

Philatelic Bulletin



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POSTCODES FOR ALL	2
GANDHI	3
CHANNEL ISLANDS STAMPS	4
GANDHI STAMP	4
UNACCEPTED STAMP DESIGNS	5
NATIONAL POSTAL MUSEUM	
NOTES	6
PHILATELIC POSTING BOXES	7
PHOSPHOR TREATED POSTAGE	
STAMPS	8
PHOSPHOR RECOGNITION FOR	
BEGINNERS	8
POSTMARK SLOGANS	10
'PICTURE TO POST' WINS FILM	
FESTIVAL AWARD	10
WITHDRAWAL OF BUREAU	
STOCK ITEMS	10
SPECIAL HANDSTAMPS	11
POST OFFICE TECHNOLOGY -	
FIRST-DAY COVER SERVICES	11
BINDERS FOR 'PHILATELIC	
BULLETIN'	12
NATO AIR DAY	12
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR	12
TRAVELLING POST OFFICE OF	
GREAT BRITAIN	14
COLLECTORS PACK 1969	15
GANDHI FIRST-DAY COVER	
SERVICES	15
CHRISTMAS 1969 STAMPS	15

The Post Office is breaking new ground with the next special stamp issue as for the first time it portrays an overseas figure - Gandhi. In addition to full details about the stamp we have a fine article on Gandhi, specially written for the *Bulletin* by Mr Geoffrey Ashe, Gandhi's biographer.

Our readers who file their *Bulletins* in the special binders are reminded that volume 7 starts in September and new binders will be required. Those who have not seen the binders may be interested in the colour reproduction on page 12.

Postcodes for All

Most of our British readers will be aware of the postcode - a combination of letters and figures added to the normal address which are an aid to electronic sorting.

To fit in better with Post Office plans to speed up the handling of letters, postcoding is to be extended to cover all of the Counties, 20 million addresses. Originally plans were for codes to be given only to London Head District Offices and the largest provincial centres but it is now intended to add a further 40 smaller centres to complete a nationwide network.

So far 300 post-towns have been coded, involving about 6½ million addresses, or about one-third of all the addresses in Britain. The programme is expected to be completed by the end of 1972 when almost all the country will have been covered.

Some of the smaller centres will be coded this year, but it will not be until 1970 that the first of them will be introduced. Among the new centres will be Swindon, Taunton, Barnstaple, Basildon, Dudley, Bedford, Wakefield, Chesterfield and Burnley.

The British coding system is more effective than those used in other countries and it enables letters to be sorted all the way to the delivering postman.

Gandhi

On 13 August a new 1s 6d stamp is to mark the centenary year of Mahatma Gandhi. It is the first British stamp ever to portray a non-British celebrity. Ironically, he rose to fame as a rebel against Britain.

Earl Mountbatten, the last Viceroy of India, is Chairman of the UK Committee for the Gandhi Centenary which is one of many such committees throughout the world honouring the saintly founder of modern India.

The UK Committee brings together distinguished figures from various fields. Among them are the Archbishop of Canterbury, Lord Butler, Lord Thomson, Sir Alec Guinness, Yehudi Menuhin, Dame Sybil Thorndike and Vanessa Redgrave. On 30 January, the anniversary of Gandhi's assassination, the Committee held a memorial service in St Paul's Cathedral. Other events during the year include lectures, conferences, an exhibition at the British Museum, TV features, and a Concert of East and West in the Albert Hall. The permanent British memorial is to be a library.

For many supporters of the Committee, this is more than a commemoration. They agree with Martin Luther King in regarding Gandhi as an apostle to the world. He stood for values transcending his political role. In that spirit, the profits of the Albert Hall concert are to finance an adventure playground in Birmingham. A new School of Non-Violence in London is exploring Gandhi's teachings, and re-stating them in contemporary terms.

He was born in Porbandar on 2 October 1869 in a prosperous Hindu family. His full name was Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi. 'Mahatma' is a title meaning 'Great Soul'; it was bestowed by the poet Tagore in 1915, and adopted by the Indian people, in defiance of Gandhi's own protests.

His father was prime minister of a British-controlled principality. In 1888 Gandhi junior was sent to England to study, with a view to his succeeding to his father's post. He enrolled at the Inner Temple and was called to the Bar in 1891. Meanwhile, however, he had made

friends among the London intelligentsia. Through their influence, he gradually learned to re-interpret some of the ancient ideals of Hinduism – above all, Ahimsa or non-violence. These were to inspire his political action.

For twenty years he lived chiefly in South Africa. He practised law, but became prominent as a campaigner for civil rights for the Indian minority. Here he invented the peaceful, heroic technique which he called Satyagraha, 'Truth-Force'. It meant the unarmed defiance of wrong, accompanied by constructive social work, and a patient appeal to the best in human nature. The South African Indians simply refused to obey discriminatory laws. Eventually the worst of the laws were repealed.

Gandhi returned to India and attracted a following there, which included the young Nehru. He was still loyal to the British Empire, and hoped for peaceful change. But his hope faded. In 1921 he launched non-co-operation, a movement to exert pressure on the British Raj without violence. Showing a moral firmness rare among politicians, he called it off when violence occurred.

For years he was in and out of prison. When free, he went among the peasants reviving their ruined cottage industries – especially spinning and weaving – and taught them to improve their living conditions. Also he toiled to reconcile Hindus and Muslims.

His second campaign for Indian self-rule began in 1930. Throughout that year, despite civil disobedience on a vast scale, no Englishman was killed. Hitherto the nationalist movement had been middle-class. Gandhi, by his religious and popular appeal, gave it the mass basis it needed for victory. He did not 'conquer' the British Raj, but he did achieve a change of mind on his opponent's side, which was the real aim of Truth-Force. After the upsurge of the 1930's, independence was still remote, yet the psychological corner had been turned. India's leader had aroused too much sympathy to be ignored. Britain no longer had the will to hold out for ever.

Gandhi Stamp

Gandhi spent his last months, after independence, in a lonely, courageous, ultimately triumphant struggle to stop Hindu-Muslim fighting. He was murdered in 1948 by a fanatic of his own religion, who thought him too kind to Muslims. India today is not the decentralized peasant commonwealth of his dreams. But his long battles for such social causes as the emancipation of women and Untouchables have left a lasting mark. Indians may not always remember his non-violence, but they revere him as a sort of Moses, a moulder of the national character: the leader who taught them to shed fear, stand on their own feet, and think for themselves.

Meanwhile, many of his western disciples believe that growing public disgust at violence – not only warfare, but also the conduct of misguided ‘militants’ – may awaken fresh interest in his vision of changing the world by love rather than hate, conversion rather than conquest.

GEOFFREY ASHE

Channel Islands Stamps

We wish to remind our readers that Independent Postal Issue of stamps will be made by Jersey and Guernsey on and after 1 October 1969. These stamps will not be available from the Philatelic Bureau in Edinburgh.

All enquiries about the issues should be directed for Jersey as follows:

The Jersey Philatelic Services,
6A, Columberie,
P.O. Box, 304,
JERSEY,
Channel Islands.

and Guernsey

Guernsey Philatelic Bureau,
c/o Head Post Office, Smith Street,
St Peter Port,
GUERNSEY,
Channel Islands.

The existing Jersey and Guernsey Regional stamps will of course be available from Edinburgh until further notice.

The 1s 6d stamp to be issued on 13 August 1969 is unique in two ways. It is the first ever issued by the British Post Office showing an overseas figure and the first time an overseas artist has had his commissioned design accepted.

There will be no presentation packs for this issue.

The artist, Biman Mullick, has shown the head of Gandhi superimposed on a background of the colours of the Indian flag with the caption ‘Gandhi Centenary Year’.

Biman Mullick studied literature at Calcutta University and, later, Advertising Design at the St Martin’s School of Art in London. In addition to stamp design he has worked on typography, book design and illustration. He is visiting teacher in Graphic Design at Folkestone School of Arts and Crafts.

Printing details

Printer : Harrison & Sons

Paper : Coated unwatermarked phosphor lined

Process : Photogravure

Machine : Sheet fed rotary

Size : 1.6" × .95" (portrait)

Perforation : 15 × 14

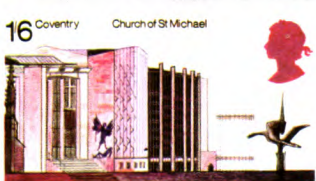
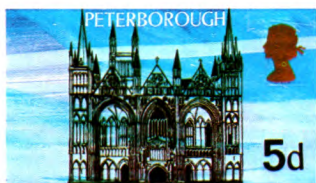
Number to sheet : 120

Colours : Green, orange, black



Unaccepted Stamp Designs

The designs shown this month are a selection of those submitted for the *British Architecture* issue of 28 May 1969.



Public Lectures and Film Shows at the National Postal Museum

During August the following Lectures and Film shows will be given at the National Postal Museum, King Edward Street, London EC1 (Tube station St Paul's).

Admission is Free

Wednesday 13 August 1 pm

Lecture The Story of Postal Stationery.

Thursday 14 August 2.15 pm

Film The Story of Mail Transport, followed by talk for schoolchildren.

Wednesday 20 August 1 pm

Lecture The Stamps of Queen Elizabeth II.

Thursday 21 August 2.15 pm

Film The Story of the Letter Post, followed by talk for schoolchildren.

Wednesday 27 August 1 pm

Lecture The Surface Printed Stamps 1880-1901.

Thursday 28 August 2.15 pm

Film 30 Million Letters, followed by talk for schoolchildren.

National Postal Museum Notes

The Social Significance of Postage Stamps

by F. Marcus Arman

Curator National Postal Museum



Robert Wallace, MP for Greenock, Chairman of the Select Committee on Postage 1839.

The Museum Journal, in a recent editorial commenting on the National Postal Museum, made the point that some of the attractions of philately are obvious – variety, accessibility, history, design and so on – but there may well be something deeper. Then follows this profound comment: ‘A postage stamp is a symbol of our technical civilisation at its most civilised: through it anyone can put his communications, private or official, even with someone at the other end of the earth, into a public trusteeship, shared internationally and discharged anonymously. The history of this service is not long in years, but it is part of the real history of ordinary people. It might seem the most absurd donnishness to suggest that someone might write “a moral philosophy of the postage stamp” but if someone did we might

learn useful things about ways of working together for world-wide common good. The New Postal Museum may indeed stimulate more than curiosity. We hope it will.’

The civilizing mission of the adhesive postage stamp is a theme worthy indeed of an heroic saga. It is readily demonstrable that the spirit which informed the writer of these kindly notes on the National Postal Museum is the same as that which inspired those who campaigned for the reform of the postal services in this country in the early nineteenth century and whose achievement led to the establishment of similar services all over the world.

The third report of the House of Commons select committee on postage published on 13 August 1838: the committee presided over by Robert Wallace, MP for Greenock, an early postal reformer who was active before Rowland Hill came forward, emphasizes that ‘every rank and class has an interest – more or less immediate – in the safe, speedy and economical transmission of Post Office communications.’

The high cost of sending a letter by the unreformed service provided in the early days of the nineteenth century – it cost on average 8½d–9d to send a letter through the General Post – was roundly condemned. A whole section of the report entitled ‘Suppression of Correspondence’ argues that the high rates of postage deterred the public from writing letters, which they otherwise would write or send. Egalitarian-minded witnesses pointed out that since many men earned no more than 6s 6d to 7s 6d a week the payment of 10d for a letter represented from one-eighth to one-tenth of their income. The plight of men in search of work concerned others: ‘We often see poor men travelling the country for work, and sometimes they come back, and it appears they have been in a wrong direction: if the postage were low, they would write first, and know whether they were likely to succeed.’

The needs of industry and commerce and the social needs of those who had moved from

the smaller towns and villages into the new industrial centres demanded a literate population. Literacy itself was inhibited by high postage rates – Mr James Simpson of Edinburgh stated that ‘the poorer classes lose their very power of writing for want of use’. Understandably the campaign for literacy and that for cheap postage were regarded as complementary ‘causes’. Rowland Hill whose famous pamphlet ‘Post Office Reform: Its Importance and Practicability’, first published in 1837, led to the reforms with which his name will ever be associated, was a member of the council of ‘The Society for the diffusion of Useful Knowledge among the working classes’, a group foremost in the promotion of literacy. The Society’s publisher, Charles Knight, not only ‘diffused useful knowledge’ by means of the *Penny Magazine* and other periodicals but, as an ardent advocate of postal reform, influenced his friend Rowland Hill considerably. Knight it was who advised the select committee of the House that pre-payment of postage was very desirable and it was he who suggested the use of pre-paid postal stationery.

The foremost pressure group for the reform of the posts in 1837–9 was the Merchantile Committee of London Merchants whose Secretary, Henry Cole, was to become Rowland Hill’s assistant at the Treasury from 1839–42 whence the reforms were implemented through the rather reluctant officials at St Martin’s Le Grand. It is clear from Cole’s biography that he too was activated by similar motives as this extract shows:

‘Of all the events with which my career has been connected, no one I feel surpasses, or perhaps is equal in value to the world at large, as the adoption of uniform penny postage. All the progress of mankind is helped on by freedom of thought expressed in writing. The progress of religion, morals, health, science, education, arts, manufacturers, commerce, and international peace, are all advanced by correspondence, which is next to nothing without the Post Office. It will be to the glory of England for all time that she was the first

country to adopt this ray of light, and the fame of Rowland Hill will be imperishable, as having discovered Uniform Penny Postage.’

The British postal reforms of 1840 were soon imitated by other countries whose administrations issued their own postage stamps – many of which were printed in this country: print orders for export beginning in the 1850’s – bilateral agreements between countries were made to facilitate the passage of mails throughout the world and these arrangements were complicated. A real attempt, which proved singularly successful, was made in 1874 to standardize charges and international arrangements with a minimum of formality and this led to the establishment of an international authority for postal matters in the Universal Postal Union with its Secretariat at Berne in Switzerland. The Swiss Government convened the first convention at the suggestion of Heinrich von Stephan, a high-ranking official of the Postal Administration of the Confederation of Northern Germany.

It is this authority – the UPU – which ensured – and still ensures – that there are no frontiers for the post. A letter must reach the addressee regardless of his social status, political views, religion or race. By allowing free postage for items concerning prisoners of war and civilian internees, as well as literature for the blind and by conveying periodicals at a reduced rate, the Union has achieved the humanitarian aims it pursues. Even in the critical days of two world wars it has proved its stability. By pursuing its efforts to intensify international collaboration it contributes to bringing men and nations closer together.

The saga of the postage stamp does indeed offer scope for a major work on the moral philosophy of postage stamps towards which this tenuous essay is dedicated.

Philatelic Posting Boxes

From 13 August 1969 special philatelic posting boxes will be provided at Telford, Shropshire, Dartford, Kent, and Chichester, Sussex.

Phosphor Treated Postage Stamps

The Post Office has been using harmless phosphorescent materials since 1960 to code mark postage stamps so that letters may be 'faced-up' and segregated by automatic machines instead of by tedious hand processes. The three substances which have been used are known commercially as Lettalite B1, B2 and B3.

These substances have the property that, while not easily visible on stamps, when they are exposed to ultra-violet light of certain wavelengths they emit a glow. This lasts for a short time after the ultra-violet light is switched off and it is this 'after glow' which is used by sorting office machinery.

All values of British postage stamps up to and including 1s 9d are now marked with strips of phosphorescent ink. The stamps on lower-paid items, which the Post Office may hold back until fully-paid mail has been cleared, are marked with one strip and the other values with two.

The machines detect the glowing lines on the stamps bearing one line of phosphorescent ink and separate them from those bearing more than one line and, after cancelling the stamps, arrange the letters in stacks with all the stamps in one corner ready for sorting.

All three phosphorescent inks have been used for marking stamps, but that currently in use is Lettalite B3 which reacts to ultra-violet light with a wavelength of about 2537 Angstrom. *Light of this wavelength can cause permanent damage to the eyes if not viewed through a suitable filter.*

Lettalite B2, previously used on stamps, is now used to mark envelopes so that sorting machines can 'read' them and sort them to boxes containing other letters for the same destination. The ultra-violet lamps in these machines have filters which eliminate the radiation which activates the Lettalite B3 used on stamps. The wavelength used in these machines is concentrated around 3650 Angstrom.

The presence of phosphor bands on stamps can be detected with the naked eye by viewing

the face of the stamp at an oblique angle against a good light. A matt area will be seen on one or both sides of the stamp, dependent on the value, and contrasting with the shiny unmarked centre portion. In some cases the matt surface will show as a single band in the centre of the stamp.

After a time phosphorescent inks lose their special properties and their active life varies greatly with their treatment. Kept in a cool, dry room and away from prolonged exposure to bright sunlight or ultra-violet radiation, their shelf-life will be several years. As the length of irradiation in postal machines is measured in milliseconds repeated passes through sorting machinery can be made without impairing the phosphorescent qualities of the ink.

An optical scanning system, once used to determine the value of stamps by viewing the dense areas of colour on each side of the Sovereign's portrait on photogravure stamps, is now used only for Government postings bearing the 'Official Paid' emblem. It sometimes failed to allow for badly mis-positioned stamps and was often confused by the large areas of dense colours on such items as post-cards.

All commemorative and pictorial stamps have been printed with phosphor bands since 24 April 1967 and 'plain' issues have been sold to exhaustion or withdrawn. Some non-treated values of the Definitive (or General) Series are however still available from the Bureau and no withdrawal date can yet be given.

Phosphor Recognition for Beginners

Newcomers to stamp collecting often comment on the difficulty of obtaining satisfactory results when using ultra-violet lamps to inspect phosphor lined stamps. Sometimes they sug-

gest that insufficient phosphor has been applied when the stamps were printed or that it has 'died' during storage.

While these stamps will not retain their properties unimpaired for an indefinite period, the reasons for disappointment are usually more simple. They stem from the nature of phosphorescent materials used and the inability of some lamps to activate the phosphor bands.

During the last ten years three kinds of harmless phosphorescent material have been used to mark British postage stamps. Each of them possesses slightly different characteristics when exposed to ultra-violet light of specific wavelengths.

The first was Lettalite B.1 which was surface printed on stamps of the Phosphor-Graphite issue of 18 November 1959. The surface bands were accompanied by graphite ink lines on the reverse. Eight denominations from $\frac{1}{2}d$ to $4\frac{1}{2}d$ were produced.

Some six months later a further series of nine denominations to 1s 3d was issued bearing Lettalite B.1 surface printed phosphor only. This is generally known as the First Phosphor Lined Issue and was brought into service on 22 June 1960.

Lettalite B.1 (Parahydroxy-Diphenol), usually referred to as 'Green phosphor', reacts to irradiation from ultra-violet light in the 2,000 to 3,000 Angstrom unit waveband by giving off a greenish afterglow lasting between 15 and 30 seconds. Experiments to increase the strength of the reaction led to the introduction of Lettalite B.2 in 1961.

Lettalite B.2 (Carbozol sulphonie acid) or 'Blue phosphor' was first used on the Second Phosphor Lined Issue of 5 June 1961, when ten denominations from $\frac{1}{2}d$ to 1s 3d were introduced. These stamps emit a strong blue-toned afterglow when exposed to ultra-violet light in the 3,000 to 4,000 Angstrom unit band.

The use of B.2 on stamps was ceased when it was decided to use it for code marking envelopes prior to processing them through automatic sorting machines. The danger of

confusion between code marks and the phosphor stamps was very marked.

Lettalite B.3 (Tetraphalic acid), commonly called 'Violet phosphor', was introduced for the Third Phosphor Lined Issue of 13 August 1965. The series comprised eight denominations up to 1s 3d and the stamps respond to irradiation from the 2,000 to 3,000 Angstrom unit waveband with a powerful violet 'flash' of very short duration.

The brief reaction does not affect its efficiency in postal machinery where exposure to radiation is measured in milliseconds, but it often makes visual detection somewhat difficult for the beginner.

Some commercially-produced lamps emit ultra-violet light which lies mainly outside the 2,000 to 3,000 Angstrom unit band and these are not suitable for recognizing Lettalite B.1 and B.3 although they may work well for B.2.

All three phosphors are, however, readily distinguished by using a lamp which emits throughout the entire 2,000 to 4,000 Angstrom range, but it is emphasized that light around the 2,500 Angstrom band may cause serious damage to the eyes unless viewed through suitable filters.

It should be borne in mind that stamps of the earlier phosphor series, now nearly ten years old, may have been subjected to numerous previous irradiations or considerable exposure to bright light. If this is the case, reaction to further irradiation is likely to be minimal.

All phosphorized stamps of the Definitive series since the third issue of August 1965 bear Lettalite B.3 bands and the brevity of afterglow is such that unless carefully watched for it can often be altogether missed. It is sometimes helpful to view them in very subdued light and to avert the eyes from the stamps while the lamp is actually emitting.

If this is done and a regular technique developed, the identification of stamps by their phosphorescent qualities can be a very interesting and rewarding adjunct to collecting expertise.

Postmark Slogans

'Queens University Belfast Festival 69 13-29 November' will be used transposed at Belfast from 1 September until 29 November.

'City of Birmingham Jubilee Season 1969-70 Symphony Orchestra' will be used transposed at Birmingham from 4 August until 27 September.

'Send to Town Hall for Guide Cheltenham The Centre for the Cotswolds' will be re-used at Cheltenham from 13 September-12 November.

'Darlington Town of the North' is being used transposed at Darlington until further notice.

'Doncaster Grammar School Sir George G. Scott Building Centenary Year 1869-1969 School founded before 1350' will be used transposed at Doncaster as soon as possible until further notice.

'Orsett Show First Saturday in September' will be re-used at Romford and Dagenham as soon as possible until 6 September.

'Motherwell and Wishaw Heart of Industrial Scotland' will be re-used at Motherwell and Wishaw from 3 July until 2 July 1970.

'Pontefract 500th. Mayoral Year 22 May 1969-21 May 1970' is being used transposed at Pontefract until 2 May 1970.

'Springclean '69 Sheffield' will be used transposed at Sheffield from 7 July until 31 August.

'Keep your eye on Wolverhampton See Progress - fast' will be used transposed at Wolverhampton as soon as possible until further notice.

'The Country Code Respect the Life of the Countryside' will be used transposed at Manchester, Newcastle, Bristol, Derby and London ECDO from 1 July until 26 August.

'Alfreton Derbyshire for industrial sites. Information from Council Officer Alfreton' is in use at Alfreton until 31 March 1970.

'Lancaster for silence based industry Enterprise Lancaster PO Box 1 Tel. 65272' is being used transposed at Lancaster until further notice.

'RAF Gaydon at Home September 20, 1969' will be used transposed at Coventry from 25 August until 20 September.

'Hartlepool for power and progress' will be used transposed at Hartlepool from 12 August until 11 August 1970.

'Visit Keswick on Derwentwater for Lakeland Holidays' is being re-used at Keswick until 31 May 1970.

'Mansfield Festival 1969 11-25 October' will be used transposed at Mansfield from 1 September until 25 October.

'Scarborough and Filey Two Lively resorts' is being re-used at Scarborough and Filey until 21 April 1970.

'Weymouth Pavilion Magyar Melody 8-13 September' will be used transposed from 25 August until 7 September.

'Picture to Post' Wins Film Festival Award

The Post Office's latest film, its first dealing entirely with philately, gained a silver award at the British Industrial Film Festival at Brighton on 19 June.

The film which shows designers, David Gentleman, Jeffery Matthews and Arnold Machin working from conception to completion, uses the latest cinema technique of multi-image and imaginative colour effects to interpret each designer's impression onto the screen.

As yet arrangements for release of 'Picture to Post' are not finalized but as soon as they are an announcement will be made.

Withdrawal of Bureau Stock Items

The 1968 British Paintings stamps will be withdrawn from sale on 11 August and the 1968 Christmas issue on 24 November 1969.

Special Handstamps

'Royal Engineers Cove – BFPO 1095*' will be used at COVE Hants, on 12 July 1969. It is of rectangular design showing date and designation in circular form with the Royal Engineers Badge on the left. Fully-paid items for re-posting should be sent to:

Philatelic Office
3 Training Regiment
Southwood Camp
COVE
Hants

'The George Ward School, Melksham, Wilts' will be used at Melksham on 1 September 1969. It is of rectangular design showing an outline of the school. A posting box will be available at Melksham. Fully-paid items for re-posting to Head Postmaster, Chippenham.

'SLS 1909–1969 Wylam Northumberland' will be used at Wylam on 6 December 1969. It is of irregular octangular design showing the George Stephenson 'Rocket' as a central motif. A posting box will be available at Wylam. Items for re-posting to the Head Postmaster, Newcastle upon Tyne.

'Greenford Middlesex' is to be used, to commemorate the 15th Middlesex Philatelic Federation Junior Day, at Greenford on 15 November 1969. It is of rectangular design showing a stamp collector with a stamp album as a motif. A posting box will be provided at Greenford. Items for re-posting to Head Postmaster, Southall.

'Margate Kent' will be used at Margate on 23 October 1969. It is rectangular featuring a recognized women's institute emblem in the design. A posting box will be available at the Winter Gardens, Margate.

'Exeter District Scout Council Exhibition' will be used at Exeter on 27 October 1969. It is circular with the Scout badge featured as a central motif. A posting box will be available at the exhibition.

'21st International Youth Camp – East Mersea Colchester' will be used at Colchester from 26 July–23 August 1969. It is rectangular and features the Essex Coat of Arms shield and

a tent. A posting box will be available at the camp.

'Trade Fair and Exhibition – Llanelli Carms' will be used at Llanelli from 6–16 August 1969. It is of circular design featuring the old '469' cancellation mark as a motif. A posting box will be available at the exhibition.

'25th Anniversary of the Battle of Arnhem Polish Airborne Forces Assoc.' will be used at South Western District Office, London, on 20 September 1969. It is circular with the emblem of the Polish Parachute Forces as a central motif. A posting box will be available at 20 Princes Gate, London SW7.

Post Office Technology – First-Day Cover Services

Four stamps value 5d, 9d, 1s and 1s 6d are to be issued on 1 October 1969 to show various aspects of the work of the Post Office. Details of the stamps will be given nearer the date.

We shall be offering our first day cover services for this issue at the following prices.

Service A The official specially designed cover, with typed address, full set of stamps and Philatelic Bureau cancellation – 6s 8d.

Service B The full set of stamps affixed to customers' own pre-addressed envelopes and Bureau cancellation – 4s 8d.

Service C As Service A except that a minimum of 50 covers to the same address is required – envelopes addressed by machine plate – 5s 8d.

The special philatelic posting boxes will be opened on 1 October for the increasing number of collectors who prepare and post their own covers.

Binders for 'Philatelic Bulletin'



A first class binder is available which holds twenty-four copies of the *Bulletin*.

Each copy is quickly and easily inserted into the binder which is strongly made with stiff covers.

The Philatelic Bureau crest and the words Philatelic Bulletin are gold blocked on the spine.

The binder may be obtained post free from the Bureau price 15s (\$1.80).

NATO Air Day

During the 20th Anniversary Year of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, NATO Air Day will be celebrated. A special souvenir cover will be issued by RAF CHIVENOR, Barnstaple, Devon, on 23 August the date of this NATO Air Display. This will be No. 4 on the current RAF Museum Series and depicts the DH2 which was the first aircraft designed for the RFC for purely fighter operations.

The cover will bear the 1s 6d NATO 20th Anniversary Stamp and will be cancelled by a special BFPO NATO handstamp in use at Chivenor on 23 August. They will then be flown on a special supersonic flight from RAF CHIVENOR to RAF Leuchers, Fife, and receive suitable flown cachets.



These covers can be obtained fully serviced from Flt-Lt. D. Marshall, RAF Philatelic Officer, Royal Air Force Station, CHIVENOR, Barnstaple, Devon, at 5s each and will be despatched to purchasers under cover. In addition pre-addressed pre-stamped envelopes only received before 23 August will be cancelled with the BFPO handstamp at no cost.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Sir,

I am writing in full agreement with Pat Stagg.

Having 4 cylinder numbers on each sheet, as on the Concorde issue, is making things a bit easy. The whole point of collecting corner blocks with cylinder numbers is the scarcity of them.

I sincerely hope that only one cylinder number per sheet will be the practice for future issues.

Yours sincerely,

ROD ALLEN

Balham, London

Dear Sir,

The various issues of regional stamps remind me that England is a region of Great Britain. Nay, indeed, it is eight regions, for if we are to take account of the distinctions of the various members of the Celtic fringe, and I say this advisedly being of Cornish descent, then we must take account of England as it was when these distinctions were truly significant and we should have stamps for each of the seven kingdoms of the Heptarchy and, of course, for Cornwall. If it is felt that eight regional issues would be too much of a good thing then at least there could be issues for England and for Cornwall.

Yours truly,

A. KENT

Stourbridge, Worcs.

Dear Sir,

As we are having various pictorial commemorative postage stamps such as 'British Landscapes and British Architecture', etc, I suggest we have a 'British Agriculture' set. There could be a 5d showing the Kent Hop Fields, a 1s showing a wheat field with wheat ears in harvest time, and a 1s 6d with a gathering of various vegetables such as tomatoes, potatoes, a marrow, a cabbage, a cauliflower and a celery head.

I think, also, as a relief for stamp collectors, there ought to be a 2d or 1d commemorative, which, in the set I mentioned above could have an Apple Tree. It could be a smaller stamp, say the size of the 'Centenary of Postage Stamps' issue in 1940.

Yours sincerely,

MILES C. ALLISON

Reading, Berks.

Dear Sir,

I too have been a keen collector for some years and have tried to collect 'cylinder' and 'plate' blocks, I therefore agree wholeheartedly with Pat Stag in the June *Bulletin*.

The main point at issue surely is that these numbers, together with other markings such as the 'traffic lights', have a technical purpose. If one set suffices then only one set ought to be printed on each sheet; if there is some advantage to the printers or the GPO to have more cylinder numbers then add some additional ones but don't add them simply because collectors collect them.

In passing, congratulations on an interesting magazine – and in particular on those magnificent pictures of Caernavon Castle.

Yours faithfully,

R. H. H. DAUNCEY

BFPO 26

Dear Sir,

Investiture Stamps

You cannot please everybody, but I am disappointed with the Investiture designs. They may be beautifully drawn, but to me, a native of Caernarvon, they do not represent adequately the size and wonderful setting of this monument, the great Castle.

The aspect of the Castle from across the Seiont River (as shown in your colour photograph) can hardly be equalled in its setting anywhere else in the world. Similarly, the view of the Eagle Tower and the Town Walls from Anglesey, across the water, is a wonderful sight. Again, the view of Eleanor's Gate from the far end of Castle Square is exciting.

I can recognize the stamps as being of Caernarvon, but would I if I lived in Leeds or London? I think not.

And why not some pictures of the old Town itself, full of character – the Harbour, the Square, Hole in the Wall Street, the fine statue of Earl Lloyd George in his native town, Porth-yr-Aur, etc.

The matter is fait accompli, regretfully. Will Caernarvon ever get another chance?

Yours faithfully,

RICHARD P. THOMAS

Caernarvon

Travelling Post Office of Great Britain

Lincoln Sorting Carriage

This article is reprinted by kind permission of Railway Philately. It is one of a series and if any of our readers would like further details we suggest they contact Mr R. A. Kirk of the Railway Philatelic Group, 59A Hartley Road, Kirkby-in-Ashfield, Nottingham NG17 8DS.

The line from Nottingham to Derby was opened by the Midland Counties Railway Co. on 4 June 1839; that from Derby to Hampton Junction by the Birmingham & Derby Junction Railway Co. on 5 August 1839 (passenger traffic commenced one week later); and that from Lincoln to Nottingham by the Midland Railway Co. on 3 August 1846. The Midland Railway Co. had been formed on 10 May 1844.

By direction of the P.M.G. a mail train commenced on 5 April 1840 between Derby and Birmingham, leaving Derby at 8.25 p.m. and Birmingham at 3.15 a.m., and from Derby to Nottingham on 6 April leaving Derby at 6 a.m.

On 16 February 1859 the P.M.G. wrote to the Midland Railway Co. saying that he was considering the suggestion that a Railway P.O. be used between Derby and Lincoln. Certainly by 1865 a Bag Tender was running between Lincoln and Tamworth, the timing being: Lincoln depart 8 p.m., Tamworth arrive 10.42 p.m., Tamworth depart 2.10 a.m., Lincoln arrive 5.4 a.m.

The next reference to a Sorting Carriage is in the following letter.

*Mail Office
General Post Office
26th Sept. 1866*

Sir,

I beg to inform you, that two Post Office carriages fitted up for Sorting duties will be reqd. on the Night Mail train between Lincoln and Derby as soon as they can be supplied, the Department having determined to establish Sorting duties by that Mail and I shall be glad, therefore, if you will be good enough to give authority to your coach maker to prepare two carriages accordingly. The vans now used for the service are too low in the roof for Sorting

Carriages, but if there would be no difficulty in raising the roofs, it is possible they might be converted into Sorting Carriages for the Service.

I will direct an Inspector of Mails to place himself in communication with your coach maker as to the fittings etc. as soon as I hear you have given the necessary instructions in the matter.

I am, Sir,
Your Obedient Servant,
Edward Page
Inspector General of Mails

Allport, Esq.
Midland Railway
Derby

The service between Lincoln and Tamworth commenced on 20 May 1867, leaving Lincoln 8.10 p.m., due Tamworth 10.30 p.m.; depart Tamworth 2.25 a.m., due Lincoln 5 a.m., under the superintendence of the Postmaster at Lincoln. The intention was to speed the mail to and from Ireland and at the same time relieve the North Western T.P.O. of part of this sorting duty. At the start it was staffed by one clerk who received a trip allowance of 3s. In 1869 it was found necessary to provide assistance and a sorter was appointed, receiving 2s a night.

I have been unable to find any details of the original carriages, but in 1879 three new vehicles were built for the service. These were six-wheeled carriages, 30 ft long with two delivery arms but no nets. They had gangways at both ends and were lit either by gas or oil.

No alteration in timing was necessary with the changes in connection with the commencement of the Down Special on 1 July 1885, but a Parcel Sorting Carriage was added, necessitating the building of three new carriages for this duty. These were 32 ft long without apparatus. The service was operated by one Sorting Carriage and one Parcel Sorting Carriage, the other carriages being held as spares at Derby for this and the Midland T.P.O.

The Parcel Carriage did not run on Saturday

night until 30 January 1886, when the duty was transferred from Sunday night to Saturday night.

By 1893 the small carriage was unable to cope with the increasing quantity of mail and a new 43 ft bogie vehicle was built, again with delivery arms but no nets.

In 1900, to cope with the increasing parcel traffic, a new 48 ft Parcel Sorting Carriage was built and the 32 ft vehicle was stationed at Derby (with the other 32 ft Parcel Carriages and two 30 ft Letter Sorting Carriages) as a reserve for the Lincoln S.C. and the Midland T.P.O.

Parcel sorting duties ceased after 6 November 1915 due to shortage of staff and letter sorting duties were suspended on 2 June 1917. The Sorting Carriage continued to run as a Bag Tender.

The Parcel Carriage was lent to the Army in December 1918 for use on the Boulogne to Cologne service, being returned in January 1920.

Letter sorting recommenced on 30 September 1919, but not parcel sorting, the duty being renamed Lincoln-Tamworth S.C. and vice versa (Post Office Circular 23 September 1919).

With the abolition of Sunday collections, despatches and deliveries after 12 June 1921, it was decided not to run the S.C. on Sunday nights. The P.O.C. of 9 May 1923 stated that after the night of 12 May, the S.C. would not run on Saturday night but would run as usual on other nights.

The P.O.C. of 6 November 1929 repeated the statement in the 1919 P.O.C. that the future designations would be Lincoln-Tamworth S.C. and vice versa instead of Lincoln and Tamworth S.C., though I know of no postmarks with this latter title and in fact the title Lincoln-Tamworth S.C. was certainly in use in 1926 (see postmarks).

In 1929 a new 57 ft Sorting Carriage was built having a net and four delivery arms and in 1932 a 42 ft stowage van was built.

The service ceased on 21 September 1940

and resumed after the war as a Bag Tender only.

With the new route of the Specials via Birmingham, the duty was extended from Tamworth to Birmingham until 6 January 1966, when the Bag Tender was replaced by a new sorting duty from Lincoln to Derby as part of the new Peterborough-Crewe S.C.

Collectors Pack 1969

Following the success of the very popular 1968 Collectors Pack we are issuing another on 15 September 1969 price 26s.

The latest Collectors Pack will contain the 1968 Christmas issue, British Ships, Concorde, Notable Anniversaries, British Architecture, Prince of Wales and the Gandhi stamps.

The pack will be available from the philatelic posting box offices and by post from the Bureau.

Gandhi First-Day Cover Services

Our apologies for the entry on page 9 of the July *Bulletin* which quoted 5s as the A service charge. The correct price is 4s 6d as given on the application form.

Christmas 1969 Stamps

The date of issue of the 1969 Christmas stamps will be 26 November and to meet the wishes of the many people who will wish to send cards by the 4d mail with a special stamp, the Postmaster General has decided to issue both a 4d and 5d stamp. The other stamp in the series will be 1s 6d.

Readers will have noticed that recent stamp issues have been confined to the first-class service rate so that they could be easily recognized by sorters. Increased experience and a recent survey have shown, however, that with 4d and 5d stamps made easily distinguishable, priority for the 5d mail can be maintained.

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