

Philatelic Bulletin

Volume 8 Number 7 March 1971



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Introduction

Variety, it is said, is the spice of life. By these standards this month's *Bulletin* is a veritable feast as we feature, among others, a wealth of such widely differing topics as Air Mail Covers, Presentation Packs, Pillar Boxes, Gramophone records, Travelling Post Offices and Watermark Detection. Pride of place, however, goes to Tony de Righi's article which gives the inside story of the change to photogravure printing. The Curator of the National Postal Museum is proving a worthy successor to Marcus Arman who also had a nose for a good story!

The full range of decimal stamps is now available and for the first time for many years there exists a new philatelic starting point for British stamps. A fresh collection of decimal stamps can be started at face value without any trouble, or the need to fill gaps.

New Regional Stamps First Day Cover Services

A new series of Regional stamps will be issued on 5 May 1971. Each Region, N. Ireland, Isle of Man, Scotland and Wales will have its own stamps with denominations 2½p, 3p, 5p, and 7½p.

The usual A and B first day cover services will be available and because of the local nature of the stamps special arrangements are being made. Each Region will have its own distinctive cover and handstamp and will service its own covers.

Completed application forms should be returned with the appropriate remittance to:
For N. Ireland issue only:

The Head Postmaster
28–32 Royal Avenue
BELFAST
BT1 1AA

For Welsh issue only:

The Head Postmaster
Westgate Street
CARDIFF
CF1 1AA

For Isle of Man issue only:

The Head Postmaster
6 Regent Street
Douglas
Isle of Man

For Scottish issue and/or applications for services of more than one Region:

The Head Postmaster
(Philatelic Bureau)
2–4 Waterloo Place
EDINBURGH
EH1 1AB

Deposit account holders with standing orders for first day covers will NOT receive them automatically on this occasion. They should apply for their covers to the Philatelic Bureau.

We will not provide combinations of stamps from different regions, nor affix stamps from one region to covers from another or cancel stamps other than with their own regional handstamp.

The charges are:

Service A 29p 26½p (for deposit a/c holders)

Service B 23p Service C 26½p

Orders by post for mint stamps, presentation packs, etc., should be sent to the Philatelic Bureau.

Royal Air Force — Flown Covers

On 19 March the Royal Air Force celebrates the 50th Anniversary of the Aeroplane and Armament Experimental Establishments and a cover will be issued in the current RAF Museum Series. It will show the Supermarine S-6B with which the RAF won the Schneider Trophy outright in 1931; it will be cancelled with the British Forces Postal Handstamp 1163 in use at Boscombe Down on 19 March and flown over the Schneider Trophy course by a Nimrod Aircraft of Boscombe Down, receiving appropriate flown cachets.

Covers will be available towards the end of March and cost 25p each. Orders with remittance should be sent to:

The Philatelic Officer,
A & A.E.E.,
RAF Boscombe Down,
Salisbury,
Wilts.

The Royal Air Force will issue its first rocket mail on 3 April at RAF Cosford.

A special lightweight cover, illustrating the Hawker Fury will be used. All covers will bear the 5d Alcock and Brown stamp and the 1p stamp, and will be flown by rocket across the River Soar to RAF Cosford. The exact firing point will depend on the meteorological conditions at launch.

The special British Forces Postal Service handstamp 1164, with a rocket motif will be used to cancel the covers which will also be suitably cacheted.

Covers will be available mid-April at a cost of 25p each from:

The Philatelic Officer,
RAF Cosford,
Nr Wolverhampton,
Staffs.

National Army Museum Series Military Covers

Three further covers in this series will be prepared during March 1971:

Group 1 No. 4 Famous Regiments The Royal Irish Rangers to be issued on St. Patrick's Day, 17 March 1971, which is also the Regimental Day. The special pictorial handstamp 1225 will be used.

Group 5 No. 5 Medals This cover commemorates the 75th Anniversary of the presentation of the British South Africa Company Medal on 24 March. The special pictorial handstamp 1226 will depict the reverse of the medal.

Group 1 No. 5 Famous Regiments The Queen's Lancashire Regiment issued to commemorate the 1st Birthday on 25 March 1971. The special pictorial handstamp 1227 depicts the Regimental Badge.

All three covers are due to be despatched on 25 March 1971. Each cover costs 25p and may be ordered from:

The Philatelic Officer,
National Army Museum Appeal,
H.M. Tower of London,
London
EC3N 4 AB.

Low Value Decimal Stamps - Presentation Pack



The presentation pack contains the full set of the new decimal stamps and may be obtained from the Bureau or any Head Post Office for 50p.

Inside the folder are reproductions of stamps from each Sovereign's reign since 1840, with brief details of them. Included are 2d blue of 6 May 1840, 6d violet of 1 March

1854, the $\frac{1}{2}$ d dark green issued on 14 October 1880, the 7d grey/black of 4 May 1910. George V is represented by 10d turquoise blue dated 1 August 1913, Edward VIII by the 1d scarlet of 14 September 1936 while the present Queen has the Dorothy Wilding 4d of 2 November 1953 and the Machin 9d of 8 August 1967.

Postal Museum Notes

Surface-Printed to Photogravure
Behind the Scenes in 1933-34

by A. G. Rigo de Righi



Copper Electro

Proof A.P.

A152

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On 4 May 1933 Douglas Armstrong, the famous Editor of *Stamp Collecting* in the 1920's and 1930's, wrote to the Postmaster-General (Sir Kingsley Wood) enclosing a cutting from the *Philatelic Magazine* which claimed that the five principal stamp-printing firms had tendered for a new issue of definitive stamps. The magazine also suggested that there might be changes both in design and, possibly, printing process. The PMG refused to comment on the report. However, in view of King George V's very close interest in such matters, the PMG wrote to the Palace on 11 May to explain the position in case the King had seen the *Philatelic Magazine* and also a report in *The Times* of a statement

by the Deputy Master of the Royal Mint that experiments with photogravure were under way and that this might deprive the Mint of some work.

On 29 May the Postmaster General was summoned to an audience with the King, and there is on file in Post Office Records (Min. 8042/36) a draft memorandum which the PMG may well have taken with him to the audience as an *aide-mémoire*.

This memorandum makes it clear that by the end of May 1933 tenders had been received from several firms for a new contract for printing definitives in the $\frac{1}{2}d$ to 1/- denominations, several printing processes being offered. These were, firstly, surface-



At the Palace, Sir Kingsley Wood was able to show the King specimens not only of the photogravure process, but also of surface-printed stamps which had undergone an important experimental modification at the Royal Mint.

Among the postage stamp records recently acquired from the Mint by the National Postal Museum is a Die Proof Register which printed, which was the current and cheapest process; secondly, photogravure which would cost some £2,500 a year more and would make an attractive looking stamp. However, the Post Office's experience with this process (which had been used for savings stamps) showed there was 'considerable variation in shade from stamp to stamp even on the same sheet.' The third, recess-printing (line engraved), was turned down on the grounds, principally, of cost.

records, *inter alia*, all the work carried out on dies at the Mint from 1910 onwards. One page of the second volume of this register is headed 'Modified 1½d Unified Stamps'. This shows a single cliché, or 'lead', of the 1922-33 1½d value which had been modified to give a solid background to the King's head. The page has examples of this modified cliché struck in black and the (normal) brown on a variety of papers (28-29 March 1933), and on 5 April in pale and deep cerise and in royal blue.

By 12 April the Royal Mint had further modified the solid background 1½d cliché to obtain more contrast, particularly at the back of the head, and had prepared, and proofed, similarly modified clichés of the 1d and 4d values.

Miniature plates – actually chromium-faced copper electros – of eight clichés (two



rows of four) were made of each of the three values and these were proofed by the Mint in deep royal blue, on 19 April. (See illustration).

Sir Kingsley's memorandum stated that '... whether photogravure be adopted or not, it is thought the solid background would be an improvement ... with the dark background the [$\frac{1}{4}d$ and] $1\frac{1}{4}d$ design gives the best result and it may be thought desirable to adopt this design for more, or indeed, for all denominations.'

On 1 June Sir Kingsley Wood minuted the Secretary to the Post Office: 'I saw the King this morning. His Majesty was very pleased with the improvements suggested in the colour printing etc. of the stamps (including the solid background) and was very impressed with the photogravure process. He would like the suggested trial by photogravure to

take place.' By 5 July Messrs. Harrison were in fact engaged on an experimental printing of 40,000 sheets of $1d$ and $1\frac{1}{2}d$ stamps by photogravure.

On 13 December 1933 the Postmaster-General wrote to the King's Private Secretary (Sir Clive Wigram) that His Majesty had earlier (? in July) 'decided in favour of the retention of the present designs, modified only by the inclusion of an opaque background, but he expressed a preference for the smaller instead of the larger King's head which at present appears in the $1d$ and $2\frac{1}{2}d$ designs.' The Postmaster-General enclosed with his letter specimens of new designs with the smaller heads (prepared by Harrisons) and these were preferred and chosen by King George V for actual use in the photogravure issue of 1934.

New Stamp Book Covers



Last month full details of the new stamp books were given. There is an ever increasing interest in the pictorial covers and many are developing their collections by adding the

covers to their other material. For the benefit of those who may not have seen how attractive they are we reproduce the first of the decimal books.

Air Mail Cover



Thanks to the kindness of a reader we can reproduce a cover flown from Hamilton via London to Toronto in 1931. About 133 covers were flown on this First Air Mail by the Western route, Hamilton-London, by Sir Charles Kingsford Smith and Captain L. S. Allday.

The stamps, 5 in number, are pictures of aeroplanes, 2d red, 3d blue, 6d mauve, 6d brown, 3d green.

We are grateful to Mr. Norman Tams of Greenford, Middlesex who loaned the cover for publication.

Unusual Pillar Box



This stone pillar box on the Isle of Arran was built in 1880 to fit in with the beautiful surrounding countryside. For many years people thought the markings were ancient runes but in fact the hieroglyphics are a mason's tool-marks made in 1880.

At that time a white-painted wooden post-ing box was in use and when a horse ridden by a local girl shied at the sight of it and threw her, the landowner ordered another pillar box to be built which would merge better with the surroundings. The story goes that the young man employed to build the pillar box enjoyed the fishing in the local stream so much that he was in no hurry to finish the work. As a large sum of money had been set aside for the job, he wanted to give value for money and spent more time on it than he needed to.

So, to drag the time out and to make the pillar box more attractive, he carved out the elaborate mason's marks.

We are grateful to Mr. David Small of Brodick, Isle of Arran, who loaned the photograph of the pillar box for publication.

Stamps and Gramophone Records

S. W. Davies

The following was prompted by F. Marcus Arman's article on the Jacob Perkins Story – in particular by the descriptions of engraving and printing processes.

There are several parallels in the production of postage stamps and the manufacture of gramophone records: both call for the highly accurate reproduction in quantity of a complex original, but at a speed which demands mass production techniques. Until the advent of magnetic tape as a master medium (c. 1952) the original recording was engraved (first acoustically, later by an electrically actuated stylus) on a slab of wax roughly $1\frac{1}{2}$ " thick, the vibrations of the cutting stylus producing deflections in the spiral groove. In order to produce a metal die the wax was electroplated, but as wax is an insulator an electrically conductive coating was applied, up to the early 1920's by brushing the surface with finely powdered graphite or bronze, latterly by either vacuum deposition of a gold film or by reduction of ammoniacal silver nitrate to yield a silver film (as in silvering a mirror). Copper was then deposited until a solid plate was formed which, on separation from the wax became the master negative.

From this negative a positive (or 'mother') was grown, and at this stage it was possible to check the recorded quality (since the original wax was too soft to be played). Thus passed, the positive was itself electroplated several times to yield a number of negatives termed stampers. These would be lightly chromed to improve wearing properties then, mounted in a steel backing die, they were ready for the press.

Nowadays the original recording is on magnetic tape, but thereafter the process is essentially similar: wax has been replaced by an aluminium disc coated with a cellulose nitrate lacquer, while nickel has replaced copper by virtue of, *inter alia*, its better wearing properties, which has also removed the need for chromium plating of the stamper. To give some idea of the precision involved, a stereo L.P. record has a radius of $3\text{--}4\mu\text{m}$

($25,4\mu\text{m}=0,001''$) at the bottom of the groove and this dimension must be maintained throughout all stages up to and including the finished pressing. The main difference between the process described and that of recess stamp printing is in the nature of the original specimen: an engraving on steel, subsequently hardened, will take a lot more punishment than a wax or lacquer surface.

Although die or plate numbers no longer appear on stamps, the mother and stamper codes are on most records produced today. If the record is held so that the original recording number (known as the matrix number) engraved on the surface near the label is at six o'clock, the mother number is usually at 9 o'clock (a 1, 2 or 3 etc.) whilst that of the stamper (usually a letter code) is at 3 o'clock. It is thus possible to trace a faulty pressing back to the damaged plate. Unfortunately for record collectors there seems to be no market for records pressed from damaged plates!

Reproduction in Colour of British and Foreign Postage Stamps

The conditions for the reproduction, in colour, of postage stamps have now been relaxed. Up to now reproductions have had to be 'defaced', and also in a different size from that of the original. In future these two conditions will be regarded as alternatives, so that for example, reproductions 50% larger than the original need not be defaced.

Copies of the memorandum setting out the new conditions in detail may be had on application to:-

OOD/CSD (Stamps Section)
Postal Headquarters
St. Martin's-le-Grand
London
EC1A 1HQ

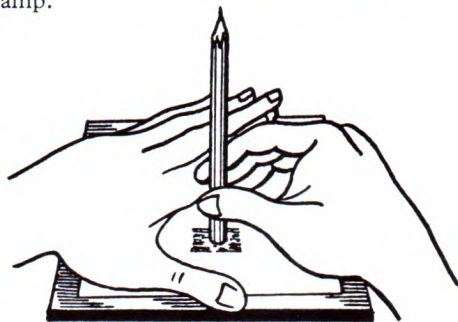
It is emphasised that the design of all British postage stamps is controlled by the Post Office. Subject to the provisions of the conditions of

the memorandum above, no postage stamp or major part of the design of a postage stamp (either British or foreign and currently valid for prepayment of postage) may be reproduced in this country without the written permission of the Post Office.

Watermark Detection Without Wetting

by Harold W. Fisher, F.R.P.S.L.

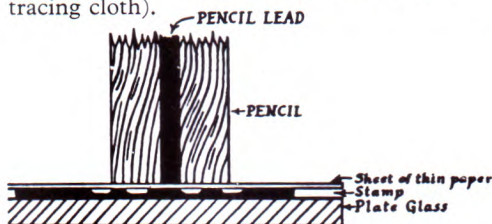
Nearly all watermarks are produced during the manufacturing process of the paper by impressing an embossed design into it while in a wet and soft condition. This naturally makes the paper slightly thinner where the lines of the design fall and thinner paper being more translucent, shows as a watermark. Wet paper is more translucent than dry and this accounts for the traditional method of detection. Water is not used because with mint stamps the gum would dissolve – but which is worse, to lose the gum or dissolve the printed design of the stamp.



The dry method requires three easily obtained pieces of equipment – a piece of smooth flat glass, a soft drawing pencil and a small sheet of *thin* paper. A ladies' hand-bag mirror will do very well for the glass. The pencil can be any cheap one so long as it does not have one of those fancy rounded edges or a fitted eraser. Its ends should be of the straightforward cut-off at right angles type. The paper should be as thin as possible without being flimsy.

The Travelling Post Offices of Great Britain

Tissue paper is no use, nor is glossy paper such as is usually used with album leaves. The paper should be without any grain or watermark. Laid paper is unsuitable but wove with a very fine grain might do. The best kind is a good white draughtsman's tracing paper (not tracing cloth).



Place the stamp face downwards on the glass plate and cover it with the thin paper. Hold the stamp and the paper firmly in position on the plate with the left hand as shown in the drawing. Then place the flat end of the pencil firmly but gently on the paper in the vicinity of the stamp. The pencil should be held between the thumb and the first two fingers and must be kept absolutely vertical. Rub the flat end of the pencil over the surface of the paper at the back of the stamp in a gentle rotary motion covering the whole area of the stamp. In a few seconds there will appear a clear image of the watermark standing out in white against a dark pencilled background. In the case of stamps which have been mounted it is essential first to remove all traces of hinges or other matter adhering to the back of the stamp.

The second drawing shows schematically how this procedure works. The section of the stamp is shown in black and its thickness has been greatly exaggerated. The white indentations represent the thin parts being the watermark. It will be seen that the pencil lead at the base of the pencil obtains pressure sufficient to mark the thin sheet of paper only at those places where the stamp is of full thickness and thus leaves the 'valleys' of the watermark unmarked to build up a white image. (reproduced from the G.B. Journal by courtesy of the Great Britain Philatelic Society.)

Shrewsbury & Aberystwyth S.C.

The line from Machynlleth to Borth was opened on 1 July 1863, and the Post Office used it from Shrewsbury to Borth for the carriage of mails from 1 January 1864. Mail guards travelled with the railway guards for a few days to instruct them in their duties. The line from Borth to Aberystwyth was opened on 1 August 1864.

On 17 December 1864 an agreement was made by the Cambrian, the London & North Western and the Aberystwyth & Welsh Coast Railway Companies for the Government to pay Savin (as lessee) for carrying the mail. In 1868, the mail was carried by the Cambrian Railway over the 69 miles between Aberystwyth and Welshpool for £39 per mile per year.

The date given by Ward for the commencement of the Sorting Carriage is 19 December 1883, but I have been unable to confirm this. The proof book shows the first postmark as having been issued on 20 March 1883 and in one of his personal notebooks Ward records it as having been used on 16 October 1883. I wonder, therefore, whether 19 December was the date of the official contract. These were usually negotiated after the service had started.

The first carriage used was probably supplied by the L. & N.W. Railway, as its January 1885 stocklist shows a 22' 6", six-wheeled vehicle, No. 4, built in 1860, allocated to this service. The duty came under the Postmaster at Shrewsbury and the 1892 time-table was:- Shrewsbury depart 3.40 a.m., Aberystwyth arrive 7.25 a.m., depart 6 p.m., Shrewsbury arrive 9.50 p.m. (Sundays excepted).

In 1888, the Cambrian Railway built a new combined Parcel and Letter Sorting Carriage, No. 200, which was 31' long, without nets or arms and lit by gas. In 1902, a new 42' vehicle, No. 293, was built and No. 200 used as the spare, stationed at Shrewsbury. The 1903 list shows the times as: Shrewsbury depart 3.20 a.m., Aberystwyth arrive 6.20 a.m., depart 6.25 p.m., Shrewsbury arrive 9.50 p.m. (Sundays excepted). The 1915 list shows the

spare carriage stationed at Oswestry.

Because of war-time restrictions, the parcel duty ceased on 13 May 1916, and on the night of 2 June 1917 the carriage was suspended and the work was carried out in the Cardiff-York T.P.O. The mail was received and despatched at Whitchurch (P.O.C. 29 May 1917).

The carriage was restored on 2 July 1919 and ran seven nights a week instead of six, as previously. On 8 September 1930, the designation was changed to Shrewsbury-Aberystwyth S.C. and *vice versa*. In 1933, a new 50' vehicle, with a net and four arms, was provided. The carriage was again suspended on 22/23 September 1939 because of the war and has not been restored.

Shrewsbury & Hereford S.C.

The railway between Shrewsbury and Hereford, a distance of 50½ miles, opened in 1852-3. The first mention of its use for mails I have found is on 2 March 1867, when the P.M.G. offered £100 a year for the use of trains on the line. A Sorting Carriage commenced on 1 March 1885. In 1895, the Tamworth and Shrewsbury carriages were used.

The service ceased on 28 February 1902, on amalgamation with the Shrewsbury and Tamworth S.C.

Tamworth & Hereford S.C.

The P.O.C. of 25 February 1902 stated: 'The Sorting Carriage hitherto known over different stages as the "Shrewsbury and Tamworth S.C." and the "Shrewsbury and Hereford S.C." will be transferred from the control of the Postmaster of Shrewsbury to that of the Postmaster of Stafford on the 1st proximo. The future designation will be the "Tamworth and Hereford S.C."'. This amalgamation gave a saving of 2s. od. per night per officer.

The 1903 timings were: Tamworth depart 1.25 a.m., Hereford arrive 5.5 a.m., depart 8 p.m., Tamworth arrive 11.40 p.m. The P.O.C. of 30 June 1914 stated: 'Arrangements have been made for the Tamworth and Hereford S.C. to be discontinued between Hereford and Shrewsbury in each direction after the 5th

proximo, and on and from the morning of the 5th proximo the Carriage will not run beyond Shrewsbury. The designation of the Carriage will in future be "Shrewsbury-Tamworth Rly. S.C." and "Tamworth-Shrewsbury Rly. S.C."'. .

(Reprinted from 'Railway Philately' with acknowledgements to the Editor.)

80 Years of British Stamp Books: Exhibition at the National Postal Museum

An exhibition illustrating the evolution of British stamp books 1891-1971 will be on view in the National Postal Museum for some three months from 11 May 1971.

Exhibits will include the world's first postage stamp book dated May 1891, and specimens of stamp books from Edward VII to Elizabeth II; one display will show the successive stages in the printing and production of a typical stamp book.

A further project to mark the occasion will be a special illustrated cover for the April editions of the 25p and 30p books. Stamp books with special covers publicising events are comparatively rare; earlier ones were the 'Silver Jubilee 1910-1935' and 'Philympia 1970'.

Postmark Slogans

A fresh start for Industry in the Highlands and Islands will be used until 21 December 1971 and not as previously announced.

See the Highlands from Fort William. Write Tourist Information Bureau will continue in use at Fort William until further notice.

Hastings popular with visitors since 1066 will be re-used at Hastings from December 1970-24 May 1971, 16 September-13 October 1971, 15 October 1971-31 March 1972.

Visit the Hastings Embroidery will be re-used 25 May-15 September 1971 at Hastings.

Today is Hastings Day will be re-used at Hastings for one day only on 14 October 1971. **Clacton on Sea Free Holiday guide from Department SP Town Hall, Clacton on Sea Essex** will be re-used at Luton until 12 May 1971.

Stevenage Britain's Modern Way of Living will be used at Stevenage 1 March-30 April 1971.

Expand and Prosper in Stevenage will be used at Stevenage 1-31 May 1971.

The slogan to be used at Nottingham 14 January-30 June 1971 reads **Nottingham Festival 10-25 July 1971** and not 'Nottingham Festival 10-20 July 1971' as previously announced.

Taunton Somerset's Touring & Shopping Centre will be re-used at Taunton 1 March-15 April 1971.

The starting date for **Nurse in historic Bury St. Edmunds** was 7 January 1971 and not 24 December 1970, as previously stated.

Scouting is Adventure will be re-used at Aberdeen, Dundee, Edinburgh and Glasgow for the whole of the months April, May, July, September and October 1971.

Scottish Spastics Silver Jubilee Year 1971 will be used at Glasgow from 27 February-31 December 1971.

Basildon Tomorrow's Town Today will be used at Basildon from 25 February 1971-24 February 1972.

Weston Super-Mare The West Country's Big Touring Centre. Free Holiday Guide from Room 12 Town Hall will be used from 31 March 1971-30 March 1972, at Birmingham.

1921-1971 Fifty Years of Building Research. Building Research Station will be used as early as possible until 31 December 1971 at Watford.

Wonderland of Wales Llandudno for colour guide send 10p PO Department PS Town Hall will be used at Llandudno as soon as possible until further notice.

Hull The City on Humberside Humber

Bridge Building starts 1972 will be used at Hull from 15 February-12 September 1971. **Aberystwyth for Sun-Sea-Scenery. Haul-Mar-Golygfa guide 5p from Town Hall** will be used at Aberystwyth from 15 February-29 November 1971.

12 June - 25 September Black-White Minstrels at Eastbourne will be used at Eastbourne from 23 February-25 September 1971.

Craigavon Festival Fortnight 29 May - 13 June will be used at Portadown and Lurgan from 7 March - 13 June 1971.

Come over the Sea to Skye, write Tourist Information office, Portree Skye will now be used at Portree from 11 January - 10 July 1971 and not 28 December 1970 - 27 June 1971 as previously stated.

Postcodes come to Abergavenny Mon 15 March 1971 will be used at Abergavenny Mon from 1-14 March 1971.

Plymouth West Country Holiday Centre will be used at Plymouth from 1 March - 30 June 1971.

Herne Bay the family resort. 5p postage for illustrated guide. Dept PS Pier Pavilion will be used at Herne Bay as soon as possible until further notice.

Visit Inverness Capital of the Highlands will continue in use until 8 January 1972.

The periods of use at Newmarket of the 1971 "Newmarket Races" postmark slogans will be as follows:-

Newmarket Races 13, 14, 15 April will be used 19 March - 14 April 1971.

Newmarket Races 29, 30 April, 1 May will be used 15 April - 30 April 1971.

Newmarket Races Saturday, 15 May will be used 1 May - 14 May 1971.

Newmarket Races Saturday, 29 May will be used 15 - 28 May 1971.

Newmarket Races Saturday, 12 June will be used 29 May - 11 June 1971.

Newmarket Races Saturday, 26 June will be used 12 - 25 June 1971.

Newmarket Races 6, 7, 8 July will be used 26 June - 7 July 1971.

Newmarket Races Saturday, 31 July will be used 8 – 30 July 1971.

Newmarket Races 6, 7 August will be used 31 July – 6 August 1971.

Newmarket Races Saturday, 21 August will be used 7 – 20 August 1971.

Newmarket Races 29, 30 September, 2 October will be used 21 August – 1 October 1971.

Newmarket Races 14, 15, 16 October will be used 2 October – 15 October 1971.

Newmarket Races 28, 30 October 16 – 29 October 1971.

Newmarket Races undated will be used 30 October – 18 March 1972.

1971 CENSUS. The big-form census with a big job to do. 25 April will be used at 90 offices including Western District office, London, Peterborough, Abingdon, Lincoln, Accrington, Tunbridge Wells, Plymouth, Wrexham and Glasgow, from 4 April – 24 April 1971.

Netto Album

The first annual supplement, to accommodate issues since the album was published, is now available. One album sheet gives an introduction to decimal stamps and there are two to take all the decimal definitives and “To Pay” labels, including the high values issued before D day.

To avoid the High Value decimals appearing twice they have been deleted from their present positions and two sheets have been reissued.

The supplement is available from philatelic sales counters price 25p or from the Bureau price 29p including packing and postage.

For collectors who wish to arrange their own layout plans, album sheets are available in packets of 10 costing 12p, at philatelic sales counters, and 16p from the Bureau including packing and postage.

Netto Catalogue

A revised edition is now available giving details of all stamps up to the new decimal

definitives. Its price is 20p from philatelic sales counters and 24p from the Bureau including packing and postage.

Special Handstamps

Centenary 1971 Tillicoultry Clackmannanshire will be used to cancel items posted in the special collecting box at the Municipal Buildings, Tillicoultry from 25 February – 24 March 1971. Items for reposting to HPmr Stirling.

No. 2024 Squadron Redeployment, 31 March 1971 Limavady Co. Derry. Items for reposting to Head Postmaster Londonderry.

Tenth Anniversary Derby Samaritans 1961–1971 25 March 1971 Derby will be used to cancel items posted in the special collecting box at 21 Market Place Derby.

Middlesex 21st Convention 500th Anniversary Battle of Barnet 1471–1971, 17 April 1971 Barnet Herts will be used to cancel items posted in the special collecting box at the Drill Hall, St. Albans Road, Barnet, Herts.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Sir,

I feel I cannot let Mr Robson Lowe's letter, printed in the January 1971 Bulletin go without comment.

I have letters in my possession written by the late Dr Charles Viner to my grandfather and my father. The writing and the formation of the letters differs considerably from the writing on the 1st Day Post Card addressed to Miss Viner – my letters are written some twenty years later so it is possible that his writing changed later in his life.

My family history also relates that Dr Charles Viner never married, dying, a confirmed bachelor, on 14 March 1906 (age 92).

Yours sincerely

G. A. VINER

Chichester, Sussex

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The annual subscription to the *Philatelic Bulletin* for 12 issues a year is 50p including postage by surface mail to anywhere in the world, or air mail to anywhere in Europe. For air mail to countries outside Europe the subscription is £1.40.

Subscriptions should be sent to the British Post Office Philatelic Bureau, 2-4 Waterloo Place, EDINBURGH EH1 1AB.

Printed in Great Britain by Moore & Matthes Ltd.
for the Post Office, St. Martin's-le-Grand, LONDON EC1A 1HQ.