of modern-day postal authorities. The four traditional stamp printing processes – photogravure, lithography, direct plate (intaglio) and letterpress, all have particular strengths. What was required, however, was a process which could combine the distinctive features of each of them – direct plate's control over fine line work, photogravure's facility for multi-colour, and lithography's economy and soft nuances of tone. On the basis of these findings, TDLR commenced their technical investigations at their security print research laboratories – the largest resource of its kind in the world – and eventually evolved Delacryl. The new process makes for brighter and more perfectly detailed stamps by offering sharp line work, subtle colour definition and the ability to print firm block colour in the unshaded areas. The black and white magnification on page 4 shows the dramatic improvements in quality against traditional pro-

cesses which were evident even in the first, experimental Delacryl runs.

Since its 'launch' in May of 1966, TDLR have printed orders in Delacryl for over sixty countries – and many of those countries have come to rely regularly on the new process for the printing of the colourful, sensitively detailed designs which have become customary for modern-day issues.

The variety of subjects which Delacryl has been called upon to reproduce in that time is considerable – a veritable gallery of portraits of heads of state and national figures, rare 'wild-life' subjects, landscapes, national symbols, famous paintings, and many others. One of the most outstanding stamps has been the 1966 Seal of Manila stamp, printed for the Philippines. With an area of less than two square inches, this stamp includes so much detail that, in its way, it resembles a miniature Bayeux Tapestry. A cluster of tiny tableaux provide a graphic display of four centuries of Manila's history. Delacryl's fine printing enables them all to be clearly intelligible. In a totally different context, the most demanding order Delacryl has fulfilled was placed by a Middle Eastern country – whose representative arrived in London with just a preliminary pencil sketch and asked for a commemorative issue to be designed, printed and finished in time for him to escort it back to his country nine days later.

The GPO's first issue by this new process features elegant, symbolic designs by Mr David Gentleman. Each has a 'diagrammatic' structure, which guarantees stylistic as well as thematic continuity for the series. The intricate patterns of lines and shapes are effective symbols for the networks and systems with which the GPO is making its contribution to improved communications. The 5d value interweaves the familiar National Giro motif with the standard sign for a computer transistor; the 9d International STD stamp has stylized telephone dials balancing the central hemisphere; the 1s features intertwining pulse waves to commemorate Pulse Code Modulation; while the 1s 6d uses rectangular features

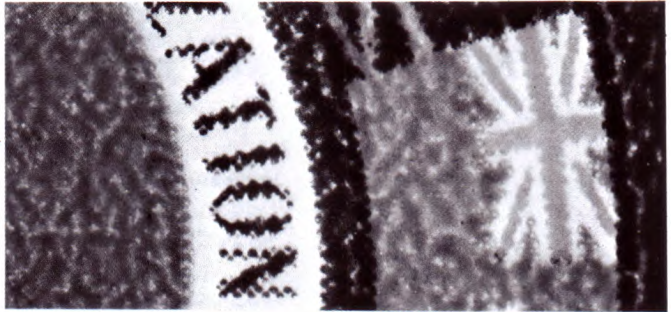
**ORDINARY
PROCESS**



Mag.
x 17



DELACRYL



to commemorate the automation of mail-handling procedures. Each stamp makes a total visual impact which is the product of extremely carefully marshalled subsidiary detail. The symbolism is consistent and thorough. Highly disciplined designs, such as these, require an equally refined and disciplined printing approach and Delacryl's control over line work and solid colour made it the ideal process to employ.

The issue has been produced in Thomas de la Rue's top security factory in the north of England. A formidable battery of security systems give the postage stamp unit the same protection as the banknote producing sections of the factory and the most stringent procedures are operated to control movements of paper and materials during and after printing. All the papers and inks which are to be used in this factory are tested in on-site laboratories before production starts. The latest presses which TDLR have installed have been designed to print with such accuracy and

sensitivity that it would be short-sighted to use anything other than papers and inks of the highest quality. TDLR's latest model, for example, is capable of printing four colours at one pass, all in perfect register and at great speed.

The special techniques employed at this printing stage are still under a security embargo, but their effect can clearly be seen in the radiant colours and sharp details of the stamps.

As a final check, of course, every single stamp is closely examined before being passed as fit for issue. The rigour of the quality standards in this factory can, perhaps, best be appreciated from the fact that most of the banknotes produced there undergo nine separate examinations during the course of production.

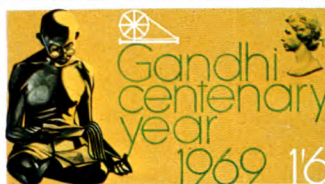
While Thomas de la Rue have recognized the need for innovation and creative flair, they also still respect the values which have become traditional during the 150 years of their history – integrity, infinite care and absolute standards of quality and security.

Unaccepted Stamp Designs

These are some of the designs submitted for the Gandhi stamp issued on 13 August 1969.



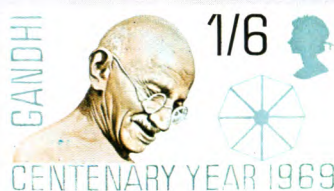
Bradbury Wilkinson Ltd



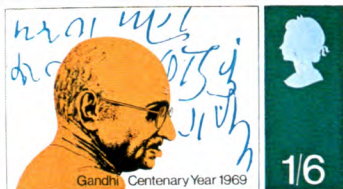
Bradbury Wilkinson Ltd



R. Dease



Bradbury Wilkinson Ltd



P. Sharland



M. Stringer

British Philatelic Exhibition 1969



22 OCT. 1969
THE BRITISH
PHILATELIC
EXHIBITION
SEYMOUR
HALL
LONDON. W.1

CINDERELLA 24 OCT. 1969
STAMP CLUB THE BRITISH
DAY PHILATELIC
1959-1969 EXHIBITION
SEYMOUR
HALL
LONDON. W.1



FRANCIS WEBB 23 OCT. 1969
MEMORIAL THE BRITISH
DAY PHILATELIC
EXHIBITION
SEYMOUR
HALL
LONDON. W.1



25th OCT. 1969
THE BRITISH
PHILATELIC
EXHIBITION
SEYMOUR
HALL
LONDON. W.1



25th OCT. 1969
THE BRITISH
PHILATELIC
EXHIBITION
SEYMOUR
HALL
LONDON. W.1

With exhibits of the stamps and postal history of over seventy different territories, many small, remote or entirely surrounded by water, the Exhibition to be held at Seymour Hall, London, W1, on Wednesday to Saturday, 22 to 25 October will show why and how people of all ages and in many different walks of life collect stamps for enjoyment and relaxation, for historical study and as a form of saving. There will be exhibits from a dignitary of the Church, from members of the Forces ranging from a corporal to a major-general, from several doctors and from a number of lady collectors, from a husband and wife team and from a brother and sister, both aged under 15, a demonstration of the democratic nature of the hobby.

The National Class (Great Britain) includes studies of stamps from the 1683 London 'PENY POST PAID' triangular handstamps to the

present Machin definitives and the phosphor lines with which they are faced. The Court of Honour will be devoted to displays from the collections of the Royal Philatelic Society, London, now in its centenary year, and the Exhibition will be opened by its President. A display of Indian rarities which include a copy of the famous 1854 four annas with inverted head will be presented by the members of the India Study Circle. In the Aerophilatelic Class there will be mail carried by the 1870 Paris Balloon Post and the 1911 First UK Aerial Post from Hendon to Windsor. There will be classes for thematic and junior exhibits and for philatelic literature.

The GPO will have a large sales counter in the main hall at which stamps normally obtainable from the Philatelic Bureau, including regionals and commemoratives, will be available. Mail posted in the letter box provided will

receive one of the special cancellations (illustrated on page 6) which will differ each day.

The Crown Agents Stamp Bureau will be providing a display of the stamps of many different Commonwealth territories. Philatelic literature and a range of stamps of the widest variety, from proofs to covers, will be on sale at a number of trade stands.

Souvenir envelopes bearing the design motifs of the four special cancellations, printed in four different colours, and souvenir postcards depicting in natural colours stamps which were issued in 1869, will be on sale at the Exhibition. Those unable to attend the Exhibition or desiring souvenirs before it opens may obtain from the Secretary, BPE, 1 Hamilton Court, Hamilton Road, London, W5, sets of four envelopes for 2s 6d and sets of four postcards for 4s 6d post paid. Sets of four fully serviced envelopes (i.e. addressed to the

sender, stamped and each bearing one of the special cancellations) may be ordered from the Secretary, BPE, before 17 October at 6s per set or 10s per set if each envelope contains one of the souvenir postcards. Those wishing to service their own items should send them fully stamped and under cover, with a clear indication of the type and date of the cancellation required, to the District Postmaster, Western District Office, 35 Rathbone Place, London, W1.

The hours of opening will be 22 and 23 October (11 am to 8 pm), 24 October (11 am to 7 pm) and 25 October (10 am to 6 pm). The admission charge will be 5s for adults (including catalogue) and 2s for juniors under the age of 16 (excluding catalogue). Season tickets for the four days costing 10s each will be obtainable at the Exhibition or previously from the Secretary, BPE.

Special Issues 1967

In Volume 5 No. 10 we gave the number of stamps actually delivered to us. We are now able to quote the 'net issue' figures.

<i>Issue</i>	<i>Value</i>	<i>Net Issues</i>	
		<i>Plain</i>	<i>Phosphor</i>
EFTA	9d	6,553,738	5,557,104
	1s 6d	6,363,483	4,237,944
British Flora	4d	78,331,778	37,133,952
	9d	5,873,042	5,701,608
	1s 9d	3,259,521	4,929,648
British Paintings	4d	—	102,443,229
	9d	—	9,568,991
	1s 6d	—	9,660,509
British Discovery	4d	—	104,165,625
	1s 0d	—	10,718,389
	1s 6d	—	10,380,413
	1s 9d	—	7,469,585
Chichester	1s 9d	—	10,060,867
Christmas	3d	—	270,349,845
	4d	—	287,827,440
	1s 6d	—	17,913,209

National Postal Museum Notes

The Jacob Perkins Story

Long before postage stamps were thought of, before indeed the Prince Regent succeeded his father as George IV, in 1819, the year of the birth of Princess Alexandrina Victoria, Jacob Perkins, a 53-year-old American Engineer-Inventor came to this country from Boston, Massachusetts. Landing at Liverpool from a sailing packet, together with his partner Gideon Fairman, his workman and twenty-six cases of machinery, Perkins travelled by road to London in search of a new market for his particular skills.

In his homeland Perkins had striven for twenty years to perfect a mass production process for the printing of inimitable bank notes. Wherever paper money is used there is always the risk that dishonest printers may produce counterfeits which an unsuspecting public may innocently accept and use for trade in lieu of genuine bank notes.

To beat the forgers, Jacob Perkins revived

the art of engraving on steel; there was, of course, nothing new about this for Dürer had practised this form of engraving some centuries earlier; Perkins, however, improved the process by hardening the steel dies once they had been engraved. Impressions from the die were then taken on a steel roller the impressions on which, after hardening, were transferred in a press, rather like a mangle, to a printing plate. From these plates innumerable copies, each identical with the master die, could be printed. The problem of mass producing identical security documents had been solved.

So successful in New England was Jacob Perkins that the State Legislature of Massachusetts decreed that all bank notes issued in the state must be produced by his inimitable process.

What brought Perkins to Britain in 1819, at an age when most men running an established and profitable business might be excused for



George Cruikshank's 'spoof' bank note of 1819 drew attention to the prevalence of forgery and awakened the conscience of penal reformers.

taking life a little easily, was a direct invitation to do so issued by the British Minister in Washington. It was this invitation which resulted in this notable 'brain-drain' from New England to Old England at a time when the brain drain in the opposite direction was in full spate.

The state of security printing in Britain was chaotic. Forgery of bank notes was rife as, indeed, it had been since 1798 when, to conserve the nation's gold reserves during the Napoleonic wars (the same problem is still with us) the Government by Order in Council forbade the use of gold for internal currency. To permit internal trade to continue, bank notes in vast quantities were essential and this placed an intolerable burden on the security printers of the day. They were using copper plates for engraving notes and because copper is a soft metal only short runs were possible without re-engraving the plates. Directly the plates were re-engraved variations crept in and the door was open for dishonest engravers to manufacture counterfeits. This they did. It was estimated in 1819 that no less than ten thousand engravers in London alone were capable of making plates from which fraudulent bank notes could be printed. Since the few tools used by an engraver can be carried in one's pocket it was virtually impossible to apprehend the forgers.

Many men and women were, however, hanged for uttering forged notes. The risk incurred in paying a bill with a bank note, unless it had been authenticated by the bank as genuine, was appalling. If your note was shown to be fraudulent you might well have been hanged, although perfectly innocent. Neither trade nor necks were safe. Cruikshank in a 'spoof' bank note of the period showed men and women hanging from a gibbet and he ironically signed the note in the name of Jack Ketch, the infamous hangman. This 'spoof' note did much to draw attention to this social and commercial evil. The Society of Arts, now the Royal Society of Arts, instituted an enquiry into security printing methods in an endeavour

to mitigate this evil. The Commission recommended that the background of notes should be engraved by means of an eccentric lathe producing the complex concentric line patterns familiar on bank notes today. Perkins brought such a lathe to Britain; it was the invention of another American citizen Asa Spenser. A background pattern produced by this means was virtually impossible of imitation.

They further recommended the incorporation in the design of a vignette portrait of a well known person on the grounds that any deviation in a portrait would be readily detected. This idea was not new for Jeremy Bentham, the political economist, had made a similar suggestion in 1799, soon after the embargo on the use of gold currency had been introduced. At that time its introduction was not feasible because copper plate engraving was the only practicable way of printing bank notes.

With his partner Gideon Fairman, Jacob Perkins set up his printing works in Austin Friars and made every effort to win the Bank of England contract for notes produced by his process. He was not successful and had to content himself with lesser contracts from smaller banks. The firm moved to the Strand and Charles Heath, an established British Engraver of repute, joined the partnership on 20 December 1819.

Among the treasures in the Reginald M. Phillips' collection in the National Postal Museum is a page of engine turning printed by Perkins, Fairman and Heath by the hardened steel process. This must have been made between December 1819 and July 1822 for the firm was then renamed Perkins & Heath following Gideon Fairman's return to the United States that year.

During the Perkins, Heath partnership period c. 1822 the firm produced by the Perkins process a rich engraving after Benjamin West, the only American President of our Royal Academy, showing William Penn, the Quaker Governor of Pennsylvania, concluding his famous treaty with the North American Indians. A very similar group of Indians was

incorporated by William Mulready RA in the design he made for the prepaid postal stationery issued at the same time as the World's First Adhesive Stamps on 6 May 1840 – which Perkins' firm, then styled Perkins, Bacon and Petch printed from 1840 to 1879.

From 1822 to 1840, however, the main work of the firm was in the printing of bank notes and such other work as came their way. It was not enough to engage fully Jacob Perkins' energy and his inventive genius. In 1825 he produced a steam powered gun capable of discharging no less than 1,000 bullets a minute with immense penetration force. This contraption was powered by a steam boiler generating steam at 900 pounds per square inch; Perkins succeeded in interesting senior Army Officers and the Master General of Ordinance – The Duke of Wellington himself – in the project and on 6 December an official demonstration was staged in Regent's Park. The bullets in rapid fire penetrated no less than eleven one inch thick planks of deal and the gun could be swivelled at will. The Duke of Sussex turned to Wellington exclaiming 'wonderful – damned wonderful' but the Iron Duke and his military advisers were not so sure. They feared that the weighty steam engine could not readily be manoeuvred in the field of battle and, on these grounds, decided not to adopt the device. Nothing, however, keeps a good man down for among other things Perkins went on to invent one of the first refrigerators used in this country. He tried his hand at as many things as Leonardo Da Vinci had done in his day.

Despite these essays in various forms of engineering science, the main business as a printer remained his staple occupation and because of his excellence in this field his firm was invited to produce the World's First Adhesive Postage Stamps of 1840. These stamps incorporated in the margin a rose lathe-turned security pattern and a vignette portrait of the young Queen Victoria. The dies were engraved by Charles Heath and his son Frederick – no longer in partnership with Jacob Perkins but still closely associated.

These stamps first placed on sale on 6 May 1840 were in use, subject to slight modifications only, until 1879 a great tribute to their printer who when they first saw the light of day was 74 years of age. Jacob Perkins died in 1849 long before his firm lost the stamp printing contract.

F. MARCUS ARMAN

Picture to Post

The critical acclaim won by the Post Office's first film on stamp design following its silver award at the 1969 Film Festival of the British Industrial and Scientific Film Association in Brighton has resulted in the film being taken by Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer for world-wide theatrical release. In the United Kingdom 'Picture to Post' will be nationally released as the supporting film to 'Alfred The Great'.

Because of the world-wide release contract with MGM, the Post Office will not be able to consider requests from philatelic societies for loan of the film for some time to come. However, when 16 mm prints are eventually available for non-theatrical exhibition, an announcement will be made in the *Philatelic Bulletin*.

Recent Changes

The 3d definitive with one phosphor band has been superseded by a two phosphor band version.

Both items are available from the Bureau and philatelic counters.

Guernsey and Jersey Regional Stamps

The Regional stamps at present issued for Guernsey and Jersey will continue to be sold from the Bureau and philatelic sales counters until 30 September 1970.

Experimental Air Mail – Australia – England



First flights are very much in the forefront of collectors' minds with the recent stamps commemorating Alcock and Brown's flight across the Atlantic and Ross and Keith Smith's flight to Australia.

On 20 April 1931 the first official air-mail

flight from Melbourne, Australia, to London was inaugurated and a cover carried on this first flight is reproduced.

We should like to thank Mr Michael Hill of Tewkesbury for lending the cover.

Phosphor Treated Stamps

One or two points have arisen following the articles on phosphor stamps in the August *Bulletin*.

Firstly, the term 'Lettalite' is a trade description of material produced by Harrison & Sons and is used on stamps printed by them. The phosphor used on pre-paid envelopes, postcards and air letters is chemically similar to Lettalite B3 but is manufactured by Derby Luminescents Ltd and is described by them as 'DTPA'. The phosphor used for address coding is also manufactured by the same firm and is known as 'DCSA'.

The correct spelling of the phosphor activators is as follows. 'Parahydroxy diphenyl', 'Carbazole sulphonic acid' and 'Terephthalic acid'.

Withdrawal of 'Dorothy Wilding' Low Value Definitives

Both the plain and phosphor varieties of the old style definitives between $\frac{1}{2}d$ and $1s\ 3d$ will be withdrawn from sale on 27 February 1970 unless stocks are exhausted earlier.

Old-style Regional stamps will however remain on sale for the time being.

Post Office Technology Stamps – Some Background Information

Postal Mechanization

The Post Office handles about 35 million letters every day. Each letter before finally reaching its destination has to be handled several times. To reduce the handling of mail, the PO has mounted a massive mechanization programme over the next 20 years. Postal coding has been introduced in the mechanizing of letter sorting, the code being used in the automatic sorting machines by imprinting phosphorescent dots on the envelopes.

The 1s 6d stamp depicts the automatic sorting process. The design represents the machine version of the postcode together with the destination boxes of a typical letter sorting machine capable of sorting 10,000 items an hour.

Pulse Code Modulation

Pulse code modulation is the breakdown of speech signals into a system of numbering based on sound volume. A strong voice on the telephone could be represented by the figure 40, a soft voice by the figure 4. The numbers can then be sent in code by a train of high-speed electrical impulses; at the other end decoding equipment builds up the voice wave from the numbers. PCM promises to revolutionize the telephone system in terms of high-traffic capacity cables and a cheaper system. At present circuits can carry 24 simultaneous conversations interleaved in time on a circuit which previously carried one.

The design of the 1s stamp illustrates the transfer of X speech waves into X coded digital pulses over one circuit.

International Subscriber Dialling

It is already possible to dial direct to many European countries. This facility will increase over the next few years. Cables and radio systems are already available between continents, and when suitable equipment becomes available in sufficient quantities, International Subscriber Dialling facilities will become commonplace at a reasonable cost.

Telecommunications embraces other services, e.g. telex and data communications, vital to industry using computers, and with technical improvements developing these services will also develop. A fast international network is an essential part of the future prosperity of mankind.

The 9d stamp design symbolizes the grip that global telecommunications will have on the world in the future.

National Giro

The new National Giro Centre at Bootle was opened by the PO in 1968. It was the first of over 40 Giro systems now in operation throughout the world to be based on one central computer complex. It is a true Giro system in which a single banking centre maintains records of all its customers' accounts. Apart from a small stationery charge, all transactions between account holders are free.

The 5d stamp depicts the Giro symbol and incorporates a design representing a computer transistor and associated circuitry.

New Stamp Rolls

We are sorry not to have given notice that the new se-tenant rolls were to be introduced but the decision to install the machines was not made until long after the August *Bulletin* had been despatched.

For the record, the machines first appeared on 27 August 1969 and deliver five stamps 2d, 2d, 3d, 1d and 4d for 1s from 16 offices: London Chief Office, EC1, Swiss Cottage, NW3, Holloway Road, N7, 19a Borough High Street, SE1, Broadwick Street, W1, and Victoria Square, Belfast, Colmore Circus, Birmingham, Cannon Street, Bristol, Albany Road, Cardiff, High Street, Colchester, Hope Street, Edinburgh, The Headrow, Leeds, All Saints, Manchester, Town Centre, Newport, Mon, St Peter's Street, St Albans, Station Road, Portslade, Brighton.

HRH Prince of Wales – 21st Birthday – 14 November 1969

To commemorate the 21st birthday of HRH the Prince of Wales the GPO is to issue a commemorative envelope which, associated with the Investiture stamps or the 5s Caernarvon Castle stamp, will provide a souvenir of this Royal occasion. The covers and stamps will be on sale from about the end of October at the following Philatelic sales counters:

Glasgow, Edinburgh, Liverpool, Blackpool, London, Newcastle upon Tyne, Belfast, Leeds, Cardiff, Bristol, Sheffield, Manchester, Bournemouth and Southampton.

In addition, the stamps and covers will be on sale at the following offices in Wales and Monmouthshire:

Caernarvon, Cardiff, Haverfordwest, Llandudno, Colwyn Bay, Pontypridd, Aberystwyth, Llanelli, Newport (Mon), Swansea, Rhyl and Carmarthen.

Special bilingual handstamps and postmark

slogans will be used at Caernarvon and Cardiff to cancel the stamps.

Customers who are unable to visit any of the offices listed above will be able to purchase covers at 6d each, Investiture stamps at their face value, plus the normal handling charge, from the Philatelic Bureau, Edinburgh, EH1 1AB.

Envelopes for handstamping with the Caernarvon or Cardiff postmark respectively should be sent, under cover, to the Head Postmaster, Westgate Street, Cardiff, CF1 1AA, or to the Postmaster, Post Office, Caernarvon.

To help identify the items for handstamping, the *outer* envelope should be marked 'Special Handstamp'.

It is stressed that only stamped covers sent to or posted at Cardiff or Caernarvon will receive the cancellations. No normal first day cover A, B, or C services will be available.

Stamp Books – Issue Programme

4s 6d Book – British Ships Design

Mauretania	November 1969
Victory	March 1970

5s Book – British Homes Design

Mompesson House, SALISBURY, Wilts.	October 1969
Cumberland Terrace, LONDON, NW1	February 1970
The Vineyard, SAFFRON WALDEN, Essex	June 1970

6s Book – British Birds Design

Cormorant	November 1969
Wren	March 1970
Golden Eagle	July 1970
Curlew	November 1970

10s Book – British Explorers Design

Frobisher	February 1970
Cook	August 1970
Drake	February 1971

Letters to the Editor

Dear Sir,

Once upon a time I could remove a stamp from an envelope without damage and could clean it up later at my leisure.

I do not know whether to blame the inferior quality of the paper on which the present day stamps are printed; or the superior quality of the gum. At any rate I can no longer safely remove a stamp without damping the back of the envelope (or as the case may be).

This raises the question: why remove a stamp? – and lead to a revolution in stamp collecting, since in the absence of any watermark there no longer seems any need to inspect the back. Any comments?

Yours faithfully,

JOHN WHATMOOR

Dorchester, Dorset

School Visits to the National Postal Museum

More than fifty school parties have visited the Museum since it was opened by The Queen on 19 February. The Museum essay competition for children has proved popular with teachers and children alike.

From the entries to the end of the Summer term we have selected the winning essay by Stephen Miles (aged 11) from Kensal Rise Boys School NW6. We also reproduce a drawing by 10 year old Lindsay Desmier from Sacred Heart Primary School SW20. Both children are being sent a book token and will receive a free copy of the *Bulletin* for twelve months.

The competition continues and further awards will be made in about six months.



Here is Stephen Miles essay :

The National Postal Museum

It wasn't until Queen Victoria's reign that the Post Office became as we know it today. In 1840 a school master named Rowland Hill (later to become Sir Rowland Hill), invented the stamp, which was called the Penny Black. Other countries copied the idea and soon there were hundreds upon thousands of different kinds of stamps.

In 1965 a man named Reginald Phillips realised that although Britain was the first country to have stamps, it did not have a collection of them while all the other countries did. So he gave his collection to the Postmaster General on condition that a museum was built to house them, and the National Postal Museum was started.

Before all this happened, this is how a person sent a letter.

First the person would get a piece of parchment, write the letter, then fold it in three. He or she would then get some sealing wax, heat it, then press it down on the open end of the letter. After that the person would get the seal which probably had the family crest on, and pressed it into the molten wax, and tied a piece of ribbon round it. If a lady was writing to her husband who was in a war or battle and she didn't know exactly where he was, she would write 'To Sir Clive Treadwell wherever he may be London, Hastings, Berlin, from his wife Julie'. The lady wouldn't be able to post the letter in a post box, but she would have to wait until a horseman rode into the town or village and was going in the right direction. The letter might not even reach Sir Clive. Later on things improved, and instead of waiting for a horseman to come by, special coaches collected the mail, and postmen started to deliver the letters, and in 1840 the stamp was invented.

Special Handstamps

'The British Philatelic Exhibition Seymour Hall London W1'. Four handstamps of different design will be used at Western District Office during October. They are rectangular with motifs as follows :

22 Oct. - Society's centenary emblem

23 Oct. - Francis Webb Memorial Day 62-B
cancellation mark

24 Oct. - Cinderella Stamp Club Day
Cinderella glass slipper

25 Oct. - Philymphia symbol

A posting box will be available at the exhibition.

'Deal PS Diamond Jubilee 1909-1969 - Deal Kent' will be used at Deal on 23 October. It is circular with diamond linework in the centre. A posting box will be available at the Quarter Deck Hall, Deal.

'APS 21st Anniversary - Conway Caerns' will be used at Conway on 16 October. It is rectangular and the wording is included in a plan of the town walls. A posting box will be available at Conway Post Office.

'Philatelic Society 1919-1969 - Canterbury Kent' will be used at Canterbury on 15 October. It is circular and shows the Canterbury Cathedral Cross as a central motif. A posting box will be available at the exhibition (Canterbury Library).

'Official opening the Youth Hostel Slimbridge Gloucester' will be used at Gloucester on 11 October. It is rectangular showing a wild fowl motif. A posting box will be available at Slimbridge.

'Save the Children Fund Golden Jubilee Year - Schools Fete' will be used at Belfast on 25 October. It is rectangular showing a motif combining Jubilee dates 1919-1969 surrounded by laurel leaves. A posting box will be available in the Common Hall of the Belfast Academical Institution.

'Irby Methodist Church 1869-1969 - Heswall, Wirral, Cheshire' will be used at Liverpool on 8 October. It is circular and shows a sea shell as a central motif. A posting box will be available at the church fete.

'Ideal Homes - Philatelic Stand - Stoke-on-Trent, Staffs' will be used at Stoke-on-Trent from 20-25 October. It is rectangular. A posting box will be available at the exhibition.

'Ideal Homes Exhibition - Philatelic Stand - Birmingham' will be used at Birmingham from 1-25 October. It is rectangular. A posting box will be available at the show.

Reposting facilities for fully paid items will be available from the respective Head Postmasters. Outer covers should be endorsed 'SPECIAL HANDSTAMP'.

Postmark Slogans

'The International Canoe Slalom Llangollen 18-19 October' will be used transposed at Llangollen from 15 September - 18 October.

'Rewarding Spare Time Occupation. Join 87 Signal Squadron T & AVR Triumph Road, Nottingham 79024' will be used transposed at Nottingham from 15 September - 19 October.

'Bingley Hall Midlands Ideal Home Exhibition, Birmingham October 1-25' will be used transposed at Birmingham from 21 September - 18 October.

'September 5 - October 26 Blackpool Illuminations. Enquiries to Holiday Dept. Town Hall' will be used transposed at Blackpool from 5 September - 26 October.

'"Swim" '70 Woodstock Swimming Pool' will be used standard at Oxford from 29 September - 26 October and again from 30 March 1970 - 26 April 1970.

'The Civic Hall Whitehaven Entertainment for Everyone' will be used transposed at Whitehaven from 1 October and until further notice.

'BBC Music Weekend Cardiff October 24-26 - Penwythnos Gerdorol Caerdydd' will be used transposed from 28 September - 25 October.

'Send to Town Hall for guide - Cheltenham The Centre for the Cotswolds' will be re-used at Cheltenham from 13 November until 12 January 1970.

'Concerts 69-70 Brochure from Fairfield, Croydon 01-688 9291' will be used transposed at Croydon until further notice.

'Isle of Man in Bloom Support your Local Committee' will be used transposed at Douglas, IOM, as soon as possible and until further notice.

'Portsmouth and Southsea Naval Port Premier Resort' and 'Portsmouth and Sunny Southsea for the Holiday of a Lifetime' will be used transposed at Portsmouth as soon as possible and until further notice.

'Choose Ryde Isle of Wight for Happy Holidays' is being re-used at Ryde until 28 July 1970.

'Shrewsbury Historical Centre Brochure from Information Bureau Shrewsbury Salop' will be re-used at Shrewsbury from 21 August - 30 November and 21 February 1970 - 15 March 1970.

'Parchwch Ein Cefn Gwlad. Respect our Countryside please' will be used transposed at Bangor, Caernarvon, Swansea, Flint, Shrewsbury from 1 October until 26 November.

Items for re-posting sent to Head Postmaster should have the envelope marked 'Postmark Slogans'.

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