

Philatelic Bulletin

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Introduction

By their very nature our high value stamps are in a class of their own if for no other reason that their size has allowed some latitude from the design disciplines imposed by the size of the remaining definitive range. We have been fortunate enough to persuade one of Britain's leading philatelic journalists to write a series of articles on the High Value Stamps of the 20th century and print the first of them this month. James Watson opens his series with a feature on the King Edward VII £1.

Catalogue of RAF Covers

Last year the third edition of David O'Doherty's *Catalogue of RAF Covers* was published, and a supplement was promised in 1973 to bring the Catalogue up to date. A large number of RAF covers have been produced during the year, and these are faithfully listed in the supplement which is similar in format to the main Catalogue, and contains almost as many pages. Copies are now available at 25p post free from:

The Hon Secretary
Raflet Stamp Club
6 Grove Court
Falkland Grove
Dorking
Surrey RH4 3DL

Royal Air Force Flown Covers

Number 12 in the Royal Air Force Museum Series of Squadron Flown Covers will be issued on 26 June to commemorate the 25 Anniversary of the Berlin Air Lift and the part played in it by No 18 Sqn. It will show the DH4 used by the Sqn in 1917 and the present equipment, The Wessex Helicopter. It will be cancelled with a British Forces Postal Service postmark in use on 26th June and flown from Gutersloh which is now and was in 1948 The Squadron's Base, to Berlin. Covers will be available on or about 21st July from:

The Philatelic Officer
No 18 Sqn
Royal Air Force, Gutersloh
BFPO 47

at 25p plus 3p postage.

An entirely German version of this cover franked with German stamps and cancelled in Berlin will be flown from Berlin to Gutersloh through the Berlin corridor. This will also be available at the same time from the same address at 35p.

All proceeds go to the RAF Museum Appeal Fund.

Gems from the R M Phillips Collection

VI Mulready and Other Early Envelopes



One of the interesting aspects of the Mulready story is that the Post Office started so early (6 May 1840) with the provision of 'stamped' envelopes as distinct from letter sheets.

Envelopes, as such, are a relatively modern concept. One of the earliest known was used in 1696 to enclose a letter addressed to the Secretary of State, Sir William Trumple. By the end of the eighteenth century hand made envelopes could be purchased from some good class stationers but they were a luxury used mainly for social purposes by the aristocracy. Their lack of popularity was due to the fact that the Post Office letter charges were partly based on the number of 'sheets' and that an envelope counted as a 'sheet'.

The introduction of Uniform Penny Postage on 10 January 1840 brought the end of this practice by charging letters only on the basis of weight. The way was immediately open for envelopes to come into popular use

as otherwise they had several practical advantages over folded, sealed, letter sheets. In Post Office archives there is a letter written by Thomas De La Rue and Co on 11 March 1841, probably to Henry Cole, which reads, "In reply to your enquiries we beg to say that previously to the Reduction of Postage very few envelopes were in use – since then our consumption goes on increasing – latterly we sell about forty thousand per day – we can hardly however supply regularly our demand or we would be selling more".

The Post Office, and particularly Rowland Hill, may rightly be considered to have been 'with it' in this matter because the first official prepaid envelopes were issued on 16 January 1840. These were the special One Penny and Two Penny envelopes which could be purchased by members of both Houses of Parliament for posting on the premises. Used examples of these are in the R M Phillips collection in the museum.



A very great number of the entries submitted in 1839 for the Treasury's competition to try and find the best method of prepaying correspondence, consisted of 'prepaid' envelopes in various designs. It was therefore not surprising that when the Post Office brought out their Mulready-designed stationery at the beginning of May, the range included 1d and 2d envelopes as well as letter sheets. Illustrated here are two exceptional items from this section of the R M Phillips collection. The first is a contemporary hand-painted One Penny envelope sent from London to Exeter on 16 June 1840. Such coloured envelopes are rare.

The second item is even better known as it is the jacket illustration on Robson Lowe's book *The British Postage Stamp of the Nineteenth Century* (published by National Postal Museum, London, 1968, at £3.75). It

is a Two Penny Mulready envelope used in November 1840 with a strip of five 1840 Two Penny blue adhesives to make up the 1/- per quarter ounce letter rate from the UK to Malta via Southampton. A very rare mixed franking which incidentally makes one wonder what the envelope would have looked like if the contents had required a double or treble weight franking! It was this kind of overseas mail which eventually made adhesive stamps of values higher than 2d necessary.

It is interesting to note that though a friend, Basil Hall, had suggested to Rowland Hill the use of gummed flaps as early as December 1840, the idea was not taken up by the Post Office until 1850. The idea was first used by private manufacturing stationers to replace the use of sealing wax or gummed wafers. A G RIGO DE RIGHI

Post Office Counter at Congress Headquarters



Mr. F. Gaunt (left) District Postmaster London W.C. greets Mr. A. J. Brander, Chairman of the Philatelic Congress of Great Britain, at the opening of the Post Office counter at Congress Headquarters.

British Painters Stamp Issue

We continue the British paintings series of previous years with an issue to mark the 250th anniversary of the birth of Sir Joshua Reynolds and the 150th anniversary of the death of Sir Henry Raeburn. There are 4 denominations with 2 paintings by each artist. The 3p and 5p values show self-portraits of Reynolds and Raeburn respectively, while the 7½p depicts Reynolds' 'Portrait of Nellie O'Brien' and the 9p, Raeburn's painting of the Rev R Walker, also known as 'The Skater'.

Both paintings by Raeburn are reproduced by kind permission of the National Gallery of Scotland, Edinburgh. Reynolds was a former President of the Royal Academy of Arts, London, and it is from here that his self-portrait comes. His painting of Nellie O'Brien comes from the Wallace Collection, also in London.

Printing Details

<i>Printer</i>	Harrison & Sons Ltd
<i>Size</i>	40 × 31 mm
<i>Perforation</i>	15 × 14
<i>No to Sheet</i>	100
<i>Paper</i>	Coated unwatermarked phosphor
<i>Format</i>	Vertical
<i>Printing Process</i>	Photogravure
<i>Date of Issue</i>	4 July
<i>Colours</i>	3p yellow, pink, red, buff, black, blue, gold. 5p yellow, pink, red, black, blue, green gold. 7½p yellow, pink, red, black, blue, gold. 9p pink, red, buff, black, blue, grey, gold.

British Painters First Day Cover Services

The following first day cover services will be provided by the Philatelic Bureau on 4 July for the four British Painters stamps, values 3p, 5p, 7½p and 9p.

Service A

The full service consisting of the official Post Office covers, addressed as requested bearing all 4 stamps postmarked 'Philatelic Bureau Edinburgh'. The charge is 33½p for Deposit Account customers, and 36p for non-deposit account customers.

Service B

Customers own pre-addressed covers will be accepted for stamping and posting on the day of issue, cancelled by the Bureau postmark. The inclusive charge will be 30p.

Service C

For 50 or more covers to the same address, the Conditions of Service A will apply except that the price will be 33½p.

First day of issue facilities will be available at the offices where philatelic posting boxes are provided.

Postal Services in the Isle of Man

Although the Island was mentioned as a calling point on a mail run between Dublin and Whitehaven as early as 1639, it was another 138 years before His Majesty's Postmaster General was authorised to establish a post office in Mann. At first the Douglas Post Office was merely a sub-office of Whitehaven, but it became a Head Post Office in 1822 when agitation for a better and more frequent postal service forced the authorities to use the recently introduced steam vessels for mail to the Island.

At this stage in 1822 the port of despatch was changed from Whitehaven to Liverpool and the following year the Manx towns of Castletown, Peel and Ramsey were designated sub-post offices.

The first Post Office in Douglas was in Post Office Lane, and from there it was transferred to Thomas Street, then Athol Street and in 1887 to the present premises in Regent Street.

At present there are 42 Post Offices on the Island, including 11 in the Douglas area, one of which is seasonal to cope with summer tourist traffic.

The earliest recorded Manx postage stamps were in 1850 for a local post, but no examples of these survived and only in 1958 were the IOM's first official stamps issued as part of the British Regional series. They bore the characteristic 'Legs of Man' symbol in the top left-hand corner as did the decimal issue of July 1971, this time encircled by a Celtic ring chain.

The takeover of the Isle of Man's postal service by the Manx Post Office Authority is on Tynwald Day, 5 July 1973 and from this date it will no longer be part of the British Post Office.

Army Enter Whitbread Round the World Race 1973

The British Army entry for the race is the yacht 'British Steel' kindly loaned by Chay Blyth. The race starts at Portsmouth on 8 September 1973 and is divided into four legs with stops at Cape Town, Sydney and Rio de Janeiro.

It is planned to crew the yacht with nine on each leg and at each stop the crew will be changed to give the maximum number of soldiers the chance to take part.

To commemorate the race a series of 5 special covers bearing a die stamped reproduction of 'British Steel' are being produced and details are as follows (approximate date of availability is given in brackets).

Cover No 1 (8 September 1973)

To mark the start of the race on 8 September 1973 - Special British Forces Postal Service handstamp on a 5p UK commemorative stamp featuring Sir Francis Drake.

Cover No 2 (31 October 1973)

Carried on board from Portsmouth to Cape Town and bearing a South African stamp and cancellation.

Cover No 3 (31 December 1973)

Carried on board from Cape Town to Sydney and bearing an Australian stamp and cancellation.

Cover No 4 (8 February 1974)

Carried on board from Sydney to Rio de Janeiro and bearing a Brazilian stamp and

cancellation.

Cover No 5 (1 April 1974)

Carried on board from Rio de Janeiro to Portsmouth. Special British Forces Postal Service handstamp on a 5p UK commemorative stamp featuring Sir Francis Drake.

All covers will be carried on 'British Steel' with an appropriate cachet for each of the four legs of the voyage. An insert is provided giving details of the race.

Each cover is priced at 40p (including postage under separate cover).

A limited edition of 200 of Covers No 5 will be signed by General Sir Michael Carver, GCB, CBE, DSO, MC, ADC Chief of the General Staff and a similar number of Cover No 1 by Lieutenant General Sir Brian Horrocks, KCB, KBE, DSO, MC, LL.D.

These special signed covers cost £2.00 each. In addition covers 2, 3, 4 and 5 signed by the skipper for that particular leg will be available at £1.00 each.

Bulk orders and orders for one leg only will be despatched on or about the date indicated above. Individual multi-leg orders will be despatched together after the last leg is completed. Orders with correct remittance to:

The Philatelic Officer
Army Round the World Yacht Race
Army Air Corps Centre
Middle Wallop
Stockbridge
Hants SO20 8DY

75th Anniversary RAMC

To mark the 75th Anniversary of the Royal Army Medical Corps on 23 June 1973 a commemorative Philatelic cover will be issued and cancelled with a special British Forces Postal Service handstamp.

These will be available at 25p each from:

The Philatelic Officer
RAMC Historical Museum
Keogh Barracks
Ash Vale
Aldershot
Hants GU12 5RQ

The British High Value Stamps of the 20th Century

King Edward VII – the £1

The turn of the century saw the beginning of a new era in the British way of life. The accession of a new monarch signified the end of Victorian austerity and heralded some radical changes in the behaviour, dress and living standards of the British people.

The new King set the pace in his flamboyant enjoyment of entertainment and the gay life. Sophisticated musical shows developed from the Victorian music-hall, and 'wasp-waisted' actresses became the 'goddesses' of the theatre. There were revolutionary changes in transport with motor-cars and motor-buses gradually replacing the horse-drawn vehicles. For the first time since 1840 there was a change of portrait on our postage stamps, and the picture-postcard craze accounted for the sale of millions of the new Edwardian $\frac{1}{2}$ d stamps.

'Edward the Peacemaker' succeeded his mother, Queen Victoria, on 22 January 1901. The first Edwardian postage stamps were issued almost a year later – on New Year's Day, 1902, but, apart from the change of portrait, they were very much on the lines 'as before', most of them being simply adaptations of the late Queen's so-called 'Jubilee' stamps of 1887. Only the £1 stamp was given a much-needed face-lift in that the original design of the central portrait area of its Victorian predecessor was completely revised and improved. It appeared on 16 June 1902.

The stamp portrait was the King's dignified profile – looking left – which was to become almost hackneyed in its multi-farious usage on stamps and on coins and medals. It was taken from the sculptured likeness created by the young Austrian sculptor, Emil Fuchs. The King himself selected the portrait and gave Fuchs a special sitting to enable him to finalise the details of the version to be used in printing the stamps, thus confounding the critics who resented the intrusion of a 'foreigner'. But Fuchs, a comparative newcomer to England, had already well established himself with a

highly successful exhibition at the Royal Academy in 1898.

The first issues of Edwardian stamps were typographed *en épargne* ('in relief') by Messrs De La Rue, while the same portrait of the King was used extensively, and almost exclusively, on stamps for the British Colonies.

The Edwardian 'one pound' differed from its companion stamps in its exceptionally long, horizontal format – the equivalent of three normal low-value stamps. A point of interest was that its watermark comprised *three crowns* to the smaller stamps' single crown, enabling the same unsurfaced paper to be used as that of some of the low-value issues, those on 'ordinary' as opposed to 'chalky' or coated paper.

In comparison with the Victorian 'pound', numerous differences in design, in addition to the change of the monarch's head, may be noted. Perhaps the most significant change was the introduction, for the first time, of a symbolic crown within the scrollwork above the King's head.

The inscription 'POSTAGE ONE POUND' in sans-serif capitals was embodied in a panel at the foot of the stamp, instead of being absurdly cramped into the oval border encompassing the late Queen's head. Also significant of the new era in stamp design was the abandonment of corner letters, indicating that the authorities no longer feared the malpractices of the forger. However, in this respect they were perhaps a little premature. For the handsome blue-green £1 stamp *was* forged and the story of the notorious 'Lowden' counterfeits is like an episode from a film script!

British high-value stamps were used for the payment of excise duty on packages of tobacco exported to England and other countries from the Channel Islands, and it was not unusual for dealers to be offered large accumulations of these stamps. The dealer who purchased such a parcel from the unscrupulous Mr Lowden had no reason



to suspect anything untoward that particular evening – the stamps looked normal in the rather gloomy gaslight of his shop.

Came the dawn and another day – also a dawning realisation in the mind of the dealer: the stamps did not look so good in the bright light of day, and a closer examination revealed the shattering truth: the stamps were all forgeries! The overall impressions were blurred and coarse, the lines of shading faint and irregular, the crown crudely drawn, the colour a sickly yellow-green. The ‘stamps’, all stuck on brown wrapping-paper, even bore forged ‘JERSEY’ postmarks.

Later, it was established that the imitation stamps had been photo-lithographed from a block of the genuine stamps, with a passable ‘watermark’ impressed in the paper. Lowden was apprehended, prosecuted and convicted, while most of the forgeries were destroyed, though a few survived. Thus the dealer, who had lost a large sum of money (which he was unable to recover), also failed to recoup his losses – for the ‘Lowden’ pound is now much scarcer and much more valuable than the genuine stamp!

De La Rue’s printing contract expired in 1911 (after the King’s death), and the printing-plates were handed over to other printers. Some of the low values were printed by Messrs Harrisons and Sons, the remainder of the series, including the £1, by the Government stamp-printing establishment at Somerset House; and it was the latter stamp, in a deep green colour, which was so crudely forged by Lowden. In watermark and perforation details, the new printings of the £1 were the same as before: there were, however, differences in the marginal plate-markings. Current catalogue valuations for the De La Rue and Somerset House Edward VII £1 stamps are £110 (each) unused.

Among the various issues overprinted for use by Government departments, only the Inland Revenue made use of the £1 stamp – the original blue-green printing, which was overprinted ‘I.R. OFFICIAL’ and issued on 20 April 1902. Though not quite as rare as the 10s stamp in the same series, the ‘I.R.’ £1 is priced at £1,200 unused in Gibbons’ Catalogue.

JAMES WATSON

Aldershot Army Display 1973

The Aldershot Army Display will take place on the 22, 23 and 24 June 1973. A souvenir philatelic cover will be sold at the Display and will be franked with a special postmark on 24 June, commemorating the event. Covers will be on sale at the Forces Post Office or can be obtained by post at a cost of 25p if posted direct or 29p under separate cover, from:

The Philatelic Officer
HQ South East District
Steeles Road
Aldershot
Hants

A limited number of covers will be signed by the General Officer Commanding South East District, Lieutenant General Sir Terence McMeekin, KCB, OBE, and will cost £1.00.

Proceeds from the sales will be donated to the Army Benevolent Fund.

Hertford Stamp Exhibition

Hertford, this summer is celebrating the 1300th anniversary of the Synod of Hertford, one of the most significant events in the history of England. As part of these celebrations, the Hertford and District Philatelic Society is arranging an Exhibition of British Postage Stamps from 1840-1973 together with a display of Local Postal History at the Synod Exhibition Centre, Museum Annexe, The Wash, Hertford from 9 - 30 June 1973.

An ambitious four-month festival will mark the anniversary of the occasion in 673 when the Bishops of the separate kingdoms of England met in the town and established Christianity on a firm national basis. They laid down the rules for the unification of the Church of England, many of which survive to this day.

The event has gained national, and even international recognition. The Queen Mother is to visit the town on 27 June and

many visitors from America, including the Mayor of Hartford, Connecticut, Hertford's 'daughter-city' are expected during the celebrations.

The festival, which will run from May to September, includes more than 100 events, reflecting the historic past and present activities of the town, ranging from colourful pageantry to the arts and sport.

Philatelic Bulletins - Back Numbers

Mr E H Lane, 904-4390 Grange Street, Burnaby 1, British Columbia, Canada, would like Volumes 5 and 6 of the *Bulletin*.

Mr D Coppard, 49 Brookway, Burgess Hill, Sussex, would like Volumes 1-7 inclusive.

Mr D W Hucklesby, 68 Chandler's Way, Hertford, Herts, SG14 2EF, would like Volumes 1-3.

Mr A P Phillips, 27 Hayley Bell Gardens, Bishops Stortford, Herts, would like Volumes 1 and 2.

Mr D C Love, 83 Evelyn Avenue, Ruislip, Middx, has from Volume 3 No 2, to Volume 10, No 7, for sale.

Mrs Joanna Merrills, 5 Carlton Bank, Harpenden, Herts, would like Volumes 1-4.

Mrs Michael M Small, 37 West Way, Edgware, Middx HA8 9LA, has Volumes 1-9 inclusive for disposal.

Mr A Gray, Sunny Bank, Gwenllwynchwyth Road, Heol-las, Swansea SA7 9DS, requires Volumes 1-8.

Mr P S Easton, 22 Westfield Road, Yeovil, Somerset BA21 3DA, requires Volumes 1-7.

Mr H W Faircloth, 4 Ravenshaw Street, London NW6, has Volumes 5-9 for disposal.

Mr A J M Ruiter, 63 Stationsweg, Heiloo 1712, The Netherlands, would like to buy or borrow Volumes 1-6 inclusive.

Mr D Priestly, 85 Scholes Park Road, Scarborough, Yorkshire YO12 6RE, would like to buy Volumes 1-9 inclusive and Volume 10 nos 1-5 inclusive.

Postmark Slogans

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

1 October - 27 October 1973 (P)

Hospital Saturday Fund 1873 Centenary 1973. To be used at Slough, Bucks; Glasgow; Guildford, Surrey; Newcastle-Upon-Tyne; Reigate and Redhill, Surrey; Ipswich, Suffolk.

30 April - 30 June 1973

SNO Kelvin Hall Glasgow 16 to 30 June 1973 Proms Come and Hear Us. To be used at Glasgow HPO and Glasgow G41 DO.

1 May - 26 June 1973

1948 1973 Silver Jubilee North Kent Sun Club (The Naturist Foundation) Orpington Kent. To be used at Bromley, Orpington, Sidcup, Bexleyheath, Kent.

1 May - 24 August 1973 (P)

Southport Flower Show August 23-24-25. To be used at Preston, Lancs.

20 May - 23 June 1973 (P)

Visit Holm Cultram Abbey Festival June.

Information Phone or write Abbey Town 654. To be used at Carlisle.

1 June - Until further notice

Remember to Use the Postcode. To be used at Kings Lynn.

4 June - 30 June 1973

Remember to Use the Postcode. To be used at Aston DO; Camphill DO; Eastern DO; Erdington DO; Moseley DO; Western DO; Alcester SSO; Solihull SSO; Sutton Coldfield SSO; Tamworth SSO; West Bromwich SSO; Warley SSO; Smethwick SSO; Redditch SSO; Halesowen SSO. (All Birmingham Area.)

26 August - 29 September 1973 (P)

Visit Holm Cultram Abbey, Abbey Town Cumberland 12th Century Abbey and Arts Centre. To be used at Carlisle.

18 November - 22 December 1973 (P)

Holm Cultram Abbey Arts Centre

Abbey Town 654 Carlisle for your Leisure Time. To be used at Carlisle.

26 November - 9 December 1973

Chessington Zoo Surrey Opens Every Day of the Year. To be used at Kingston-Upon-Thames, Surrey.

April, July, October 1973

Londonderry Gateway to Industry.

May, August, November 1973

Londonderry Port Welcomes Trade.

June, September, December 1973

Londonderry Welcomes Visitors.

All to be reused at Londonderry.

16 July - 22 July 1973

3 September - 9 September 1973

24 December 1973 - 6 January 1974 (P)

The Samaritans Distress. Despair, Phone or Visit in Confidence. To be used at Cheltenham.

14 May - 14 October 1973

Farnham Builds The Redgrave The Theatre For The Region. To be used at Farnham, Surrey.

4 June - 16 June 1973

Thornton Cleveley's Gala Fortnight 3-16 June 1973. To be used at Blackpool, Lancs.

Dairy Foods Festival. Dairy Foods Real Value For Money. To be used as follows:

9 July - 22 July 1973 Weston-Super-Mare, Somerset

16 July - 29 July 1973 Plymouth, Devon; Brighton, Sussex.

30 July - 12 August 1973 Preston, Lancs.

6 August - 19 August 1973 Lowestoft, Suffolk

13 August - 27 August 1973 Lancaster

20 August - 2 September 1973 Torquay, Devon

26 August - 2 September 1973 Rhyl, Flintshire.

1 June - 30 June 1973 (P)

Stephen Olford Platt Fields 21 June - 4 July. To be used at Manchester SW PDO.

14 May - UFN

Remember to Use the Postcode. To be used at Winchester, Hants.

REPEAT CAMPAIGNS

23 July – 2 September 1973

7 January – 3 March 1974

**Send 10p To Town Hall for Guide.
Cheltenham The Centre For The
Cotswolds.** (Design 2).

10 September – 25 November 1973

4 March – 5 May 1974 (P)

**Send 10p To Town Hall for Guide.
Cheltenham The Centre For The
Cotswolds.** (Design 1).

26 November – 23 December 1973 (P)

**See The Christmas Illuminations
During December in Cheltenham.** All
to be reused in Cheltenham.

East of England Show. Please note that
Stamford will replace Corby in this
campaign.

Please note that (P) denotes 'PICTORIAL'.

Special Handstamps

Unless otherwise stated; items for reposting
bearing at least 3p postage should be sent to
the Head Postmaster of the town where the
special posting box is located, marking the
outer cover "Special Handstamp".

15 June 1973 (P)

**Mystery Plays and Festivals of the
Arts 15 June - 8 July 15 June 1973 York.**
Special posting box in the Museum
Gardens, York.

16 June – 30 June 1973

**57th Scottish Salon of Photography
16-30 June 1973, Inverness.** Special
posting box at Inverness Town Hall,
High Street, Inverness.

5 June 1973 (P)

Adam Smith Commemorative Sym-

**posium Wealth of Nations Kirkcaldy
5 June 1973 1723-1973.**

6 June 1973 (P)

**Adam Smith Commemorative Sym-
posium Kirkcaldy 6th June 1973 1723-
1973.** Special posting box for the two 'Adam
Smith' handstamps at Bennoch Road,
Kirkcaldy.

23 June 1973 (P)

**75 RAMC 23 June 73 RAMC British
Forces 1347 Postal Service.** Special
posting box at Home Postal and Courier
Communications Depot, RE Inglis Bar-
racks, Mill Hill, London NW7 1PX. Items
for reposting to Philatelic Officer at same
address.

1 July 1973

**I.O.M. Railway Centenary 1 July 1973
Douglas – Isle of Man.** Special posting
box at Douglas Station.

9 June – 30 June 1973 (P)

**Hertford and District Philatelic Soc
Synod 1973 Exhibition Hertford.**
Special posting box at McMullens Seed
Warehouse, Mill Bridge, Hertford.

18 June 1973 (P)

**Our Lady in World's Philately XV
Anniversary of The Union of Polish
Philatelists in GB Philatelic and
Numismatic Exhibition 18 June 1973
London SW7.** Special posting box at
Polish Hearth, 55 Princes Gate, Exhibi-
tion Road, London SW7.

7 June 1973 (P)

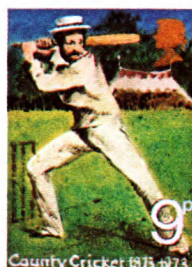
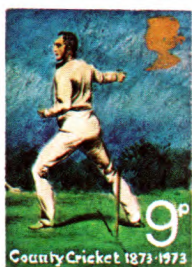
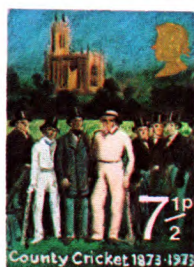
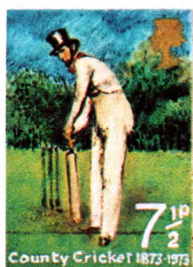
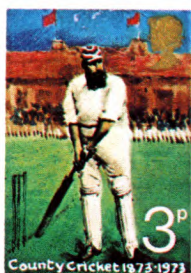
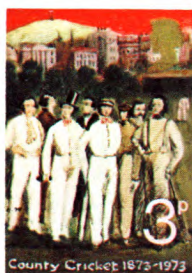
**Royal Marines Museum 100th An-
niversary Ashanti War 7 June 1973
British Forces 1362 Postal Service.**
Special posting box at Home Postal and
Courier Communications Depot RE Inglis
Barracks, Mill Hill, London NW7 1PX.
Items for reposting to Philatelic Officer at
same address.

9 June 1973 (P)

**Whitby Methodist Church Centenary
9 June 1973 Ellesmere Port, Wirral,
Cheshire.** Special posting box at the
Church.

Preliminary Designs – County Cricket Stamps

by E. M. Ripley



Letters to the Editor

Dear Sir,

Over the past two years I have viewed Dr A S Law's exhibits of Stamps and BPE, and during that period my attitude towards them has changed from one of indifference to what I considered such trivia as 'floating values' and 'tilted heads' to one of understanding and awareness of what he is doing.

A study in depth of the current GB stamps has far more rewarding 'finds' than is immediately apparent. Dr Law's award winning entry at Stampex 73 clearly shows this, and his interesting article 'Tomorrows Classics' in this month's *Philatelic Bulletin* gives the reason and the need for such a study.

That Dr Law is a recognised authority on modern GB stamps is easy to understand. To have discovered so much about them in a comparatively short time is indeed an achievement. To have made that discovery interesting and understandable to the non-technically minded is a great achievement.

May I add that I read with interest that Dr Law makes his stamp purchases at his local sub-post office. How many other philatelists I wonder have found that sub-post offices are often more helpful and understanding of the need of philatelists than are many Crown Offices.

I wish Dr Law every success in future philatelic ventures.

Yours sincerely,

Stoke-on-Trent, Staffs.

N GIBSON

Dear Sir,

Often in this magazine we read that 'so and so' requires back issues from earlier years of the *Bulletin*. I have written to some of these folk from time to time offering to sell at 5p per copy plus postage. Nobody is interested! I wonder if some readers really think that those of us who have been purchasing the *Philatelic Bulletin* since Issue No. 1, are going to give away our valuable archived copies for nothing. All magazines which I possess are in mint condition, and

as a dealer, I consider the small profit I am liable to make in selling back issues of the *Philatelic Bulletin* is almost negligible – but being fair to myself profit it must be. Any reader interested in a genuine purchase of back copies may contact me enclosing SAE and details of his requirements. I must state however that all issues are 5p each plus postage extra.

Sheffield, Yorkshire.

R H JENKINSON

Dear Sir,

The suggestion of Mr Paul Ladds in your March number that higher value commemorative issues should be cut down, except for the Christmas issue, has much to commend it.

I would, however, prefer to see restriction of se-tenant issues.

Different values in se-tenant form may have their uses, as in the current slot machine 5p strip, but I cannot imagine any possible postal use for two designs of the same value in se-tenant form. It is purely a philatelic gimmick to extract more money from collectors, particularly as ideally these stamps should be collected in se-tenant pairs.

An occasional se-tenant issue may add a little variety to the commemorative series, but to have four such issues in a single year (as is the case this year) is certainly far too much of a not-very-good thing.

Yours faithfully,

Paignton, Devon.

G M SANDERSON

Dear Sir,

Whilst fully agreeing with Mr Paul Ladds' views about a wider variety of stamp values being required I would strongly recommend other special issues to, at least occasionally, include the 2½p value.

Definitives – the present Machin Head design, however excellent, has now served for a good few years and it is felt not only by me but by many stamp friends that it is about time for a change – surely we are all

getting bored with it, probably also HM the Queen.

It is particularly regretted that the design has even spread into the high values – the previous castles were more interesting.

Is it necessary to stick to tradition with showing the monarch's head only on definitives? Would it not be opportune for this, the greatest sea-faring nation of all times, to revive tradition and history by issuing a new set of definitives depicting famous sailing ships – a different ship for each value – naturally with the Queen's head in the top right or left hand corner – by all means the Machin Head.

Ever since 1840, sailing ships on GB stamps have been few and far between. It would be interesting to know of the reaction of other readers.

Yours faithfully,

Wroxham, Norwich, Norfolk. F H BRINKHOFF

Dear Sir,

Despite my usual lethargy to putting thoughts on paper, and despite fears of treading on trampled ground, I feel the letter of Paul Ladds, published in the March edition of the *Philatelic Bulletin* warrants reply.

Initially, I agree with Mr Ladds when he says that all too many of the British 'special' issues are high values, and find the editor's bracketed retort rather puerile when he says that 3p, 5p, 7½ and 9p denominations are 'suitable for the various letter and air mail rates for Inland and Overseas addresses'. Surely, the point the editor misses, or chooses to avoid, is that relative to the postal use of each denomination, the proportion of high values in each set is far too great.

However, I disagree even more fundamentally with Paul Ladds when he states that 'the GPO should have more commemorative subjects, for the benefit of the thematic branch of the hobby'. If I interpret Mr Ladds correctly, he means that more themes should be issued to cater for a still

greater number of thematic collections. The primary reason should be to provide a postal use, with a British personality, rather than numerous pictures. I hope this is the GPO's policy.

Yours faithfully,

Cranbrook, Kent.

PETER J LEVOIR

(My note to Mr Ladd's original letter was in reply to his comment that '... These higher values have no real use for postal purposes at the time of issue'.)

EDITOR

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