

Philatelic Bulletin

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INTRODUCTION	2
AIR MAIL EXHIBITION AT NATIONAL POSTAL MUSEUM	2
THE "ACCESSION" STAMPS OF KING EDWARD VIII	3, 4, 5
BRITISH WEEK SAN FRANCISCO	6
DORCHESTER POST OFFICE	6
POSTCODES	7, 8, 9
MACHIN DISPLAY AT BUREAU	8, 9
BOOK REVIEWS	10
BBC ANNIVERSARY ISSUE - 1972 STAMP PROGRAMME	10
FORMATION OF 10 ORDNANCE SUPPORT BATTALION	10
YOUNG COLLECTOR'S CORNER	11
BUMPER CHRISTMAS PACK	11
HOVERMAIL COLLECTOR'S CLUB	11, 12
TO PAY LABELS - PRESENTATION PACK	12
THE POST OFFICE AT BPE	13
BINDERS FOR PHILATELIC BULLETIN	13
POSTMARK SLOGANS	14, 15
UK THEMATICS 1972	15
WOLVERTON	15
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR	15

Introduction

One of our most popular features is our reproduction of air mail covers and as a result we receive many letters from interested readers.

There is obviously a growing awareness of this aspect of the hobby and devotees who can visit the National Postal Museum will enjoy the new display of covers and kindred items.

Another subject which is becoming increasingly well known is postcoding. For those unused to its mysteries we print a fairly basic article and a couple of illustrations.

By the time this appears Christmas will be almost upon us. The Editor and his staff send their personal good wishes to all readers of the *Bulletin*.

Air Mail Exhibition at National Postal Museum

The new exhibition, which tells the story of 101 years of British air mail, was opened by Captain O. P. Jones, CVO, OBE, on 26 October. Captain Jones flew many of Imperial Airways' airliners on proving flights overseas and subsequently became BOAC's Senior Captain, North Atlantic.

Many rare items are on display including cards and letters carried by balloon in 1870, the original waybills for two trans-Atlantic flights of 1919, and pictures of aircraft. Some of the envelopes on show, which illustrate pioneering flights by British airmen and airwomen, are signed by the pilots.

A section on the famous 1911 Coronation flights between London and Windsor (*Philatelic Bulletin*, March 1970) includes covers and other material from Post Office archives while another section is devoted to the direct services to and from Europe which started in 1916. The British Airmail Society, the Aerophilatelic Society and specialist collectors helped with the display.

The "Accession" Stamps of King Edward VIII

Although the reign of King Edward VIII was the shortest since Tudor times, and led to the issue of only four British adhesive postage stamps, it is nevertheless of considerable interest to philatelists. Readers of the *Bulletin* who visited the British Philatelic Exhibition in early November will no doubt have seen the National Postal Museum's Court of Honour display. One frame (16 sheets) of this showed the designs, essays and other preparatory work which lay behind the four stamps actually put on sale and also behind a projected but abandoned Coronation issue.

The idea of a new issue got off the ground fairly quickly, as on 9 March 1936, only six weeks after the death of King George V, it had already been decided to proceed with an "Accession" issue bearing the new King's effigy. After examining the steps taken to obtain design for the Wembley, PUC and Silver Jubilee issues, it was decided in the Post Office that artists should not this time be invited to submit designs. Instead the printers, Harrison and Sons, would be asked to submit designs by their staff designers. But this step would have to await the production by the Royal Mint of an engraved coinage head and the result of new portrait photographs which the King was having taken. In fact, on this date only two concrete design proposals were available for the new issue. One had been sent to the PMG at the end of January by General W. E. Dickson, the President of the Scottish Philatelic Society. Together with a sketch (which I have not been able to locate) he submitted some important notes on the desiderata for a successful postage stamp design. As will be seen below, this suggestion was taken seriously. A design was also submitted by Edmund Dulac in February but this does not appear to have reached essay form. Re-submitted in 1937, this design was adopted, with slight modifications, for the 7d to 1s values of the King George definitives issued in 1939.

By April 1936 the King had approved

several photographic portraits, notably some by Bertram Park, showing him in the dress uniforms of the Seaforth Highlanders and the Welsh Guards, and also profile heads by Hugh Cecil Ltd. Also on 26 March the Director-General of the Post Office, at the King's request, had sent what was described as "a selection of the best of the newer foreign stamps". Some of these were portraits, others pictorial views which might be considered if a Coronation issue was ever decided upon. In his covering letter the Director-General drew attention to the Bavarian issue of 1914 (hardly a "newer" stamp!) which he thought "particularly attractive for a standard issue which has to be confined to the small size." He thought that a similar type of design might be experimented with, using a full three-quarter or profile camera portrait.

The Selection of the Design

During April and May 1936, therefore, the printers, Harrison and Sons, were engaged in producing "bromides" (i.e. stamp-sized photographs of artwork) from a number of designs. Some, using Bertram Park's "Seaforth" photograph had a variety of frames based on designs by Mr Willmot of the PO Engineering Department [see Fig. 1]. Other essays (bromides) were based on General Dickson's "Scottish Philatelic" design, and the Bavarian stamps.

Messrs Harrison were also given for experimenting a design submitted by a 17-year-old member of the Torquay and Exeter Philatelic Societies, H. J. Brown. After alteration of the crown and with the substitution of the Hugh Cecil profile photograph for Brown's drawing of the King's head, Harrisons produced bromides for four separate designs. One was virtually the original Brown design, the others incorporated modifications. On 5 June the Postmaster-General, Major Tryon, went to Buckingham Palace with a number of essays (of the 2½d value) in full colour, of the "Seaforth" designs,



Fig. 1



Fig. 4

together with the bromides which Harrison had made of the "Brown" and other designs. The King rejected the essays as "over-ornamented and foreign-looking" but expressed interest in some of the variants of the "Brown" design. Harrison made $2\frac{1}{2}d$ value essays of each of these in the colours of the then current King George V photogravure $\frac{1}{2}d$, $1d$, $1\frac{1}{2}d$, and $2\frac{1}{2}d$ values (previous essays also exist in these four colours) [Fig. 2]. After the Postmaster-General had consulted with Sir (then Mr) Kenneth Clark, the Director of the National Gallery, he showed three different "Brown" essays to the King on 26 June. The King approved that favoured by the Post Office and in September 1936 four values ($\frac{1}{2}d$, $1d$, $1\frac{1}{2}d$, and $2\frac{1}{2}d$) were put on sale. The same stamps were also overprinted for the Morocco Agencies and the three lower values were issued in booklet and coil form.

One noticeable feature of the issued stamps is that they carry only the word "Postage", the balance of the inscription "and Revenue" being omitted. This change was agreed by the



Fig. 2

Design 23 (3) with improved crown. As Issued Sep 1 1936.



Fig. 3

Inland Revenue after several precedents from the reign of Edward VII onwards had been produced.

It was intended, at least as early as July, that the "Accession" issue should consist of all denominations up to 1s, that it should only be temporary and would be replaced after the Coronation (scheduled for 12 May 1937) by a permanent series, the first values of which would be ready when the projected Coronation issue was withdrawn. To implement this Harrisons prepared essays of the issued ("Accession") 2½d in different colours of which 10 were provisionally selected for the future 2d, 3d, 4d, 5d, 6d, 7d, 8d, 9d, 10d and 1s values, the other five being alternatives [see Fig. 3]. Unfortunately, they were not ready

until 21 December 1936, ten days after the King had abdicated.

Apart from the designs already mentioned as being carried through to essay stage, there exist in the National Postal Museum enlarged bromides, prepared in July 1936, of a design by Harrisons based on the effigy side of one of the new coins, complete with inscription. This was modified by the elimination of the coin inscription, and essays prepared in October 1936 for a sixpenny value in a red-purple shade [see Fig. 4]. No details of this essay or why and when it was rejected appear on the files.

The story of the projected Coronation issue will be the subject of another article.

A. G. RIGO DE RIGHI

British Week San Francisco



Princess Alexandra, seen with Cyril Sharwood (left), the Post Office's Overseas Philatelic Marketing Manager, and Stuart Rose (right), our Design Adviser, during her visit to the Post Office Stand at the British Week, San Francisco.

Dorchester Post Office

The new Post Office at Dorchester with its now famous mural was opened to the public on 18 October 1971.

At the opening ceremony, attended by many local dignitaries, the Mayor of Dorchester, Councillor Harold Durrant, thanked all concerned for providing a first-class office while retaining the original facade of the building which blends so well with the architecture of the town.

The Director of the South Western Postal

Region, Mr K. E. F. Gowen, MBE, and the Head Postmaster, Mr D. W. Blake, both congratulated David Willis, the local artist who designed and painted the mural which graces the office.

After the Mayor had formally declared the new office open the Mayoress, Mrs Violet Knight, made the first purchase from the new counter. At the time of going to press about 10,000 postcards showing the mural have been sold.

Postcodes

There are 35,000,000 letters posted in Britain every day and there are about 20,000,000 addresses to which delivery can be made. Many letters have to be sorted three or four times during their journey from posting box to letter box and it is hardly surprising, therefore, that approximately three-quarters of postal costs are for labour. One way to reduce these labour costs is to mechanise, and the key to mechanised letter sorting is the postcode.

At the present moment about two-thirds of the country is coded, and planning for the rest of the country is in progress. It is envisaged that by the end of 1972 all but one or two small areas in the country will have been allocated postcodes. Already postcodes have been introduced in most of our large cities; Manchester and Liverpool were coded in 1968, Birmingham in 1970 and the coding of London was completed in April 1971. In October 1971 Glasgow joined this list.

The postcode, which is in two parts, is a representation of the address information in code form. By coding the address information in this way it can be readily converted into "machine language" in the form of a pattern of phosphorescent dots on the envelope. These dots can be used to sort letters by machines at all stages of their journey until they reach the postmen who deliver them.

The first part of the postcode, the "outward code", identifies a post town or a district in a post town. Generally speaking, the outward code comprises a letter or two letters from the name of the main town in a coded area and a district number.

An outward code in the Leeds postcode area is made up of LS for Leeds, followed by the district number, for example, LS6. Where postal districts did not already exist they are being created; for example, the Bath address area has now been divided into three districts, BA1, BA2 and BA3. In London the old districts have been retained (for example, the outward code for London E5 is E5) but in some cases the districts had become too large

and have been re-divided. Thus, the old district of WC2 has been divided into outward codes WC2A, WC2B, WC2E and so on.

The second part of the postcode is called the "inward code" and comprises a single figure from 0-9 followed by two letters. This part of the code designates a street, part of a street (if it is a long street), a Private Box holder or any address which receives more than 20 letters a day.

The first task in a coding exercise is to identify and record every address in the area to be coded. This is a painstaking task which requires careful checks and cross checks of many sources of information to ensure that all the addresses are listed.

The next step is to group addresses into what are called "code units" so that at a later stage an inward code can be allocated to each of these units. The code unit is an indivisible part of an area and once allocated can never be split; considerable care is therefore required at this stage to ensure that code units will meet all the requirements that future development and delivery revisions may involve.

Once the total number of code units required in the whole area has been determined, the next stage is to divide the area into districts and then group these districts into "machine towns" as they are called. Postcode districts are very similar to the districts that we have had in some of our large cities for many years and they are now being introduced throughout the whole of the UK. A "machine town" is that part of an area which is covered by one series of inward codes, i.e. 1AA to oZZ; it is the largest group of addresses which can be sorted on one machine at a time. A "machine town" more often than not contains more than one district and it cannot contain more than about 4,000 inward codes as its ultimate capacity – that is the number of figure-letter-letter combinations that are used in practice.

One of the most important aims at this stage is to ensure that sufficient spare capacity

Machin Display at Bureau

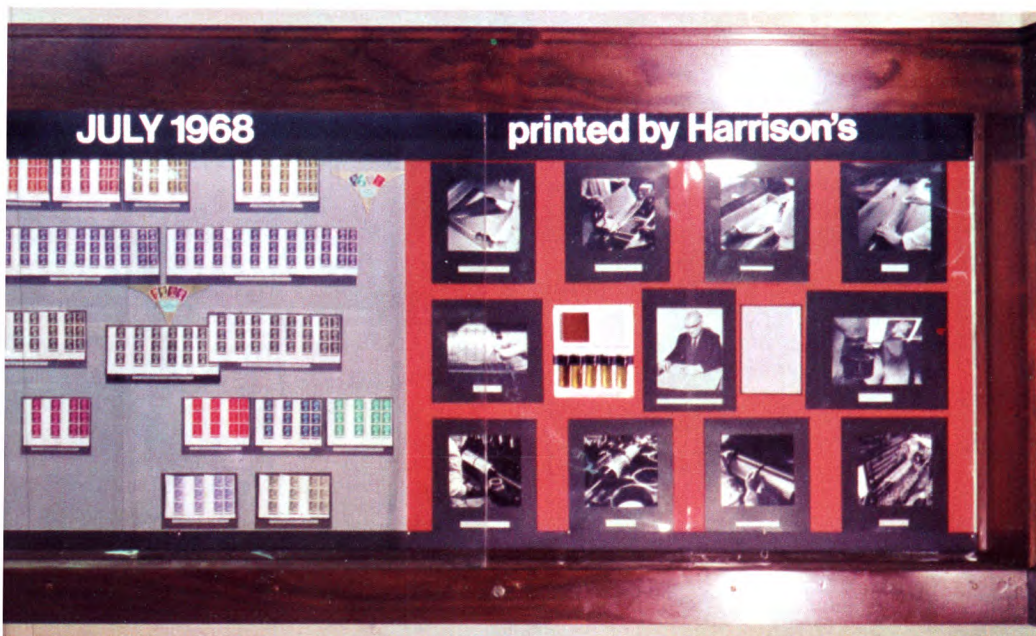


is allocated within the districts to cater for all possible development in the future. Thorough investigation of an area is vital if this is to be done. In determining districts, consideration is given to many other factors such as the use of good natural boundaries, the number of delivery walks, the amount of traffic for delivery, the existing and future pattern of delivery offices and mail distribution arrangements.

When the “machine towns” have been determined, each of them is divided into up to ten sub-districts or “sectors”. The sectors are numbered and the numbers become the first digits in the inward codes. The sectors themselves are laid out on a geographical basis in a similar way to districts and here again likely future development can be



Work on Coding Machines.



Part of the display of Machin stamps recently shown in the Bureau's Exhibition gallery.



Automatic Letter Facing Machine.

catered for within the sector boundaries.

Now the letter characters can be allocated to the code units; postmen's delivery rounds are taken in turn. The first code unit in the first postman's round is given the code AA, the second AB and so on until a sector has been completed. Spare codes are left where development is expected, and a block of spare codes is normally provided at the end of a round. The other sectors are dealt with in a similar manner until the whole area has been completed. We can now compile the full postcode, for example, LS6 2AB.

The allocation of postcodes to the whole of the UK is a complicated task but when it has been completed the Post Office will be able to make maximum use of sorting machines and this will undoubtedly benefit both organisation and customer.

Book Reviews

The Commonwealth Queen Elizabeth II Stamp Catalogue

Anyone interested in the stamps of Great Britain and the British Commonwealth will find this catalogue invaluable as a leading reference work devoted exclusively to the stamps of the present reign.

The catalogue contains up-to-date details and prices of the majority of 1971 issues in addition to the list of varieties, illustrations, printing details and figures of stamps of the present reign. Complete Stamp Booklets of Great Britain and the Commonwealth are now listed and priced as well as separate Booklet Panes.

The Commonwealth Queen Elizabeth II Stamp Catalogue 1972 (20th Edition) is available, price £1.80, from your local dealer or bookshop, or direct from the publishers (postage 20p extra), Urch, Harris & Co. Ltd., 7 Richmond Hill Avenue, Bristol BS8 1BQ.

TPO – A History of the Travelling Post Offices of Great Britain

For many years the *Bulletin* has been fortunate enough to reprint some of H. S. Wilson's excellent articles on the TPOs of Great Britain. We were especially pleased, therefore, to learn that Mr Wilson has produced a new book on this fascinating subject.

This book covers the "Special" mails from London as far as Carlisle, the branch TPOs associated with them and the Irish mails to Holyhead.

Mr Wilson introduces his subject and gives the history behind the setting up of the early TPOs and Sorting Carriages.

He describes in detail each of the TPOs, gives the timings and specimens of the many postmarks used on the various routes. He has gathered together from a variety of sources what must surely be all the authoritative information on the subject. The book is well illustrated and includes pictures of rolling stock and historical documents.

The book brings up to date and fills the gaps in previous works and the ever growing

number of TPO enthusiasts will wish to have a copy.

Published by the Railway Philatelic Group, "TPO" is available from A. J. Lowe, Rookwood, Bentinck Road, Altrincham, Cheshire, priced £1.65.

BBC Anniversary Issue – 1972 Stamp Programme

Next year there will be a special stamp issue for the 50th Anniversary of the BBC and the start of daily broadcasting in the United Kingdom.

The special issue programme for 1972 begins in February with the British Polar Explorers issue. In April we continue the General Anniversaries series with three stamps marking the 50th Anniversary of the Discovery of the Tomb of Tutankhamun, the Centenary of Ralph Vaughan Williams, and the 150th Anniversary of the formation of HM Coastguard.

As previously announced, the British architecture series will be continued in June with a set featuring some of the best examples of Old Parish Churches; the Christmas stamps will be issued in October, and a special issue in November will mark the Queen's Silver Wedding.

Full details of the issue dates, denominations and background information will be published as soon as they are available.

Formation of 10 Ordnance Support Battalion

To commemorate the formation of 10 Ordnance Support Battalion on 1 January 1972 a souvenir cover will be issued, at a cost of 25p each (plus 4p for p & p), from:-

The Philatelic Officer,
10 Ordnance Support Battalion
Prince Maurice Barracks,
Devizes, Wilts.

The covers will be cancelled with a special British Forces Postal Service handstamp on the day.

Young Collector's Corner

A few months ago in this column reference was made to the Melville Memorial Competition, held in conjunction with the Philatelic Congress of Great Britain. At the time the 1971 competition had already been judged, but readers were promised that adequate notice would be given of the 1972 contest.

Miss Alma Grunberg, who is the busy secretary for the Competition, now tells me that entries for next year's event must be with her by 28 February. You in turn should give your entry to the secretary of a philatelic society which is affiliated to the Philatelic Congress of Great Britain. Further details of the Competition can be obtained from Miss A. Grunberg, 3 Abinger Court, Gordon Road, London W5 2AF, but remember to enclose a stamp for the reply. She can probably also advise you of a society through which you can enter your stamps.

Awards in the Competition are given in four classes. Class A is for those aged between 17 and 21, Class B for those between 15 and 17, Class C for those between 12 and 15, and Class D for those under 12 years of age. Entries must be on album leaves; between 12 and 18 sheets must be entered for Class A, between 9 and 12 sheets for Classes B and C, and between 6 and 9 sheets for Class D.

When viewing the entries, the judges pay particular attention to the writing up and arrangement, the condition and mounting, the knowledge of the subject, and the originality and general interest of the subject.

After seeing last year's entries, the judges were able to make the following comments: "The standard of presentation was generally good. Thematic entries followed well-worn subjects and would have achieved higher marks by the inclusion of relevant details or by covering a smaller field.

The Judges were unanimous in their opinion that the general standard achieved

was high and congratulate the winners for their award."

I certainly hope all readers will have a try, and put in an entry. And good luck to you all!

Bumper Christmas Pack

The total price of the items comprising the Christmas special offer is £3.07½ and **not** £3.27½ as stated in the November *Bulletin*.

Hovermail Collector's Club

On 11 June 1959, the world's first hovercraft or air-cushion vehicle, the SR-N1, made its maiden flight. Not only was a new mode of transport born, but also a new branch of philately – HOVERMAILS.

As the hovercraft industry grew, Hover-mails grew alongside, attracting an increasing number of devotees each year. Because the hovercraft was closely allied to the aviation industry and was subjected to similar legislation, the Hovermail Study Circle was formed in 1968 within the Aero Philatelic Club.

By 1971 interest in Hovermails had increased enormously and the expansion of the industry, coupled with proposed legislation making the hovercraft a vehicle in its own right, necessitated an organisation of amateur collectors devoted solely to furthering Hovermails.

On 11 June 1971, the twelfth anniversary of the maiden flight of SR-N1, the Hovermail Collector's Club was formed.

The Hovermail Collector's Club produces a regular Monthly Newsletter keeping members informed of all developments affecting Hover-mails; details of covers and publications produced by the HCC; new members; etc.

A quarterly journal is produced in the months of February, May, August and November each year and is appropriately called "HOVER COVER". Every issue contains a wide selection of articles and other

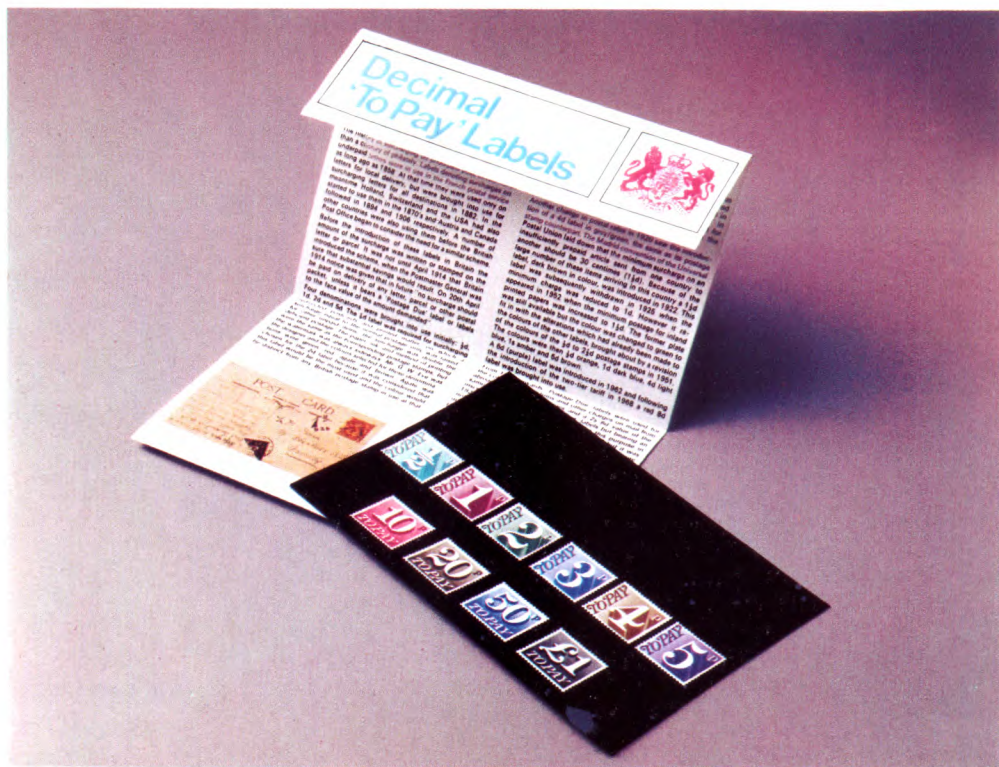
features, and it is possible to build up an authoritative and up-to-date reference work on every aspect of Hovermails.

As a result of connections built up over the past few years the HCC enjoys the excellent co-operation of many hovercraft manufacturers and operators all over the world. On occasions of merit, e.g. maiden flights of new hovercraft, inauguration of services, the HCC

produces "carried" covers which are made available to members at relatively low cost. Additionally, the HCC also arranges to obtain Hovermail covers produced by dealers and other concerns, selling them at a discount to members.

The Hon. Secretary, C. J. Richards, 30 Milverton Road, Winchester, Hants, will be pleased to supply details of membership.

To Pay Labels – Presentation Pack



The first presentation pack containing To Pay labels, is now available price £2 from

philatelic sales counters, or from the Bureau plus the usual handling charge.

The Post Office at BPE



Philip Latham, star of BBC's TV 'The Troubleshooters' seen at the Post office stand at BPE.

Mr. Latham, a keen philatelist who specialises in Great Britain was one of the first visitors on the opening day.

Binders for Philatelic Bulletin

For those readers who like to keep their *Bulletins* for reference an excellent binder which holds 24 copies may be had for 75p.

The binder is strongly made with stiff corners bound in a dark red rexine leather-cloth with the Philatelic Bureau crest and the words "Philatelic Bulletin" gold blocked on the spine.

The binders may be obtained from the Philatelic Bureau, 2-4 Waterloo Place, Edinburgh EH1 1AB price 75p post free.



Postmark Slogans

Reposting Facilities

Unless otherwise stated, items for reposting should be sent to the Head Postmaster of the town in which the slogan is being used, marking the outer cover "Postmark Slogan".

8 November 1971 – 8 February 1972

Remember to use the Postcode. To be used at Wakefield, Yorkshire.

1 December 1971 – 31 December 1971

Bridge of Allan Welcomes Visitors at all Seasons. To be used at Stirling.

1 January 1972 – 31 December 1972

Centenary Middleton Building Society 1872-1972. To be used at Middleton SSO, Manchester.

29 October 1971 – 19 January 1972

Alice in Wonderland Ashcroft Croydon 27 December to 22 January 01-688 9291. To be used at Croydon, Surrey.

14 November 1971 – 1 January 1972

Lewisham Concert Hall SE6 4TU 01-690 3431. All Family Pantomime Puss in Boots Christmas 1971. To be used at Catford. SEDO LONDON.

12 December 1971 – 29 December 1971

See the Christmas Lights and Shop at Newbury. To be used at Newbury, Berks.

28 December 1971 – 26 March 1972

For Happy Holidays Isle of Man. To be used at Douglas and Ramsey, Isle of Man.

17 January 1972 – UFN

Remember to Use the Postcode. To be used at Falkirk, Grangemouth, Stirling, Callander.

1 May 1972 – 23 July 1972

Festivals of London 1972 Greater London Arts Association. To be used at the 10 London District Offices, i.e. EDO, ECDO, NDO, NWDO, PADDINGTON DO, SEDO, SWDO, WCDO, WDO, BATTERSEA DO.

27 March 1972 – 14 May 1972

International TT Races June Isle of Man. To be used at Douglas and Ramsey.

15 May 1972 – 4 June 1972

International Cycle Races June Isle of Man. To be used at Douglas and Ramsey.

5 June 1972 – 10 June 1972

Manx Grand Prix Races September Isle of Man. To be used at Douglas and Ramsey.

Ilkley Christmas Festivities and Shopping will now be used until 4 January 1972 and not 6 January as previously announced.

Repeat Campaigns

Spacious and Gracious Folkestone Holiday Guide Book from Official Information Centre will continue in use at Folkestone, Kent, until 30 September 1972.

Holiday at Dunoon will continue in use at Dunoon, Argyll, until 30 September 1972.

Dudley Zoo, Brierley Hill, Coseley, Dudley Sedgley for Shopping and Free Car Parks will continue in use at Dudley, Worcs, until 21 July 1972.

Eastbourne Showplace and Suntrap of the South will be used at Eastbourne, Sussex, until 23 February 1972.

Aberdare UDC Have Industrial Sites Available Now will continue in use at Aberdare, Glam, until 24 February 1972.

Bradford Means Business will continue in use at Bradford, Yorkshire, until 21 July 1972.

Buckhaven and Methil The "Quay" to Industrial Development will continue in use at Leven, Fife, until 31 March 1972.

Ship Via Dover The Short Sea Route will continue in use at Dover until 31 March 1972. **Fascinating Falmouth Gem of the Cornish Riviera** will continue in use at Falmouth until 7 July 1972.

Malton and Pickering Ideal Holiday Centres for the North Yorkshire Moors, Dales and Coast will continue in use at Malton, Yorkshire, until 31 January 1972.

Ship Through Newport (Mon) the Home of the Self Grip Wrench will continue in use at Newport (Mon) until 28 March 1972.

Pontypool for New Factories and Drum Taps will continue in use at Pontypool until 14 March 1972.

Scarborough and Filey Two Lively

Resorts will continue in use at Scarborough, Yorkshire, until 21 April 1972.

Wolverhampton is on your Way will continue in use at Wolverhampton, Staffs, until 13 July 1972.

See Sussex from Sunny Worthing on the warm South Coast will continue in use at Worthing, Sussex, until 2 July 1972.

Visit Historic Clitheroe will be re-used at Clitheroe, Lancs, between 1 November and 31 December 1971.

Hull The City on Humberside Humber Bridge Building Starts 1972 will continue in use at Hull until 29 April 1972.

Hull The Gateway to Europe will continue in use at Hull, Yorkshire, until 29 April 1972.

UK Thematics 1972

The 2nd International Thematic Exhibition will be held on Saturday, 13 May 1972, at Youth House, St. Mary's Road, Luton, Beds.

Prospectus and Entry Forms are available from Peter Wilkins, 63 Lyneham Road, Luton, LU2 9JT.

The Post Office will be exhibiting and will provide a philatelic sales counter.

The first International Thematic Exhibition held in 1970 attracted exhibits from many countries and visitors to the Exhibition had the pleasure of seeing some superb collections.

Wolverton

The article in the November *Bulletin* on the production of Postal Stationery at Wolverton was written by Mr. George Boddington to whom we must apologise for the error in the spelling of his name.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Sir,

I would like to congratulate the Post Office on the new Christmas stamps.

It was a relief to see the continuation of the religious theme and not a return to the more secular Christmas theme. Apart from welcoming the new stamps as an addition to my thematic collection of theology, I feel that the true spirit of Christmas is shown in their design.

I was also most impressed with the very colourful Christmas wall chart you illustrated in the October *Bulletin* showing the stained glass at Canterbury Cathedral.

Yours faithfully,

L. GOODMAN

Birmingham.

Dear Sir,

I am a schoolteacher at a primary school, and I would like to thank you for the very useful booklet, "Stamps In School". It has been most helpful in setting up our school stamp club.

I am also pleased with the wall chart and project kit that I have received. They have made meetings of our school stamp club more enjoyable and given me a variety of ideas for future meetings.

Yours faithfully,

J. SMITH (Miss)

Manchester.



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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