

Philatelic Bulletin

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Introduction

We are glad to welcome a newcomer to the ranks of philatelic literature which we are sure will be well received by collectors everywhere. *The International Encyclopedia of Stamps* is a weekly publication which in 98 issues builds into an alphabetical work of reference embodying a vast amount of philatelic knowledge.

The Encyclopedia is lavishly illustrated in full colour and in addition to reproducing more than 50,000 stamps will show maps, histories, details of major and valuable issues and more than 1,500,000 words of facts, explanations, tips and guidance. Every country which has ever issued a stamp will be listed in the Encyclopedia and this A-Z of Philately will answer the needs of all those who wish to learn more about their hobby.

The Editor-in-Chief is James Mackay, well known as Keeper of the British Museum's priceless philatelic collection, who is assisted by a team of expert advisers and researchers.

We continue our series of articles on Philatelic Societies by giving something of the background and history of the Railway Philatelic Group.

Marcus Arman, the Curator of the National Postal Museum, provides another of his typical articles – this time about the Dulac/Gill exhibition at the Museum which shows items never before put before the public.

For the devotees of Dickens and Wordsworth we are offering separate date stamping for their first-day covers on 3 June. Full details inside.

Our congratulations to Dr Jean Alexander, the winner of the Post Office Trophy at Stampex for her presentation of the 1929 PUC stamps.

25th Anniversary Royal Air Force Escaping Society

On 25 April 1970 the 25th Anniversary of the Royal Air Force Escaping Society will be celebrated with the issue of a special souvenir cover. This will be included in the current Royal Air Force Museum Series and will portray the Westland Lysander Mk III which was used in Occupied Europe during World War II to rescue escapers; it will bear the Alcock and Brown 50th Anniversary stamp which will be cancelled by a special handstamp in use that day. Covers will be flown on a special flight to Germany from where they will be returned to England via the headquarters of the resistance movements in Luxembourg, Holland, Belgium and France which were responsible for maintaining the escape routes over which 2,803 members of the RAF Allied Forces escaped. The covers will be suitably cacheted and can be purchased at 5s each from Philatelic Officer, Secretary Royal Air Forces Escaping Society, Duke of York's HQ (Right Wing) Chelsea, London SW3.

York Philatelic Fair 1970



Two views of the Post Office stand at the very successful York Philatelic and Numismatic Fair held earlier this year.



Special Handstamps

Health Congress - RSH - Eastbourne Sussex will be used on 27 April at the exhibition next to the Congress Theatre, Eastbourne. The handstamp is circular showing the RSH emblem as a motif.

Isle of Thanet Philatelic Society. 1910-1970. Ramsgate, Kent will be used on 11 April at Ramsgate. It is rectangular. A posting box will be available at the Oddfellows Hall, Ramsgate, Kent.

Canterbury, Kent will be used on 3 May at Canterbury. A posting box will be available on 2 May at Canterbury Branch Office, 28 High Street, Canterbury. The handstamp is oval and shows a locomotive as a motif.

Apollo 13 - Moonlanding - Gloucester will be used at Gloucester on the day of the landing. The handstamp is circular. A posting box will be available at the Head Office. If the

landing occurs on a day when the Post Office is closed the posting box will be made available in advance to enable customers to post in the box.

NEPA 21st Convention. Durham will be used at Durham on 11 April. It is circular and shows the Sanctuary Knecker of Durham Cathedral as a central motif. A posting box will be available at Bede College, Durham.

St Ninian's Church. Glenrothes Fife will be used at Glenrothes on 28 May. It is circular. A posting box will be available at St Ninian's Parish Church, Glenrothes, Fife.

Fettes College Founder's Day 1870-1970 Edinburgh will be used at Edinburgh on 13 June. It is rectangular and shows Fettes College as a central motif. A posting box will be available at Fettes College, Edinburgh 4, EH4 1QW.

VJ 25 - London E15 will be used at Eastern District Office on 15 August, where a posting box will be available.

World Cup Rally 1970. Start. Harrow & Wembley Middx will be used at Wembley Head Office on 18 April where a posting box will be available. The handstamp is circular showing a football as a central motif.

350th year of the Landing of the Pilgrim Fathers in America - Boston Lincs will be used at Boston Head Office on 1 June where a posting box will be available. The handstamp is circular with the *Mayflower* shown as a central motif.

Southernhay Congregational Church 1720-1870 : 1870-1970 Exeter will be used at Exeter on 11 April. It is circular showing a weather vane as a central motif. A posting box will be available in the vestibule of the church.

The Boys' Brigade Fiftieth Anniversary Display - Blackpool will be used on 18 April at Blackpool. A posting box will be available at the Blackpool Tower Building. The handstamp is circular and shows the Boys' Brigade badge as a motif.

Fully stamped and addressed items for re-posting to the Head Postmasters concerned. Outer covers must be clearly marked **SPECIAL HANDSTAMP**.

National Postal Museum Notes

Eric Gill and Edmund Dulac –
Designers of Stamps

A new exhibition of stamps and designs for stamps by Eric Gill and Edmund Dulac opened at the National Postal Museum on 1 April. The contributions both these artists made in designing British stamps during the first half of the twentieth century can now be re-assessed. Many of the drawings have never before been exhibited and they are of the utmost interest to both philatelists and designers.

Eric Gill's association with the British Post Office began in 1924 when he was invited, with other artists, to submit designs for stamps commemorating the British Empire Exhibition at Wembley – the first commemorative stamps issued by the British Post Office. He was again invited to submit ideas for the Postal Union Congress stamps of 1929. On neither occasion were his designs accepted.

At the time of the controversy over the design of the simplified stamps for the reign of King Edward VIII neither Gill nor Dulac had produced stamp designs which had been used by the Post Office. Both artists had however produced designs for the permanent definitive series and for the Coronation stamps – neither of which were issued because of the abdication. These drawings and the trial stamps made from them are included in the exhibition.

It was because of their standing as artists and perhaps of their publicly-known concern about the highly specialized problems which beset the designers of postage stamps that both Gill and Dulac were asked to submit designs for the King George VI stamps.

The Stamps of King George VI

In the event the $\frac{1}{2}d$, $1d$ and $2\frac{1}{2}d$ stamps in the new definitive series were on sale on 10 May 1937. The frame of floral emblems representing the four countries constituting the United Kingdom, the lettering, Crown and value being by Eric Gill, who had just been elected an Associate of the Royal Academy of Arts. The head of His Majesty was taken from a drawing by Edmund Dulac taken from a medallion relief which he had prepared. The Royal Mint



Dulac's design



Gill's original design for Coronation Stamp, with Dorothy Wilding photographs

Smaller stamps not adopted



No. 1 8" x 475"

also produced from a series of photographs by Bertram Park a plaster modelled relief head of the coinage effigy which, together with Bertram Park's photographs, Dulac used for reference.

The George VI Coronation Stamp

In celebration of the Coronation a commemorative $1\frac{1}{2}d$ stamp was on sale on 13 May, the day after the Coronation. This stamp, twice



Dulac's 1s 3d Coronation Stamp



Anglo-French Essay



Gill's lions and harp designs



Dulac's 1d design



No. 2 .66" × .57"



No. 3 .78" × .64"



No. 4 .95" × .53"

the size of the normal definitives, was made up in sheets each of 120 stamps. The design by Edmund Dulac incorporated reproductions of portraits of King George VI and Queen Elizabeth which he drew specially. It was the first time a portrait of the Queen as well as that of the King had appeared on a British stamp. These plum-brown stamps were conceived in a spirit of rejoicing. The intertwined white lines

suggested garlands and the quasi Maltese crosses Union Jacks. In the side borders appear the orb and the Ampulla – the vessel holding the holy oil used during the Coronation ceremony. The Queen was portrayed on the King's left because she sits on his left on all state occasions.

The design was considered by the Royal Fine Art Commission who made helpful sug-

gestions for its improvement in matters of detail: as finally adopted it was approved by the Sovereign as indeed all stamp designs are.

Eric Gill's Coronation stamp designs incorporating Dorothy Wilding's photographs of both the King George VI and Queen Elizabeth were among the also-rans.

388,731,480 of the Coronation stamp were sold in the United Kingdom.

The Remaining Definitives

On 30 July a 1½d stamp chocolate in colour and similarly designed to the ½d, 1d and 2½d definitives were issued to be followed in 1938 by similar Gill/Dulac stamps to the value of 2d, 3d, 4d and 5d. The 6d appeared on 30 January 1939. The higher value stamps from 7d to 1s incorporating Dulac's head of the Sovereign in a lozenge-shaped panel were entirely Dulac's work. They were all issued during 1939 except the 11d which was not needed until 1947 in connection with an increase in parcel-post rates that year.

In the writer's opinion these higher value stamps of Dulac's with their artificial framing of the King's head were not so successful as the lower value Gill/Dulac stamps in the same definitive range. The cross hatching of the lower part of the frame to balance the words 'Postage' and 'Revenue' in the upper part of the frame betray weakness in the overall conception of the design.

The King George VI High Value

Designs for the High Value permanent issue (2s 6d, 5s and 10s) stamps were invited in 1938 from Edmund Dulac and the Royal College of Herald's. Both Dulac and the Hon. George Bellew (later Sir George Bellew Garter King of Arms) produced acceptable designs. Those of Dulac were used for the 2s 6d and 5s denominations and Bellew's for the 10s stamp.

The Anglo-French Projected Issue 1940

During the darkest days of the 1939-45 war, in January 1940, the French Minister of Posts

proposed a combined Anglo-French postage stamp. After consultation with the King he was informed that it would be preferable to issue and sell in each country a stamp of common design.

A tentative sketch of the proposed stamp, the work of the French artist M. Cheffer was received and on the basis of this design Dulac, Gill and Harrison & Sons produced a complete design incorporating a photographic portrait of King George VI by Dorothy Wilding and a photographic portrait of M. Albert Lebrun, President of the Republic. These designs, together with the stamp essays approved by King George VI, have never previously been made public. Because of the course of events in the war, work on these stamps was abandoned and they were never issued.

Centenary of the First Adhesive Postage Stamp 1940

Edmund Dulac made a number of suggestions for stamps to commemorate this centenary. On this occasion, however, his ideas were unacceptable and, after advice from the Royal Fine Arts Commission, Messrs Harrison & Sons prepared a design which was approved and used.

Olympic Games 1948

By this time Eric Gill had been dead for some years and Edmund Dulac was getting on. For the Olympic Games series of 1948 he produced an acceptable design for the 1s commemorative stamp which, curiously, in his use of a winged figure of Peace echoed some early Greek vase non-stamps he had made for the Red Cross in 1914.

Festival of Britain 1951

Once again Dulac came into his own in 1951 when his 2½d Festival of Britain stamp teamed well with the 4d value incorporating the symbol of the Festival by Abram Games.

Queen Elizabeth II

On the accession of Her present Majesty, Edmund Dulac prepared profile and three-quarter face drawings of the Queen's head for possible use in various postage stamps of the new design. His scheme for the 1s, 1s 3d and 1s 6d stamps was adopted. The oval framing of the Sovereign portrait was happier than the lozenge he had adopted to frame King George VI's head.

Perhaps Dulac's greatest triumph as a stamp designer was his Queen Elizabeth II 1s 3d Coronation stamp. Here, crowned, in her Coronation robes, holding the orb in her left hand and the sceptre in her right hand was indeed a sign and symbol of Majesty enthroned. There is a fairy-tale ethereal quality about this simplified portrait of the young Queen. This splendid stamp, issued on 3 June 1953, was Edmund Dulac's last contribution to British Postage Stamp design. He died on 24 May a few days before it was issued.

F. MARCUS ARMAN

National Army Museum Series – Military Covers

On 8 May, a further cover in the series will be issued to commemorate the 25th Anniversary of Victory in Europe (VE) Day.

This cover will be number 3 in Group IV and will depict the insignia of the various commands in the Combined Services Structure in North-West Europe:

Supreme Headquarters Allied Expeditionary Force (SHAEPF) which comprised:

Allied Naval Commander-in-Chief

Expeditionary Force (ANCFX)

21st Army Group

United States 12th Army Group

Royal Air Force 2nd Tactical Air Force

(2 TAF)

United States Ninth Air Force.

The cover will be cancelled with a one-day pictorial British Forces Postal Service handstamp, cost 5s, and will be sent under separate

cover. Orders with correct remittance should be sent to:

The Philatelic Officer,
National Army Museum Building Fund,
HM Tower of London,
LONDON EC3.



The first cover in this series, Group IV, No. 1 issued on 14 January 1970, commemorated the 25th Anniversary of the Re-Conquest of Burma Campaign by the 14th Army.

Field-Marshal The Viscount Slim of Yarrolumla and Bishopton, KG, GCMG, GCVO, GBE, DSO, MC, who then commanded the 14th Army, has kindly agreed to sign a limited number of covers for sale in aid of the Building Appeal. These are available at £2 per copy from the above address.

It is regretted that not more than two copies can be supplied to any one order and that unsigned copies cannot be exchanged.

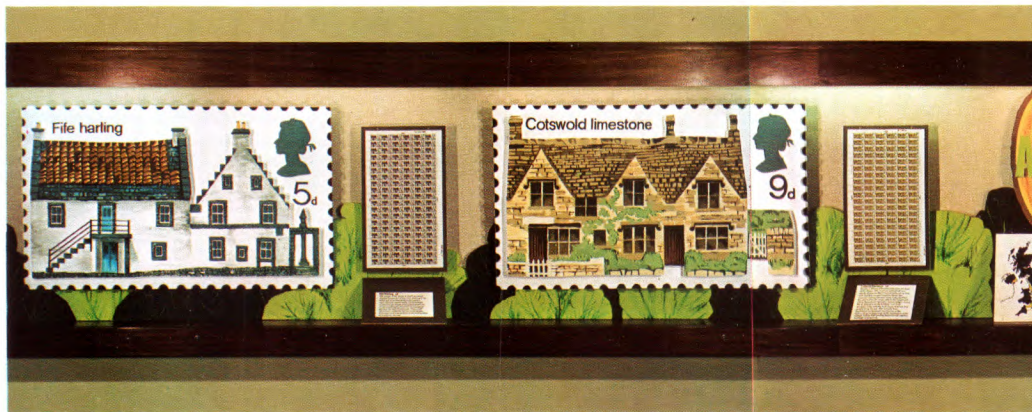
Royal Air Force Museum Flown Covers

A special cover to commemorate VE Day will also be issued by the RAF Museum on 8 May, and these will be cancelled by the same BFPS handstamp – shown above.

The covers, depicting the Douglas Dakota aircraft which was used during the Arnhem and Rhine operations, will be flown to Luneburg Heath and dropped by parachute where they will receive appropriate flown cachets. Orders for covers, costing 5s each, should be sent to:

The Philatelic Officer,
Royal Air Force,
Benson,
Oxon.

Rural Architecture Stamps on Display



This colourful and attractive display was recently shown at Edinburgh's Bureau Gallery.

It featured enlarged reproductions of the new stamps in polystyrene and provided back-

ground information about the buildings themselves and also the materials from which they are constructed.

The three-dimensional effect of these hand-

The Declaration of Arbroath 1320



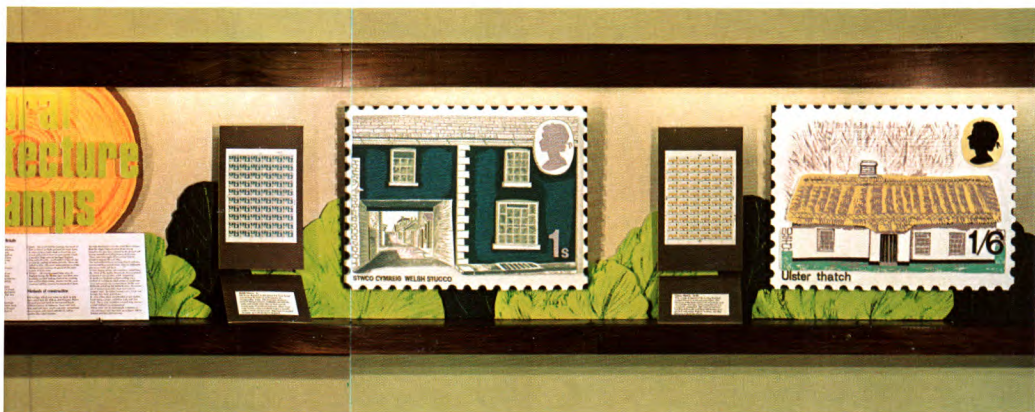
This is believed to be a copy of the Declaration written at the same time as the original version.

'Mayflower' Commemorative Cover

Because of the enormous interest shown in the 350th Anniversary of the sailing of the *Mayflower* and for the benefit of the many visitors to this country for the celebrations we are producing a special commemorative cover to mark the event. When associated with the 1s 6d *Mayflower* stamp the cover will make an ideal collector's item or a perfect souvenir.

Covers bearing the stamp may be posted between 2 May and 30 September 1970 at special posting boxes in Plymouth or Southampton where they will be cancelled with a 'Mayflower' handstamp.

The covers will be on sale by mid-April, price 6d each, from the Bureau, the philatelic sales counters, and from Plymouth. The stamps will be available at the same offices throughout the period. Customers who are unable to visit any of these offices may purchase the covers, and the *Mayflower* stamps from the Bureau at face value plus the normal handling charge.



drawn reproductions is enhanced by cutting into the designs to a depth of three inches, the cottages being sculpted on to the surface.

A wide range of original artwork, the com-

plete GB commemorative stamp series from 1940 to 1969 and some interesting items about the early history of British postage stamps were seen in other parts of the gallery.

Envelopes for handstamping with the Southampton or Plymouth postmark should be sent, under cover, to the Head Postmaster, 5 St Andrew's Cross, Plymouth PL1 1AA, or the Head Postmaster, High Street, Southampton SO9 1AA. The outer envelope should be marked 'Special handstamp'.

It should be noted that only stamped covers sent to, or posted at Plymouth or Southampton will receive the cancellations. No normal A, B or C services will be available.

Decimal Stamp Issue 17 June 1970

First-Day Covers

On this occasion we are offering an alternative service whereby any single or combination of the three stamps may be affixed to the cover.

The total charges for this service is as follows:

Covers bearing stamps to the value of 10s or more – Cost of stamps plus envelope (6d).

Covers bearing stamps under 10s in value – Cost of stamps plus envelope (6d) plus 2s 6d

service charge.

In addition to the normal 'Philatelic Bureau, Edinburgh' postmark we are offering to customers as an alternative a 'First Day of Issue – Windsor, Berks' cancellation.

Application forms will be included with the May *Bulletin*. BUREAU DEPOSIT ACCOUNT HOLDERS WILL SHORTLY BE RECEIVING APPLICATION FORMS TOGETHER WITH A COVERING LETTER.

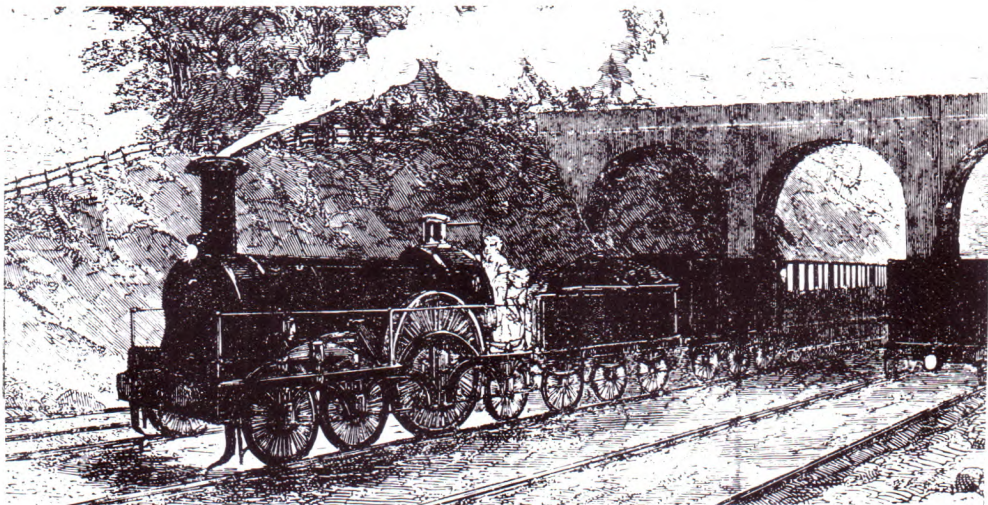
The Post Office at Harrods

As their part of the Festival of London Stores, Harrods are using the theme of Charles Dickens to mark the centenary of his death.

The Post Office has been invited to participate in this major event and will display the original accepted and unaccepted artwork submitted for the Dickens stamps. In addition, a special sales counter will be provided where the full range of philatelic items will be available.

The event will run from 26 May until 6 June. The Dickens and Wordsworth stamps and presentation packs will be on sale from the first day of issue – 3 June 1970.

The Railway Philatelic Group



The subject of railways is a fascinating study in itself, but when this is related to Postal History, and to the long association which the Railway Companies have had with the Post Office, there is virtually an unlimited source of material from which to draw.

It was with this thought in mind, and the feeling that there was a definite need for a Society, that the Railway Philatelic Group was founded in September 1966. From the very beginning it was decided that there would be no strict defined limits to our interests, providing that the subject matter or material came within the recognized bounds of philately, and had a railway connection or interest.

Without wishing to go into great detail, we might say that Railway Philately is divided into four sections:

1. Postmarks used on railway vehicles:
TPO, SC, ST, RPO, RST, 'Late Box', 'Missent', etc.
2. Revenue Stamps issued by Railway Companies:
Railway Letter Stamps
Newspaper Stamps
Railway Parcel Stamps
News Correspondence Stamps etc.

3. Postage Stamps of the World with a railway theme:

Pictorial Postmarks
Maximum Cards
Miniature Sheets

4. 'Sidelines':

Railway Company 'Perfins'
Carrier Company Stamps (Locals)
Postal Stationery

Our aims are simple – we want to promote interest and study all forms of Railway Philately, and eventually publish our findings in journal form, and in book form for more specialized subjects. But this takes time and money, and we have decided to maintain as high a standard as possible, in our quarterly journal, and publish books occasionally, when sufficient information is available.

Since our formation, we have maintained our quarterly journal, *Railway Philately*, and published books on Railway Letter Post History, Thematic List (2 editions), Talyllyn Railway Stamps, and currently a Catalogue of Railway Letter Stamps 1957–70. At the moment we have projects well under way on TPO history, and Railway Parcel Stamps, which should be published soon.

Centenary 2 Squadron Royal Corps of Transport

A Postal Auction is held twice annually, and our Exchange Packet scheme has flourished throughout. In October 1969 we took the bold step of holding our own Convention and Exhibition, which proved to be a huge success, and is an event that is here to stay.

The membership has grown from 32 in September 1966 to 325 at the present time, which has more than justified our existence. If you would like to consider joining, and specialize in Railway Philately, write to our Membership Secretary, Alan Violet, 18 Queens Road, Hale, Cheshire, who will be very pleased to hear from you.

To commemorate the centenary of 2 Squadron Royal Corps of Transport a special cover will be issued on 15 April 1970. Fully Serviced Covers, cancelled with a special British Forces Postal Service handstamp, are available at 3s each from:

The Philatelic Officer,
2 Sqn RCT,
British Forces Post Office 63.

In addition fully stamped and addressed items (postage 1s per $\frac{1}{2}$ oz) received at the above address before 15 April will be cancelled with the special handstamp and returned to addressee.

Literary Anniversaries Stamps First-Day Cover Services

Two of the most famous literary figures in Britain's history are remembered by special stamps on 3 June 1970 when four 5d Dickens and one 1s 6d Wordsworth will be issued.

We shall offer the usual first-day cover services at the following prices:

Service A: The official specially designed cover with typed address, *full* set of stamps and Philatelic Bureau cancellation – 6s 2d

Service B: The *full* set of stamps affixed to customer's own pre-addressed envelopes and Bureau cancellation – 4s 2d

Service C: As Service A except that a minimum of 50 covers to the same address is required – envelopes addressed by machine plate – 5s 2d

Because of the separate identity and interest in both Dickens and Wordsworth we are offering special postmarking services at places connected with them. Dickens died at his home at Gads Hill, Rochester, Kent, and Wordsworth lived at Cockermouth, Cumberland.

In addition to the normal Services A and B quoted above, the following additional services will be available:

Stamp	Service A1	Service B1	Service C1
Four Dickens 5d stamps cancelled Rochester, Kent	4s 8d	2s 8d	3s 8d
Wordsworth 1s 6d stamp cancelled Cockermouth, Cumberland	4s 6d	2s 6d	3s 6d

Applications for either or both services *must* be sent to the Philatelic Bureau.

Philatelic posting boxes will be available in towns and cities, including Cockermouth,

throughout the country for collectors who wish to receive the 'First Day of Issue' cancellation on their own covers.

Opening of Birmingham Philatelic Sales Counter



A philatelic sales counter was opened recently at the Head Post Office, Birmingham (Hill Street). The opening ceremony was performed by Mr David Henry, Director Midland Postal Region. Also present were representatives of the Post Office Advisory Committee, a number of philatelic dealers and others prominently

interested in philately. The counter has been specially designed to give philatelists every facility to inspect the stamps at their leisure. There is a permanent display of current issues. Hours of business are 9 am to 5.30 pm Monday to Friday.

Non-Decimal Stamps to Remain Valid

The £sd stamps will remain valid for the posting of mail after D-Day 15 February 1971. The exact date will be given by the Post Office when the government announces the official decimal change-over period.

These stamps will be converted to decimal values by using the new halfpenny conversion table published by the Decimal Currency Board.

Because these stamps can be used after D-Day, Post Office counters will not be offering stamp exchange facilities.

Picture to Post

The Post Office's successful film on stamp design goes from strength to strength. Following its cinema release in the United Kingdom, Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer are preparing to release it throughout the world and have announced that it will be first seen in Australia, South Africa, India, Hong Kong, Egypt, Lebanon, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand and Formosa.

The Post Office Films Branch is preparing to release 16 mm prints for non-theatrical borrowers. An announcement will be made in the *Bulletin* giving details of when applications should be made and none will be considered until then.

Postmark Slogans

Visit United Counties Show Carmarthen 13th & 14th August 1970 will be used transposed at Carmarthen, Haverfordwest, and Swansea from 1 June until 9 August 1970.

New Brighton, Wallasey The Touring Centre of the North West will be used transposed at Wallasey as soon as possible until 10 May. Starting date not yet finalized.

Tees-side Inter Tie International Eisteddfod 25 July-2 August 1970 will be used transposed at Middlesbrough and Stockton-on-Tees from 27 April until 1 August 1970.

East of England Show July 21.22.23 Peterborough will be used transposed where possible at 20 offices including Grantham, Spalding, Oundle, St Neots, Peterborough, March, Bedford, Ely and King's Lynn from 13 June until 18 July 1970.

York Races (with appropriate dates) will be used transposed at York from 20 April until 10 May, 21 May until 10 June, 18 June until 8 July, 27 July until 16 August, 18-31 August, 15 September until 5 October 1970.

Elgin Bids You Welcome is continuing in use at Elgin until 1 March 1971.

London Territorials Parade St James's Park 19 April 3 pm will be used transposed at each of our 10 London District Offices including West Central District Office, South Eastern District Office, Eastern District Office, Northern District Office and Paddington from 5-18 April 1970.

Wallasey Festival of Sport 6th-21st June 1970 will be used transposed at Wallasey from 11 May until 21 June 1970.

Visit Cambridge will be used transposed at Cambridge from 10-16 May 1970 and 21-28 February 1971.

Weston-super-Mare Fine for Family Holidays in Sunny Somerset will be used transposed at Birmingham until 31 March 1971.

Welwyn Garden City 1920-1970 will be used transposed at Welwyn Garden City until 28 June 1970.

See a Live Show Ashcroft Theatre Croydon 01-688 9291 will be used transposed at Croydon as soon as possible. The actual dates are not yet finalized.

Scarborough and Filey 'Two lively Yorkshire Resorts' will be used transposed at Scarborough from 22 April until further notice. This is a new design.

South of England Show Ardingly (Sussex) June 11 12 13 will be used transposed at Haywards Heath until June 1970.

Remember to use the Postcode has been in use transposed at Western Central District Office London until further notice.

Sutton Festival May 1-31 will be used transposed at Sutton from 13 April until 24 May 1970.

Skipton Gateway to the Yorkshire Dales is continuing in use at Skipton until 19 February 1971.

National Deaf Childrens Society, A deaf child needs your friendship will be used transposed at Newcastle upon Tyne from 3 May until 6 June, 12 July until 8 August, 13 September until 10 October, 29 November until 26 December 1970, 17 January until 13 February, 14 March until 10 April 1971.

Book a Place in the Sun at Margate is continuing in use at Margate until 30 November 1970.

The Bright Choice for Family Holidays Ramsgate is continuing in use at Ramsgate until 30 November 1970.

Malton & Pickering Ideal Holiday Centres for the North Yorkshire Moors, Dales and Coast is continuing in use at Malton until 31 January 1971.

Buckhaven and Methil the 'Quay to Industrial Development' is continuing in use at Leven, Fife until 11 February 1971.

Norwich Youth Festival June 27-July 4 will be used transposed at Norwich from 6-11 April, 1-6 June, 15-20 June and 22-27 June 1970.

Plymouth Mayflower 70 2 May-30 September will be used transposed at Plymouth until 15 September 1970.

Boston Lincs Mayflower 70 May-September will be used transposed at Boston until 9 September 1970.

Glossop Industrial Premises Tel 4361 will be used transposed at Hyde until 6 September 1970.

Cambridge, Information about Investments from City Treasurer will be used transposed at Cambridge from 1-11 April, 1-9 May, 6 September until 26 December 1970 and 24-31 January 1971.

Cambridge Festival, 16-30 July 1970 will be used transposed at Cambridge from 7 June until 15 July 1970.

Cambridge Jazz Festival 29, 30, 31 August '70 will be used transposed at Cambridge from 16 July until 28 August 1970.

Chichester 70 Festival Theatre Season 13 May to 12 September will be used transposed at Chichester from April until September 1970. Actual dates not yet finalized.

Cambridge Tourist Information From City Librarian Tel 58977 will be used transposed at Cambridge from 12-30 April, 17 May until 6 June, 29 August 1970 until 23 January 1971, 1-20 February 1971, 1-18 March 1971.

Harlow Conservation Week April 11-18 1970 will be used transposed at Harlow from 23 March until 12 April 1970.

Industry Prospers in Peterlee is continuing in use at Sunderland until 30 June 1970.

Aberdeen Britain in Bloom will be used transposed at Aberdeen, 1st Class Mail until 30 June 1970. 2nd Class Mail from 1 July until 20 September 1970, 1st Class Mail from 21 September until 26 October 1970.

University of Keele Open to the Public Saturday 2 May 2.15 pm - 5.30 pm will be used transposed at Stoke-on-Trent from 11 April until 1 May 1970.

Remember to use the Postcode will be used transposed where possible at Shrewsbury, Church Stretton, Craven Arms, Ludlow, Oswestry, Welshpool and Whitchurch, Erdington and Hockley from 22 June until further notice. This date also applies to the Birmingham offices previously published, Luton, Dunstable and Leighton Buzzard from 11 May 1970.

East Kilbride Scotland's First New Town is continuing in use at East Kilbride until 1 March 1971.

Miles of Curving Golden Sand Whitley Bay Northumberland is continuing in use at Whitley Bay until 31 January 1971.

Remember to use the Postcode will be used transposed at Eastern District Office until further notice.

Newark and Notts Show May 8-9 will be used transposed at Newark until 9 May 1970.

Ship via Dover The Short Sea Route will be used transposed at Dover from 1 April 1970 until 31 March 1971.

National Trust Seventy-Fifth Birthday Year will be used transposed at 10 London District Offices including Mount Pleasant, Paddington, Battersea, South Western District Office and Northern District Office from 4-17 May, and York from 11-17 May 1970.

The Boys Brigade 50th Anniversary Lancs and Cheshire Dist will be used transposed at Blackburn and Accrington, Manchester, Oldham, Warrington, Wigan and Stockport from 5-18 April 1970.

Ship Through Newport (Mon) The Home of the Self Grip Wrench is being re-used at Newport until 9 February 1971.

Royal Rothesay The Island Resort is continuing in use at Rothesay until 1 March 1971.

Instruments Electronics and Automation International Exhibition 11-16 May Olympia London will be used transposed where possible from 21 April until 15 May 1970.

Three Choirs Festival Hereford August 23-28 will be used transposed at Hereford from 4 April until 28 August 1970.

Heating, Ventilating and Air Conditioning International Exhibition 20-25 April Olympia London will be used transposed where possible at 2 London Offices: Eastern Central District Office, and Western District Office from 1-20 April 1970.

Come to Cheshire Agricultural Show at Hooton 10-11 June will be used transposed at Chester until further notice.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Sir,

Some of your readers may be interested in another method of removing stamps from paper, and which is one I have used successfully for many years.

A disc of flannel is cut to size and fitted into the recessed centre of a large dinner plate. A second disc of flannel large enough to cover the whole plate is then laid on top, and the whole surface thoroughly soaked. Warm water is preferable. The piece of paper is then laid on the moist flannel, stamp uppermost, and in a short time the stamp is loosened and can be gently peeled off the paper. The stamp can then be laid on a sheet of clean blotting-paper until it is thoroughly dry. At no time should any moisture be allowed to touch the face of the stamp: should this happen accidentally it should be dried off immediately with the blotting-paper.

As the flannel dries out gradually due to evaporation, a few drops of water should be added as found necessary, and a further refinement is to keep the plate warm by resting it on a miniature hotplate of the type operated by two nightlights inside - one candle (nightlight) lit at a time will be found to give sufficient gentle heat for the purpose.

Yours faithfully,

COLIN J. V. GRAY

Great Yarmouth

Dear Sir,

As usual I read with pleasure the *Philatelic Bulletin* and in your February issue you publish an interesting account of the Postal History Society.

The Society was formed among the readers of this journal. In August 1936, having asked Mr Samuel Graveson if he would be prepared to act as the secretary in the first place, we published an announcement inviting those interested in forming such a society to write for this journal.

The first meeting was held in our offices on the 26 September of that year and my old friend, Fred J. Melville accepted an invitation to attend that meeting. After the Society was formed he became the first President, he was not the founder of the Society although Mr Samuel Graveson, who was the first Chairman, took up the organization of the Society following a dinner where Fred Melville, Samuel Graveson and myself sat round the table.

Yours sincerely,

ROBSON LOWE
Editor *The Philatelist*

Dear Sir,

Why don't the world's postal authorities get together and produce a series of international stamps for use on international mail? These could be used not only to simplify sorting into national and international mail but also be a token step towards world unity.

Yours faithfully,

R. J. STRAKER

Durham

Dear Sir,

The increasing interest in first-day covers and in particular the growing use made of the Official Post Office envelopes makes me wonder whether or not any of your readers consider that the value of covers is enhanced by keeping the printed sheets showing details of the issues which are provided with the envelopes?

Yours faithfully,

J. W. N. HOLLINGWORTH

London W6

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