



# Philatelic Bureau

Philatelic Bureau GPO Headquarters, St. Martin's-le-Grand, London EC1 HQ 4583

## Philatelic Bulletin Vol. 2 No. 10

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## 1 Farewell to Volume II

With this issue, the last in Volume 2, we say farewell to the Bulletin in its present form. Those among our readers who have been subscribers from the commencement of publication will recall that the first five issues were typed and duplicated. As a result of a large increase in the number of readers we went over, in April 1964, to offset-lithograph. The next volume, to be issued in September, will be printed and the style of presentation and format will be changed.

The Philatelic Bulletin first appeared during September 1963, four months after the opening of the Bureau, and we feel that with the coming of what will virtually be a new magazine, we should pause here and pass under review the range of subjects that have appeared in the first two volumes.

Among the more important articles to appear were: Stamp Designing, Historical Records of the Post Office, The Development of the Permanent Series since the Penny Black, Mechanisation of the Postal Services, Postage Due Labels, Pillar Box Designs, The Post Office Official Stamp Collection, Postmarks of Great Britain, The National Postal Museum.

We shall continue in the printed Bulletin to include those features that have proved so popular with the majority of our readers. Foremost among these features is our review of Commemorative issues as they arise. This review includes a full description of the theme or the historical background of the stamp, biographical details of the designer, a careful description of the design and a technical reference to the printing process.

In the future, as in the past, we shall always aim to include something of interest both for the expert Philatelist and for the general reader while at the same time we shall not forget the young and enthusiastic collectors who are also readers of the Bulletin.

## 2 New Issues

2.1 War in the air is depicted on the fourpenny stamps commemorating the 25th anniversary of the Battle of Britain to be issued in groups of six on September 13.

This is the first time in the history of Post Office special commemorative issues that stamps will have been printed in this form and that there will have been more than one design for one value of a special issue. The groups are part of a three-denomination set completed by single issues of 9d. and 1s.3d. stamps.

The 4d. stamps, printed in four colours and black, will be in blocks of six with 20 blocks to one sheet of 120 stamps.

The designs of these and of the 1s.3d. stamps are by David Gentleman and his wife Rosalind Dease who also designed the Sir Winston Churchill commemorative stamps issued on July 8th and the Commonwealth Arts Festival stamps issued on September 1st.

## 2.2 The Designs

The illustrations on the 4d. stamps are:-

- 1 Flight of Supermarine Spitfire (colours: olive green and black)
- 2 Pilot silhouetted in the cockpit of a Hawker Hurricane fighter (olive green, grey and black)
- 3 Wing tips of a Messerschmitt Bf 109E and a spitfire showing the markings of the opposing forces (olive green, red, blue, light and dark grey)
- 4 Pair of Spitfires attacking a Heinkel HE 111 bomber (olive green, grey and black)
- 5 Hurricanes attacking a Junkers JU 87B (olive green, grey and black)
- 6 Flight of Hurricanes returning to base over the wreckage of a ditched Dornier DO 172 "Flying Pencil" bomber (olive green, light grey, blue and black)

The 1s.3d. stamp presents the battle as the people of London remember it - fluffy white vapour trails in a clear blue sky with the dome of St. Paul's Cathedral ringed with bomb-shattered buildings. The colours are cobalt blue, pale duck egg blue, light and dark grey.

A tribute is paid to the ground forces with the 9d. stamp which shows an anti-aircraft gun battery in action in vivid purple, orange and black colouring. Its designer is Andrew Restall who designed last year's Forth Road Bridge issue.

Each stamp has the Dorothy Wilding portrait of the Queen in the right hand top corner with the denomination below, and carries the legend "Battle of Britain 1940".

### 2.3 Printing

The stamps will be printed by the photogravure process by Messrs. Harrison and Sons Ltd., and will be issued with and without phosphor lines.

### 2.4 Selecting the Designs

In choosing the stamp designs the Postmaster General, the Rt. Hon. Anthony Wedgwood Benn, M.P. Had had the assistance of the Advisory Committee set up by the Council of Industrial Design at the invitation of the Post Office. The members of the Committee are Sir Kenneth Clark, K.C.B., C.H., F.B.A., the Lady Sempill, A.R.C.A., James Fitton, R.A., F.S.I.A., Milner Gray, R.D.I., F.S.I.A., Professor R. Guyatt, F.S.I.A., Abram Games, O.B.E., F.S.I.A., and Sir John Wilson, Bt., K.C.V.O.

### 2.5 The Artist

David Gentleman was born in 1930 in London and studied in the Graphic Design School of the Royal College of Art. He is a graphic designer and painter, and has designed murals, posters, textiles and wallpaper. He has also made wood engravings and drawings for book publishers and periodicals.

His wife, Rosalind Dease, was born in Jersey and studied at the Royal College of Art. She is an illustrator and typographer and has drawn for newspapers, magazines and book publishers and has designed exhibition stands.

Andrew Restall was born at Headington, Oxfordshire, in 1931, and educated at George Watson's College, Edinburgh. He studied drawing and painting at Edinburgh College of Art. He worked in Scotland as a designer in printing, advertising visualizer and art director and is now Senior Lecturer in Advertising Design at Coventry College Of Art.

## 2.6 First Day Covers

As our customers will know, the usual first day cover service is being provided for this special issue and application forms have already been distributed to subscribers.

The blank envelopes priced 6d. each will continue to be sold by the Bureau until supplies are exhausted. For bulk orders from the Bureau the prices are:

|       |             |          |
|-------|-------------|----------|
| 20    | £ 4 3s.4d.  | Plus     |
| 500   | £ 8 0s.0d.  | the      |
| 1000  | £ 15 0s.0d. | normal   |
| 2500  | £ 33 0s.0d. | 2s.6d.   |
| 5000  | £ 60 0s.0d. | handling |
| 10000 | £104 0s.0d. | charge   |

The envelopes will also be available from the philatelic posting box offices listed below.

## 2.7 First Day Covers - Bureau's Postmark

We have for some time been considering the alteration of the date stamp used by the Bureau for its first day covers. Many customers have expressed the view that it is somewhat large and that the impression is not always as clear as one would wish.

In view of the number of stamps to be used for the Battle of Britain first day covers we are taking the opportunity to experiment with a smaller, and we hope clearer cancellation. The words will remain the same.

## 2.8 Presentation Packs

A special presentation pack containing the set of eight stamps will be available from the Bureau and the offices listed below. Guernsey and Jersey are included for the first time.

This handsome pack contains in addition to the eight stamps and information leaflet giving details and pictures of the artists, the printing processes and a brief summary of events during the Battle of Britain.

The charge will be 5s. per pack, plus the usual handling charge of 6d. for orders under 10s. and 2s.6d. for orders of 10s. and over. For orders of 100 or more from the Bureau the charge will be 4s.6d. each plus the 2s.6d. handling charge.

Blank covers and envelopes will be on sale at the following offices.

Trafalgar Square B.O., W.C.2

London S.W.D.O.

London E.C.D.O. (Chief Office)

|             |                |                 |
|-------------|----------------|-----------------|
| Aberdeen    | Glasgow        | Newcastle-      |
| Aberystwyth | Gloucester     | upon-Tyne       |
| Belfast     | Guernsey       | Newport., Mon.  |
| Birmingham  | Harrow         | Northampton     |
| Blackpool   | Harrogate      | Norwich         |
| Bournemouth | Hastings       | Nottingham      |
| Bradford    | Hull           | Oxford          |
| Brighton    | Ipswich        | Peterborough    |
| Bristol     | Jersey         | Plymouth        |
| Cambridge   | Kingston-      | Portsmouth      |
| Cardiff     | on-Thames      | Preston         |
| Chelmsford  | Leeds          | Reading         |
| Chester     | Leicester      | Romford         |
| Colwyn Bay  | Lincoln        | Sheffield       |
| Croydon     | Liverpool      | Shrewsbury      |
| Derby       | Llandudno      | Southend-on-Sea |
| Douglas,    | Londonderry    | Stockport       |
| Isle of Man | Maidstone      | Stoke-on-Trent  |
| Dundee      | Manchester     | Swindon         |
| Edinburgh   | Middlesborough | York            |
| Exeter      |                |                 |

### 3 Praise Indeed!

Self praise, it is said, is no recommendation but we are sure that no one can be in any doubt after reading the following extract from a letter from one of our overseas customers, that we have at least one satisfied client!

"It is, however, the little card which you enclosed in your letter, and on which my balance number is registered, that inspires me to write to you expressing my gratitude to you, Sir, for bestowing upon me such a divinely natured number as my credit balance token. 8513, being an odd number, is lucky and divine. To show that I am not speaking in vain, the words of an English sage shall I quote:

"This is the third time; I hope good luck lies in odd numbers. Away! go. They say there is divinity in odd numbers, either in nativity, chance, or death." The Merry Wives of Windsor Act V Sc I lines 2 to 5.

Being a student of Mathematics, and humble admirer of Greek philosophers and mathematicians, I do agree on their (esp. Pythagoras') idea about odd numbers.

Furthermore, this number, 8513, is also a prime number. Containing no factors other than unit and itself, 8513 enjoys unity and thus, an ensured tranquillity within itself; it also suggests a notion of self-sufficiency and non-commonality.

Prime numbers are very rare among large numbers, because more and more smaller prime numbers become potential factors composing the larger ones. I, therefore, appreciate very much your benign act. I feel obliged to show you, Sir, in the following way that 8513 is a prime number.

8513 =

$$\begin{aligned} &2 \times 4256 + 1 = 3 \times 2837 + 2 = 5 \times 1702 + 3 = 7 \times 1216 + 1 \\ &= 11 \times 773 + 10 = 13 \times 654 + 11 = 17 \times 500 + 13 = 19 \times 448 + 1 \\ &= 23 \times 370 + 3 = 29 \times 293 + 16 = 31 \times 274 + 19 = 37 \times 230 + 3 \\ &= 41 \times 207 + 26 = 43 \times 197 + 42 = 47 \times 181 + 6 = 53 \times 160 + 33 \\ &= 59 \times 144 + 17 = 61 \times 139 + 34 = 67 \times 127 + 4 = 71 \times 119 + 64 \\ &= 73 \times 116 + 45 = 79 \times 107 + 60 = 83 \times 102 + 47 = 89 \times 95 + 58 \\ &= 93 \times 91 + 50 \end{aligned}$$

I have the honour to be, Sir, your most humble and obedient servant."

## 7 Postmark Slogans

### New Slogans

| <u>Where used</u> | <u>Date</u>                                | <u>Slogan</u>                                                 |
|-------------------|--------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| Bury St. Edmunds  | <b>1st Sept. 1965 -<br/>31st Oct. 1965</b> | "Visit the Theatre Royal<br>Bury St. Edmunds"<br>(Transposed) |

The slogan "Bury St. Edmunds Historic Attractive Touring Centre" will be discontinued during the above period.

Six dies at:

|                                          |                                            |                                                        |
|------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| Glasgow Head Office<br>(2 dies standard) | <b>20th Sept. 1965 -<br/>2nd Oct. 1965</b> | "Lister Centenary<br>Glasgow, September<br>27-29 1965" |
| Glasgow South District<br>Office         |                                            |                                                        |
| Glasgow South East District Office       |                                            |                                                        |
| Glasgow West District Office             |                                            |                                                        |
| Glasgow South West District Office       |                                            |                                                        |

### Special Handstamps

| <u>Where used</u> | <u>Date</u> | <u>Slogan</u> |
|-------------------|-------------|---------------|
|-------------------|-------------|---------------|

Day Trials 1965  
Isle of Man"

Covers for re-posting should be sent to the Head Postmaster,  
Douglas, Isle of Man.

|           |                                                  |                                                                 |
|-----------|--------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
| Leicester | <b>8th, 9th, 11th and<br/>12th October, 1965</b> | "Leicester Philatelic<br>Society Diamond<br>Jubilee, Leicester" |
|-----------|--------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|

Covers should be sent to the Head Postmaster, Leicester.

|          |                   |                                                                             |
|----------|-------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Abingdon | 6-10th Sept. 1965 | "Nuclear Fusion<br>Conference I AEA<br>Culham Laboratory<br>Abingdon Berks" |
|----------|-------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|

Covers should be sent to the Head Postmaster, Abingdon, Berks.

### **Amendment**

In Bulletin Vol. 11 No. 7 it was incorrectly announced that the special handstamp for the "Convention of East Midlands Federation of Stamp Clubs" would be used on the 20th Oct. 1965. The correct date is the 2nd Oct. and we are sorry for any inconvenience our readers have been caused.

The following article is reprinted from the Post office Magazine by kind permission of the author Mr. A. E. Bensusan.

As far back as the days of the original Olympic Games in Greece, carrier pigeons were released after each contest to convey results to all parts of the country. In many European wars, notably the siege of Harlem in 1573, pigeons were used by trapped garrisons to maintain contact with the outside world.

By 1700 the use of message-carrying pigeons was well established. Pigeons sent in relays from Paris to London brought news of the business markets a full twelve hours before a human courier could make the same journey. The advantages to the private organisers of this service were immense and by 1830 a full market-information organisation had been set up between London, Paris and Brussels. At about the same time, Reuters, the famous news-agency, formed a pigeon service to Germany.

But it was not until the siege of Paris in 1870, during the Franco-Prussian war, that a really intensive pigeon post was established. The General Administrator of Telegraphs in Paris, M. Steenackers, was a native of Flanders where there were many pigeon fanciers, and he was well acquainted with the sport. But the project would not have been possible without the foresight of Mr. Segalas, a pigeon fancier living in Paris. At the beginning of September 1870, he started to collect as many pigeons as could be obtained, largely by borrowing the birds from other fanciers. This nucleus of a postal service was housed in the tower of the telegraph centre in the Rue de Grenelle.

Official sanction to prepare for a pigeon mail service between Paris and the surrounding country was given when it became obvious that the city was likely to be cut off. In September staff from the Telegraphic Administration left Paris for Tours, which was not likely to be attacked by the Prussians, and they were followed by a consignment of pigeons.

A balloon service between Paris and Tours had already been formed, so it, decided that the remainder of the pigeons should be sent out by that means. Since the balloons were subject to the vagaries of the wind, many failed to reach their destination. The few consignments of pigeons which did get through were rapidly used up to little real effect. Apart from the wastage resulting from birds getting off-course and landing outside Paris, hawks continually harried the messengers. Various devices were tried to overcome the difficulty, including reed whistles tied to the pigeons tails.

The then novel art of photography was used to get more information on the necessarily small message sheets. A number of despatches were written in normal size and pasted together to form one large sheet. This was photographically reduced to nearly a three-hundredth of the original size. The elimination of handwriting on a microscopic scale resulted in a speeding up of the service, and it was soon possible to extend the facilities to private mail in addition to existing official correspondence.

By the end of 1870 a photographer called Dagron had left Paris with an assistant to establish a further transmission centre at Clermont Ferrand.

Dagron employed a special camera with twenty lenses to photograph the collection of messages which had been pasted together. Each pigeon carried twenty films containing copies of 320 of the original sheets. When received in Paris, the films were enlarged on a screen so that clerks could copy out the messages for normal hand delivery in the city. Return messages from Paris had to be sent by balloon.

A general Post Office Circular dated Monday, 16th November, 1870, extended the pigeon post service to London. Correspondence was forwarded by conventional transport to Tours and was then sent on to Paris by pigeon. The cost was 5d. a word, with a charge of 6d for the conventional section of the route, and up to twenty words could be transmitted.

Some 100,000 messages were sent to Paris by pigeon post during the siege; of which about 60,000 arrived safely.

## Withdrawal of Bureau Stock Items

### 5 Stamp Books

Following the introduction of the new range of stamp books (see Bulletin No. 8, para. 3) the old stamp books listed below were withdrawn from sale in the Bureau on the 31st August, 1965

| <u>Price</u> | <u>Contents</u>                                | <u>Stamps<br/>per page</u> | <u>Cover<br/>Material<br/>Colour</u> |
|--------------|------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 2s.0d.       | 4 at ½d.<br>4 at 1d.<br>4 at 1½d.<br>4 at 3d.  | 4                          | Yellow                               |
| 3s.0d        | 6 at ½d.<br>6 at 1d.<br>6 at 1½d.<br>6 at 3d.  | 6                          | Salmon                               |
| 5s.0d        | 6 at ½d.<br>6 at 1d.<br>6 at 2½d.<br>12 at 3d. | 6                          | Blue                                 |
| 10s.0d       | 6 at ½d.<br>6 at 1d.<br>6 at 2½d.<br>30 at 3d. | 6                          | Green                                |

No firm date has yet been fixed for the introduction of the new 2s.0d. "PC" (or holiday) booklet containing eight threepenny stamps. The present 2s.0d. (PC) booklet containing 8 stamps at ½d. and eight stamps at 2½d. Will continue to be sold until the new booklet is introduced.

## 6 Corrections

Amendments to Bulletin No. 8 of Vol. II

### Page 1 Paragraph 1.4

Attention has been drawn to the incorrect spelling of Lady Sempill's name for which we apologise.

### Page 3 List of Offices

The Overseas Telegraph Offices listed amongst offices in the London area from which phosphor stamps can be obtained should be deleted. These were included in error.

### Page 4 Paragraph 3

Read 'linked' for 'limited'.

## Special Announcement - August 1965

### First Day Cover Service

1 A full first day cover service on specially designed envelopes will be provided by the Philatelic Bureau for the Battle of Britain commemorative stamps to be issued on 13th September 1965.

2 There are three denominations of these special stamps, 4d. 9d and 1/3d. The 4d. value will comprise blocks of six stamps, each stamp with a different design, and the 9d and 1s.3d. will be issued in one design only for each denomination. Covers serviced by the Bureau will bear the complete set of eight stamps. The inclusive charge for the full service will be 7s.0d (110 cents) per cover.

In addition the Bureau will also service customers own envelopes with the set of eight stamps for a total cost of 5s.0d. (80 cents) per cover. Would customers please ensure that their own envelopes are of a size sufficient to accommodate the eight commemorative stamps as well as the name and full address. An indication of the space necessary for the stamps is given in paragraph 3 of the appropriate application form.

Application forms, giving full details, are attached for those wishing to avail themselves of these services.

Special attention is drawn to the final date of acceptance given on the application forms. We regret that we cannot deal with orders received after the closing date. Nor can we meet any orders requesting less than the complete set of eight stamps on the first day cover.

We would emphasise to customers that the first day covers issued by the Bureau will bear the Bureau's own special first day of issue postmark. We are unable to meet requests for any variations from this postmark.

3 To meet the wishes of those who prefer to prepare and post their own covers, the official first day envelope will be available for this issue in advance from the Bureau and from the 61 offices shown hereunder where philatelic posting boxes are being provided. The price of the envelope will be 6d. for single copies.

For bulk orders the prices are:

|          |          |
|----------|----------|
| 250:£    | 4 3s.4d. |
| 500:£    | 8        |
| 1,000:£  | 15       |
| 2,500:£  | 33       |
| 5,000:£  | 60       |
| 10,000:£ | 104      |

List of offices with Philatelic posting boxes:-

Trafalgar Square B.O., W.C.2.

London S.W.D.O.

London E.C.D.O. (Chief Office)

|             |               |                 |
|-------------|---------------|-----------------|
| Aberdeen    | Glasgow       | Newcastle       |
| Aberystwyth | Gloucester    | upon-Tyne       |
| Belfast     | * Guernsey    | Newport, Mon.   |
| Birmingham  | Harrow        | Northampton     |
| Blackpool   | Harrogate     | Norwich         |
| Bournemouth | Hastings      | Nottingham      |
| Bradford    | Hull          | Oxford          |
| Brighton    | Ipswich       | Peterborough    |
| Bristol     | * Jersey      | Plymouth        |
| Cambridge   | Kingston      | Portsmouth      |
| Cardiff     | on Thames     | Preston         |
| Chelmsford  | Leeds         | Reading         |
| Chester     | Leicester     | Romford         |
| Colwyn Bay  | Lincoln       | Sheffield       |
| Croydon     | Liverpool     | Shrewsbury      |
| Derby       | Llandudno     | Southend-on-Sea |
| Douglas,    | Londonderry   | Stockport       |
| Isle of Man | Maidstone     | Stoke-on-Trent  |
| Dundee      | Manchester    | Swindon         |
| Edinburgh   | Middlesbrough | York            |
| Exeter      |               |                 |

\* Jersey and Guernsey will come into operation from 13th September.

#### 4 The Design

The cover will be  $7\frac{1}{4} \times 4\frac{1}{2}$ , slightly larger in size than those for the Churchill and Parliamentary issues, to accommodate the set of eight stamps. The 4d. and 1/3d. values were designed by David Gentleman and his wife Rosalind Dease. The 9d. design is by Andrew Restall.

The envelope has also been designed by Andrew Restall and depicts in the bottom left-hand corner two fighter planes climbing against the purple background of the sky, with the sun glinting on the fuselages, the words "Battle of Britain 1940" and G.P.O. Official First Day Cover are also printed.

5 The Bureau will not be providing a first day cover service or presentation packs for the issues to commemorate the Salvation Army Centenary (9th August), Joseph Lister Centenary (1st September) and the Commonwealth Arts Festival (1st September).