

Philatelic Bulletin

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Contents

INTRODUCTION	2
FRANCIS J. FIELD, RDP	2
THE PERFORATION OF POSTAGE STAMPS - BRITAIN'S PIONEER EXPERIMENTS	3, 4, 5
ESPERANTO AND THE WORLD'S POSTAL SERVICES	5, 6
PHILATELIC WALL CHARTS	6, 7
NEW 10p STAMP—	
FIRST DAY COVER SERVICES	7
FIRST DAY SERVICE FOR BRITISH ARCHITECTURE SERIES	7
GENERAL ANNIVERSARY STAMPS	8
GENERAL ANNIVERSARIES — STAMPS BACKGROUND	
NOTES	9, 10, 11
1900th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS, YORK	
TEMPORARY PHILATELIC COUNTER	11
'AFTER THE ARROW'	11
£sd STAMPS	11
YOUNG COLLECTOR'S CORNER	12
MILITARY COVERS	12, 13
RAF MUSEUM (SC.37)	13
RAF MUSEUM (SC.17)	13
SPECIAL HANDSTAMPS	13
POSTMARK SLOGANS	13, 14
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR	14, 15

Some forty years before the introduction of this new language another innovation was evolving with Henry Archer's perforating machine. The first of two articles on this fascinating subject appears from Tony de Righi.

Full details and background information on yet another variety of subjects are contained in our notes on this year's General Anniversaries stamps so beautifully designed by Fritz Wegner. We are sure that these will be as popular as his previous designs.

Francis J. Field, RDP

In 1921 Mr. Francis J. Field, R.D.P. (Roll of Distinguished Philatelists) set up business in Sutton Coldfield as the world's first airpost specialist and on Saturday, 19 June, the British Air Mail Society of which he is Patron, gave a dinner in London to celebrate his golden jubilee.

To commemorate the event, Peter Jennings, Honorary Editor of the society magazine, *Air Mail News*, produced an extremely fine illustrated Souvenir booklet about Mr. Field, containing tributes and articles from leading personalities in the stamp world.

The Souvenir also includes a most interesting article by Mr. Field, now nearly 76, in which he describes how his interest in stamps was first aroused when he met Fred Raynham, one of the 1919 Trans-Atlantic flight contestants, who produced from his pocket a piece of envelope bearing one of the ten Newfoundland Manuscript Martinsyde stamps, made by the postmaster of St. John's, for his ill-fated flight with Morgan in the Martinsyde plane *Raymor* which crashed on take-off and caused them to abandon the flight. Mr. Field bought this stamp from a very meagre capital but had to sell it almost at once through lack of funds. Today this stamp is worth over £2,000.

PETER JENNINGS.

Introduction

We have featured over the years a wide variety of subjects and topics in the hope that by doing so we hold the interest of all our readers. We break new ground this month with an article on Esperanto and the World's Postal Services to coincide with the Esperanto Congress which is being held in London.

The Perforation of Postage Stamps—Britain's Pioneer Experiments

It is remarkable that the British public, who felt so strongly and reacted so vigorously on postal matters in Victorian times, should apparently have accepted for so long without protest the chore of laboriously separating stamps from imperforate sheets with whatever instrument came to hand.

True, one "J. B." writing from Aberdeen in August 1841, did suggest to Rowland Hill that: "if, in engraving the Postage Stamps, a deep line were cut between them, in the act of printing the paper would be so pressed into the cuts that each stamp might be readily parted from its fellows without knife or scissors". But no action was taken on this suggestion. The British Post Office did not even go part way to assisting the public as the Melbourne Post Office was to do in 1850 when the Colony of Victoria brought out its first – imperforate – stamp issue. There, above the stamp counter, hung a pair of scissors (heavily chained) for the convenience of members of the public needing to sever stamps to put on letters. And in the United States in the late 1840s several of the private Letter Carrier companies issued circular or oval stamps which were cut out – to shape – by machine from the squared paper on which they were printed. Recently Tonga and Sierra Leone have resorted to a similar separation device for the curiously shaped stamps which they issue.

But no action in this field was taken in England for over 7 years and this is even more curious when one considers that Perkins Bacon actually possessed a small machine for perforating counterfoils of cheque books. They may, however, have anticipated some of the difficulties involved in attempting to extend the principle to the separation of individual stamps in a sheet of 240.

Henry Archer

On 1 October 1847 one Henry Archer wrote to the Postmaster General proposing (for the first time) "the semi-detaching of postage stamp labels" in each sheet by machine in such a way as to make it easy to separate individual

stamps without the necessity of using scissors etc.

Henry Archer, the man, remains a somewhat shadowy figure and he has never really, outside philatelic circles, been accorded the recognition which his universally adopted invention merits.

The place and date of Henry Archer's birth is unknown, but he seems to have come over from Ireland, where he practised as a barrister, about 1824 when he started to become involved in railway development in Wales. Early in 1830 he decided to build a railway between Port Madoc and the Festiniog Quarries. Parliamentary approval was obtained in 1832, and the line opened (with horse-drawn trucks) in 1836. Archer was Manager of the line until 1856 after which he continued to serve the line as a Director. He apparently resided – or at least paid rates on a house – in London from 1850 to his death at Pau in France, on 2 March 1863. The Festiniog Railway, still in operation, has for many years issued private local carriage labels for use on letters, etc. carried on its trains.

Archer's First Machines

As for the origin of Archer's idea for separating stamps by puncturing them, there is an anecdote that one day he and a free-lance journalist named Fowler were seated together in the Red Lion tavern near Fleet Street. Fowler was getting something ready for the post; and in separating a postage stamp from part of an unperforated sheet, he used a pin to prick along the edges before tearing off the stamp. This incident, it was later claimed by Archer himself, gave him the idea of a perforating machine.

Be that as it may, Archer gave, at some length, his reasons for inventing such machine, in a "Memorial to the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury" which he had printed in May 1850. A copy of this rare and apparently hitherto unrecorded pamphlet is now in the National Postal Museum. Archer pointed out that through the necessity for tear-

ing or cutting apart of postage labels "great trouble and loss of time is thereby occasioned to those whose business entails upon them an extensive correspondence", and also to the Postmasters of the principal Receiving Houses particularly as the demand for stamps usually coincided in the period when mails were being despatched. He also remarked on the difficulty of folding sheets of stamps properly, the likelihood in tearing or removing gum from the edges of the severed stamps; and the damage caused to desks and tables used by clerks to cut stamps on with a knife. He pointed to the fact that nearly one half of letters in Britain were prepaid in cash rather than by having stamps affixed and this he claimed was "attributable chiefly to the inconvenience and objections" which he had pointed out.

Archer's proposal of October 1847 was referred by the PMG to the Presidents of the Inland and London District Post Offices who reported that "The machine (built by Archer) appears to be a very clever and useful invention. We are thoroughly convinced that postage stamps separated by it, having jagged edges, will adhere to letters far better than those cut from the sheet by knives or scissors". At the time it was not uncommon for stamps to fall off letters in transit. At the same time Archer sent specimens of the work done by this machine to Rowland Hill and to the Inland Revenue. The Rowland Hill specimens, of 1d stamps from plates 70 or 71 (see fig. 1) rouletted about $11\frac{1}{2}$, subsequently found their way on to the philatelic market. None of the rouletted stamps were issued officially by the Post Office though Archer may have given some away to his friends.

Archer's first machine (built by an engineer named Addenbrook) consisted of 2 rotary discs, each with a line of cutters, one spaced to the width and the other to the length of a stamp. It proved unsatisfactory because the spurs or cutters scored the table on which the sheets were laid. Archer then had this first machine modified (or a second machine constructed, as Archer himself states) on the

"fly-press" principle but this also scored the table, though much less. According to Sir E. D. Bacon in 1920 no copies of the roulettes produced by this second machine were known. The trials may in fact have been made on plain sheets of paper.

In the meantime the PMG had forwarded (on 22.10.1847) his experts' favourable report to the Commissioners of Stamps and Taxes at the Inland Revenue who in turn commended the idea to the Treasury in December 1847.

Archer's Third Machine

Nothing daunted by the comparative failure of the first two machines Archer, some time during 1848, hit upon the idea of a "machine for *punching* the stamps whereby the . . . objection to the carrying out of his plan was entirely removed". He told the Inland Revenue about this machine (which was probably built by Joseph Wilkinson of Southwark) on 26 November 1848 and also said that he had taken out a patent for it. This provisional patent was dated 23 November 1848, the necessary detailed specification being duly filed on 23 May 1849. It is interesting to note that the patent issued (No. 12,340 of 1848) is for "Perforating Postage Stamps, Tickets, Lables, etc". Fig. 2 shows a reduced copy of part of the drawings of Archer's machine as attached to the specifications. The machine was constructed to perforate 2 sheets of stamps side by side by means of pins (descending into corresponding holes in the base plate) arranged in such a way as to perforate 3 sides of a complete row of stamps.

This, of course, is the type of perforation known to all philatelists as "comb perf."

Archer, at the request of the Inland Revenue, sent the machine to Perkins Bacon early in December 1848 for trials. These were held early in 1849 but proved inconclusive for two reasons. One, according to Archer (but denied by Mr. J. B. Bacon of the printing firm) was the clogging of the pins by gum because it was wet on the trial sheets he was given. The second, according to Edwin Hill

(Rowland Hill's brother), was the inadequate provision for holding the sheets in register. These defects were overcome early in 1849 but later in the year there were further difficulties in getting accurate register, partly because the rows of stamp impressions had not been laid down accurately enough on the printing plates and partly because of the irregularity in the size of sheets resulting from the necessity for wetting the sheets of paper as part of the line-engraved printing process. Further modifications were made to the machine towards the end of 1849 at the suggestion of Ormond Hill and De La Rue, and early in 1850 (after it had been transferred to the Inland Revenue premises at Somerset House); and it was finally passed for service on 17 May 1850.

The gauge of the perforations made by Archer's machine was 16, which was later proved to be unsatisfactory. According to Archer some 5,000 sheets of the 1d value were perforated at Somerset House in a series of trials between 1850 and 1852 and he stated that 10 sheets of stamps were passed through the machine at a time i.e. 5 sheets one above the other in each wing. All the sheets were 1d Die I, Alphabet I. The plates used include Nos. 8 (very rare), 71, 79, 90 to 101 and 105 (figs. 3 and 4). Copies of the "Archer" trial perforations are known on cover from mid-1850 until well into 1854. The official issue of perforated stamps began on 28 January 1854, but the stamps used were all Alphabet II (the Alphabet I plates having been defaced by November 1852) so that Alphabet I stamps perforated 16, particularly used copies with dates before 28.1.1854, must be "Archer's" trials. A further minor distinction is that the vertical measurement of all Archer's combs is 23mm whereas the later 1854 combs measure 23.5mm.

(To be continued. Illustrations for both articles will appear next month.)

A. G. RIGO DE RIGHI

Esperanto and the World's Postal Services

by Leslie Wood

Most people will know that Esperanto is a language but a little background information may not be out of place for those who may know little about the subject. As a language it is a unique phenomenon in that unlike other living languages it did not evolve but was developed scientifically as the result of prolonged study of the European languages and the serious problems which their diversity created at the international level.

Its initiator, Dr. Ludwig L. Zamenhof was born of Jewish parents in Russian-occupied Poland; in addition to being a brilliant linguist he was a doctor of medicine and practised throughout his life as an eye specialist. He published his first book about the international language in 1887, in Russian, as was required by the laws of his country at that time.

Zamenhof's aim was to demolish the barrier to genuine understanding between peoples, by creating a simple, logically constructed language for international use containing none of the difficulties (irregular verbs, for instance) which make successful language learning an impossibility for most people.

The new language quickly found an enthusiastic world-wide body of adherents which has developed over the intervening years into an international cultural community linked by a common tongue and a common ideal. Esperanto has its own press and a considerable literature both original and translated; programmes in the language are regularly broadcast by about twenty radio stations and a full schedule of international holidays, conferences summer schools, etc., takes place every year in all parts of the world.

The first official recognition of Esperanto by a postal authority came in 1892 when Russia gave permission for its use in telegrams, provided a Russian translation was submitted at the time of sending. This was followed in 1906

by Brazil who likewise gave permission for its telegraphic use.

Further recognition of a different kind was made in 1913, when the Netherlands gave to employees of the PTT who could speak the International Language, permission to wear the Esperanto badge, a green five-pointed star. Also in this year, small shields appeared in certain Belgian post offices, the first in Charleroi, carrying the words *Oni parolas Esperanton* (Esperanto spoken).

After the First World War, when the Soviet regime was sympathetic towards Esperanto, various postcards and covers were produced in editions of several million, with superscriptions in both Russian and Esperanto. Another first for Russia came in 1925 when it issued the world's first postage with text in the International Language.

In 1924 at the League of Nations (the forerunner of UNO), the Persian delegation proposed a resolution recommending that Esperanto be accepted as a permitted language for international telegraphic purposes. This resolution, which was unanimously accepted on 20 November 1924, was an event of great significance for Esperanto, being the first official international acknowledgment of its existence as a living language.

In the following year the Union Telegraphique Internationale, at its world conference in Paris, followed the recommendation of the League and confirmed Esperanto as a permitted language for international telegraphic purposes, a status it has retained up to the present time.

Since 1925 when Russia issued the first Esperanto postage stamp, nearly fifty further stamps (including varieties) have appeared from nine different countries. For those who may wish to refer to them in a catalogue the complete list of countries is as follows: —

Austria	Czechoslovakia	Poland
Brazil	Hungary	Trieste
Bulgaria	Jugoslavia	USSR

Among other events these issues commemorate the 40th, 50th, 60th and 70th

anniversaries of the first publication of Esperanto and the 40th anniversary of Zamenhof's death. Three countries, Brazil, Bulgaria and of course Poland commemorated the centenary of Zamenhof's birth by the issue of stamps. The 38th World Esperanto Congress held in Zagreb and the 48th in Sofia were also marked by the issue of stamps by the host countries Yugoslavia and Bulgaria respectively.

This year the United Kingdom is host country to the World Congress which will be held in University College, London under the patronage of the Lord Mayor of London, Sir Peter Studd. It will last from 31 July to 7 August and the opening ceremony will take place in the Royal Festival Hall in the presence of numerous representatives from foreign governments and international organisations. Between two and three thousand Esperanto speakers from about 40 countries will take part in a very full programme of activities. These will include film and theatre productions, song recitals, competitions for literature and oratory and a summer school, in addition to the business meetings of the Universal Esperanto Association and a varied programme of excursions and social gatherings.

To mark the event a special handstamp will be in use daily throughout the congress.

Now, just to prove that you are better at languages than you thought, try your hand at this sample of Esperanto. "La simpla solvo de la Eŭropa lingva problemo estas la adopto por internacia komunikado de la politike kaj kulture neŭtrala lingvo Esperanto".

Philatelic Wall Charts

The amount of interest aroused by our Mayflower and Charles Dickens stamps last year, prompted us to issue the first wall charts (*Philatelic Bulletin*, Oct. 1970). These have proved so popular that our stocks are almost exhausted and it gives us pleasure to know that this new venture of ours has proved successful.

We have been sufficiently encouraged to continue the series and later this year we will issue another of the same size which will bear the 1971 Christmas stamps and will show a stained glass design. They will obviously be sought after as ideal presents for Christmas and we will let you have further details nearer the day.

New 10p Stamp — First Day Cover Services

We have decided that the 10p stamp shall be included in the low value range and in future it will be produced by photogravure. The stamp will be orange and the same size and appearance as other current low value definitives.

The stamp will be put on sale on 11 August 1971 only from the offices which have philatelic posting boxes — distribution to other offices will be made later.

The Bureau will offer its first day cover services for the new stamp at the following prices:

Service A	
Deposit Account Customers	18½p
Non Deposit Account Customers	21p
Service B	15p

A choice of postmarks will be available — either Edinburgh or Windsor, Berks.

Specially designed covers price 3½p each and application forms for Bureau services will be available from philatelic posting box offices which will be open to receive customers own serviced covers on 11 August 1971.

First Day Service for British Architecture Series

The British Architecture series continues on 22 September with the issue of a set of stamps depicting Modern University Buildings. The stamps — 3p, 5p, 7½p and 9p — will be cancelled with the Philatelic Bureau handstamp.

The Bureau will provide the full First Day Cover services at the following charges:

Service A Deposit Account holders	33p
Non Deposit Account holders	35½p

Service B	29½p
Service C	33p

Philatelic posting boxes at over 170 offices throughout the United Kingdom will be opened for the use of those collectors who prepare and post their own covers.

In addition special pictorial cancellations will be offered as follows:

Stamp	Cancellation	Service A		Service B
		Deposit Account	Non Deposit Account	
Aberystwyth Univ. College 3p	Aberystwyth	11½p	14p	8p
University of Southampton 5p	Southampton	13½p	16p	10p
University of Leicester 7½p	Leicester	16p	18½p	12½p
University of Essex 9p	Colchester	17½p	20p	14p

The respective stamp will be affixed to these covers and all applications should be sent to the Bureau.

As the 3p stamp is sufficient to prepay over-

seas postage only to Commonwealth Countries we will not service covers bearing the Aberystwyth University College stamp only for other overseas addresses.

General Anniversary Stamps



It could not have been easy to create an integrated set of stamps showing such widely different subjects as the 50th Anniversary of the British Legion, the 1900th Anniversary of the City of York and the 100th Anniversary of the Rugby Football Union. Fritz Wegner who will be remembered for his Christmas 1969 and three of the 1970 Anniversaries stamps has succeeded brilliantly with the set to be issued on 25 August 1971.

The 3p stamp which commemorates the 50th Anniversary of the British Legion shows representatives of the three fighting services and the Nursing Associations. The famous Flanders poppy is shown beneath the Queen's head. The 7½p City of York stamp shows a Roman on his charger and the Arms of the City. The Rugby Football Union 9p stamp

shows a representation of an 1871 Rugby scene adjacent to the emblem of the Union.

Presentation packs price 24½p will be on sale from the Bureau and all Head Offices.

Printing Details

Printer: Harrison & Sons

Size: 41 × 30 mm

Paper: Coated, unwatermarked, phosphor-lined.

Perforation: 15 × 14

Stamps per sheet: 100

Colours: 3p Black, blue, brown, grey, orange, red, green, dark blue.

7½p Black, grey, red, mauve, silver, mustard, brown, gold.

9p Olive green, red, black, blue, brown, yellow.

Machines: Sheet fed rotary.

General Anniversaries Stamps — Background notes

Royal British Legion: 1921-1971

This year (1 July) marks the 50th anniversary of the British Legion now honoured with the title of Royal British Legion. In 1918 there was little provision for the ex-servicemen returning from the Great War: most found a Britain very unlike the land fit for heroes they had been promised. The British Legion helped them through the grim days of the depression and lobbied ceaselessly to improve pension and employment conditions and many of the social services as we know them today are the result of the Legion's early pioneering work.

The British Legion has woven itself into the community life of our cities, towns and villages and it is as strong today, in this its Jubilee Year, as at any time in its history.

Even today there are well over 100,000 men and women who are drawing pensions as the result of disabilities arising from World War One. In addition there are nearly 400,000 pensioners, including 109,000 widows from the Second World War. They are the Legion's responsibility, as well as the countless thousands who at any time can turn to the Legion for help or advice. Since its inception 50 years ago this year the Legion has expended by way of relief over £43 million. The Legion relies solely on the public's generosity during the Poppy Appeal. Unlike other charities this is the Legion's only way of raising money. It remains essential that each year the Poppy Day Appeal should raise not less than £1,500,000. Only 5p in every pound goes on administration and everything collected is spent before the end of the next twelve months.

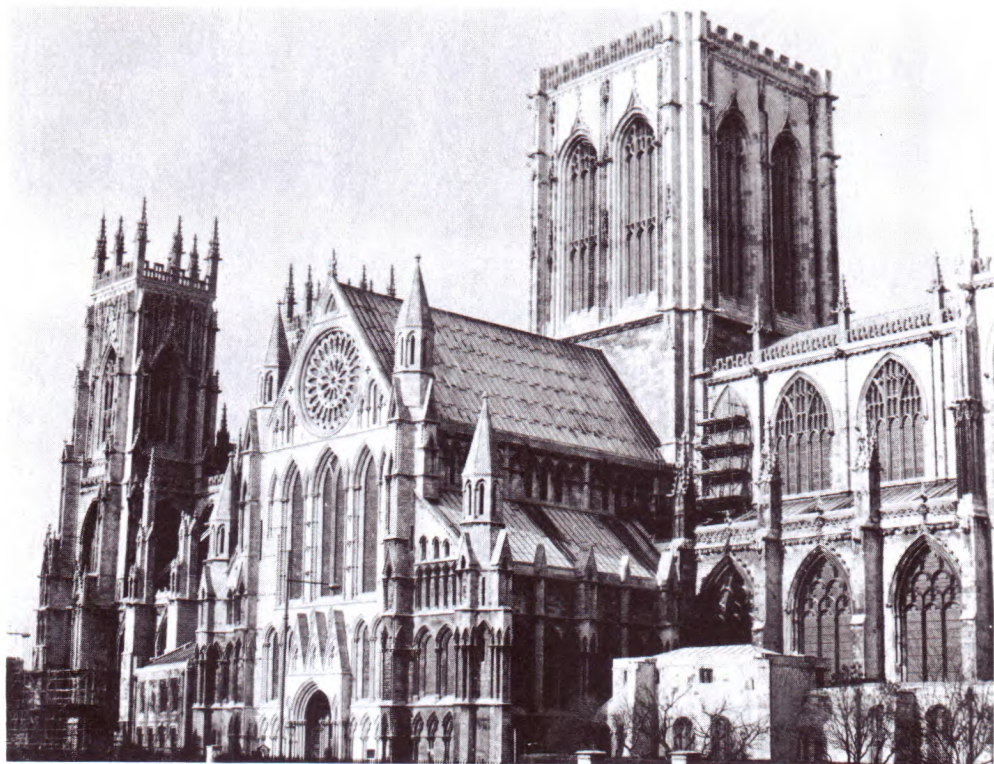
The Legion has over 4,000 Service Committees throughout the United Kingdom. These constitute a network of service which no other voluntary organisation can match. It is entirely non-selective in granting aid. In fact 8 out of 10 people who are helped are not

even members of the Legion.

Essentially it is a practical organisation. It provides employment under sheltered conditions for disabled ex-servicemen — often on machines specially adapted for their particular disablement at the Poppy Factory, the Cambrian Tweed Factory in Wales and the thriving industries attached to the British Legion Village in Kent. The Legion claims to be the largest private employer of disabled labour in this country.

An important aspect of the Legion's work is the way it looks after the interests of the war disabled and war widows. In addition to securing increases in the basic rate paid to all pensioners, the Legion is still successfully conducting appeals for the payment of pensions for those who suffered injuries in World War One. Every year thousands of pension cases are handled by the British Legion with representation to an Appeals Tribunal if necessary. The Legion is the champion of those whose pensions are in danger of being "chopped" by the State and who for one reason or another may not be sufficiently articulate to fight their own battles.

The President of the British Legion is General Sir Charles Jones, who is also Military Governor of the Royal Hospital, Chelsea. He is the first of Earl Haig's successors who was too young for the first World War. Sir Charles is particularly anxious to dispel the misconception that the British Legion confines itself to helping only those who served in the two World Wars. He comments: "We are equally concerned with the welfare of every soldier, sailor and airman and all ex-members of the women's forces irrespective of the time and place of their service. The Legion exists as much for tomorrow as today and the well being of an ex-serviceman from Belfast is no less important to us than the provision of a pension for a casualty at Paschendale. We must demonstrate the vast welfare programme that the Legion carries out in order to fill the gap between what the State can provide and the needy ex-serviceman must have."



York Minster

The 1900th Anniversary of the Founding of the City of York

It is recorded that in A.D. 71 the military governor of Roman Britain, Quintus Petilius Cerealis brought the ninth legion north and built a fortress on the north east bank of the River Ouse. From this fortress grew the great Roman city of Eboracum.

There are few cities that can boast a past like this. It is difficult to realise as you walk about modern York that beneath your feet lie the Roman camp and city. Excavations anywhere would almost certainly uncover the foundations of some Roman building.

The compactness of history is perhaps the greatest attribute of York. Most points of

interest are within walking distance of the magnificent Minster. The city walls with four "Bar" gates can be seen almost intact in their original state. Historic buildings are too numerous to mention, they range from the multangular tower of about A.D. 300; the remains of a Norman house in Stonegate which contains 77 of the 990 scheduled buildings in the city, to the Merchant Taylors and Merchant Adventurers Halls of the Middle Ages. Whilst these monuments of history remain the people of the times are remembered through them. Emperors Severus and Cerealis, King Edwin, Archbishop de Grey, Edward IV whose coronation was in the Minster, to name but a few.

The Anniversary celebrations in York commenced with a special ceremony at midnight on New Year's Eve. A vast variety of activities will be taking place throughout the year. The highlight of the year being the reception of the Queen and Duke of Edinburgh at the traditional sovereign's entrance at Micklegate Bar.

The Post Office is playing a large part in the York celebrations. The commemorative stamp for the founding of the City of York and the six special handstamps will be popular with visitors and philatelists.

Rugby Union Football

Rugby Football is based on the game played at Rugby School in the days when football was not organised and various schools played to their own rules. The story of how the Rugby game originated is well known and widely accepted but it is definitely not accurate and possibly almost apocryphal.

The story is that in 1823 a boy named William Webb Ellis disregarded the rules of that time by handling the ball and that handling was subsequently made legal. In fact handling the ball by catching it was allowed at Rugby before 1823, so if Ellis was responsible for an innovation it was not by handling the ball, but by running with it after catching it. Running with the ball certainly became and remains a leading feature of Rugby Football, but the story that Ellis was responsible, then commemorated by a plaque at the school, was first heard years after Ellis's death, and he never knew of the fame that became his. He was definitely at Rugby at the time though.

The spread of the game beyond the school that originated it has led to, not one, but two games of Rugby Football – Rugby Union and Rugby League. About 25 years after the game had become organised, with the Rugby Union as its governing body, there was a dispute on the question of legalising payment for time lost from work by players. The Union would not agree to this so 22 clubs, mainly in Yorkshire seceded and formed the Northern Union, now the Rugby League.

In addition to Britain both forms of Rugby are played in France, New Zealand and Australia and Rugby Union is played in South Africa.

Rugby Union is entirely an amateur game and Rugby League primarily so, though there is a top layer of clubs using part-time professionals.

1900th Anniversary Celebrations, York Temporary Philatelic Counter

A temporary philatelic counter was opened in Coney Street, York, on 30 June by the York Gala Queen. The counter is expected to remain open until the end of October, staffed by specially trained officers from York Head Post Office.

The hours of business are:

Monday	13.00–16.15
Tuesday	10.00–16.15
Wednesday	10.00–12.30
Thursday	10.00–16.15
Friday	10.00–16.15
Saturday	10.00–15.00

The full range of philatelic items is on sale and this facility is supported by an interesting and colourful display, including models of postmen through the ages and of a mailcoach, first day covers over the past 4 years, and large reproduction of the special handstamp designs to be used this year in connection with the celebrations.

'After the Arrow'

The Post Office philatelic film *After the Arrow* is on the ABC circuit with *Get Carter* not *Tales of Beatrix Potter* as published in the June *Bulletin*.

£sd Stamps

All £sd stamps and "to pay" labels will be withdrawn from sale at the Bureau and philatelic counters on 24 November 1971.

Young Collector's Corner

As you are reading the *Philatelic Bulletin* it is obvious that you have an interest in stamp collecting. As this column is headed "Young Collector's Corner", you may well be just such a collector.

Being holiday time, I wonder whether I might ask a favour of readers. Namely to spare a few moments to write to tell me how you became interested in stamp collecting. What was responsible for you catching the bug? And having started this interest, has this sparked off a new wave of enthusiasm with your parents, and are they now collecting?

If you can find time to write to The Editor, marking your letter "Young Collector's Corner", this will be of great benefit. Can you also mention your age please when you write.

A few weeks ago a number of members of the stamp trade met at a hotel in Surrey to discuss ways in which stamp collecting can be promoted. There was some discussion as to whether young people are as keen on stamp collecting as their parents were.

Personally I feel most youngsters do enjoy collecting stamps, but too few older collectors seem prepared to stimulate the interest. The process of merely accumulating stamps soon loses its appeal. Other activities can frequently provoke more enthusiasm from parents and teachers. And yet we all know that there is much of interest to be found in even a single stamp.

In recent months this column has recorded ideas used by various philatelic societies to aid the young collector. I know of one society which designates one of its older members to look after the junior membership, obviously helping solve their queries, and promoting the interest.

Other societies invite the young members to entertain the other members for an evening. Far from being shy, most young collectors are only too ready to give a display, and frequently do put their audience to shame.

In general, stamp collectors are a passive lot.

It is in everyone's interest to encourage the young collector.

Military Covers

National Army Museum

The August issue consists of 3 covers, details as follows:-

Group 4 No. 9.

Battle of Minden, for issue on 1 August - Minden Day.

Group 3 No. 9.

Marquess of Granby for issue on 1 August.

Group 2 No. 9.

Commemorating the Queens Regiment Uniform Exhibition, Kingston-on-Thames on 2 August. Covers, costing 25p each are available from:

The Philatelic Officer,
National Army Museum,
Duke of Yorks HQ,
Kings Road,
LONDON SW3 4RX

Royal School of Military Engineering - Open Day

A special cover was produced to celebrate the Open Day of the Royal School of Military Engineering held on 31 July 1971. Fully Serviced Covers, cancelled with British Forces Postal Service 1177 Handstamp at a cost of 25p each, are available from:

The Philatelic Officer,
HQ RSME
Chatham,
KENT.

Royal Air Force - Flown Covers

Two further covers in the RAF Museum Series will be issued as follows:

25 August, from the Philatelic Officer, RAF Fylingdales, Pickering, Yorks., at 25p each commemorating 70th Anniversary Royal Aero Club.

9 September, from the Philatelic Officer, RAF Hendon, London NW9 5JA, at 25p each, commemorating 60th Anniversary First UK Aerial Post.

To commemorate 15 years of operational

service by 280 Signals Unit RAF at Cape Gata, Cyprus, the Philatelic Officer will issue a commemorative cover for cancellation by a special BFPS handstamp from Akrotiri, BFPO 53. Fully serviced covers will be available on application at 25p each.

(It is regretted that the cost of the cover for 60th Anniversary First International Long Distance Air Race was incorrectly shown in the June issue as 25p. This should have been 40p.)

RAF Museum (SC.37)

On 25 August, this cover, depicting the HP Halifax will be issued. It will commemorate the BMEW's operation and the 70th Anniversary of the Royal Aero Club. A special British Forces Postal Services No. 1170 handstamp will be used to cancel the British Legion commemorative stamp which will be issued on that day. The covers will be flown over the North Pole to Alaska in a USAF aircraft and should be available, suitably cacheted, in mid September. They will cost 25p each and orders with remittance should be sent to:

The Philatelic Officer,
RAF Fylingdales,
Pickering,
Yorks.

RAF Museum (SC.17)

This cover will be issued on 7 August to celebrate NATO Air Day 1971. A "Bristol Bulldog" aircraft of 19 Squadron will be depicted on the covers, all of which will be flown in a Hawker Hunter aircraft on a practice ground attack mission. A special British Forces Post Office No. 1169 will be used to cancel the stamp consisting of a 4d Alcock & Brown plus definitive.

Covers cost 25p each and will be available mid-August. Orders with remittance should be sent to:

Philatelic Officer,
RAF Chivenor,
Barnstaple,
Devon.

Special Handstamps

21 August 1971. **Third Redbridge Carnival 21 August 1971 Ilford Essex.** Special posting box at Melbourne Field, Valentines Park, Cranbrook Road, Ilford, Essex.

21 October 1971. **Neath v Barbarians Centenary Match 21 October 1971 Neath Glam.** Special Posting box at Neath RFC Playing Field.

9 August 1971. **280 Signals Unit RAF. 15th Anniversary 9 Aug 71 Cyprus British Forces 1178 Postal Service.** Items for re-posting to: The Philatelic Officer, 280 Signals Unit, RAF Akrotiri, BFPO 53.

7 August 1971. **779 4th Annual Stamp Exhibition 7 August 1971 Minehead Somerset.** Special posting box at the Welling-ton Hotel, Minehead, Somerset.

Postmark Slogans

Tenovus Fight Cancer Tenovus Charities Cardiff. To be used at Cardiff until 14 March 1972.

British Diabetic Asscn. 50th year of insulin in Diabetic Research. Defeat Diabetes in 1971 will be re-used at the following offices:

Glasgow, Aberdeen, 2-28 August 1971; Dun-dee, Edinburgh and Perth 2-28 August 1971; Northampton 15 August-11 September 1971.

Stevenage says Act wide awake for Road Safety's Sake. To be used at Stevenage, 16-31 August 1971.

Newbury Historic Market Town, to be used at Newbury 19 July-16 October 1971.

Come Wednesday Shopping in Kingston To be used at Kingston-Upon-Thames, 30 August-27 November 1971.

Make Friends with a Deaf Child to be re-used at Nottingham and Leicester, 4-31 December 1971.

Second City Golf Sutton Coldfield Golf Club 24-25 August 1971 Golf at its best was used at Sutton Coldfield from 21 June-4 July and not from 7-22 June as previously announced.

Remember to use the Postcode To be used at Llanelli, Carmrs. 4 July-4 August

Orsett show first Saturday in September will be used at Grays in addition to Romford as previously announced.

Internal Waterways Association National Rally of Boats August 13, 14, 15, 16, 1971 Beckett's Park Northampton should read **Inland Waterways.**

Part of Manchester Serves British Industry To be used at Manchester up to 7 June 1972.

Darlington Town of the North To be used at Darlington. 16 June 1971-15 June 1972.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Sir,

I would like to comment on the present trend in stamp issues in this country. It now seems that as a matter of course we shall have, every year, a set of architecture stamps, (of limited interest to many people), anniversary stamps, (where *do* they think up all those anniversaries?), literary anniversaries, (probably of less public interest than architecture), paintings, (which cannot be done justice on a piece of paper 40mm X 30mm), and Christmas, (which is the only issue which I think justifies an annual issue).

My favourite issues of recent years are the birds of 1966 and the flowers of 1967. These two issues are also popular with anybody who looks through my collection. Why not continue with an annual issue of natural history subjects, particularly as conservation is now such an important problem? There is plenty of scope, too, for there are many more birds and flowers, besides fish and other sea creatures, butterflies and moths, mammals large and small, reptiles and insects galore.

Then why not a series on transport history, or postal history, costumes through the ages, the list of possibilities is endless; I feel that we must get out of the rut, and I wonder if any fellow philatelists agree.

Finally, I am sure the Post Office will not forget the Queen's Silver Wedding in November next year, and I hope they will produce a set as beautiful as that for King George VI's anniversary.

Yours faithfully
R. Downs

Brundall, Norwich

Dear Sir,

It was of great interest to read of the Elliot covers. (*Bulletin* Jan 1971) It confirms a story told in the family that the Post Office prevented my great grandfather from selling his card and envelope and the single copy of each we now possess have suddenly become of great family interest and not just a scrap of paper from the past.

It is a wonder that they have survived the ravages of time.

Thanking you
Yours faithfully
William Rose

Northolt, Middx.

Dear Sir,

I am writing to ask you if you could kindly mention in the *Bulletin* that I am trying to form a study group devoted to the study of the New Decimal Stamp Booklets, and I would be pleased to hear from other collectors who have a similar interest.

Since their introduction, there has been reports of both major and minor varieties and I feel that these booklets will in themselves offer a good field for study. If any interested collectors care to write to me I shall be pleased to forward them fuller details on the proposed group.

Trusting you can oblige on this, I remain,
Yours sincerely
N. A. Emms

89 St. Edmunds Road,
Stowmarket,
Suffolk
IP14 1NZ.

Dear Sir,

I was interested in the article on detecting watermarks by pencil rubbing on a piece of ungrained paper. Unfortunately the writer does not say where this can be obtained.

All machine made paper has a definite grain, resulting from the orientation of the fibres in the machine direction at the slice and the draw pull between the individual sections of the fourdrinier and machine glazed paper machines.

Even hand made paper is not entirely free from grain due to the directional motions of the mould in the hands of the skilful operator.

Paper made on a laboratory standard sheet machine is said not to have a grain direction, this is accounted for by the standard conditions, no directional movements and the vertical drainage from the apparatus.

To get the benefit from a very good article I feel not enough information was forthcoming.

Yours faithfully
A. Holt

Bromley Cross, Bolton, Lancashire

Dear Sir,

The Travelling Post Offices

I read your article on the above in the April issue but think you have omitted one accident to the Irish Mail – the last and most tragic.

I was staying at Llandudno with my family when it happened one Sunday morning in August 20 or 21 years ago. The place was the eastern end of Penmaenmawr station and if my memory serves me correctly was caused by a small engine for some unaccountable reason standing in the track of the Irish Mail.

We went to see the wreckage next day – the coaches lying on their sides but I forget what the damage was in terms of human lives.

Yours sincerely
S. T. Milner

Birstwith, Harrogate

Dear Sir,

On behalf of the Philatelic Music Circle may I thank you for the article which you published in your January issue. The postal strike intervened and prevented many enquiries from reaching us at the time.

I am delighted to report, however, that up to March 31st our Secretary has had 68 enquiries resulting from the article and of these no less than 32 have joined the Philatelic Music Circle. There may well be more to follow.

Obviously the *Philatelic Bulletin* is widely read both in this country and overseas.

Wishing more power to your editorial elbow,

Gratefully yours
S. Peat

Dear Sir,

In connection with Mr Richard L. King's letter in April's *Bulletin* I want to tell you that Petroleum-Ether can be obtained freely from any chemist's in this country. I have used the substance for years, and I have never seen it cause any damage to the stamps.

But – it is highly inflammable, and its gas is explosive, so one should be very careful not to use it near open fire. And it is so evaporative that it will vanish even from a vial with a rubber stopper. Therefore it should be bought in small quantities.

Yours sincerely
E. Gronning

Stavern, Norway

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