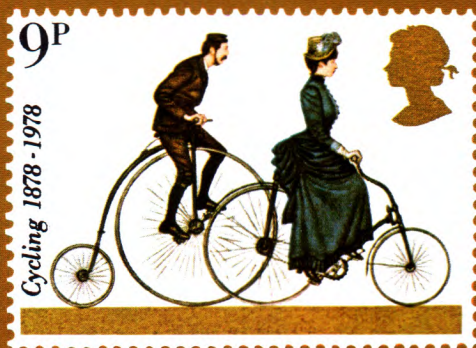


Philatelic Bulletin

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Editorial

Stamp design and the choice of subjects probably arouse more interest in collectors than anything. As far as Great Britain is concerned there should be plenty to satisfy even the most discerning next year.

All the animal lovers who were so enchanted by the Wildlife and Horses stamps will be delighted to know that the theme will be continued next February by an issue which will feature British Dogs. The other half of the 'flora and fauna' lovers should be equally pleased with a British Flowers set in March which will show wild spring flowers and which will be out in time

for The World Daffodil Convention. In common with other members of the European Community we plan to produce a set of stamps in May 1979 to mark Direct Elections to the European Parliament.

To celebrate the 200th running of the world's most famous horse race — the Derby at Epsom — a set will be released in June while in the following month an issue will be made to coincide with the United Nations Year of the Child.

All collectors of whatever age or experience know of the debt they owe to Sir Rowland Hill who introduced the first adhesive postage stamp. The centenary of his death in 1879 is to be commemorated in August by an issue of stamps and Great Britain's second miniature sheet. An equally well known Knight, Sir Robert Peel, will be remembered in September by an issue to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the Founding of the Metropolitan Police. The usual Christmas issue in November will close an exciting year. Truly something for everyone!

Great Britain Philatelic Society

The new President of the GB Philatelic Society is Mr R A G Lee who succeeds Dr Alan Huggins.

New Illustrated Stamp Books

The third series of four new stamp books with cover illustrations will be on sale at the Philatelic Bureau and philatelic sales counters from 9 August, and from other post offices as existing stocks become exhausted.

Details are as follows:

- 10p Farm Buildings, Yorkshire, designer Norman Battershill.
- 50p Commercial Vehicles, Morris (Royal Mail), designer John Ireland.
- 70p Country Crafts, dry stone-walling, designer Eric Stemp.
- 90p British Canals, Kennet and Avon Canal, Sydney Gardens, Bath, designer Ronald Maddox.

Gems from the RM Phillips Collection

LVIII A Trial on Dr. Perkins' Paper



The increased availability, in the 1860s, of hydro-carbons in various forms, including detergents (a word now well over a century old), was causing the Inland Revenue and printing ink chemists considerable anxiety. These 'new' chemicals possessed, in greater or lesser degree, the unfortunate property of being able to remove cancellations from some postage stamps without noticeably affecting the ink in which the stamp was printed.

A Dr Perkins (a chemist who was no relation to the Perkins of Perkins Bacon & Co) came up with a chemically-prepared paper which was supposed to reveal any tampering with hydro-carbons etc. In 1870-71 the Post Office decided to have several sheets of both De La Rue's surface-printed and Perkins Bacon's line-engraved stamps printed on this special Perkins paper which had a blue-green tinge. The values

included the 1d, 1½d and 2d line-engraved and the De La Rue 3d Rose plate 5.

This month's 'gem', shown above, is a superb plate number block of the Three Halfpence value of which only one sheet was printed on Perkins paper. Although gummed, it is, like other values used for these trials, imperforate. A glance at the Specialised catalogue will confirm that this is a rare (and highly priced) stamp as a single; but in a plate number block of six!

It is a sad postscript that the Perkins paper was unsuccessful in preventing the line-engraved stamps from being only too successfully tampered with, so that in 1879-80 Perkins Bacon lost the ½d to 2d stamps contracts to De La Rue whose fugitive printing inks were effective against even the most ingenious criminals.

A G RIGO DE RIGHI

British Special Stamps

44. World Cup Football Competition 1966

It was a happy year for British football — England, host country for the first time, successfully stage-managed the 16 countries who took part in the final matches of the World Cup Football Competition for the Jules Rimet Cup at Wembley, and then capped it all by a decisive victory over West Germany in the final.

The three 'World Cup' stamps, issued on 1 June 1966 (in the middle of the cricket season!), were designed by David Gentleman (4d), William Kempster (6d) and David Caplan (1s 3d). David Gentleman, who needs no introduction in these pages, went to extraordinary lengths to arrive at four uniform designs depicting the bold, fearless duelling for the ball which

is the essence of the game, commissioning a photographer, Peter Boyce, to take hundreds of action shots of two young and virile footballers kicking a football around. In the event, one design only was accepted and that was a composite picture of the two players in mid-leap as it were.

Mr Kempster's 6d showed a typical goalmouth scrimmage, the goalkeeper leaping clear with the ball. An ARCA, he trained at the Wimbledon School of Art and the Royal College of Art, and spent much of his career painting murals, illustrating books and designing advertisements and posters. His murals have been displayed at international exhibitions abroad, including Turin and Brussels, as well as London, and as permanent features for firms such as Pilkington Glass and Shell Petroleum. He lectures on print design and print-making.

Mr Caplan's 1s 3d stamp also showed a goal-mouth scene, the goalkeeper saving the ball while apparently being backed into by two rival players. His original design — showing a football encircled by the flags of the 16 competing countries — was withdrawn after reaching the final stages of production because it was discovered that the flag of North Korea, *non persona grata* with the Foreign Office, was included. David Caplan, a lecturer in graphic design, photographer and typographer, has exhibited at the Royal Academy and in many parts of the world.

The Queen's head was again the cameo silhouette version adapted by David Gentleman from the coinage, and first used on the previous 'Landscapes' issue. The stamps were photogravure-printed by Harrison and Sons in sheets of 120 (20 × 6 — 4d, or 6 × 20 — 6d and 1s 3d) on ordinary and phosphor-banded paper, watermark multiple crowns, sideways on the 4d. Constant varieties include 'patch on thigh' and 'red patch below ball' on the 4d, ord and phosphor, and a 'darned stocking' on the 1s 3d, also ord and phosphor. Missing colours — black, apple-green or red — are known on the 6d ord (black also on the phosphor), and blue on the 1s 3d ord. The 6d ord and 1s 3d ord and phosphor are also known with watermark inverted.



Quantities sold (phosphor in brackets) were: 4d 129,764,160 (16,397,880); 6d 17,086,680 (3,357,480); 1s 3d 7,026,240 (1,761,240). Presentation packs, 48,732.

England Winners

England's 4-2 victory over West Germany in the World Cup final at Wembley on 30 July 1966 spurred the Post Office into action. It was a matter of pride and prestige to issue a special stamp and to have it on sale quickly. A new design was out of the question — new stamps take months, sometimes a year or more, in commissioning, design and production. The printers have to slot the work into their busy schedules, the stamps have to be proofed and approved.

Only one course was open to the authorities and printers — to adapt one of the existing World Cup designs. The 4d design was modified by the addition of the magic words 'ENGLAND WINNERS' and the presses started rolling again. The stamps were placed on sale on 18 August at post offices in England, the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man, and at the Philatelic Bureau in London, also at Army post offices at home and abroad. The two varieties on the 4d recorded above reappeared on the new version. The quantity sold was 12,452,640.

JAMES WATSON

Design change for Airletter Forms

There is a new stamp design on the Post Office's 10½p airletter forms. The existing impression depicting the VC 10 aircraft has been replaced by Arnold Machin's famous profile portrait of the Queen.

The new airletters are available at philatelic counters and the Philatelic Bureau. They will be introduced at other offices as stocks of the VC10 are used up.

Horses

A portfolio of four lithographic prints, made from Patrick Oxenham's original paintings of horses for this issue of stamps, has been published by

All Seasons Publishing, 11-13 Broad Court, Covent Garden, London WC2B 5QQ. Price £12.88

The Portfolio also includes an introduction by the well known commentator on horses, Raymond Brooks-Ward MFH. The Rt. Hon. Lord Kenyon CBE, President of the Welsh Pony and Cobb Society, writes on the Welsh Pony whilst Keith Chivers MA contributes a descriptive note on the Shire Horse. Peter Willett and Maurice Cox have written on the Thoroughbred and the Shetland Pony respectively.

Patrick Oxenham has signed and numbered 250 sets, which are available at £50 inclusive of VAT, postage and packing. Overseas postage will be charged extra.

This is only the second time that paintings commissioned especially for stamps have been reproduced as frameable prints. The first time was on the occasion of the British Wildlife issue in 1977. The Horses paintings have been printed



four times stamp size, i.e. 120 × 160mm and each print measures 350 × 270mm overall.

The presentation has been designed to the same format as the Wildlife portfolio, so as to make a natural pair with it.

The Cyclists' Touring Club

One hundred years ago — on 5 August 1878 — a young medical student from the Midlands, Stanley Cotterell, set off on a High Ordinary ('penny-farthing') bicycle to ride to a meeting of cyclists in Harrogate, Yorkshire. There he accomplished what, until then, others had only talked and written about. He founded the Cyclists' Touring Club (originally called the Bicycle Touring Club), the first Touring Club in the world. Cotterell was elected Honorary Secretary of the new club, a committee was formed and the annual subscription was fixed at half-a-crown. A code of rules was drawn up, and it was agreed that the principal objects of the club were 'to promote touring by bicycle, to help tourists to secure companions and to protect its members'. It was not long, however, before a whole range of services was being offered, including a Monthly Circular, the publication of maps and road books specially for cyclists, and the appointment of 'consuls' in most towns to give local advice and help.

The optional club uniform was specified as, *a dark green Devonshire serge jacket, knickerbockers, Stanley helmet with small peak, and stockings* — somewhat dignified by today's standards!

From the start, membership soared as people took to cycling and found sympathy with the CTC's aims. In 1886 the new 'wheel and wings' emblem was adopted as the club's badge, and by 1899 membership had risen to 60,499 — though that number was unfortunately to go into serious decline with the advent of the motor car. With social and economic changes, the membership has risen and fallen in turn over the years.

At the time of its foundation, cycle-touring was the only form of touring. Clubs in other countries which in later years modelled themselves on the pattern of the pioneer CTC and expanded their activities to cater for all forms of tourism started as cycling organisations, and the Cyclists' Touring Club was among those who in 1898 founded the Ligue Internationale des Associations Touristes, the forerunner of the Alliance Internationale de Tourisme. The CTC was host to the first annual congress in London in 1899, and today its National Secretary is President of

the AIT Cycle Touring Commission.

Throughout its long life the Cyclists' Touring Club has remained faithful to cycling. At present with a membership of over 29,500, it is still a healthy forward-looking organisation which caters for the outdoor enthusiast who prefers to cycle as a means of relaxation and exercise.

It is more than a club. As Britain's largest national cycling organisation, it has always taken the lead in looking after the interests of all who ride cycles. It acts at all levels from Local Authorities to Parliament, to ensure that the needs and rights of cyclists are taken fully into account in town and country.

The CTC arranges organised rides and tours in Britain and abroad, and has a nationwide network of some 300 local sections which provide a cycling and social programme all the year round. But the majority of its members are individuals, who join for the services offered. Of particular value are the insurance and legal-aid facilities. Members are entitled to free legal assistance in the event of an accident while cycling (many thousands of pounds have been recovered for them in compensation for injuries or damage caused by motor vehicles, bad road surfaces, etc) and also free third-party insurance cover up to £300,000.

Routes, maps and practical advice on the best areas for cycle-touring, and how to equip a bicycle are available from the Headquarters office to all members and hundreds of information officers in Britain and abroad assist with local details. The CTC also has an associated travel agency in London which makes holiday bookings and reservations by rail, sea and air.

Cycletouring, an illustrated magazine containing touring and countryside features, technical articles and bicycle road tests, as well as reports of major club events, is sent free by post to members every two months, and is also available to non-members by direct subscription. The annual CTC Handbook contains much information about the club's services and touring in general, and includes about 3,000 recommended catering and accommodation addresses (hotels, guest houses, farmhouses etc) where cyclists are

welcomed, and also lists cycle repairers who give good service.

Recreational cycling is once more gaining in popularity, and CTC members can look forward with the same optimism that fired Stanley Cotterell one hundred years ago.

An ever growing membership is vital if the club is to continue to provide its wide range of services, and protect the interests of cyclists generally. Application forms and full details of benefits are available from: The Secretary, Cyclists' Touring Club, Cotterell House, 69 Meadow, Godalming, Surrey, GU7 3HS (telephone 048 68 7217).

Forces Covers

Tercentenary of the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards

HM The Queen, as Colonel-in-Chief of the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards, was present at the Tercentenary Parade of the Regiment on 7 July held at Holyrood Park, Edinburgh. To commemorate the event, a special cover is available illustrating a mounted trumpeter and vehicles currently used by the Regiment. A 13p 'Horses' stamp is affixed and cancelled with a BFPS 1678 handstamp. The covers, a few of which have been signed by the Colonel of the Regiment and the Commanding Officer, are available from The Philatelic Officer, The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards, Cambrai Barracks, Catterick Garrison, N Yorkshire, DL9 3PZ.

Prices are as follows:

Unsigned covers 57p each

Signed covers £1.07 each.

Royal Irish Rangers

To commemorate the 10th anniversary of the Raising of the Royal Irish Rangers, a special cover became available on 5 July 1978 bearing a set of four 'Horses' stamps, cancelled with a BFPS 1621 handstamp: price 75p.

Alternatively, the cover with the 9p 'Horses'

stamp only affixed, the charge is 40p.

Orders addressed to: The Regimental Secretary, The Royal Irish Rangers, St Patrick's Barracks, BFPO 808, should be accompanied by a cheque or postal order made payable to 'RHQ Royal Irish Rangers'.

The RAF Museum is continuing its Air Display series of covers this year with the following:

The Barnstormers Flying Circus, AD34, has a 7p Welsh definitive stamp, is cancelled with BFPS 1616 and will be available after 15 July from Mr A C Harold, RAF Museum, Hendon, London NW9 5LL.

Airborne in Battersea, AD36, has a Scottish 7p definitive stamp, is cancelled with BFPS 1604 and is available now from Fl Lt G Monaghan, RAF Oldham, Basingstoke, Hants. RG25 1QU

The Bulldogs, AD37, has an Ulster 7p definitive stamp, is cancelled with BFPS 1610 and is available now from Mr T Tredwell, 45 Forest View, Moordown, Bournemouth BH9 3BH.

The Red Indians, AD38, has a British 7p definitive stamp, is cancelled with BFPS 1611 and will be available after 15 August from Gp Capt W S O Randle, RAF Museum, Hendon, London NW9 5LL.

The Tiger Club Turbulents, AD40, has a British 7p definitive stamp, is cancelled with BFPS 1619 and will be available after 30 July from Fl Lt F W Waters, RAF Museum, Hendon, London NW9 5LL.

The above covers all cost 40p each plus 7p postage.

RAF Cover C56 commemorates the 25th anniversary of RAF Hospital, Wegberg. It has a British 7p definitive stamp and is cancelled with BFPS 1612. The covers will be flown into Wegberg in a CASEVAC aircraft from Cuttersloh and will be available after 1 July at 40p each plus 7p postage from Wg Cdr T Rogerson, RAF Hospital, Wegberg, BFPO 40.

The proceeds from all the above covers will be donated to the Battle of Britain Museum Appeal Fund.

Cycling Special Stamp Issue

2 August 1978

Cycling, as a pastime and a sport, has always been one of our popular pursuits. Coupled with this established fact, and that 1978 is the centenary year of the formation of the Cyclists Touring Club and the British Cycling Federation, the Post Office, in recognition will issue on 2 August four postage stamps, values 9p, 10½p, 11p and 13p. The subjects of the stamps are: a 'penny-farthing', a 1920's tourer, a modern small wheel cycle, and a modern road racing cycle.

Printing Details:

Designer: Fritz Wegner

Printer: Harrison & Sons Limited

Process: Photogravure

Format: Horizontal

Size: 41 mm × 30 mm

Perforation: 15 × 14

Sheet Size: 100

Phosphor: All over

Paper: Coated, unwatermarked

Adhesive: PVA Dextrin

Values and Colours:

- 9p: Olive-green, dull blue, yellow-brown, rosine-pink, black, gold.
- 10½p: Pink, orange-yellow, scarlet-vermilion, olive-bistre, weak venetian-red, black, gold.
- 11p: Yellow-brown, greenish-blue, orange-vermilion, bistre-yellow, brownish-grey, black, gold.
- 13p: Chestnut, deep yellow-green, new blue, orange-vermilion, black, gold.

Postcards

Postcard reproductions of each of the four stamps will be available from the Philatelic Bureau, all philatelic counters, and most main post offices, price 7p each.





British Cycling Federation

In 1978 the cycling fraternity celebrates its centenary and the Post Office will commemorate the event with an issue of special postage stamps on 2 August.

The British Cycling Federation is the outcome of the amalgamation of the National Cyclists' Union — founded in 1878 — with the British League of Racing Cyclists formed in 1942; thus emerged the overall national racing cyclists organisation.

The objects of the Federation are to encourage, promote, develop and control the sport and pastime of cycling in all its aspects throughout Great Britain. In addition it also supports and protects the rights and privileges belonging to cyclists in general, and in particular safeguards its members' interests within the pastime.

Within the Rules laid down by its National Annual Council, the Federation controls road and track racing, supervising and issuing permits for such meetings and events. National Championships are held annually covering many branches of the sport including track racing, road

racing and closed circuit racing for both the amateur and professional classes. In addition riders compete and take part in local championships promoted throughout the 29 Divisions covering the whole of England and Wales.

The main membership of the Federation consists of two categories; members of affiliated clubs and private members. All are covered by a Third Party Insurance and in addition receive free legal assistance, in particular with accident cases.

Each year the British Cycling Federation publishes a Handbook giving the fullest information on Rules of Racing, dates of all events throughout the season — Easter to the Autumn. Members are provided with Touring Information and planned tours, usually linked with a list of recommended caterers and accommodation.

Representation of all organisations connected with cycling activities is maintained, in the hope that its benefits and pleasures are always made known.

Book Reviews

The Connoisseur Catalogue of Machin Printings

The second edition of this guide to the printings of Machin head stamps of Great Britain is now available. It lists all the Machins and includes for the first time pre-decimal definitives, decimal country stamps and High Values. A useful feature is the cross reference to SG catalogue numbers.

'The Connoisseur Catalogue of Machin Printings' is published by Connoisseur Publications, 184 Portland Road, LONDON SE25 4QB.

Scottish Postmarks

By James A Mackay, 2 Vols 197 pp fcap, reprotype. £4.50 plus 50p postage. Available from the Author at 11 Newall Terrace, DUMFRIES DG1 1LN.

These two volumes make up an illustrated compendium of Scottish postmarks from 1693 to

the present day. Everything is here from Bishopmark to postage meter.

The author modestly claims little credit for his own researches, telling us that most of his material has been gleaned from Robson Lowe, the Scottish Postmark Group, R Bruce Auckland and similar authorities. With such a pedigree a high degree of accuracy is assured.

However, one paragraph concerns an aspect of postmarking about which the reviewer can speak from personal experience. Mr Mackay is not quite correct when he says that Burns FDCs processed at the Philatelic Bureau were 'run through a duplicator'.

Newspaper wrappers and bulk post items were certainly machined, not by duplicator but by off-set lithography. Official FDCs were hand cancelled unless clients specified otherwise and covers with litho cancels, particularly multiples, are probably less common than is usually supposed.

But this is a minor lapse. One hundred and forty pages of text plus nearly two thousand illustrations makes a very fair buy at £4.50. With its unusual 'rarity guide' and useful cross-indexing system the book is certain to persuade many an enthusiast to reach for his wallet.

Circular Name Stamps of Scotland

By James A Mackay, 22 pp fcap, reprotype. £1.50 post free from the author at 11 Newall Terrace, DUMFRIES DG1 1LN.

This slim volume, more a monograph than a book, lists 157 marks from 108 Scottish towns for the period 1740 to 1846.

Many of the marks are illustrated, some showing the mis-spelling so characteristic of the 18th century Scottish scene. All are highly prized by enthusiastic collectors.

The book is a 2nd (updated) edition so there must be a brisk demand, but I wonder if the author would not have been wiser to include it as an extra chapter in his very comprehensive two volume study of Scottish postmarks.

Stanley Gibbons GB Specialised Catalogue Vol II

The fourth edition of Stanley Gibbons' Great Britain Specialised Stamp Catalogue, Volume 2, is now available, price £5.50. This popular hard-back prices and lists in great detail stamps issued during the reigns of the four Kings — Edward VII, George V, Edward VIII and George VI.

The main changes in this edition are in the greatly expanded section on the interesting preparatory material from the production of Design Essays through the progressive stages of preparing Head Dies to completed Die Proofs, Plate Proofs and Colour Trials.

In the King Edward VII section the General Notes have been completely rewritten and expanded. The ½d and 1d controls are now priced for corner pairs and fully listed according to their Perforation Types. The lists of the 1½d, 2d, 2½d, 5d and 9d values have been completely rewritten in the light of new archive information relating to the plates actually used and their official numbers are now quoted. Proofs from the De La Rue Striking Books are also quoted.

In the King George V Typographed issues the preliminary Essays, progressive Die Proofs of the original Downey Heads leading to Die 2, and Essays for Colour and Sketch Dies for the unissued values, are fully set out with illustrations, as are the stages of the Coinage and Medal Heads for the Full Profile Issues and the numerous stages of the die for the 'Seahorses' design.

Some significant changes have been made in the King George VI issues, including the Commemorative stamps.

The important listing of 'Specimen' stamps has been thoroughly checked throughout. Coil stamps have been included in all reigns for the first time.

Mount Everest 25th Anniversary Appeal Special Commemorative Cover

A special cover commemorating the 25th anniversary of the ascent of Mount Everest became available on 2 June. The cover, depicting Sherpa Tenzing on the summit, has the complete set of the 25th anniversary of the Coronation Stamps cancelled with a special one day handstamp.

Full details may be obtained from: J E Lea Ltd, 62 King Street, MANCHESTER, M2 4WA.

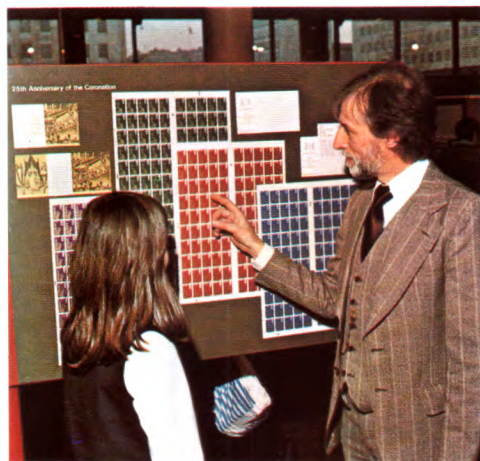
London 1980

To achieve their aim of making the International Stamp Exhibition, LONDON 1980, the best ever, the organisers have decided to allow more time for its construction.

For this reason LONDON 1980 will now open at Earls Court on Tuesday 6 May 1980 — the 140th anniversary of the world's first adhesive postage stamp, the Penny Black — until Wednesday 14 May 1980.

A brochure giving more details about the LONDON 1980 exhibition is now available. Those hoping to submit a competitive entry, take a trade stand, or visit the exhibition, are strongly urged to write to the Secretary, LONDON 1980, PO Box 300, LONDON WC2R 1AF.

Designers at Festival of Stamps



Among the visitors to this year's Festival of Stamps, organised by the Stamp Collecting Promotion Council, were British stamp designers Ronald Maddox and Jeffery Matthews, who found time to answer questions about their respective designs for the Historic Buildings and the 25th Anniversary of the Coronation postage stamp issues.

Posting Boxes

We plan to publish, during the coming months, photographs of the old and unusual posting boxes dotted about the countryside. The photographs have been generously supplied by the Letter Box Study Group, to whom we are indebted and grateful for their help and enthusiasm.



No. 1: This old hexagonal pillar box, still in use at St Peter Port, Guernsey, is thought to be one of the original experimental road-side boxes erected in the Channel Islands in 1852. These boxes — manufactured by John Vaudin at Le Feuvre's Foundry, St Helier, and the forerunners of the pillar boxes now in use throughout the British Isles — were introduced at the suggestion of Anthony Trollope, a Post Office surveyor, later to become famous as a novelist.

Letters to the Editor

Sir,

Gutter Pairs and Stamp Shape

Reading the informed letters from many contributors, my immediate reaction was a profound regret at not sticking to chemistry or technology since my first foray into the realms of classical architecture would appear to have been little short of disastrous, and for this I apologise to readers and the editor. I am, of course, referring to my use of the term 'Golden Section', also known as 'Golden Ratio, Golden Mean', etc.

As several readers have pointed out, the Golden Ratio is 1.618 : 1 and not 1.414 : 1. To set the record straight, it has interesting derivations. One arises from a series known as the Fibonacci numbers, from Leonardo (Fibonacci) da Pisa, a medieval investigator who proposed a series whereby each term would consist of the sum of the preceding two, thus: 0, 1, 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 13, 21, 34 etc. (See Van Nostrand Scientific Encyclopaedia, 5th ed.) This is expressed in Nature where botanical specimens often show adjacent Fibonacci numbers, eg in the core of daisy blossoms, spirals on pine-cones, on leaves of several trees, and on pineapples.

Now the surprising thing is that the ratio of adjacent numbers of this series tends to the Golden Ratio

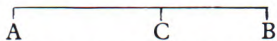
$$\frac{21}{13} = 1.6154 \quad \frac{55}{34} = 1.6176 \quad \frac{233}{144} = 1.6180$$

$$\frac{377}{233} = 1.6180 \quad \frac{610}{377} = 1.6180 \text{ etc}$$

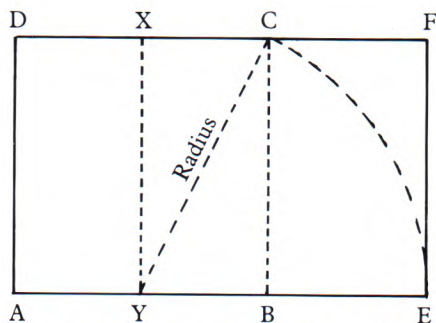
The classical section is defined when a line AB is divided unequally by a point C such that

$$\frac{AB}{AC} = \frac{AC}{CB}$$

This is the Golden Ratio, if CB = 1 then AC = 1.618.



It can be derived as follows. A square is constructed on AB, which we will call ABCD, which is divided into equal halves by the line XY. Taking Y as centre, radius YC,



An arc is marked from C to AB extended to E. The resulting rectangle AEFD is a Golden Rectangle, so is the rectangle BEFC.

The ratio $\frac{AE}{AB} = \frac{AB}{BE}$ = 1.618 (Also, of course, the areas $\frac{AEFD}{ABCD}$)

I am indebted to Mr G D Stewart for the simplest, most elegant numerical calculation:

$$\frac{a}{b} = \frac{b}{(a-b)} \quad \text{thus } b^2 = a(a-b), \text{ or } a^2 - ab - b^2 = 0$$

$$\text{Therefore } a = \frac{b(1 \pm \sqrt{5})}{2} \therefore \frac{a}{b} = 1.618$$

Another method yields $\frac{\sqrt{5}-1}{2}$ which is simply

the reciprocal.

Coming back to the shape of the stamps, it seems that the limits for 'looking correct' are approximately set by the 'Golden rectangle' (described above) on the one hand, and another famous shape, that selected internationally for paper sizes, on the other. This second shape, chosen for the A-series writing paper, is such that halving the rectangle along its longer sides retains the identical shape, or ratio. This can be repeated indefinitely, the shape always remaining constant as the size diminishes. This ratio is of course $1 : \sqrt{2}$, or $1 : 1.414$. These are the two shapes I confused in my article. I am told by a leading designer that the Golden Section 'looks better' in horizontal format, whereas the $\sqrt{2}$ shape is pleasing in horizontal or vertical, but clearly this is very subjective.

Now the current dimensions of Special Issue stamps are 1.60×1.173 ", giving a ratio of $1.364 : 1$, strictly just outside the subjective limits quoted. Alteration to bring them within these limits would be extremely expensive and time consuming, involving rebuilding the perforator drums, and in any case the difference is too small to be observable by most collectors, and might even offend some philatelists.

I again apologise for any confusion caused.

A D Walker

Dear Sir,

Re-reading Mr Curry's letter, on the shapes of commemorative stamps, in the December 1977 Bulletin led me to analyse his argument. His main contention was that designs using the full area of a stamp looked better, those with a white border seeming cramped.

He first stated that the present commemoratives had sides in the ratio of one to the square root of two, and that this was generally agreed to be a pleasant shape. Therefore, he said, on those stamps with a white border the design differs in proportion to the agreed pleasant shape. If Mr Curry would care to examine his

stamps more closely, he will find that it is the design of most stamps which is of this shape (27 mm by 38 mm), not the overall stamp (30 mm by 41 mm). Thus the first part of his argument is defeated.

Since the introduction of 30 mm by 41 mm as the norm with the Christmas 1970 issue only four issues have used more than 27 mm by 38 mm for the actual design (including all the unframed white background stamps). These four issues are the Explorers (72), Village Churches (72), Explorers (73) and Social Reformers (76). Apart from the clever Social Reformers design, which is similar to patterned wallpaper, they are prone to suffer if misaligned in the perforating machine. This, I would suggest, is probably one of the main reasons for the white border.

Personally, I think that the white border enhances many designs, but I still greatly like the Village Churches issue. However when the white border is overdone it does have deleterious effects; off centre copies of the 73 Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference issue look terrible with their gross margins.

Yours faithfully

Bath

M Newbound

Special Handstamps

Unless otherwise stated, items for reposting should bear $\frac{1}{2}p$ in excess of the normal postage and should be sent to the Head Postmaster of the town where the special posting box is located or the relevant District Head Postmaster in London marking the outer cover 'Special Handstamp'.

19 July 1978 (P/C)

**Sinking of the Bartimeo Colleoni
19 July 1940 HMAS Sydney 19 Jul 78
British Forces 1818 Postal Service.** Items for reposting as for handstamp of 24 May.

29 July 1978 (P/C)

**Military Air Pageant Old Warden L8338
L8338 29 July 78 British Forces 1617
Postal Service.** Items for reposting as for handstamp of 24 May.

29 July 1978 (P/R)

Inter-Tie 29 July 1978 Cleveland. Special posting box at the Town Hall Municipal Buildings, Middlesbrough, Cleveland TS1 2QQ.

28 August 1978 (P/R)

White Horse Show 28 August 78 Uffington Faringdon Oxfordshire. Special posting box at Show Ground, Uffington, Faringdon, Oxon.

9 October 1978 (P/R)

75th Anniversary 1903-1978 Letchworth 1st Garden City Hertfordshire 9 October 1978. Special posting box at the Letchworth Garden City Corporation Estates Office, The Broadway, Letchworth, Herts SG6 3AB.

Postmark Slogans

Unless otherwise stated, items for reposting bearing the appropriate postage rate should be forwarded to the Head Postmaster of the town where the slogan is to be used marking the outer cover 'Postmark Slogan'.

10 April 1978 UFN

A New Postal Service Datapost D. A Royal Mail Service The On Demand Service. Enquiries to Your Local Head Postmaster. To be used at Enfield. 1st class.

1 May-30 September 1978

Thomas Bewick Exhibition Laing Art Gallery 17 Jun — 30 Sep Tyne and Wear County Council Museums. To be used at Newcastle-upon-Tyne. 2nd class.

26 June-23 August 1978 (P)

Jeux Sans Frontieres Lincoln 23 August 1978. To be used at Lincoln. 1st class.

8 August 1978-7 August 1979

Portsmouth Is A Mechanised Letter Office Please Use Postcodes. To be used at Portsmouth. 1st and 2nd class.

2 May-31 October 1978 (P)

Clwyd for a Change of Scene. To be used at Chester, Rhyl and Wrexham. 1st and 2nd class.

Repeat Campaigns

24 April 1978-23 April 1979 (P)

Wonderland of Wales Llandudno For Colour Guide Send 20p P^O to Dept PS Town Hall. To be reused at Llandudno. 1st and 2nd class.

15 March 1978-14 March 1979 (P)

Elizabethan Banquets Every Tuesday Friday and Saturday in The Old Palace Hatfield Park Bookings Hatfield 62055. To be reused at Welwyn Garden City.

4 April 1978-3 April 1979 (P)

Eden Court Inverness The Theatre of The Highlands. To be reused at Inverness. 2nd class.

4 April 1978-3 April 1979 (P)

Visit Inverness The Highland Capital.

To be reused at Inverness. 1st class.

Distress Despair Telephone The Samaritans Aberystwyth 4535 In Confidence Day or Night. To be reused at Aberystwyth on the following dates:

19 June-15 July 1978

21 August-16 September 1978

30 October-30 December 1978

29 January-24 February 1979

1 April 1978-31 March 1979

Wigan Metropolitan A Strategic Communications Centre. To be reused at Wigan 1st class.

1 April 1978-31 March 1979

See The New Wigan For Yourself. To be reused at Wigan. 2nd class.

1 April-30 November 1978 (P)

Great Yarmouth Wish You Were Here. To be reused at Great Yarmouth. 1st class
1 April-30 November 1978. 2nd class 5 June-17 September 1978.

Visit Scone Palace Perthshire. To be reused at the following offices:

Glasgow 3-15 July 1978 1st and 2nd

Dundee 17-29 July 1978 2nd

Edinburgh 21 August-16 September 1978 2nd
All pictorial.

5 June-9 September 1978

Startime 78 at Bridlington Les Dawson. To be reused at York. 1st class.

30 May UFN

Post Early In The Day Before 4pm. To be reused at Norwich. 1st class.

12 June-5 August 1978 (P)

Eisteddfod Genedlaethol Caerdydd-Awst 7-12 78. Cardiff August 7-12 78 National Eisteddfod. To be reused at Cardiff.

5 June-2 December 1978 (P)

Skegness Hoteliers Association Skegness Passport to Pleasure. To be reused at Skegness. 2nd class.

P denotes Pictorial

C denotes Circular

R denotes Rectangular

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