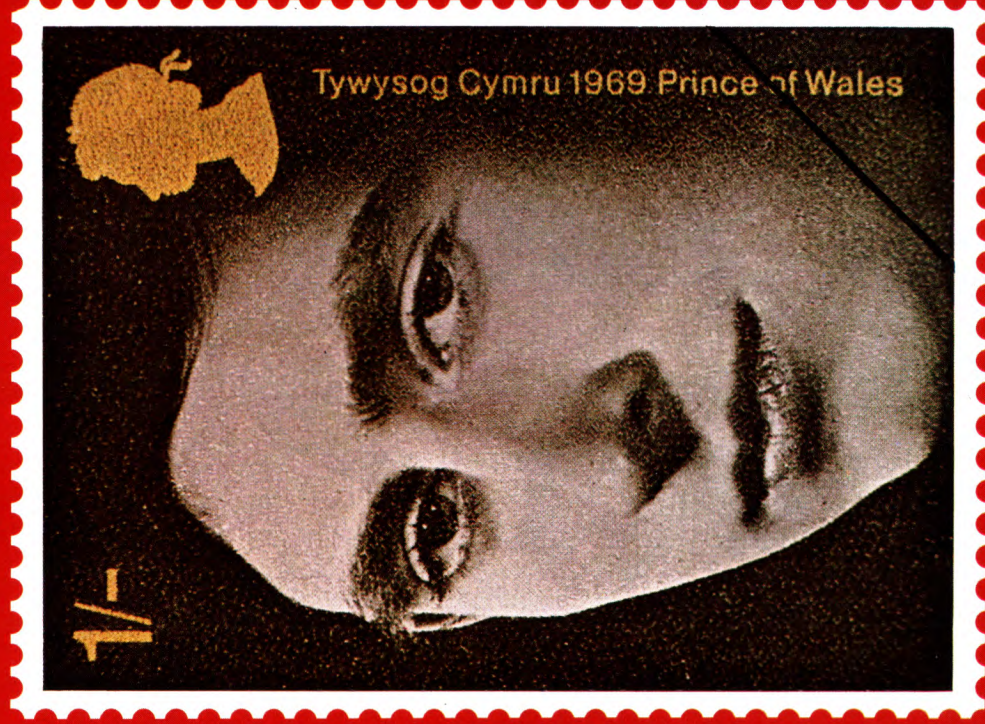


Philatelic Bulletin



Volume 6 Number 10 June 1969



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Introduction

This month a large part of the *Bulletin* is devoted to the Investiture of the Prince of Wales. This ceremony is to take place on 1 July 1969 at Caernarvon Castle and to mark the occasion a set of special stamps is to be issued on that day. Full details of the stamps are given together with some background information about the ceremony and pictures of the castle.

Please remember that our Letters to the Editor feature is your forum for any topic of philatelic interest and your letters are welcome.

The Philatelic Congress of Great Britain

Diamond Jubilee Anniversary 1909-1969

51st Congress, Bristol, 24-27 June 1969



Four attractive one-day handstamps designed by E. F. Huguen for the Diamond Jubilee of the Philatelic Congress of Great Britain meeting at Bristol from 24 June to 27 June, for their 51st Congress, will be used to cancel mail in connection with their special Congress souvenir envelopes issued for the occasion. The cancellations will have two themes running through them; the transport of mail by air, road, rail and sea and its links with Bristol past and present.

'Bristol Day' 24 June, shows an outline of the Concorde against the famous Clifton Suspension Bridge. 'Artists Day' 25 June, shows an artist's impression of the old Bush Hotel, Corn Street, Bristol, with the afternoon mail coach leaving for London. 'G.P.O. Day' 26 June, shows an early railway TPO. 'Congress Day' depicts Brunel's famous ship, the Great Britain on her maiden voyage to New York.

A temporary Post Office will be installed in

the Grand Hotel, Bristol, for the four days of Congress and will be open for the sale of stamps and acceptance of registered mail. A special post box will be installed.

As a tribute to Congress the Crown Agents are putting on an exhibition at the Bristol City Museum for the month of June. This will be a comprehensive selection of current and forthcoming issues of the countries for which they act.

The GPO will also be mounting a special exhibition at the Grand Hotel during Congress Week.

Three Papers will be presented to Congress for discussion. These again follow through a theme; the design, printing and production and distribution of stamps and the part the Post Office will play in the future. They will show the involvement of the Artist, Printer and the GPO and their related problems.

National Postal Museum Notes

Embossed Postal Stationery

The daily issue of stamped envelopes in 1852 averaged sixty thousand – a number which laid end to end would have extended four or five miles.

Writing in 'Household Words' in 1852 Charles Dickens describes the process of production then employed at Somerset House. 'Four embossing presses, each served by two boys, work under a superintendent, in one of the lower rooms facing the River Thames. Each press descends with a regular perpendicular movement to stamp with the die the envelope below with the head in relief. The envelope rested on a leather pad.'

The press used for this purpose was the invention of Edwin Hill, brother of Rowland Hill, who was Controller of Stamps at Somerset House.

Edwin was a mechanically-minded inventive genius. The embossing press he pioneered made it possible to accomplish in one operation embossing the Queen's head on the envelopes and the printing of the coloured ground. The process kept the cost of production down to a

low level and was so simple that no less than sixty envelopes were printed in a minute. So dexterous did the attendant boys become that, while feeding the press, they also read from an open book placed in a convenient position before them! 'The Cyclopaedia of Useful Arts' edited by Charles Tomlinson in 1866, from which one of our Illustrations is taken, records that similar machines were exported from this country for use by the Russian and Neapolitan governments and for the East India Company.

Among the treasures of the National Postal Museum in the Reginald M. Phillips' collection is Edwin Hill's 'daily remembrancer' for 1862 on the opening pages of which Edwin Hill made notes about a device for perforating stamps – these notes are enlivened by thumb nail sketches of machine components which make his intentions plain. The Phillips' collection also contains examples of the 'penny pink' and 'two penny blue' stamped envelopes embossed on Edwin Hill's machine. The similarity of these examples of embossed

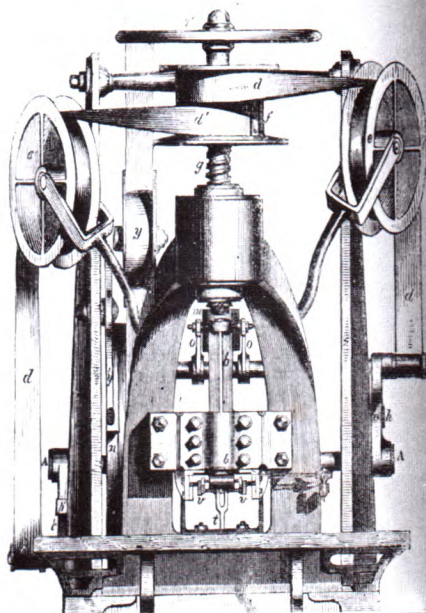
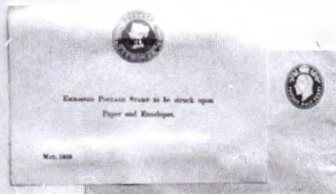


The embossed stamps

The use of embossed stamps on postal stationery envelopes commenced in January 1841 and continues to this day.

The embossing press on which the stamps were printed at Somerset House was invented by Rowland Hill's brother Edwin, who was Superintendent of Stamps for the Board of Inland Revenue.

Between 1847-1854 octagonal adhesive stamps for 1/-, 10d and 6d were similarly made for use on registered and overseas mail. They were replaced by surface printed stamps in 1855.



Victorian embossing die punch matrix produced by the Royal Mint

Edmund Dulac's head of King George VI developed at the Mint as an embossing die punch matrix



Edmund Dulac's original plaster head of The Sovereign signed and dated 16 August 1937

A Rare Post Office

postal stationery, the Queen's head by William Wyon, and the postal stationery of our time, the Queen's head being by Arnold Machin, is remarkable.

We have recently acquired from the Royal Mint a number of dies used for the production of postal stationery including the Edmund Dulac plaster head of King George VI, the master die made from it on a reducing machine and we have, of course, examples of the stamped stationery which resulted.

Postal stationery is not so assiduously collected as adhesive stamps but it is nevertheless a rewarding study. A surprisingly large number of overseas postal administrations have, over the years, produced stamped envelopes very much in the manner of Wyon's 'Penny Pink' of 1841 and the British range which succeeded it. A few of these envelopes are on show with the Post Office collection of over 250,000 stamps of the world. The remainder are in the Museum reserve collections and they may, by appointment, be examined by those specially interested in such matters.

F. MARCUS ARMAN



Philatelic Sales Counter

A further extension of our philatelic service took place on 12 May 1969 by the opening of a philatelic sales counter at Cardiff.

There are now eleven of such counters at: London Chief Office, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Blackpool, Liverpool, Newcastle, Sheffield, Leeds, Bristol, Belfast and Cardiff.

Rolls of Stamps

The note on p. 11 of the April *Bulletin* about 2d V rolls should read 'Uncoated Watermarked' paper and not as stated.

A reader from Canada was kind enough to send the photograph of a very unusual post office and his own words tell the story.

'During September 1968, while touring Cape Breton Island, Nova Scotia, I came upon the post office building in the attached photograph. As you will note the words "Post Office" appear in three languages on the front of the building, French, Gaelic and English. Upon investigation I was informed that this post office is the only one in Canada on which the words "Post Office" appear in Gaelic.'

Gaelic is not one of the Editor's strong points but he understands that a reasonable translation of 'Tigh Litrichean' gives the attractive title 'House of Letters'.

The offices in both Nova Scotia and the Isle of Iona are shown for comparison.

British Cathedrals—Some Background Notes

Canterbury Cathedral

The original church on the site of Canterbury Cathedral was destroyed by fire in 1067. Rebuilding of a new church commenced immediately but this was partly destroyed by fire in 1174. Work continued and the building was completed in 1184. The nave and transepts were rebuilt between 1379 and 1400 and the Lady and Warrior chapels were added during the next century. The lovely central tower was raised during 1495 and 1503 to replace the Norman 'Angel Steeple'.

The shrine to St Thomas à Becket in Trinity chapel became one of the most popular places of pilgrimage in the Middle Ages and a visit to the shrine forms the background to Chaucer's famous 'Canterbury Tales'.

Some of the finest English medieval stained glass is to be seen in this cathedral.

York Minster

York Minster is the largest medieval cathedral in Britain and although there has been a church on the present site since 672, with exception of the crypt, it can show no work of a date prior to 1227. The cathedral presents some rich and varied façades, the most eloquent of which is the 14th-century English-Gothic west front.

Durham Cathedral

This is the most impressively situated English cathedral, standing on a superb site above the wooded cliffs of the River Wear, and is often called the noblest Romanesque church in Europe. It is one of the few examples, in Britain, of the medieval fortress city and contains what is probably the first rib vaulting in stone.

St Giles Cathedral, Edinburgh

The most striking feature of this cathedral is the beautiful Gothic Crown tower. There has been a church on the site of the present cathedral since 854 and a public subscription enabled extensive restoration to be carried out in the 19th century.

St Paul's Cathedral

The great fire of London of 1666 hastened the process of degeneration that for over 100 years had affected the fabric of old St Paul's, and building began, in 1675, on the present St Paul's—masterpiece of Sir Christopher Wren.

The Glory of St Paul's is the magnificent dome 102 feet in diameter and rising in the interior to 214 feet above ground level.

Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King

This cathedral is a radical departure from traditional cathedral design and an outstanding example of a blend of functionalism and religious architecture. It was designed by Frederick Gibberd, CBE, ARA, and was completed in 1967. The building is circular with a main altar in the centre of the circle surrounded by ten chapels each with a quality and character of its own.

Commercial Special Cover Services

An increasing number of commercial enterprises ask us to give free publicity to Commemorative Cover Services which are allied in some cases to local anniversaries or events.

While we are happy to publish details of the special handstamps in our regular feature we do not accept advertisements for the cover services. In some instances the services offered are in direct competition with the Post Office's own and to print all the others would take up a disproportionate amount of space in the *Bulletin*.

We are sorry to have to disappoint the sponsors of many worthwhile and charitable projects but the *Bulletin* has to cater for many facets of philately and to print details of several cover services each month would not be well received by the majority of our readers.

We will, in future, publicize only the Post Office official cover services and the occasional one sponsored by our Forces Postal colleagues at the Ministry of Defence.

Investiture of HRH Prince of Wales

Caernarvon Castle

Preparing Caernarvon Castle, one of the finest and best preserved of Edward I's Welsh fortresses, for the Investiture of the Prince of Wales on 1 July this year, is the responsibility of the Ministry of Public Building and Works.

The biggest constructional item in the castle is the tiered stands erected inside and outside the castle to provide seating for more than 7,000 people.

There will be seating inside the castle grounds for 3,949 guests, plus 200 choir members, 60 orchestra musicians, 60 military bandsmen and 32 penillion choir members.

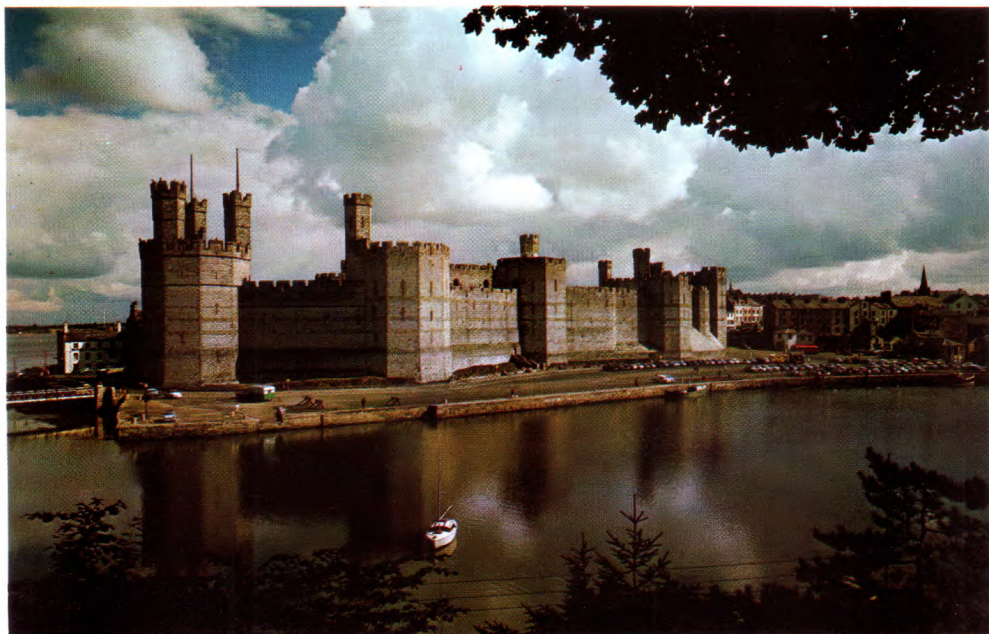
Special stands are being erected for the musicians and choirs, with a canopy on the orchestra stand designed in conjunction with BBC engineers for the BBC Welsh Orchestra. The canopy, as well as protecting the musicians and their instruments, has been designed to give maximum light and resonance.

In the moats in front of the castle and around the Lloyd George statue in the square there will be seats for 2,678 spectators.

There will be positions provided for trumpeters at four high places inside the castle – above the King's Gate, Queen Eleanor's Gate, Eagle Tower and Queen's Tower. This arrangement has been made in co-operation with the Master of the Queen's Musick, Sir Arthur Bliss, and the Commandant and the Director of Music at Kneller Hall, London.

In order to give the widest possible facilities for televising and reporting the ceremony, the seating within the castle is being restricted to provide a large open area of green lawn in front of the Royal dais.

It was also decided to do away with the traditional 'red carpet' and make as much use as possible of the grim majesty of the castle walls and of the natural facilities provided by existing stone paths.



Caernarvon Castle.

Photographs by courtesy of Ministry of Public Building and Works.

The plan has been developed to make use of these as the processional way, both from the Watergate to the dais and from the dais to Queen Eleanor's Gate and King's Gate to develop a simple plan from the difficult and uncompromising shape of the castle walls.

A special compound has been built outside the castle on the Slate Quay to meet the needs of the British and overseas television organizations. This has been designed so that the television and broadcasting vans will not intrude unduly against the vast curtain wall of the castle which dominates the quay. An additional problem is to carry out this work without affecting the normal traffic along the quay and without interference with the Army who have erected a temporary bridge.

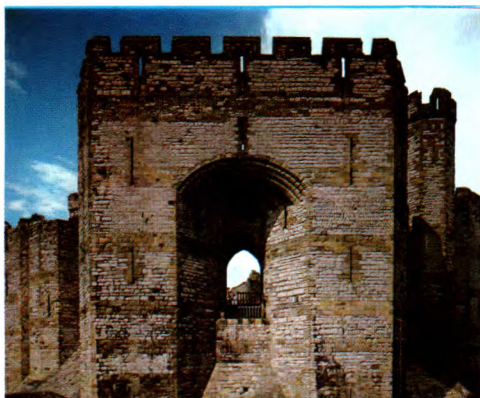
Twenty-one special pre-determined camera positions have been built on the walls to meet the requirements of television and newsreels, and in some cases this will involve the erection of hoists to get heavy camera equipment to high levels.

Within the towers and walls of the castle, some nineteen rooms are being used for various purposes connected with the investiture.

The units – including the Earl Marshal's office, the Army, the Police, the Chief Steward, TV control rooms and the Ministry – are all connected by a six-way closed circuit inter-communication system so that they can communicate with each other and can be aware not only of what is happening in the castle but what is happening during the course of the procession.

The Ministry is also preparing a robing-room in the castle for HRH the Prince of Wales while he is awaiting the summons from HM the Queen. There are no other robing-rooms inside the castle and all the dignitaries who will be walking in the official processions will robe in the Council offices in Shirehall Street.

Along the processional route to the castle, Crown buildings in Caernarvon will be decorated, and limited decoration will also be carried out on public buildings in the towns



Queen Eleanor's Gate.



King's Gate.

to be visited by the Prince on his tour through the Principality during the week of the investiture.

At the castle itself, arrangements have been made for it to be floodlit from 26 May (the Spring bank holiday in the UK) which also marks the start of 'Croeso 69'.

The castle, closed to the public since 1 February, will re-open on 7 July after the removal of the souvenir chairs and television cabling.

Certain other features, including the Royal dais, the balcony at the Queen Eleanor's Gate, the orchestra stand, the general décor, seat stands and platforms will be left in position as an added attraction to visitors.

After the end of September, all physical traces of the investiture will be removed and the castle restored to its former state.

An additional attraction during the period after the investiture will be a special exhibition in the castle of the original drawings for the design of the Royal dais, the stands and other decorations. There will also be a photographic display of the investiture itself.

The possibility of a permanent exhibition in the castle, which will incorporate some of the items used in the ceremony (e.g. the slate thrones), is being considered.

Throughout the work of preparing for the investiture great care has been taken to ensure that the minimum of disturbance is caused to the fabric of this ancient monument.

Philatelic Services

As announced in the May issue of the *Bulletin*, the Post Office will be offering two first-day covers services for the Prince of Wales Investiture issue on 1 July 1969. The normal services will be available from the Philatelic Bureau in Edinburgh with the usual Bureau first-day-of-issue cancellation. In addition a special philatelic office has been set up at Caernarvon and this will offer 'A' and 'B' first-day cover services with a special commemorative Welsh/English post mark. Full details appear in the May issue of the *Bulletin*,

and the charges are 6s (75 US cents) for the 'A' service and 4s (50 US cents) for the 'B' service.

The GPO Philatelic Office was set up to act as a focal point in Caernarvon for all official philatelic activities surrounding the Investiture. It is to be managed by Mr Frank Evans, Head Postmaster, Aberystwyth, and operated by a staff drawn from Post Offices throughout Wales. There is very close liaison with the Philatelic Bureau in Edinburgh on all aspects of this mammoth philatelic exercise.

A unique souvenir produced by the Post Office is a presentation pack of the investiture special issue stamps which was made available exclusively through Education Authorities for schoolchildren in Wales and Monmouthshire. This pack, with texts in English and Welsh, contains biographical details of the Prince of Wales and background historical information about the investiture. The issue is restricted to one presentation pack for each pupil. The pack was designed by Douglas Halliday, the Head of the School of Graphic Design, College of Art and Design at Newport, Monmouthshire.

The Investiture

The title of the Prince of Wales dates back to the middle of the 13th century. In the early Middle Ages, Wales was divided into a number of small kingdoms but superior to all other kings in Wales was the king whose seat was at Aberffraw in Anglesey. From the line of this Royal House was descended Llywelyn ap Gruffydd who in 1258 succeeded in uniting a large part of Wales into a principality and subsequently was the first to bear the title Prince of Wales. On the death in battle of Llywelyn the Great in 1282, the principality passed into the hands of Edward I and, in 1301, the King granted the title and the principality to his eldest surviving son Edward who had been born in Caernarvon in 1284. From that time onwards it has become customary for the eldest son of the Sovereign of England to be created Prince of Wales.

The ceremony of investiture was first held in Wales at Caernarvon Castle in July 1911 by King George V. On that occasion the Prince of Wales was invested with the emblems of his principality and then presented to the people of Wales by the reigning monarch.

Great care has gone into the planning of the ceremony of investiture of the present Prince of Wales which will take place on 1 July 1969. Massed brass bands from local North Wales brass bands will line the two-mile processional route to the gates of Caernarvon Castle. At the starting point of the procession, a Guard of Honour will be mounted by the 1st Battalion the Royal Welch Fusiliers with the Queen's Colour together with the Band of the Royal Regiment of Wales and the Corps of Drums. At the Water Gate entrance to the castle where the Royal Procession will arrive, the Guard of Honour will be mounted by the 1st Battalion Welsh Guards with the Queen's Colour, the Band of the Regiment and the Corps of Drums of the Battalion. The Carriage Procession of the Prince of Wales will be accompanied by a Prince of Wales' escort of the Household Cavalry.

On his arrival at the castle the Prince will be received by the Mayor of Caernarvon, and the Constable of the Castle. He will then be conducted to the Chamberlain Tower within the castle to await a formal summons from HM the Queen. The investiture ceremony itself will be held on a dais alongside the Eagle Tower (this tower is depicted on one of the 5d stamps). After the ceremony the Queen, accompanied by the Duke of Edinburgh, will present the Prince to the Welsh people from three points:

Queen Eleanor's Gate (depicted on one of the 5d stamps)

On the steps outside the King's Gate (depicted on one of the 5d stamps)

The Lower Ward (inside the castle).

The ceremony of investiture will be witnessed by approximately 4,000 people within the castle. There will be radio and television coverage and it is estimated that some 500

million people throughout the world will either watch the ceremony on television in colour or black and white or listen to it on the radio.

After the investiture the Prince will spend four days visiting several counties meeting the Welsh people and finishing with a visit to Cardiff, the capital city of Wales, where he will receive the Honorary Freedom of the City.

The investiture ceremony will be a great occasion for Welsh people everywhere and of historical interest to the rest of the world.

(We are grateful for the help given in the collation of historical information by the County Records Office, Caernarvon, the late Professor W. Ogwen Williams of the University College of Wales, Aberystwyth, and Major Francis Jones, *Wales Herald Extraordinary*.)

HRH the Prince of Wales

HRH Prince Charles, Prince of Wales, was born on the 14 November 1948 at Buckingham Palace, London. He was educated at Cheam School, Gordonstoun, and spent some time at Geelong Grammar School in Australia. After pursuing a course of studies at Trinity College, Cambridge, he spent a term at the University College of Wales, Aberystwyth, studying Welsh language and culture.

His family tree shows descent from many famous Princes and Chieftains of the principality including Rhodri Mawr, Llywelyn the Great, the Tudors, Owain Glyndwr (Owen Glendower) and the Lord Rhys.

Prince of Wales Investiture Stamps

We have issued many stamps covering a wide range of events but surely none to commemorate such a unique occasion as the Investiture of the Prince of Wales which takes place on 1 July 1969 at Caernarvon Castle.

David Gentleman's magnificent designs which appear on five stamps to be issued on 1 July – three each of 5d and two single stamps at 9d and 1s – capture the spirit of the ceremony by depicting parts of the Castle, an example of Welsh art and a portrait of the Prince of Wales.



The triptych of 5d stamps show the Kings Gate, the Eagle Tower and Queen Eleanor's Gate all of which play an important part in the ceremony. The 9d stamp illustrates a Celtic Cross from Margam Abbey Museum in Glamorgan, and the 1s a portrait of the Prince. Each of the stamps shows the Welsh and English version of the words 'Prince of Wales'. This is the first time bilingualism has been used throughout a British special stamp issue.

In choosing the designs the Postmaster General had the help of his Stamp Advisory Committee, and advice from the Welsh Office, the Office for the Investiture of the Prince of Wales and Lord Snowdon's Committee.

In addition to the new stamps a special pictorial Air Letter form commemorating the Investiture has been produced and will be put on sale on 1 July, price 10d each. The design, a colour drawing of Caernarvon Castle against a foreground of sea and small ships, is also by David Gentleman. The stamp is the normal VC10 aircraft design.

The text on the Air Letter is in Welsh and English.

Printing details

Printer : Harrison & Sons

Paper : Coated unwatermarked phosphor lined

Process : Photogravure

Machines : 5d Sheet fed rotary
9d and 1s Sheet fed gravure

Size : 1.6" × 1.175" (portrait)

Perforation : 15 × 14

Number to sheet : 5d 72
9d 60
1s 60

Colours :

5d French grey, light grey, mid grey, green, black, red, silver

9d Mid grey, light grey, black, gold

1s Black, gold

Caernarvon Castle Special Handstamp

The special handstamp 'The Royal Borough of Caernarvon-Investiture 1969 BLWYDDYN YR ARWISGIAD 69' introduced at Caernarvon Head Post Office on 1 March was commissioned for use in conjunction with the 5s Caernarvon Castle postage stamps in order to provide a unique memento of investiture year.

The handstamp is therefore only used to cancel this 5s stamp.

Recent Changes

The 1s 6d Northern Ireland stamps are now available on coated unwatermarked paper with pva gum.

50th Anniversaries

1. Alcock and Witten Brown: First Transatlantic Flight

After the excitement of the *Daily Mail* Transatlantic Air Race the actual 50th Anniversary of the first transatlantic flight by Alcock and Witten Brown will be commemorated on 14 and 15 June by the production of a special cover and pictorial handstamp.



The covers will be flown across the Atlantic by RAF VC10 and will be stamped with a special cachet.

The two philatelic services listed below will be available from:

Philatelic Officer,
Royal Air Force Brize Norton,
Oxford.

(i) The Commemorative Cover, the Alcock and Witten Brown 5d stamp cancelled with the pictorial handstamp, and illustrated with the 'flown cover' cachet, will be returned to addressee under cover, price 4s 6d.

(ii) Pre-addressed, pre-stamped, envelopes only will be cancelled with the special handstamp and returned to addressees.

2. R34 Airship Double Crossing of Atlantic

Another 50th Anniversary Cover with the 1s RAF stamp, and also flown both ways across the Atlantic, will be available from:

Philatelic Officer,
Royal Air Force Binbrook,
Lincolnshire.



Philatelic services described above in (i) and (ii) also apply to the R34 Cover, prices 5s.

Post Brenhinol—PO Vans Go Welsh

'Post Brenhinol'—Welsh for 'Royal Mail'—will appear for the first time soon on Post Office mail vans. This was announced in the House of Commons by the Postmaster General, Rt Hon John Stonehouse, MP.

The insignia will be seen first in the Caernarvon area. Transfers of a new design incorporating the royal cypher and lettering will be put on 24 vans in time for Prince Charles' investiture on 1 July.

Another 169 vans in predominantly Welsh-speaking areas north of a line from Rhyl to Barmouth will be given the insignia next—also,

the Post Office hopes, in time for the investiture.

The words 'Royal Mail', in white, will appear alongside the crown. 'Post Brenhinol', in black, will be above or below them, depending on which side of the vehicle they are on. The crown and cypher will be in gold.

At present, the crown, cypher and words 'Royal Mail' are all in gold, with yellow and black shading.

Vans in other parts of Wales will get the insignia later.

Special Handstamps

'Rishworth School Founder's Week Fair – Halifax Yorkshire' will be used at Halifax on 12 July 1969. It is of rectangular design.

'Third Rally Veteran Cycles, Herne Hill, S.E.24', 1 July 1969 has been cancelled.

'Hospital Centenary–Royston Herts' will be used at Royston on 7 June 1969. It is of circular design with an Aladdin lamp as a central motif.

'660 Anniversary St Botolph's Church – Boston Lincs' will be used at Boston on 15 June 1969. It is of rectangular design showing outline of the church.

'Exhibition 250th Congregational Church Anniversary' will be used at Nuneaton on 21 June 1969. It is of rectangular design showing an outline of the church.

'Westwood High School – Leek Staffordshire' will be used at Leek on 20 September 1969. It is of rectangular design featuring the school crest and old leek '448' spoon cancellation. Items for re-posting to the Head Postmaster, Stoke-on-Trent.

'50th Anniversary First Non-Stop Atlantic Flight 1919–1969 – British Forces Postal Service 1086' will be used at RAF Brize Norton on 14 June 1969. Items for re-posting to:

RAF Museum Philatelic Office,
Ministry of Defence,
Main Building,
Room 3221,
Whitehall,
SW1.

'Nettleham Lincoln' will be used on 1 July 1969 at Lincoln. It is of circular design and features the 'Fleur-de-lis' of the Lincoln coat of arms as a central motif.

'10th Anniversary – The World's First Hovercraft "Flight" – Southampton Water' will be used at Southampton on 11 June 1969. It is of rectangular design showing the central shield of the Southampton coat of arms.

'Royal visit – Western Fleet – at Torbay South Devon' will be used at Torquay on 29 July 1969. It is of circular design with HMV *Britannia* illustrated as a central motif.

'Hovenden House – Cheshire Home Garden Fete – Fleet Spalding' will be used at Holbeach on 5 July 1969. It is of circular design.

'Alcock and Brown Exhibition Manchester – International Airport' will be used at Manchester from 14 June to 13 July 1969 inclusive. It is of circular design.

'Colchester Tattoo – BFPO 1094' will be used at Colchester from 30 July to 2 August 1969. It is of circular design with the tri-service emblem as a central motif. Items for re-posting should be sent to:

Philatelic Section,
3 Div PCCURE,
Cherry Tree Camp,
Colchester, Essex.

'Postal History Society – 25th Conference – Douglas Isle of Man' will be used at Douglas on 4 October 1969. The design shows the old '407' cancellation to the right of the circular postmark.

'Halfpenny Green – last Day of ½d. – Stourbridge Worcester' will be used at Stourbridge on 31 July 1969. It is of circular design.

Items for re-posting should be sent to the Head Postmasters in the areas concerned, except where otherwise stated.

Postmark Slogans

The slogan 'Aldershot Army Display 14th and 15th June' will be used transposed at Aldershot, Farnham, Godalming and Reading from 26 May until 9 June.

'The Open Golf Championships 9th 10th 11th 12th July 1969 Lytham St Annes' will be used transposed at Blackpool from 8 June until 12 July.

'Beautiful Bournemouth for Sun Sea and Sands' will be used transposed at Bournemouth from 2 June until 5 July.

'Cambridge Festival 17th July to 31st July 1969' will be used transposed at Cambridge from 16 June until 19 July.

Letters to the Editor

'Cotswolds Antiques Fair 4th-7th June Stroud' will be used transposed at Gloucester from 14 May until 4 June.

'Harrogate Festival of Arts and Sciences August 5th-16th 1969' will be used transposed at Harrogate from 19 May until 16 August.

'Visit Tatton Park Knutsford Cheshire's Stately Home' is being re-used at Knutsford until 30 August.

'International Labour Organisation 1919-1969 workers governments employers' will be used transposed at London Western District Office from 9 June until 31 August.

'Visit Newark' is in use transposed at Newark until further notice.

'Newmarket Races August 8th, 9th' will be used transposed at Newmarket from 2-8 August.

'North Riding Sponsors Development Tel: 0609 3123' is in use transposed at Northallerton, Richmond, Co. Durham, Thirsk, Saltburn and Guisborough until further notice.

'Prestwick Bathing Beauty Competition Saturday 26th July' will be used transposed at Prestwick from 1-26 July.

'Solihull Festival of Arts 18th-26th July 1969' will be used transposed at Solihull and Birmingham HO from 22 June until 20 July.

'Tunbridge Wells Antiques Fair the Assembly Hall 25th-28th June' will be used transposed at Tunbridge Wells from 4-25 June.

'Wallasey Festival of Sport 30th May-15th June 1969' will be used transposed at Wallasey from 12 May-15 June.

Dear Sir,

With the printing of the high values, the set of new definitives have been completed. In order to acquire first-day covers of all these stamps (including the colour change) six separate covers have had to be purchased. But, in two years time - in 1971 - Britain goes over to decimal coinage. What will happen to these stamps? - the prices will have to be changed to 'new' pence. Surely this doesn't mean six new first-day covers? - or does it?

Yours sincerely,

PETER DART

Dawlish, Devon

(No decision has yet been taken as to the way in which stamps in decimal currency will be issued. Ed.)

Dear Sir,

I have been a keen philatelist for a number of years and consider that a great deal of the pleasure comes from having to seek for rarer items to be included in my collection. In this light I view the additional effort entailed in obtaining corner blocks with cylinder numbers well worth while, particularly because of the relative scarcity of such items.

Consequently I find the recent Concorde issue - on which the cylinder numbers were printed in all four corners - an anathema and hope that the GPO will not expand the practice to include any future issues.

Yours faithfully,

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(Readers may recollect that the Concorde issue was an experimental one designed to measure philatelic reaction to the question of additional cylinder numbers per sheet. Further views on this controversial subject are welcome. Ed.)

