

Philatelic Bulletin



Volume 4: Number 4 December 1966



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		In addition to these special stamps, Mr. Short said that next year he would issue the 4d denomination of a new definitive series.

Introduction

Now that the Bureau is in Edinburgh we think that our article on the history of the Edinburgh Head Post Office will be of interest. We will continue our 'Oldest Post Office' feature next month.

A further article on the National Postal Museum is printed and we hope to have a regular series on this fascinating new venture.

The dates of issue and denominations of next year's special issues are given. We shall, of course, give full particulars of the designs etc. in due course.

Edinburgh Head Post Office

It may come as a surprise to learn that the beginning of the public postal service in Scotland dates back only to the seventeenth century. At first it was limited to the route from Edinburgh to Berwick to link up with the road to London. At that time twin parliaments sat in Edinburgh and London and the Post was designed mainly to carry despatches to and from the Court. Before that time private persons and Burgh Councils had to arrange their own messengers as required.

After the restoration of Charles II, Posts were extended to Inverness and Aberdeen, but it was not until the end of the seventeenth century that the 'General Postmaster' was appointed by the Scottish Parliament 'to set up a General Post Office at Edinburgh and to establish Posts over all the Kingdom at places most convenient'.

For many years thereafter the chief officer of the Post Office in Scotland was a Deputy Postmaster General with direct control of the Edinburgh Office, known as the 'letter office', and general control of the service and the 'deputies' at the Post Towns.

By 1707 the number of Post routes and Post Towns had been increased yet there were still not many more than thirty in the whole country.

All mail was carried by 'runners' who travelled on foot all the way to their destinations. The poor condition of the roads, where they existed at all, made travelling slow and difficult.

In the following fifty years more offices were opened and by 1773 there were over a hundred Post Towns. Three years later the first regular mail coach ran between Edinburgh and Berwick on the London road. Many more mail coaches were to run in Scotland but they had to await the building of bridges over the rivers.

In Edinburgh there was no arrangement for uplifting and delivering local letters, nor for taking letters to the posting point, until, in 1773, an enterprising person by the name of Peter Williamson, who, after an adventurous life, had settled in the city, started such a service for a fee of one penny. Williamson also started an Edinburgh Directory and in the 1774 edition announced his Penny Post, covering Edinburgh and Leith with hourly deliveries during the day.

He maintained his letter-carrying service with success for almost twenty years until, on 5th July 1793, an Official Penny Post superseded it and he was granted a pension of £25 a year to compensate for his lost earnings.

All this time and until well into the nineteenth century the Post Office's charges for carrying letters varied according to the number of sheets, the weight and the distance to be carried.

People did not as a rule move far from their native place and literacy was not high. Hence the bulk of paid correspondence consisted of professional and business letters and the increase in Post Office business was slow.

Business increased as the country began to recover from the effects of the Napoleonic Wars, but rates of postage remained high and complaints were frequent. A specially bitter complaint was that Members of Parliament and others who had been allowed the privilege of posting letters free on 'franking' them with their name had been abusing the privilege by giving franked letter sheets to their friends — or selling them. Huge numbers of letters passed through the Post free in this way. There then began a prolonged agitation against this privilege accompanied by much propaganda in favour of reducing the inland postage rate

to a uniform penny per letter regardless of the distance it was carried. Several years were to pass before this was agreed and penny postage became an actuality on 10th January 1840.

The old Edinburgh Post Office served for many years but the rapid growth of business after the introduction of penny postage in 1840 made necessary an early move to larger premises. Accordingly authority was given to purchase the present site on which the old Theatre Royal was then standing. On 23rd October 1861 the foundation stone was laid by the Prince Consort in the presence of 'a large and fashionable audience'.

Prince Albert took a personal interest in the design of the building and it was on his suggestion that sculptured stone vases were added to the facade. At the opening of the building in May 1866, there was little ceremony but the public were admitted to view the new offices. Such was the interest aroused that the original plan to admit viewers by 'ticket only' had to be abandoned and all interested persons were free to enter. From a letter in 'The Scotsman' of 7th May 1866, we learn that on the eve of the transfer of business the entire sorting office and letter carrying staff comprising 220 officers were lined up at the old building and marched briskly down to the new one. They imagined

View of North Bridge and G.P.O. building 60 years ago



that they were to be told about their places in the new office and their duties for the next day, but were surprised to find themselves, without further instructions, lined up round the walls of the office under the curious gaze of the passers-by. This they endured with some discomfort for about twenty minutes before they broke ranks still unaware of the reason for their parade.

When laying the foundation stone of the present premises, Prince Albert described the building as 'tending to improve and embellish a city already remarkable for its beauty', but as the decades passed the soot and grime of 'Auld

Reekie' combined to darken the stonework to a dull leaden grey.

In this centenary year all the external stonework has been carefully renovated and the citizens of Edinburgh can again see the building as it was a century ago. The new Public Office has been reconstructed in keeping with the modern and forward-looking policies of the twentieth-century Post Office.

It is to this historic yet modern setting that the work of the Philatelic Bureau has now been transferred.

View of G.P.O. building today



Postmark Slogans

'See You at Bridlington' will be used at Bridlington from 5th December 1966 to 3rd December 1967 in the transposed position. Covers should be sent under cover to the Head Postmaster Bridlington.

Specimen not available

'Bridport and West Bay the holdiday with a difference' has been in use in the transposed position at Bridport and West Bay since 16th November 1966 and will continue in use until 15th November 1967. Covers for reposting should be sent to the Head Postmaster, Bridport.

Specimen not available

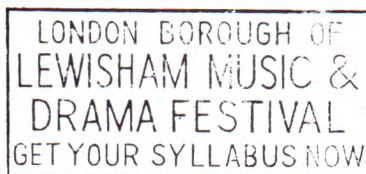
Re-use of the slogan 'Buxton welcomes new industries' has been in use in the transposed position at Buxton since 1st October 1966 and will continue in use until 26th December 1966. Covers to Head Postmaster Buxton for reposting.

Specimen not available

'Buxton send for guide' has been in use in the transposed position at Buxton since 27th December 1965 and will continue in use until 14th April 1967. Covers for reposting to Head Postmaster Buxton.

Specimen not available

'London Borough of Lewisham Music and Drama Festival get your syllabus now' will be in use in the transposed position at Catford Post Office from 1st December 1966 until 31st March 1967. Covers for reposting to Postmaster, Catford.



'Holiday at Dunoon' has been in use in the transposed position at Dunoon, Argyll since the 1st October 1966 and will continue in use until 30th September 1967. Covers for reposting to Head Postmaster, Dunoon.

Specimen not available

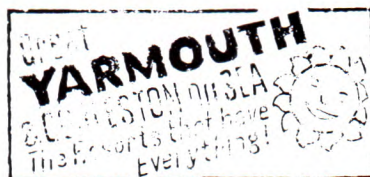
'Exmouth Devon sea sands scenery colour guide' (P.O. 15 Room A Information Bureau) will be in use in the transposed position at Exmouth from 1st December 1966 and will continue in use until 30th November 1967. Covers for reposting to Head Postmaster, Exmouth.

Specimen not available

Use of the slogan 'Filey for your next holiday send to Council Offices for guide' in the transposed position at Filey has been extended until 3rd December 1967. Covers to Head Postmaster, Filey for reposting.

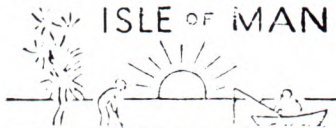
Specimen not available

'Great Yarmouth and Gorleston-on-Sea the resorts that have everything' will be in use at Great Yarmouth in the transposed position from 1st December 1966 to 11th December 1966. Covers for reposting to the Head Postmaster, Great Yarmouth.



At Douglas and Ramsey the slogan 'For happy retirement Isle of Man' will continue in use until 25th December 1966 in the transposed position at Douglas.

FOR HAPPY RETIREMENT
ISLE OF MAN



'Jersey for a happy Springtime holiday' will be in use from 1st January 1967 to 31st March 1967.



'Jersey for sunny Summer holidays' will be in use from 1st April 1967 to 30th June 1967.



'Jersey for sunny Autumn holidays' will be in use from 1st July 1967 to 30th September 1967.



'Jersey for sunshine in the Winter' will be in use from 1st October 1967 to 31st October 1967.

All dies will be in the transposed position and will be used at the Jersey H.P.O. Covers for reposting to the Head Postmaster, Jersey.



Slogan 'Kelso Races' now in use until 10th December 1966 will be re-used in the transposed position from the 13th February 1967 until 4th March 1967 at Kelso. Covers for reposting to the Head Postmaster, Kelso.

Specimen not available

'Llanelli for Industrial Expansion — Grants available' will continue in use at Llanelli in the transposed position until 20th June 1967. Covers for reposting to the Head Postmaster, Llanelli.

Specimen not available

'Europe's finest beaches, Newquay — By road, rail and sea' in use in the transposed position at Newquay will continue in use until 14th July 1967. Covers for reposting to the Head Postmaster, Newquay.

Specimen not available

'Paignton Devon's golden playground' will continue in use until the 7th December 1966 and will then be replaced by '1967 — June 10th — September 23rd. Black and White Minstrels at Paignton' from the 8th December 1966 until 23rd August 1967. Both dies will be in the transposed position and will be in use at Paignton H.P.O. Covers for reposting to the Head Postmaster, Paignton.

Specimen not available

'Royal Rothesay the Island Resort', will continue in use in the transposed position at Rothesay until 28th February 1967. Covers for repostings to the Head Postmaster, Rothesay.



'For work and play, Scarborough, sites and labour available for light industry' will continue in use until 7th December 1967 in the transposed position at Scarborough. Covers for reposting to the Head Postmaster, Scarborough.



'Conference City Sheffield City of Steel', be in use in the transposed position at Sheffield from 1st January 1967 until 31st March 1967. Covers for reposting to the Head Postmaster, Sheffield.

Specimen not available

'Skegness is so bracing Lincolnshire's famous playground Guide 1s Room P.5., Town Hall', will be in use from 1st December 1966 until 8th July 1967 in the transposed position at Skegness. Covers for reposting to the Head Postmaster, Skegness.

Specimen not available

'South Molton the centre of North Devon' will continue in use at South Molton in the transposed position until 20th January 1967. Covers for reposting to the Head Postmaster, South Molton.



'Roker and Seaburn Sunderland's twin resorts' will be in use in the transposed position from 1st April 1967 until 31st July 1967 at Sunderland H.P.O. Covers for reposting to the Head Postmaster, Sunderland.

Specimen not available

'Visit historic Warwick in the heart of England' will be in use in the transposed position at Leamington from 16th April 1967 until 16th July 1967. Covers for reposting to the Head Postmaster, Leamington.

Specimen not available

'Relax at sunny Weymouth' will be in use in the transposed position at Weymouth from 12th December 1966 until 11th June 1967. Covers for reposting to the Head Postmaster, Weymouth.

Specimen not available

Pillar Box in Kuwait

Our readers will be interested in the photograph of a British pillar box without the Royal Cypher which is in use in Ahmadi, Kuwait.



Another item to reach us from a large oil company in Kuwait is a copy of their postmark which they use on replies to their employees' children who write to Father Christmas. The letters are delivered by the company's mail service which makes house deliveries on behalf of the State Postal Service.



The Philatelic Bureau
of the G.P.O.
would like to take
this opportunity to
wish the readers of
Philatelic Bulletin

**A
HAPPY XMAS
AND
A PROSPEROUS
NEW YEAR**

National Postal Museum

Notes :

PHILATELIC VICTORIANA

Criticism of stamp designs is no new thing as a perusal of The Times correspondence columns of 1840 shows. 'An Engraver and Printer' on 2nd May 1840 did not draw his punches — 'Look, Sir, at the adhesive stamp; it is a libel upon the fair countenance of our Queen — who would be surprised were Prince Albert to indict the perpetrators of so vile an offence on his Royal Consort'. A subscriber ironically opined that 'Her Majesty's Whig Ministers have displayed their usual good taste and sound judgement by the selection they have made — Have you, Sir, seen the production, the extraordinary production of these gifted Whigs! If not pray cast an eye on the two specimens sent herewith, and say if ever such disgraceful productions have been issued even from the renowned Catnach Press — and say whether both are not as dirty looking as these dirty Ministers themselves.'

These samples of politically biased invective are typical of many which The Thunderer printed in 1840 in criticism of the world's first adhesive postage stamps.

Victoriana, whether one collects cut-glass, old furniture or stamps is now vogue. The 'with it' fashion. Be that as it may, the classic stamps of the 19th century, their history, development and the care which went into their making is a rewarding study of timeless significance.



Nowhere is this unique 19th century British achievement more adequately documented and exemplified than in the National Postal Museum which makes available to the public the splendid collection of 19th century British postage stamps built up over the years by Mr Reginald M. Phillips of Brighton. This collection, together with that of the Post Office which is beyond compare, was presented by Mr Phillips to the Post Office in trust for the Nation and around it the National Postal Museum is being developed.

The Museum, at London's Chief Post Office, King Edward Street, EC1, (near St Paul's Tube station) has already had over 10,000 visitors since it was opened by the Postmaster General on 12th September last. The Curator, Mr F. Marcus Arman (Telephone No. 01-432 3851), is pleased to provide, by prior arrangement, guide lecture tours for organized groups on Thursday evenings. The Museum is otherwise open from 10.30 a.m. — 4.30 p.m. Monday to Friday.

Commended designs Christmas Stamps



1. Brenda Cooper



2. Emil Bibrzycki



3. Stephen Conroy



4. Lucy Richardson



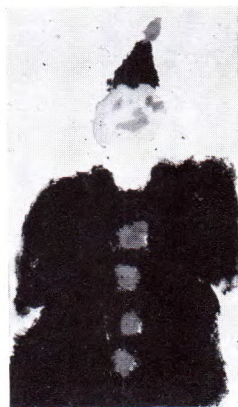
5. R. N. Riddell



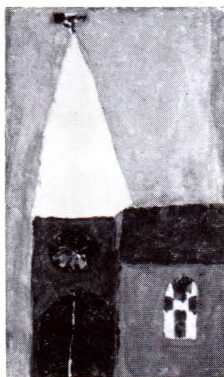
6. Sarah L. Nash



7. Christine Agios



8. Tejinderjit Singh



9. Simon Crombie



10. Margaret Fair



11. Stephen Conroy

First Day Cover Regulations

Subscribers to our First Day Cover 'B' service are advised to enclose in their covers a stiffener card bearing the sender's name and address, particularly if the covers are to be sent abroad. This will ensure that if for any reason the item is undeliverable as addressed, it will be returned to the sender by the overseas postal administration concerned.

Customers posting their own covers are also reminded that empty envelopes or those containing blank cards are inadmissible as 'Printed Paper' items, and under International Postal Regulations may not be returned to the country of origin if they are undelivered. Covers should either be prepaid at the appropriate letter rate or contain a filler card as described above.

European Free Trade Association Stamps First Day Services

For the special issue of 9d and 1s 6d stamps on 20th February 1967, the usual first day cover services will be available.

The full service (A) using the specially designed envelopes will cost 5s 3d and customers' own covers will be processed under service (B) for 3s 3d each.

For the benefit of collectors who like to prepare and post their own covers special cancellations will again be provided at the offices shown below where philatelic posting boxes will be sited. Presentation packs will be on sale at these offices and from the Bureau price 3s 3d each. The discount rate for bulk orders of envelopes and presentation packs will apply as follows:

Envelopes: 250 £4. 3. 4. 500 £8. 1000 £15. 2500 £33. 5000 £60. 10,000 £104. (plus handling charge).

For orders of 100 or more presentation packs the charge is reduced from 3s 3d to 2s 9d each, plus handling charge. Discount orders should be sent to the Bureau.

List of Offices with philatelic posting boxes:

London ECDO (Chief Office).
Trafalgar Square BO, WC2.
London SWDO.

Aberdeen	Leeds
Aberystwyth	Leicester
Belfast	Lincoln
Birmingham	Liverpool
Blackpool	Llandudno
Bournemouth	Londonderry
Bradford	Luton
Brighton	Maidstone
Bristol	Manchester
Bromley	Middlesbrough
Cambridge	Newcastle upon Tyne
Cardiff	Newport, I.O.W.
Carlisle	Newport, Mon.
Chelmsford	Northampton
Chester	Norwich
Colchester	Nottingham
Colwyn Bay	Oxford
Coventry	Peterborough
Croydon	Plymouth
Derby	Portsmouth
Doncaster	Preston
Dorchester	Reading
Douglas, Isle of Man	Romford
Dundee	Sheffield
Eastbourne	Shrewsbury
Edinburgh	Skegness
Exeter	Southampton
Fareham	Southend on Sea
Folkestone	Stockport
Glasgow	Stockton on Tees
Gloucester	Stoke on Trent
Grimsby	Sunderland
Guernsey	Swansea
Harrogate	Swindon
Harrow	Taunton
Hastings	Tunbridge Wells
Hounslow	Wolverhampton
Hull	Worcester
Ipswich	Worthing
Jersey	York
Kingston on Thames	

Full particulars of the stamps and any additions to the philatelic offices will be given in our next issue.

Bureau News

We often receive enquiries from deposit account subscribers asking why we include copies of our 'A' and 'B' forms in their Bulletins when they have a standing order for covers and so do not require the order forms.

The reason is quite simple. We hope that if readers do not need the forms themselves, they will pass them on to others and so make our facilities known to their friends.

We are shortly introducing a Customer's Order Form. Again, standing order clients will not require them but if they pass them on to other stamp collectors we may expand our business. Expansion means not only improving existing services but perhaps launching out into new ventures. These are things very close to the hearts of philatelists and never far from the Bureau's mind.

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)
Pictorial Technology	4d, 6d, 1s 3d, 1s 6d
Battle of Hastings	4d, (blocks of 6) 6d, 1s 3d
Christmas	3d, 1s 6d

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, enquiries 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 3s 9d for orders of 10s and over (9d and 4s respectively for orders to Overseas Countries, other than the Commonwealth). 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.

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