

Philatelic Bulletin



Volume 4: Number 1 September 1966

SR N6 Hovercraft



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Introduction

This issue is the first of Volume 4 and starts the second volume in the magazine style.

We have a year's experience of this new layout and are gratified to know that it is well received. The number of subscribers continues to grow and we now have 20,000 to whom we send the Bulletin each month. In this edition we give details of the Battle of Hastings stamps and a historical article about those troubled times.

We are able to meet the wishes of a large number of readers by printing a fully detailed article on phosphor stamps and hope that it will be of general interest.

Philatelic Bureau Move

Our customers are reminded of the forthcoming transfer of the services of the Philatelic Bureau to Edinburgh, where they will come under the control of the Head Postmaster.

Applications for first day cover services, all mail orders including new and renewal subscriptions to the Philatelic Bulletin should be sent to the Philatelic Bureau, 2-4 Waterloo Place, EDINBURGH 1, from 20th September, 1966. All deposit account transactions will be dealt with by the Edinburgh Bureau with effect from 17th October, 1966.

Battle of Hastings Stamps

Scenes from the famous Bayeux tapestry are shown on the special stamps which are to be issued on 14th October 1966. The stamps will be issued in three denominations 4d, 6d and 1s 3d, and following the success of previous multiple stamps the 4d of this issue will be printed in horizontal strips of six. This denomination will be printed in the normal 120 to a sheet but the 6d and 1s 3d will be printed 60 to the sheet. Both the 4d and 6d stamps will be the usual special issue size of double the definitive series but the 1s 3d stamp will be treble the size of the definitive stamps.

All the stamps, which will be printed by Harrison and Sons Ltd, using the photo-gravure process, will be available with and without phosphor lines.

The designer of the stamps is David Gentleman who has had many past designs accepted by the Post Office including the 4d World Cup, the Battle of Britain and Shakespeare issues. He has used scenes from the Bayeux tapestry for his designs and on the 6d and 1s 3d stamps shows the cameo of the Queen's head in gold.

The successful designs were chosen with the assistance of the Postmaster General's Stamp Advisory Committee. The Committee is formed by Mr James Fitton, RA, FSIA (Chairman), Lady Semphill, ARCA, Mr Milner Gray CBE, RDI, FSIA, Professor R. Guyatt, FSIA, ARCA, Mr Abram Games, OBE, RDI, FSIA, Sir John Wilson, Bart., KCVO and Mr F. H. K. Henrion MBE, RDI.

The Bureau's first day cover services will be available for this issue. The charge for service A where the specially designed envelopes will be used will be 6s 9d, while customers' own envelopes will be serviced for 4s 9d. When forwarding envelopes for treatment under service B for this issue customers should ensure that a space of at least 10" x 2½" is available for the affixing of the stamps. All first day covers for this issue will be dealt with

at Edinburgh and all applications should be sent to the Philatelic Bureau, 2-4 Waterloo Place, Edinburgh 1.

Special philatelic posting boxes will be available at the offices listed below for the use of those who prepare and post their own covers. The attractive presentation packs will be on sale at the same offices and from the Bureau price 4s 9d each. The pack will contain the set of plain stamps together with historical and artistic information.

We should like to remind our customers that for bulk orders for blank first day envelopes and presentation packs the Bureau offers substantial discounts. Envelopes are on sale for 6d each or at the following rates:

250 £4 3s 4d	1,000 £15	5,000 £60
500 £8 0s 0d	2,500 £33	10,000 £104

(plus 2s 6d handling charge).

For orders of 100 or more presentation packs the charge is reduced from 4s 9d to 4s 3d per pack, plus 2s 6d handling charge.

List of offices with philatelic posting boxes:

Chief Office, King Edward Street, EC1.
S.W.D.O., Howick Place, SW1.
Trafalgar Square, WC2.

Aberdeen	Chelmsford
Aberystwyth	Chester
Battle	Colchester
Belfast	Colwyn Bay
Birmingham	Coventry
Blackpool	Croydon
Bournemouth	Derby
Bradford	Dorchester
Brighton	Doncaster
Bristol	Douglas
Bromley	Dundee
Cambridge	Eastbourne
Cardiff	Edinburgh
Carlisle	Exeter

continued overleaf

Battle of Hastings, 1066 — A Memorable Date in English History

Fareham	Northampton
Folkestone	Norwich
Glasgow	Nottingham
Gloucester	Oxford
Grimsby	Peterborough
Guernsey	Plymouth
Harrogate	Portsmouth
Harrow	Preston
Hastings	Reading
Hounslow	Romford
Hull	Sheffield
Ipswich	Shrewsbury
Jersey	Skegness
Kingston on Thames	Southampton
Leeds	Southend on Sea
Leicester	Stockport
Lincoln	Stockton on Tees
Liverpool	Stoke on Trent
Llandudno	Sunderland
Londonderry	Swansea
Luton	Swindon
Maidstone	Taunton
Manchester	Tunbridge Wells
Middlesbrough	Wolverhampton
Newcastle upon Tyne	Worcester
Newport, IOW	Worthing
Newport, Mon	York

First Day Covers

The Edinburgh Bureau informs us that despite the very clear instructions given on Service 'B' forms, covers are being received which do not leave sufficient space for the Battle of Hastings stamps.

It is again stressed that unless a **clear space 10" long and 2½" deep** is left at the top of a cover, it cannot be processed and will be returned to the customer.

Pictorial Technology Issue

In addition to the list printed in the August Bulletin, special philatelic posting boxes will be opened at Bromley, Newport IOW and Doncaster.

Not only was the Battle of Hastings, 1066, the last successful foreign invasion of this country, and the climax of a long rivalry between two of the most outstanding men of their time, it also changed the political history of this country, and set the pattern of social and cultural life of England in future centuries.

For nearly a quarter of a century Edward the Confessor ruled England, keeping peace in a time unused to this. He had no children or near male relative, and the eyes of several claimants were turned on England, then one of the richest and most advanced countries in Europe. Chief among these were Harald Hardrada, King of Norway, and Duke William of Normandy. Edward favoured the latter, but as Edward grew older and his mind turned more and more to religious matters, the political power in England fell more and more into the hands of Godwin, Earl of Wessex, and Harold, Godwin's son.

In 1064 Harold Godwin's son fell into William's hands in Normandy, and was in some way induced to swear an oath to support William's claim to the throne; however, just before his death Edward named Harold as his successor, and the day after the Confessor's death, in January, 1066, Harold was acclaimed and crowned.

The whole of Harold's short reign of nine months consisted of a series of brilliant campaigns. After securing his position in England, Harold prepared for the invasion for which he knew William was assembling a fleet, but in the autumn Harald Hardrada, the great Viking warrior, supported by Tostig, the English King's outlawed brother, invaded the north-east of England.

Harold acted swiftly. With his household troops, he marched day and night from London, collecting levies as he went, and on September 25th overwhelmed the Viking force at Stamford Bridge, killing Harald Hardrada and Tostig.

Postmark Slogans

Two days later William sailed, landing at Pevensey.

Again Harold acted with amazing speed. In less than two weeks of the news reaching him in Yorkshire, he had assembled a fresh army and was facing William near Hastings.

On October 14th took place the great battle in which, after being nearly triumphant, Harold and his two brothers were slain.

Although Harold was dead, William was not yet King. He marched across southern England, to Berkhamsted, where he confronted the English nobles, who, after a parley, yielded and acclaimed him King.

On Christmas Day, 1066, he was anointed and crowned King of England in Edward the Confessor's Abbey of St Peter at Westminster.

Children's Christmas Stamp Competition

Our first children's Christmas stamp competition brought a wonderful response of 4,500 entries. The many excellent designs have been judged and we should like to offer our congratulations to the winners, Miss Tasveer Shemza of Stafford and James Berry of Sydenham, London.

Tasveer's design is for a 3d stamp and depicts Good King Wenceslaus while James shows on a 1s 6d stamp a design incorporating a snowman.

Both children have been awarded a prize of £20 and the runners-up prizes of stamps.

'Muscular Dystrophy Week Oct. 15-22nd' will be in use on 22 dies in the standard and transposed positions during the period 22nd September to 20th October 1966. Offices using the dies in the standard position include: Nottingham, Reading, Blackburn and Leicester. Offices using the die in the transposed position include: Darlington, Luton, Croydon and Derby. Covers for reposting to the Head Postmaster of the offices concerned.

'Liverpool City of Change and Challenge' will be in use on 14 dies in the standard position at Liverpool during the period 26th September 1966 to 14th July 1967. Covers for reposting to the Head Postmaster, Liverpool.

'Farmers—Wage War On Warble Grubs' will be in use on four dies during the period 1st to 31st October 1966. The dies will be used in the transposed position at Dumfries, Perth and Hawick and in the standard position at Aberdeen. A fifth die will be used in the standard position at Glasgow during the period 19th to 31st October 1966. Covers for reposting to the Head Postmasters of the offices concerned.

Two dies engraved 'Blackpool The Stamp of Pleasure. Guide From Holiday Dept. Town Hall' will be in use in the transposed position at Blackpool during the period 16th October 1966 to 31st January 1967. Covers for reposting to the Head Postmaster, Blackpool.

'Wallasey Festival of The Arts 29th Oct-12th Nov' will be in use at Wallasey in the transposed position during the period 5th September to 31st October 1966. Covers for reposting to the Head Postmaster, Liverpool.

Two dies engraved 'Queens University Belfast Festival 66 11-26 November' will be used in the transposed position at Belfast during the period 3rd September to 26th November 1966. Covers for reposting to the Head Postmaster, Belfast.

Postmark Slogans

'Southport The All-Year-Round Resort' has been in use in the transposed position at Southport since 24th August 1966 and will continue in use until 31st May 1967. Covers for reposting to the Head Postmaster, Southport.



'Road Safety Depends On You' will be in use in the transposed position at Harlow during the period 1st September to 30th September 1966. Covers for reposting to the Head Postmaster, Harlow.



'The Magic of the Isles Orkney Freedom Fishing and Fine Food' will be in use in the transposed position at Kirkwall during the period 9th September 1966 to 12th June 1967. Covers for reposting to the Head Postmaster Kirkwall. The present slogan die in use 'The Magic of The Isles Orkney Freedom Fishing and Good Food' will finish use on 8th September 1966.



'St Andrews Home and Club For Boys Westminster 1866-1966 Centenary Salute Adventure' will be in use on two dies in the standard position at London South Western and Western District Offices during the period 16th to 29th September 1966. Covers to the District Postmasters of the offices concerned.

ST. ANDREW'S HOME
AND CLUB FOR BOYS
WESTMINSTER
1866-1966 CENTENARY
SALUTE ADVENTURE



A new die engraved 'Historic Chester Ideal Touring Centre' will be in use in the transposed position at Chester during the period 1st October 1966 to 31st March 1967. Covers for reposting to the Head Postmaster, Chester.



'1866 John Grooms 1966 Cares For the Disabled' will be in use on 22 dies during the period 31st October to 10th December 1966. The dies will be used in the transposed position except for one die in the standard position at Hampstead. The remaining offices include: Edgware, Hendon, Bromley, Barnet and Enfield. Covers for reposting to the Head Postmasters of the offices concerned.

1866-1966
JOHN GROOM'S
CARES FOR THE
DISABLED

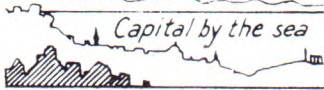
'Beautiful Bournemouth For Winter Holidays and Residence', 'Beautiful Bournemouth For Sun Sea and Sands' and 'Beautiful Bournemouth For Spring Sunshine Holidays' will be in use in the transposed position at Bournemouth during the periods 1st November to 10th December 1966; 28th December 1966 to 28th February 1967 and 1st March to 7th July 1967 respectively. Covers for reposting to the Head Postmaster, Bournemouth.

Beautiful
BOURNEMOUTH
 *for Winter Holidays
and Residence*

**BEAUTIFUL
BOURNEMOUTH**
 *for SUN SEA and SANDS*

**BEAUTIFUL
BOURNEMOUTH**
 *for Spring
Sunshine Holidays*

'Edinburgh Capital By The Sea For Festival and Holiday' will continue in use in the transposed position at Edinburgh until 18th August 1967. Covers for reposting to the Head Postmaster, Edinburgh.

EDINBURGH
 *Capital by the sea*
FOR FESTIVAL AND HOLIDAY

The use of Phosphorescent Ink in the Letter Sorting Office

The Post Office has been making use of harmless phosphorescent substances for some years to code mark stamps and envelopes so that letter handling machines can face and sort mail automatically. The three substances which have been used are known commercially as Lettalite B1, B2 and B3. These substances have the property that, while they are virtually invisible on stamps and not very noticeable on envelopes, if they are exposed to ultra-violet light of certain frequencies they glow and the glow lasts for some time after the ultra-violet light ceases to fall on the ink (fluorescent substances, which are used by some administrations for stamp marking, have virtually no 'after glow' and have the disadvantage that they are frequently used as 'whiteners' in the manufacture of paper).

The most common values of British stamps are marked with strips of phosphorescent ink. The stamps on the lower paid items of mail which the Post Office may hold back for handling after fully paid mail has been cleared, are marked with one strip and the other values are marked with two. The automatic letter facing machines detect the glowing lines on the stamp and separate items bearing stamps with one line of phosphorescent ink from those with stamps bearing more than one line of phosphorescent ink. The letters are then arranged with all the stamps in one corner. The stamps are cancelled and the letters stacked ready for sorting. All three phosphorescent inks have been used for marking stamps at various times but that currently in use is Lettalite B3. This reacts to ultra-violet light with a wavelength of about 2537 degrees Angstrom. *Light of this wavelength is germicidal and can cause permanent eye damage if not viewed through a suitable filter.* The presence of phosphorescent ink can usually be detected however with the naked eye, merely by viewing the stamps so that light is reflected from the face of the stamp at an oblique angle. A matt area will be seen on one or both sides of the stamp (depending on

the value) contrasting with the slightly shiny unmarked portion in its centre.

After a time phosphorescent inks lose their peculiar qualities. The precise length of the active life of the ink on a stamp varies greatly with its treatment. Kept in a cool, dry, shady room the shelf life will be several years but, exposed to bright sunlight or ultra-violet light the phosphor can 'die' very quickly. Irradiation in postal machines is measured in milliseconds so that repeated passes through sorting machines can be made without impairing the phosphorescent qualities of the ink.

A table is appended showing details of the issues of stamps which have been treated with phosphorescent ink and the type of ink used. At present phosphorescent treated stamps can be purchased in areas where automatic letter facing machines are in use, and from the Philatelic Bureau, but in the near future, as more machines are introduced, it will no doubt become cheaper in the long run to treat the whole of each batch of the lower denomination stamps with phosphorescent ink and non-phosphor stamps will then cease to be produced in these values.

Lettalite B2 is used to mark letters with codes so that the letter sorting machines can 'read' them and sort them to boxes containing other letters for the same destination. The ultra-violet lamps which are fitted to letter sorting machines have filters which eliminate the radiations which activate the Lettalite B3 used on stamps. The wavelengths actually produced from these lamps are in the range 3,000 to 4,000 degrees Angstrom and they are centred on 3,650 degrees Angstrom. Two lines of code marks will be placed on the envelope. Each line consists of up to 14 dots. The lower line is the outward code and indicates the post town in which the letter will be delivered. The upper line indicates a small part of that town in which the address is situated. Once a letter has been coded it

can be sorted at all stages by machine until it actually arrives with the delivery postman, who finally arranges the letters in delivery order manually.

Special Issues

Event and sale date *Values*

B1 Phos.

Nil

B2 Phos.

National Productivity Year
14th November 1962 2½d, 3d, 1s 3d

Freedom from Hunger
21st March 1963 2½d, 1s 3d

Paris Postal Conference
7th May 1963 6d

National Nature Week
16th May 1963 3d, 4½d

Lifeboat
31st May 1963 2½d, 4d, 1s 6d

Red Cross
15th August 1963 3d, 1s 3d, 1s 6d

Compac
3rd December 1963 1s 6d

Shakespeare
23rd April 1964 3d, 6d, 1s 3d, 1s 6d

Geographical
1st July 1964 2½d, 4d, 8d, 1s 6d

Botanical
5th August 1964 3d, 6d, 9d, 1s 3d

Forth Bridge
4th September 1964 3d, 6d

Churchill
8th July 1965 4d, 1s 3d

Parliament
19th July 1965 6d

Salvation Army
9th August 1965 3d, 1s 6d

I.T.U.
15th November 1965 9d, 1s 6d

B3 Phos.

Lister
1st September 1965 4d, 1s 6d

Commonwealth Arts
1st September 1965 6d, 1s 6d

Battle of Britain
13th September 1965 4d, 9d, 1s 3d

P.O. Tower
8th October 1965 3d, 1s 3d

U.N.O.
25th October 1965 3d, 1s 6d

Robert Burns
25th January 1966 4d, 1s 3d

900th Anniversary Westminster Abbey
28th February 1966 3d

Pictorial Landscapes
2nd May 1966 4d, 6d, 1s 3d, 1s 6d

World Cup
1st June 1966 4d, 6d, 1s 3d

Pictorial Birds
15th August 1966 4d

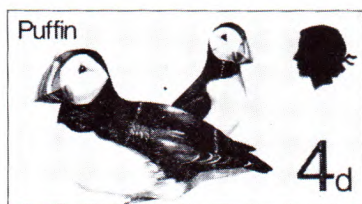
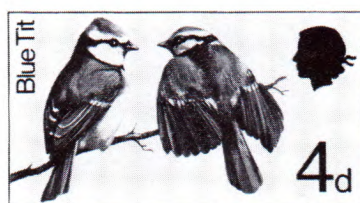
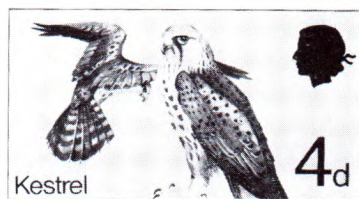
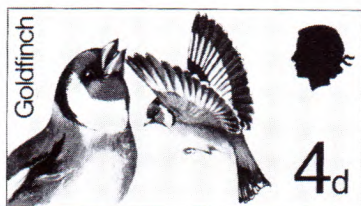
Definitives - First issues of phosphor line stamps

<i>Denom</i>	<i>B1 Phos.</i>	<i>B2 Phos.</i>	<i>B3 Phos.</i>
½d	18.11.59	5. 6.61	13. 8.65
1d	18.11.59	5. 6.61	13. 8.65
1½d	18.11.59	5. 6.61	13. 8.65
2d - 1 line	18.11.59	5. 6.61	—
2d - 2 lines	—	3.10.61	17. 8.63
2½d - 1 line	—	3.10.61	—
2½d - 2 lines	18.11.59	5. 6.61	—
3d - 1 line	—	29. 4.65	13. 8.65
3d - 2 lines	18.11.59	5. 6.61	—
4d light blue	18.11.59	5. 6.61	—
4d new blue	—	15. 4.65	13. 8.65
4½d	18.11.59	13. 9.61	—
6d	27. 6.60	5. 6.61	13. 8.65
1s 3d	22. 6.60	5. 6.61	13. 8.65
Scotland 3d			
- 1 line	—	30. 4.65	16.12.65
- 2 lines	—	29. 1.63	—
Scotland 4d	—	—	7. 2.66
Scotland 6d	—	29. 1.63	2. 2.66
Scotland 1s 3d	—	29. 1.63	26.11.65

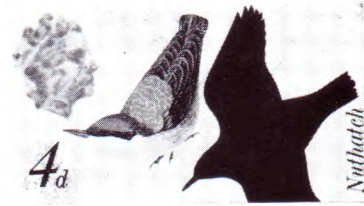
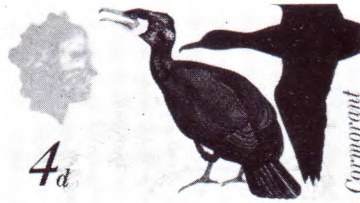
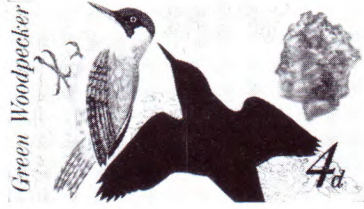
Unaccepted Stamp Designs Bird Issue

Peter Banett

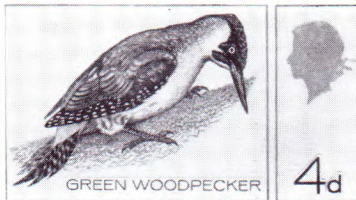




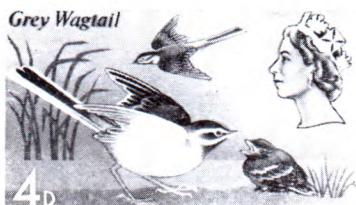
Harrison & Sons



John Wood



Michael Goaman



Special Issues available from Philatelic Bureau

Pictorial Landscape 4d, 6d, 1s 3d, 1s 6d

World Cup 4d, 6d, 1s 3d

Pictorial Birds 4d, (blocks of 4)

These stamps are available with or without
phosphor lines

Conditions

The Philatelic Bureau will be pleased to supply any number of stamps shown on its current stock list, subject to stocks being available, in mint condition only. For stamps not shown on the list, inquiries should be made of a stamp dealer.

We do not guarantee to supply stamps from particular cylinders or plates, position or cylinder blocks, particular editions of books or books with selected watermark.

Stamps are NOT supplied cancelled to order. Remittances, which *must* be sent with orders should be made payable to 'GPO Philatelic Bureau' and should include a handling charge of 6d for orders under 10s, and 2s 6d for orders of 10s and over. For orders to be sent by Air Mail the cost of the airmail postage should be added. Stamps are not accepted as payment for orders.

Handling Charges

Our readers will know that we raise a handling charge of 6d. on orders of less than 10/- and 2/6d. on orders of 10/- or more in value; this latter charge includes the registration fee of 1/9d.

Following the recent announcement that the minimum registration fee is to be increased by 1/3d. to 3/-, we shall need to make a corresponding increase in our handling charge for orders to be sent by registered post.

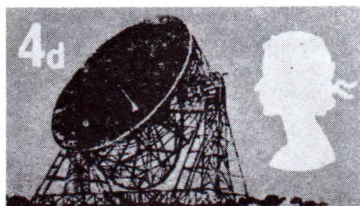
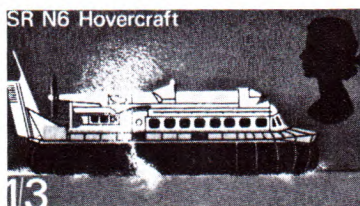
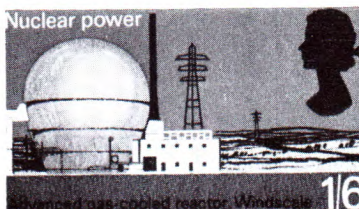
The following revised handling charges will take effect from Saturday 15th October next:

For orders of less than 10s. od. 6d.

For orders of less than 10s. od.
to be sent by registered post. 3s. 6d.

For orders of 10s. od. or more
in value. 3s. 9d.

Customers are asked to ensure that the appropriate charge is included with their remittance; failure to do so will lead to unnecessary correspondence and inevitable delay in the execution of their order.



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