

Philatelic Bulletin

Volume 10 Number 8 April 1973



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Introduction

The Post Office Stampex Trophy was donated to encourage collectors of modern Great Britain stamps. It has been won by some very fine collections but now I suggest, more in keeping with the spirit of the award than Dr G S Law's collection of material freely purchased from his local sub-office which won him the trophy this year. We offer him our congratulations and thanks for his contribution "Tomorrow's Classics" which appears elsewhere in this *Bulletin*.

Visitors to Stampex after 28 February will be able to buy the Trees stamp and our feature on David Gentleman's preliminary design should prove interesting in this context.

Historical matters are considered in the

Museum notes on stamps of the reign of George VI but these are balanced by more current topics to present, we hope, a well-rounded edition this month.

The Young Collector Exhibition

Starting on the afternoon of 17 April, the National Postal Museum will be staging an exhibition specially for collectors from 8-18 years of age. It will be showing many of the unusual and fascinating aspects of philately and will include a lot of practical examples of "how to do it" on subjects such as identifying and arranging stamps as well as suggestions on making special collections and displays.

Several competitions for young collectors will be held during the three months duration of the exhibition and a series of film shows will take place during the Easter holiday period.

The Museum adjoins the London Chief (Post) Office in King Edward Street EC off Newgate Street and is open free to visitors from 10 am to 4.30 pm Mondays to Fridays and 10 am to 4 pm on Saturdays.

Commemorative Cover First Intercontinental Para Flight

There is still an unavoidable delay in attempting the intercontinental flight for which, many of you will have ordered covers. This is due mainly to organizational difficulties. However there is a good chance that these will be overcome with the attempt taking place later this year.

Would any person who has ordered a cover and is not prepared to wait please contact the address below and his order will be refunded.

Capt B C A Lee RE
HQ 16 Para Bde
Arnhem Bks
Aldershot
Hants

The King George VI High Values 1939-48 Part II

The College of Heralds Designs

The consultation with the College of Heralds about the Dulac design in March 1938, prompted the College themselves to try their hand at designing postage stamps. Five designs (figures 8-12) were submitted to the Post Office who selected three for printing as essays, (figures 10-12). All five designs (and the essays) were shown on 31 March to the PMG who selected two as worth pursuing and suggested that further essays should be prepared after incorporating some modifications. The object was to compare them with Dulac's design in its latest form (figure 7). The two selected College of Arms designs were (a) for a 10/- value with the King's head superimposed on a background of the Royal Arms (artist unknown) and (b) another 10/- design (by Mr George Bellew, *Somerset Herald*) incorporating the four flower and plant emblems of the United Kingdom.

Essays of these two designs (after revision, figures 14 and 15) were considered by the Postmaster General – along with the Dulac revised essays – early in June. He preferred Bellew's design (No 14) but still considered Dulac's "Arms" design the best of the three. He then decided to refer all three designs to the Fine Arts Commission.

The FAC, without expressing any opinion on comparative merits, suggested that the Dulac design would be improved by the use of smaller figures of value. Reluctantly, Dulac accepted this and once again revised the design accordingly. Lithographed essays of this (the fourth revise) were made in the three usual colours brown, red and blue.

Royal Approval

On 21 July 1938 the Postmaster General submitted essays of the three shortlisted designs to the Monarch. The King suggested a number of modifications. He considered that Dulac's design might be improved if the "diminutive" Royal Arms could be made larger and the Monarch's head correspondingly reduced. Of the two College



Fig. 8



Fig. 9



Fig. 10

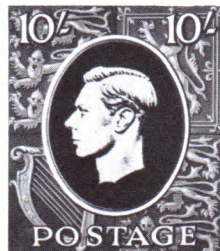


Fig. 11



Fig. 12



Fig. 13

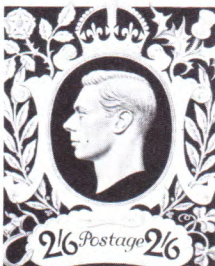


Fig. 14

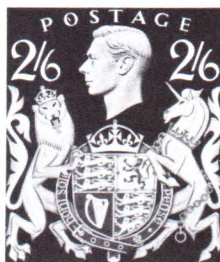


Fig. 15

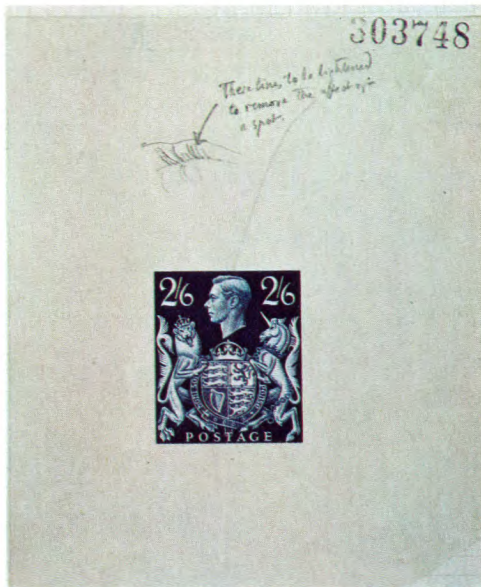


Fig. 16

of Arms designs the King preferred that by Bellew (figure 14) but suggested that the curved label with the inscription "2/6 Postage 2/6" be removed and in its place substituted plain figures and letters similar to those used in the other College of Arms design (figure 13).

Fresh essays of both designs, incorporating these suggestions, were submitted to the King on 16 November. Additionally, the Postmaster General also submitted essays of a new "arms" design which Dulac had recently completed (figure 15). The King approved both Dulac's original "arms" design and the Bellew design which were now in the form in which they were finally used. As the King expressed no preferences as between the two designs it was decided to use Dulac's design for the 2/6 and 5/- values and Bellew's for the 10/- value. The designs were then sent for engraving.

Dies and Plate Proofs

As mentioned above, the task of engraving

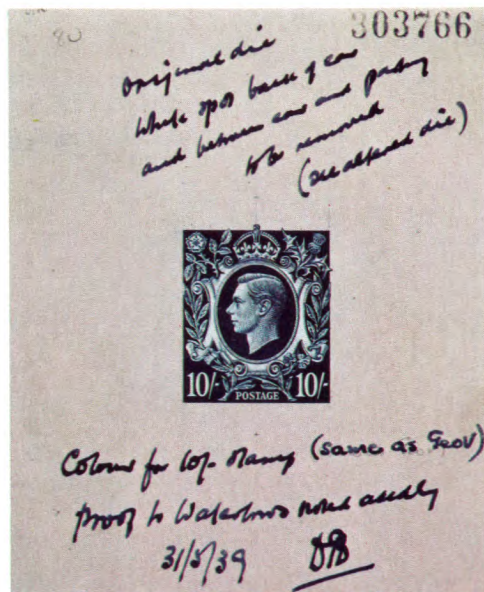


Fig. 17

both the Dulac and the Bellew designs was entrusted by Waterlows to J A C Harrison, who had shown his mastery of intaglio engraving by his work on the Seahorse issue, the Wembley commemoratives, the Postal Union Congress stamps and on a very wide range of Colonial and foreign issues. The two dies he produced for the King George VI high values are, in my opinion, among his finest, very successfully capturing the essence of Dulac's and Bellew's designs. Only very minor retouches were required to bring them to completion as is shown by these two annotated die proofs (figures 16-17) in the Museum collection.

Both the 2/6 and the 10/- dies were proofed in a series of alternative colours (figures 18-20) before the final selection was approved. The 5/- value, probably made by the transfer roller process from the 2/6, was proofed for design only, in red; the issued red shade was adopted from one of the 2/6 colour trials. Perforated plate proofs of all three values were made in several shades of

brown, red and indigo respectively between June and August 1939.

New Colours and Value

Wartime necessity, mainly a need to economise in the use of scarce printing inks, dictated the changes of 1942. The green colour then adopted for the 2/6 had already been proofed in 1938; so had the ultramarine of the 10/-. Nevertheless further trials were made even for the 5/-. In this latter case the alternative reds and oranges were finally rejected and no change was in fact made.

In 1947 it was decided to re-introduce a £1 value, after an interval of nearly 20 years, using the Bellew design. The first step was to make a die proof in brown of the 10/- value, from which the two inscriptions of value were carefully cut away (figure 21). New value tablets for £1 were then drawn and hand-painted into these spaces: the Waterlow's artist being very careful to match the style of the new numerals to the old. The Post Office approved this hand-painted essay on 16 June 1948 and a proof of the new £1 die, correct for design and colour, received final approval on 16 July.

A G RIGO DE RIGHI



Fig. 18



Fig. 19



Fig. 20



Fig. 21

A detailed illustrated study of the plates and varieties of the issued stamps will be found in three articles by Major General Sir Leonard Atkinson published in "The G B Journal" (organ of the G B Philatelic Society) Vol VI No 8, p 124 - No 9, p 147 - and No 10, p 167.

County Cricket (1873-1973) First Day Cover Services

The following first day cover services will be provided by the Philatelic Bureau on 16 May 1973 for the three County Cricket Stamps, values 3p, 7½p and 9p.

Service A

The full service consisting of the official Post Office cover, addressed as requested bearing all three stamps postmarked "Philatelic Bureau Edinburgh" or in this case "Lords London NW1". The charge is 28½p for Deposit Account Customers and 31p for non-deposit account holders.

Service B

Customers own pre-addressed covers will be accepted for stamping and posting on the day of issue, cancelled by either postmark. The inclusive charge will be 25p.

Service C

For 50 or more covers to the same address the conditions of Service A will apply except that the price will be 28½p per cover.

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

Tomorrow's Classics

When, in the early years of Queen Victoria's reign, the introduction of the penny post necessitated the printing of prepayment labels, few saw beyond their immediate practical use. At the birth of philately it is scarcely surprising that the novelty of cheap letter carriage throughout the United Kingdom was uppermost in public thought. Detailed study of these curious labels went by default. They were readily available; they would be there tomorrow.

It would be interesting to compute the hours of patient search and research that this initial disinterest has cost successive generations down these thirteen decades. Nor has the lesson been learned. The current issues of any era receive scant respect and attention until time and rarity make them at once desirable and virtually impossible to study in depth.

Since my own interest in philately re-awakened five years ago – shortly after the introduction of the Machin head definitives – my concern has been to study the present day stamps while they are still around. The Machin definitive stamp has many absorbing facets. From its conception, through the whole complex process of translation to the finished product, to its use as a trigger in modern electronic sorting machinery, it provides many fields of fruitful study and interest.

In my recent study of "Floating Values in the Machin decimal definitives" – which was fortunate in attracting the Post Office Trophy at Stampex 73 – all the stamps displayed were bought from my local sub-post office over the past two years. Although selected for a particular purpose, none were rare finds. None-the-less at least half of them could not now be replaced.

Today's stamps deserve to be studied and appraised today. Obsession with the classics of yesteryear has cost philately dearly in terms of lost opportunities. It should not continue to blinker the philatelic establishment and obscure the treasures in our midst.



No previous period has been so rich in change and experiment. Never before has it been more certain that today's stamps will not still be there tomorrow.

A S LAW

Mechanised Parcels for East London

A £3.7 million contract for a new mechanised sorting office in East London has been awarded to John Laing Construction by the Post Office. This is the twelfth of the 27 parcel concentration offices to be provided under the Post Office's National Parcels Plan.

The new office, which is expected to begin working in May 1975, will use the latest mechanised parcel handling methods including mail containerisation. The National Parcels Plan is aimed at improved service reliability and financial benefits from streamlined, speedier mail handling.

Known as the East London Parcels Concentration Office (ELPCO) it will be built on the site of a former North Thames Gas Board works in Stephenson Street,

Canning Town, next to the London Overseas Mails Office.

When it is working to full capacity, ELPCO will handle about 80,000 parcel collections and 50,000 parcel deliveries each day. It is the first of four offices which will be built in the London Postal Region under the National Parcels Plan.

Of the 27 parcel concentration offices projected under the National Parcels Plan 11 are open. They are Aberdeen, Birmingham, Cardiff, Leicester, Liverpool, Nottingham, Peterborough, Preston, Reading, Sheffield, and Southampton.

The three other offices planned for the London Postal Region will be in South London, West London and Watford. The Post Office also hopes to open a parcel concentration office in Manchester this summer. Two further offices, one in Bristol and the other in Newcastle, are planned for next year.

Book Reviews

Before the Penny Black

One can, of course, collect British adhesive postage stamps without knowing a single thing about anything that happened before 6 May 1840. To do so is rather like collecting antique firearms without the slightest knowledge of the history of warfare, hunting or duelling.

By 1840 the General Post Office had been both active and growing for some 180 years. This is the long period which is covered by R M Willcocks' new book **"The Postal History of Great Britain and Ireland"** published by the author, 1972, 80p: illustrated with hundreds of drawings £3.50. Available from:-

Vale Stamps
21 Tranquil Vale
London SE3 oBU

In essence the "Postal History" is a modern and considerably revised version of the pre-1840 section of Volume 1 of Robson Lowe's *Encyclopaedia of British Empire Postage Stamps* (which has been out of print for more than a decade). Each main section is prefaced by a concise account of the postal developments and arrangements which created the need for the handstruck markings described, fully illustrated, and priced in that section. Mr Willcocks, with the assistance of expert collaborators, has produced a listing of the general pre-1840 marking which is authoritative and clear; it is a pity that some of his revised valuations are now out of date with the very rapid growth of collector interest in the pre-1840 field.

Nevertheless this is an absolutely essential book, not only for the dedicated postal historian (who will buy, beg or borrow it anyway) but equally for the intelligent stamp collector who realises the need for a background to his 1840 adhesives and also likes to know more about the Penny Post, Paid, Ship Letter and other markings which continued in use for many years after 1840.

RR

Then and There Sir Rowland Hill and The Post Office

by Alan James

Historical reviews of the early days of the Post Office are invaluable to all collectors for both general interest and also the research background so essential to philately.

This paperback is designed for the younger stamp collector in both content and cost, as it is modestly priced at 30p. This is extremely reasonable, especially in view of the numerous illustrations, so essential to stir the interest of those new to the subject.

It is published by:-

Longman Group Ltd
Longman House
Burnt Mill
Harlow Essex CM20 2JE.

Gems from the R M Phillips Collection



V The Mallow Spoon

The attractive cover illustrated above is a particularly fine example of almost the earliest experiment leading towards modern types of cancellation. This development consisted of combining in one handstamp the cancellation and the date stamp, which meant that the postal employee would only have to make two hand movements per letter instead of the previous six. These earliest double (or “duplex”) cancelling handstamps are usually called “Spoons” for obvious reasons. There were many variants of type.

The whole experiment started in December 1853 (at Hull), and was in its heyday from 1855 to 1857; with occasional use right into the mid 1860's. The Spoon experiment was extended from England to Ireland and affected a total of 62 Post Offices, large in England, rather less important in Ireland. Most of the Irish offices used two kinds of Spoon postmarks: “English” with oval

numeral-in-bars cancellers, “Irish” with diamond-shaped cancellers. The former are mostly much scarcer.

This cover in the Phillips collection is of particular interest in several respects. Firstly it bears two fine strikes of the (first) “English” type of Spoon used at Mallow, which is regarded as almost the rarest of the Irish Spoons. Secondly, this particular example is dated 19 June 1856, only 5–6 weeks after its earliest recorded date of use. Thirdly, the cover – to Germany – is franked with two nice copies of (probably) SG 63, the thin paper medium garter watermark 4d. Most “Spoon” covers, particularly from Ireland, are Inland post covers. The circular red marking which partially masks the lower “Spoon” marking is a transit mark from Aachen (Aix la Chapelle) which reads “Aus England per Aachen” (ie from England via Aachen).

A G RIGO DE RIGHI

County Cricket 1873-1973 Stamps



Cricket enthusiasts will of course know that this year is the centenary of the foundation of the County Cricket Championship. To celebrate this, we are issuing on 16 May, a series of three stamps, values 3p, 7½p and 9p.

The stamps feature perhaps the greatest batsman of all, W G Grace. Each stamp

reproduces a caricature of him from a series of drawings "A Century of Grace" made by Harry Furniss. Dr Grace was the Gloucestershire delegate at meetings which led to the introduction in 1873 of residence qualifications for county players – in effect the start of county cricket.

The designer is Edward M Ripley who is a senior lecturer at Berkshire College of Art at Reading. These are the first stamps he has designed for the Post Office.

Printing Details

Printer : Harrison & Sons Ltd
Size : 40 × 31 mm
Perforation : 15 × 14
Number to Sheet : 100
Paper : Coated, unwatermarked phosphor

Format :
Process : Vertical
Photogravure

Date of Issue : 16 May 1973
Designer : Edward M Ripley
Colours : 3p Ochre black gold
 7½p Green black gold
 9p Blue black gold

The Philatelic Congress of Great Britain

55TH PHILATELIC CONGRESS OF GREAT BRITAIN



CITY OF LONDON DAY

30 APRIL 1973
LONDON W.C.

55TH PHILATELIC CONGRESS OF GREAT BRITAIN



C.S.P.S. 25TH
ANNIVERSARY DAY
2 MAY 1973

LONDON W.C.

55TH PHILATELIC CONGRESS OF GREAT BRITAIN



SYON HOUSE DAY

1 MAY 1973
LONDON W.C.

55TH PHILATELIC CONGRESS OF GREAT BRITAIN



GREENWICH DAY

3 MAY 1973
LONDON W.C.

55th Congress, London, 30 April – 4 May 1973

The Parliament of Philately meets in London

Collectors from all over Great Britain will gather at the Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, London WC1 for the 55th Philatelic Congress of Great Britain. Five one-day handstamps and a souvenir cover link the activities of Congress with the City of London, Rowland Hill and the Host Society, the Civil Service Philatelic Society. A temporary Post Office will be set up at the Congress Headquarters, the Bonnington Hotel. Three Papers: "Poor Relation or Poor Relations" by S V Thomas, Director of Postal Services, IOM; "On The Fringe" by Mrs. Barbara Baker and "Exhibitions" by John Hubbard, FRPSL, President of the Royal Philatelic Society, London. They contain hard hitting criticism of Collectors, the "Trade", the philatelic policy and facilities of various countries, and Exhibitions, national and international.

55TH PHILATELIC CONGRESS OF GREAT BRITAIN



CONGRESS DAY

4 MAY 1973
LONDON W.C.

Visitors are welcomed to the Business Sessions, Evening Study Circles and social events. Congress covers fully serviced, 40p per set or 8p each inclusive. Covers for self-servicing 4p each postage 3p. Cheques/PO payable to the Society. Full details and programme from:-

A Brander
18 Amberley Road
London N13 4BJ

Royal Air Force Flown Covers

Number 11 in the Royal Air Force Museum series of Squadron flown covers will be issued on 15 April to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the formation of No 230 Squadron. It will show the Felixstowe F2 Flying Boat used by the Squadron in 1917 and the present equipment, the Puma Helicopter. It will be cancelled with a special BFPS commemorative handstamp in use on 15 April and then flown on a special commemorative flight. Covers will be available on or about 12 May from:-

The Philatelic Officer
No 230 Squadron
Royal Air Force Odiham
Basingstoke
Hants

at 25p plus 3p postage.

Scout Exhibit-Philatelic Bureau Gallery - April 1973

The Philatelic Bureau, in conjunction with Scottish Headquarters of the Scout Association and the Scout Stamp Collectors' Club, will mount an exhibition of Scout material during Scout Job Week, 21-28 April 1973.

The display will commence with the postal history of the Siege of Mafeking during the Boer War in 1899/1900, and will be supplemented by patriotic curios of the type which have recently become popular after various television programmes and the increasing interest in "Victoriana".

The second section will deal with the Jubilee Jamboree stamps issued by the Post Office in 1957. This will be followed by a display on the postmark slogan - "Scouting is Adventure".

There will then be a general display of over one thousand Scout stamps issued by many countries of the world. Included will be special hand stamps issued for Scout events in Scotland and elsewhere.

The display will end with items from Tristan da Cunha which issued a stamp in 1971 showing a Scottish Scout presenting a flag to the newly formed Troop of Scouts on the Island in 1921 when Shackleton's expedition visited the Island on its way to the Antarctic.

More time for £ s d Stamps repurchase

The period during which the Post Office will buy back £sd stamps is being extended as a special service to customers.

The final date was formerly 28 February 1973, but it is now to be extended several months longer.

Special Handstamps

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

7 April 1973 (P)

Welshpool and Llanfair 10th Anniversary 7 April 1973 Welshpool Montgomeryshire. Special posting box at Llanfair Station.

7 April 1973 (P)

YHA Pennine Way Official Opening of Hawes Youth Hostel 7 April 1973 Hawes - Yorkshire. Special posting box at the Youth Hostel, Hawes.

14 April 1973 (P)

Somerset and Dorset Philatelic Exhibition 14 April 1973 Weston-Super-Mare Somerset. Special posting box at St John's Hall, The Boulevard, Weston-Super-Mare.

25 April 1973 (P)

Ralph Allen and John Palmer Postal Pioneers 25th April 1973 Bath. Special posting box at Bath Head Post Office.

30 April 1973 (P)

Health Congress RSH 30 Apr 73

- Eastbourne, Sussex.** Special posting box at Devonshire Park.
- 3 May 1973 (P)
The Post Office and Civil Service Sanatorium Society Biennial Conference 3 May 1973 Folkestone Kent. Special posting box at Leas Cliff Hall, Folkestone.
N.B. A handstamp to the same design as the above but reading **4 May 1973** will be used on 4 May 1973.
- 12 May 1973 (P)
Yorkshire Philatelic Association XXVII Convention Hull 12 May 1973. Special posting box at The Victoria Galleries, Hull.
- 14 July 1973 (P)
26th International Banking Summer School. 14 July 1973 Oxford. Special posting box at Christchurch College, Oxford.
- 25 July 1973 (P)
The Green Howards Centenary of the Regimental Association with the town of Richmond Yorkshire. 1873-1973 25 July 73 British Forces 1349 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.
- 1 May 1973 (P)
Centenary of the Death of David Livingstone 1813-1873 1 May 1973 Blantyre Glasgow. Special posting box at Livingstone Memorial, Blantyre, Glasgow.
- 6 March - 6 June 1973 (P)
South of England Show Ardingly (Sussex) June 7-8-9. To be used at Haywards Heath, Sussex.
- 12 March - 2 September 1973
Derby for Business Prosperity Further Information Tel 31111 Ext 759. To be used at Derby. This will replace the slogan, **Move to Derby and Prosper.**
- 19 March - 1 July 1973
16 July - 29 July 1973 (P)
Warwick Festival July 1973. To be used at Warwick.
- 19 March 1973 - 18 March 1974
Catch The Sun in Thanet at Broadstairs Margate Ramsgate. To be used at Thanet, Kent.
- 1 April 1973 - 30 March 1974 (One Die)
1 April - 3 December 1973 (One Die)
1 January - 30 March 1974 (One Die)
Expand in the County of Northampton. To be used at Northampton.
- 16 April - 13 May 1973 (P)
Learn to Swim for Safety Fun and Fitness. To be used at Edinburgh, Glasgow, Aberdeen, Dundee.
- 1 - 30 June 1973
Don Summers Crusade Bingley Hall June 9-30th Birmingham. To be used at Birmingham.
- 4 June - 15 July 1973 (P)
See you at the East of England Show July 17-18-19 Peterborough. To be used at Boston, Lincs; Grantham, Lincs; Peterborough; Huntingdon; Wisbeach, Cambs; Sleaford, Lincs; Market Harborough, Leics; Corby, Northants; Spalding, Lincs; Leicester; Bedford; King's Lynn, Norfolk.
- 12 February 1973 - 11 February 1974 (P)
Make Ebbw Vale Your Industrial Home. To be used at Ebbw Vale.
- 19 February - 30 April 1973
What in the World is GB? Westminster Theatre Topical Revue Book Now. To be used at ECDO; SWDO: Croydon.

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, marking the outer cover "Postmark Slogan".

- 1 March - 28 April 1973 (P)
Croydon Arts Festival 21-28 April 1973. To be used at Croydon, Surrey.

26 February – 1 September 1973

9 May-15 September 73 Chichester Festival Theatre. To be used at Chichester, Sussex.

22 April 1973 – 30 March 1974

Scarborough and Filey Lively Lovely Yorkshire Resorts. To be used at Scarborough.

Remember to Use the Postcode. Will not now be used at Oban; Kirkby Lonsdale; Lostwithiel; and Padstow.

18 February – 7 April 1973

Ascot Races Heinz Day April 7th. To be used at Ascot, Berks.

Philatelic Bulletin Back Numbers

Mr A E Westwood
11 Caldecote Gardens
Burnley Heath

Watford, Herts WD2 3RA

would like volume 2 No 8. He also has volume 4 No 10, 11 and 12 to spare.

Mr J C Morrison
31 Gilbert Road
Bucksburn

Aberdeen AB2 9AN

requires volumes 1-5 inclusive.

Trees Stamp: Preliminary Design



As well as his design shown on the 9p stamp, David Gentleman also produced another preliminary essay. It is similar in format to the issued stamp, but the tree depicted is

leafless. The two designs were considered but it was felt that an oak tree in full leaf would be more appropriate.

Special Stamps - Numbers Issued

Many collectors are interested in the number of stamps we issue for each of our special stamps. We are happy to give the figures for 1968-1971 issues.

<i>Issue and Date</i>	<i>Value</i>	<i>Net Issues</i>
Bridges	4d	97,458,120
29.4.68	9d	8,773,080
	1s 6d	9,451,400
	1s 9d	5,924,800
Anniversaries	4d	97,757,920
29.5.68	9d	9,135,240
	1s 0d	9,872,160
	1s 9d	6,217,440
Paintings	4d	185,034,000
12.8.68	1s 0d	17,953,440
	1s 6d	8,878,440
	1s 9d	5,739,000
Christmas	4d	326,078,360
25.11.68	9d	17,102,520
	1s 6d	21,344,760
Ships	5d	67,584,528
15.1.69	9d × 3	14,351,160
	1s × 2	10,784,480
Concorde	4d	91,551,720
3.3.69	9d	9,488,520
	1s 6d	9,874,560
Anniversaries	5d	82,285,680
2.4.69	9d	9,823,200
	1s 0d	10,302,360
	1s 6d	10,512,480
	1s 9d	6,155,760
Cathedrals	5d × 4	65,344,176
28.5.69	9d	11,065,920
	1s 6d	11,414,280
Prince of Wales	5d × 3	99,467,496
1.7.69	9d	13,384,380
	1s 0d	12,972,720
Gandhi	1s 6d	10,804,920
13.8.69		
Post Office	5d	72,405,720
1.10.69	9d	8,472,000
	1s 0d	10,296,120
	1s 6d	10,757,040

<i>Issue and Date</i>	<i>Value</i>	<i>Net Issues</i>
Christmas	4d	271,244,808
26.11.69	5d	139,845,600
	1s 6d	19,136,520
British Rural	5d	81,581,880
Architecture	9d	11,723,160
11.2.70	1s 0d	10,258,320
	1s 6d	8,969,280
General	5d	71,259,000
Anniversaries	9d	10,590,120
	1s 0d	10,287,840
1.4.70	1s 6d	11,388,960
	1s 9d	6,120,600
Literary	5d × 4	83,472,440
Anniversaries	1s 6d	10,913,360
5.6.70		
IXth British	5d	75,255,440
Commonwealth	1s 6d	10,909,760
Games	1s 9d	6,303,800
15.7.70		
Philypia	5d	72,211,000
18.9.70	9d	1,330,000
	1s 6d	1,203,836
Christmas	4d	360,016,216
25.11.70	5d	181,161,720
	1s 6d	22,598,520
Ulster Paintings	3p	63,214,68
16.6.71	7½p	7,868,543
	9p	5,878,989
	19½p	
Literary Anniversaries	3p	61,635,564
28.7.71	5p	9,767,700
	7½p	7,678,266
	15½p	
General Anniversaries	3p	55,211,706
25.8.71	7½p	7,026,973
	9p	5,705,637
	19½p	
Architecture	3p	57,975,114
Universities	5p	9,843,757
22.9.71	7½p	7,640,465
	9p	5,628,511
	24½p	
Christmas	2½p	339,218,365
13.10.71	3p	217,033,884
	7½p	18,777,401
	13p	

Letters to the Editor

Dear Sir,

What a wonderful article about "The Mail Coach". The pictures it conjures up of bustling despatch time at "St Martins-le-Grand" and the speeding horses crossing the country are magnificently portrayed.

It is reported that the railway brought an end to the coaching era, I beg to differ. At the "Eltham London SE9" sorting office the letter and parcel arrivals are still heralded as

"COACH UP!"

Yours sincerely

PETER MIDDLETON

Eltham, London SE9.

I have in my possession a copy of a print showing the mail coaches starting from the Post Office in Lombard Street, which was next door to the famous church of St Mary Woolnoth.

Those must have been very different days from ours, we find Arthur Young advising all travellers from Preston to Wigan "to shun the Turnpike road as they would the Devel - for a thousand to one they will break their necks or their limbs..." "The ruts", he adds, "which I actually measured, were four feet deep!" It was only in 1818 that MacAdam began his immortal work. And there was no Income Tax.

Yours faithfully,

DONALD G SAUNDERS

Brighton, Sussex.

Dear Sir,

I have been enjoying reading the *Bulletin* for many years now, and especially many of the articles that fill in much of the background of our hobby. One such is "The Mail Coach" in the February issue. The description of the coaches all leaving London at 8 pm, for their 28 provincial destinations gives a graphic picture of those times. The date of 1835 is cited, when the GPO was stated to be at St Martin's-le-Grand.

It may not be known by all your readers that for many years prior to this the GPO, (or at least a part of it) was situated at Number 11 Lombard Street EC3. It was there in 1702 and "the back portion of the premises was used as the yard of the The Old Mail Coach Office. The departure of the Mail Coaches from this yard to carry the news of the Battle of Waterloo has been very graphically described by De Quincey in his essay "The English Mail Coach". "From eight pm," he writes, "to fifteen or twenty minutes later imagine the mails assembled on parade in Lombard Street, where, at that time, and not in St Martin's-le-Grand, was seated the General Post Office".

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