

Philatelic Bulletin

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Introduction

Decimilisation is almost upon us and naturally this month's *Bulletin* gives all the details of our new stamps and postal items known at the time of going to press.

Next month's *Bulletin* may be delayed by a day or so as the Christmas and New Year holidays take a large slice from the time available for printing and distribution. We shall make every effort to get it to you as early as we can but this advance warning may soften the disappointment of any hold up.

Thematic collecting has not figured prominently in our pages but there is an ever increasing interest in this aspect of collecting. We print a fairly basic feature on this subject and will return to it in more detail later.

Another unique Society is mentioned in our series – this time the Philatelic Music Circle. We are always glad to give space to any properly constituted Society as our pages reach so many who may be interested and we feel that only good can come from the widest knowledge of the hobby.

National Postal Museum Notes

The 'other' 1890 Penny Post Jubilee Envelopes.

The first of two earlier articles on the Uniform Penny Post Jubilee celebrations of 1890 (*Philatelic Bulletin* December 1967 and January 1968) illustrated the well known official envelopes (and enclosed card) sold at the South Kensington Museum in July 1890.

Recently a reader of the *Bulletin*, Mr. Herbage of Baldock, Herts, drew my attention to the far less common caricatured version of the Jubilee envelope which was produced by Harry Furniss, also in 1890. Furniss, of course, was following in the steps of many artists who fifty years earlier had mercilessly caricatured the pomposity and "do-goodery" of William Mulready's famous design until it had to be withdrawn. In 1890, however, the Furniss caricature fell rather flat as, although, the design and caption of the official Jubilee envelope were somewhat smug they did have a success story to tell. So while the official envelopes sold like hot cakes (nearly 150,000 were posted during the celebrations) the caricature (illustrated here) did not do so, and examples – particularly postally used ones – are quite scarce.

The second illustration is not of another caricature, but of William Elliot's imitation Jubilee stationery which went on sale a few days after the official envelope. According to the official records, as soon as the Post Office learnt of the existence of the Elliot envelope



(and enclosed card) the G.P.O. solicitor wrote to Elliot pointing out that the Post Office Protection Act 1884 imposed penalties on persons imitating envelopes, forms, etc., issued by or under the authority of the Postmaster-General, and asked him for an assurance that the envelopes had been withdrawn.

On 8 July Elliot replied in confirmation of a verbal explanation made the previous day. "In issuing the card and envelope" (he wrote) "to sell at 1d. the two, I had not the slightest idea that I was doing wrong. I understood that the [official] shilling card and envelope was issued as a public recognition of the services of Sir Rowland Hill and the 50 years progress

of the Penny Post – the profits arising therefrom to be given to the charities connected with the Post Office employees. I looked upon it as a semi-official concession for the joint purposes named, and only so far, it had any connection with the Post Office proper. The shilling envelopes being on sale for one day only [2 July] many – not knowing of their issue until too late – were disappointed at not being able to obtain them, hence my idea of issuing a cheap substitute as a "Memento" of the 50 years progress of a national achievement benefiting the Nation at large. Had the shilling card remained on sale I should never have thought – considering its object – of interfering with it.

V. R.

JULY 2ND, 1890.

UNIFORM PENNY POSTAGE

COMMEMORATION

POSTAGE



ONE PENNY



MAILS CONVEYED BY STAGE COACHES AT THE RATE OF EIGHT MILES AN HOUR



1840.



1890.



CONVEYING HER MAJESTY'S MAILS AT OVER 50 MILES AN HOUR

ELLIOT, PUBLISHER.]

ENT. STATIONERS' HALL.

[29, CALTHORPE STREET, W.C.

My card was only issued mid-day on Saturday, and from the bad weather very few had been sold. I have not and will not sell a copy from receipt of your letter, and will gather in any few I may find in the trade, and destroy or deliver up all I have on hand. . . ."

On 16 July a P.O. official reported to the secretary of the Post Office, that "about 500 of Elliot's envelopes were purchased by men for the purpose of selling them in the streets, and there is reason to believe they found ready purchasers. These, of course, cannot be recovered. . . ."

Postally used, the Elliot envelopes are very rare, and only three examples seem to have been recorded.

Finally, here are two anecdotes from the official report on the special post office at the Guildhall Jubilee Exhibition (16-19 May 1890). The first concerns a young lady who was extremely anxious to get an impression of the special postmark on two pocket handkerchiefs. She was 'obliged' and when told the ink would wash out, said, rather than lose the impressions she would never use the handkerchiefs again. In another case someone posted a Jubilee Card at the Western Central District P.O. with a piece of blotting paper round it to keep it clean. The card was safely delivered to the addressee at Derby complete with blotting paper wrapping!

New Decimal Stamps and To Pay Labels



Britain's first decimal stamps – the 10p 20p, 50p and £1 – were issued on 17 June 1970. The low values to complete the series will be issued on 15 February 1971 and will consist of twelve denominations: $\frac{1}{2}p$, 1p, $1\frac{1}{2}p$, 2p, $2\frac{1}{2}p$, 3p, $3\frac{1}{2}p$, 4p, 5p, 6p, $7\frac{1}{2}p$ and 9p.

The new stamps will be of the same size, design (with the amendment to decimal values), perforation and printing methods but will be in a new range of colours and printed in sheets of 200 (10 × 20). All the stamps will bear two phosphor lines except the $2\frac{1}{2}p$ which will have one.

Printing details

Printer: Harrison & Sons

Paper: White, coated, unwatermarked

Perforation: 15 × 14

No. to sheet: 200

Colours:

- $\frac{1}{2}p$ turquoise
- 1p crimson
- $1\frac{1}{2}p$ charcoal grey
- 2p green
- $2\frac{1}{2}p$ pink
- 3p bright blue
- $3\frac{1}{2}p$ grey green
- 4p light sepia
- 5p pale violet
- 6p light green
- $7\frac{1}{2}p$ light brown
- 9p orange, black

Low value decimal To Pay labels will be brought into use at the same time as the stamps. Designed by Jeffrey Matthews in six denominations, $\frac{1}{2}p$, 1p, 2p, 3p, 4p and 5p, the labels will be the same colour as the postage stamps of the same value or denomination.

This is the first change in the design since the introduction of postage due labels in 1914.

Validity of £ S D Stamps

Every British stamp issued since 1911 – except the decimal stamps – will become invalid for postage within 18 months of Decimalisation Day on February 15 1971. The £1 Queen Elizabeth stamp which has been adapted into the decimal range and the £1

Windsor Castle stamp will continue to be valid.

The exact date depends on a Government announcement about the ending of £sd currency and this is due to come into effect within a maximum period of 18 months from D Day.

Books and Rolls of Decimal Postage Stamps

For decimalisation, low value decimal stamps in book and roll form are to be put on sale at Post Offices.

Rolls

There will be 7 decimal stamp rolls.

Code letter of roll	Type of stamps in roll	Number of stamps in roll	Price of roll
AS	2½p	500	£12.5
BS	3p	500	£15
CL	2½p	1000	£25
DL	3p	1000	£30
G1	*Mixed value	1500 (300 sets)	£15
G2	*Mixed value	3000 (600 sets)	£30
EL	1p	1000	£10

*Sets of 5 stamps in the order: 2p, ½p, ½p, 1p, 1p.

All rolls are available to private purchasers from the Bureau.

Books

There will be 4 decimal stamp books:

Values of book	Stamps in each book	Book cover colour
10p	2x½p, 2x1p, 2x1½p, 2x2p	Old Gold
25p	9x2½p, 5x½p	Mauve
30p	10x3p	Cerise
50p	10x3p, 7x2½p, 5x½p	Apple Green

Decimal Stamps: First Day Cover Services

The low value series of decimal stamps will be issued on 15 February 1971 and consist of 12 stamps with a total value of 45½p (9s 1d).

The usual first day cover services will be available at the following charges and both the 'Philatelic Bureau Edinburgh' and 'Windsor, Berks' cancellations will be offered:
Service A

Deposit Account Customers 54p (10s 9d)

Non Deposit Account

Customers 56½p (11s 3d)

Service B 50½p (10s 1d)

Service C 54p (10s 9d)

In addition philatelic posting boxes will be opened for those collectors who prepare their own covers. A full list of the offices concerned was printed in the December *Bulletin*.

Decimal Stamped Postal Stationery

Decimal stamped postal stationery will be put on sale from 15 February 1971. From that date the price of the stationery will be increased and the revised selling prices will be as follows:

	Single item selling price	Packet 10 selling price
Single Postcard	2½p	3p
Lettercard (1st)	3p	4p
Lettercard (2nd)	2½p	3½p
A Envelope (1st)	3p	4p
A Envelope (2nd)	2½p	3½p
B Envelope (1st)	3p	4p
B Envelope (2nd)	2½p	3½p
Registered Envelopes	Postage plus Registration	
G	23p	24½p
H	23p	25p
K	23p	27p
	Registration	
*H2	15p	17p
	Postage	
Air Letter Form	4p	4p
		Bundle 100 £4.00

*The H2 envelope is intended for overseas registration and as a temporary measure covers only the registration fee pending an increase on 30 June 1971.

The Post Office at the Lord Mayor's Show



The Philatelic Float

Three centuries of experience, experiment and enterprise lie behind the Post Office's massive development plans for Britain's communication services. The Post Office cavalcade in this year's Lord Mayor's Show on 14 November vividly brought to life the theme of the parade – Communications. It followed the growth of postal and telecommunication services from their origin to the present day and looked at the enormous scope of future developments.

There were three floats in the postal service pageant, looking back to the days of the 17th-Century King's Messengers, showing how communications have improved to make Britain's postal service the world's best, and demonstrating that the postal business is ready to meet the challenge of the 1970's. They were accompanied by mail vehicles, among them the original 19th-Century Norwich-to-London mailcoach; historic bicycles, including a centre-cycle; veteran motor-cycles used early this century and

The first float depicted historic mail transport and carried models of an 1860 mail packet boat, an 1838 Royal Mail Train in the Stockton line and the aircraft which made the first mail flight from Hendon to Windsor in 1911.

Increasing mechanisation of the postal service plays a vital role in enabling the Post Office to handle over 35 million letters a day and the second float illustrated the growing mechanisation of mail handling and the ever-increasing use of postcodes throughout the country.

The philatelic float bore tableaux depicting commemorative stamps issued by the Post Office, such as the Florence Nightingale Centenary stamp, the Mayflower 350th anniversary stamp and the Dickens issue. The current definitive stamp bearing the Queen's head was also depicted as well as this year's Christmas stamps, based on illustrations from the de Lisle Psalter.

The story of the telephone from its invention to vision telephone (1875-1890) was the theme of the three telecommunication





Two King's messengers of 1783

floats. First came a float portraying the development of the telephone up to 1910, with a large-scale model of Graham Bell's first telephone, a man and woman of the early 1900's using telephones of the period, and a linesman - complete with stovepipe hat - at work.

'Flappers', dancing the Charleston and using a 1920's telephone kiosk, set the scene for the second stage of the story. With them on the second float was a 1970 business executive using a Trimphone in a modern

office setting, and there was a nine-foot model of the Post Office Tower topped with a flashing light. Trimphones and large-scale models of Trimphones were displayed.

The third float pointed to the future of the telephone service. The future man, dressed in a tight-fitting silver lamé suit, used a vision telephone and was surrounded by monitor screens. Two scientist-technicians attended to electronic devices equipped with flashing lights. A mast supported three microwave-radio dish aerials.





Group of Postmen in uniforms past and present



Costumed group of 1850

Thematic Collecting

Thematic collectors disregard all frontiers. For them the subject matter of a stamp is all important: if you collect stamps which illustrate numerous varieties of tropical fish, and there are plenty of tropical fish on stamps, it is plainly an exciting event to net a specimen not previously found in your trawl.

Deciding what range of stamps to collect, how you wish to display and write up your collection and how much time and effort you wish to devote to stamps is entirely a matter of personal choice and this freedom and independence to do just what you like with your own collection is one of the joys of philately.

There is of course a tendency for Thematic collectors to keep a special eye on new Great Britain issues to see whether they 'fit in' with their specific subjects interests. Those particularly keen on the sea and ships obviously did well with the British Ships issue of January 1969: but did they miss H.M.S. Victory of the 2/6 line-engraved definitive of 1951? Or the Norman vessel on the Battle of Hastings set? In this as in other forms of collecting much of the pleasure arises from searching diligently for what you want.

There have been several occasions when the Post Office has issued sets of stamps having a common theme. The Castle series of high value definitives of 1955, British Bridges in 1968 and the recent Rural Architecture set to mention only three samples at random. Aircraft, Famous Men, Natural History, Birds, The Arts, Literary Heroes, make the list as long as you like and pick where you will – there is plenty of choice for the thematic enthusiast, who will find among British Issues quite a lot of material of good design and well printed.

Interesting things begin to happen when stamps are not looked at in isolation but in relation to other stamps to which superficially they have an affinity. Juxtaposition leads to reappraisal and to the establishment of criteria on which an informed judgment can be based. When one sets the line engraved Westminster

Abbey 900th Anniversary 2/6d. stamp of 1966 against the 700th Anniversary of Parliament 2/6d. of 1965 – a photogravure issue, the difference between the end-products of these different printing processes becomes real.

'Thematics' – is what you make it, and you are free to be as inconsequential as you please. Here then are some random suggestions for unorthodox themes which might lead collectors into some interesting by-ways and perhaps pin point previously unexposed or not often considered aspects of design.

Item I A study of the lettering incorporated in Postage Stamp design in Britain.

Item II Heraldic devices on stamps.

Item III Leaf and Curlicue patterns on stamps, and their origins.

Item IV Abstract forms on stamps.

Or you could of course form a collection of what you considered are really good stamp designs with a complementary 'Chamber of Horrors' collection made up from the worst stamps you have ever seen.

Finding grounds for your preferences, whether of one fish as compared with another, one ship stamp with another ship stamp, or anything else, begins with the organisation of examples for comparison. Which as I see it gives teeth to Thematic collecting.

Special Handstamps

Commemorating the Inauguration of the RAF First Rotary-Winged-Force British Forces 1160 Postal Service the motif includes a plan view of a helicopter. The handstamp will be used on January 10 1971. Items for re-posting should be sent to the Philatelic Officer RAF Ternhill, Market Drayton, Salop.

A handstamp on 1.1.71 will commemorate The Fifth Birthday of the Royal Green Jackets British Forces 1221 Postal Service. The design incorporates the cap badge of the regiment. Items for reposting to: The Philatelic Officer, Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill, London, NW7.

"Weather Explorer" Xmas Drop Mail



To meet the anniversary of the Xmas Drop Mail by a Lancaster from Kinloss to a weather ship operating 200 miles south of Iceland we reproduce the cover initialled by Captain Wilkinson (master of the ship). The Christmas parcels and mail were dropped to men of the "Weather Explorer" on 28 December 1950.

We are grateful to Mr Francis J. Field, the specialist on air philately, who loaned the cover for publication.

The New Definitive Stamps

The extensive preparations for Decimal-Day include the introduction of a new set of low-value definitive stamps. A great deal of research has gone into preparations for the new issue of decimal stamps. Especial care has been taken to ensure that the colours will be a positive aid in identifying the different values. It is complicated enough to find 12 really distinct colours if there were no restrictions on choice; which makes it even more difficult when there are restraints in the form of machines, manual sorting and artistic considerations.

Ideally, the Machin head on the current definitive range of stamps is best portrayed on a darker shade background and dark stamps are distinctive against white and light-coloured envelopes. Unfortunately the colour preferences of the machinery differs from those distinguishable by the eye. Now that more and more of the facing and segregating of first and second class mail is operated by machinery the colour of the stamps is significant in emitting the phosphor signals which distinguish the two classes of mail. The signals vary in strength according to the background colour against which the phosphor appears on the stamps. In general the phosphor does not show up well against dark shades, or certain colours such as yellow or orange. Confronted with this dilemma some compromise had to be reached.

The first task in the choice of colours was to consult the mechanisation experts on a wide range of colours which were treated with phosphor and tested by Post Office engineers. But the results from these experiments were not regarded as adequate until the recognition of colours of stamps by the staff and customers had been tested. At the Applied Psychology Research Unit at Cambridge a series of tests were carried out. Housewife volunteers were shown one stamp mounted on a white card, then they were shown another stamp in quick succession. The volunteers had to say whether the two stamps were the same or different and indicate the degree of confidence they had in

their decision. From the results of the test the more distinctive colours emerged.

After a second series of tests at Cambridge, on two sets of fourteen stamps each, in which housewives and postmen took part it was possible to begin to put together the new decimal definitive stamps. Also at this stage Post Office people in various parts of the country were consulted about the proposed new colour scheme.

Eventually a compromise was reached between the artistic, phosphorisation and manual sorting requirements. The new colour scheme should be effective in allowing the staff and customers to distinguish easily between stamps of different value.

National Postal Museum

Christmas Holiday Lectures and Films For Young People:

During the school holiday period, from Monday 4 January to Tuesday 12 January (Saturdays & Sundays excepted) special lectures will be given at the Museum daily at 2.30 p.m. Young collectors will be introduced to many varied aspects of stamp collecting and will also have the chance to examine fascinating postal relics.

For all Visitors:

In addition to these special talks, lectures and film shows will be given at the Museum on Wednesdays at 1 p.m. as follows:

6 January

Lecture Colour in Stamps, from 1840 to the Decimals.

14 January

Film Show 'The Night Mail' (John Grierson's classic documentary of 1936)

21 January

Lecture Collecting Stamps

All the talks will be given by the Museum's Curator, Mr. A. G. Rigo de Righi.

Regional Presentation Packs



These are the first presentation packs we have issued containing Regional stamps. They were put on sale on 9 December 1970 and are available from offices in the various Regions, from the philatelic sales counter or by post from the Bureau.

The prices are:	Northern Ireland	5s. 10d.
	Scotland	6s. 4d.
	Wales & Monmouthshire	4s. 7d.

RAF Museum Covers

To celebrate the 30th Anniversary of the RAF's Air Sea Rescue Service, RAF Pitreavie Castle will issue Souvenir Cover No. 23 in the current series, depicting the Supermarine "Walrus" aircraft. The cover will be franked with the 9d Scottish Regional stamp and cancelled with a special British Forces Postal Service No. 1161 handstamp which will be in use at the RAF's Northern Control and Rescue Centre on 3 February 1971. The mail will be collected by helicopter from an RAF Pinnacle in the North Sea and flown to RAF Pitreavie Castle where a backstamp and flight cachets will be applied.

Covers should be ready by mid February and will cost 5/- each. Orders with remittance should be sent to:—

The Philatelic Officer
RAF Pitreavie Castle
Dunfermline
Fife
Scotland.

Philatelic Music Circle

When the *Philatelic Music Circle* was formed in April 1969 there were 26 founder members. Catering only for English speaking collectors of musical-philately, there is now a membership of over eighty which includes collectors in Canada, Australia, USA, Brazil, Cyprus, New Zealand, South Africa, South West Africa, Sweden and Rhodesia.

The official journal *The Baton* is issued quarterly. Its contents include a New Issue page and a series of sketches of minor Musical Characters. It seeks to cater for the very wide range of interests shared by members.

The services to members include an exchange packet, devoted solely to musical philately, an occasional postal auction, a checklist of musical stamps which is now being revised and brought up to date, a checklist of G.B. musical postmarks, and a list of suitable dealers.

When the celebrated violinist, Yehudi Menuhin became an Hon. Patron, he was visited at his London home and presented with a framed set of the stamps featuring Enescu, his favourite teacher. Maurice Williams the well known journalist and author wrote a delightful foreword for the first issue of *The Baton*.

The Philatelic Music Circle has two competition awards, The Malin Cup, which was presented by a London dealer and the Music Trophy, which is an ornate conductor's presentation Baton mounted on an inscribed wooden base.

Readers who may be interested in the activities of the Philatelic Music Circle should write to the recently appointed secretary: Mrs. Gwyneth Williams, 3 Lydstep House, Bishops Close, Whitchurch, Cardiff, CF4 1PE.

The Philatelic Music Circle is thought to be the only philatelic society in the world which caters exclusively for collectors of musical philately. And lest anyone should assume that this is a narrow field of interest it should be stressed that there are hundreds of musical stamps, and scores of musical postmarks, whilst the range of musical postcards, essays, proofs, etc., is almost beyond the scope of an ordinary collector.

Postmark Slogans

'A Fresh start for Industry in the Highlands and Islands' will be used at Kirkwall, Wick, Thurso, Dingwall, Stornoway, Lerwick, Campbeltown and Oban from December 17 1970-December 16 1971.

'Ilkley the Family Town' will continue in use at Ilkley until further notice.

'Holiday at Bridlington Free Colour Guide from Department 100 Information Centre' will be roused at Bridlington from December 27 1970-November 30 1971.

Discovering Picture Post Cards

Mr C. W. Hill has again produced a very readable booklet, 'Discovering Picture Postcards', in the 'Discovering' series. For the newcomer to collecting postcards it gives a clear picture of their history and development assessing their value both as a social document and a collector's piece.

The author begins with an interesting account of the origins of the plain and picture postcard in Britain and abroad and looks at the development over time of postcards. The campaigns by different people in different countries advocating a postcard service and the dates when the service was adopted.

He describes the introduction of the picture postcard as being greatly influenced by the growing number of British holiday makers. From the picture postcard emerged a number of variations of postcards – commemorative cards of important events especially popular in Edwardian times; postcards at war; comic cards for visitors at holiday resorts and many more.

Towards the end of the booklet in a section on the advantages of collecting cards for the philatelist Mr. Hill rounds off by looking at the hobby as it stands today. All in all he presents very concise and interesting information for the beginner to postcard collecting.

'Discussing Picture Postcards' is published by Shire Publications, Tring, Herts, price 5/-.

usage' for GB commemoratives, but believe that the addition of the Royal Coat of Arms (as suggested) would confuse, mean little to many 'ordinary' English people, and offer little recognition value to most of the rest of the world.

Also, it would need reproducing at between $\frac{1}{2}$ " to 1" square to be an identifiable object. If stamps incorporated their emblem, they would need to be 3" square in order to include the theme, silhouette and denomination also.

Mr. Photiades suggestion does not seem realistic (to me) and I wonder if any other philatelists share my views?

D. H. DANFORD

Micklebring, Nr. Rotherham.

Dear Mr. Editor,

In your November issue of *The Philatelic Bulletin* you illustrate on page 6 a postcard addressed to Miss Viner – the first day that the card was in use.

It is not uninteresting to note that it is apparently in the writing of the late Dr. Charles Viner who was editing this journal at that time, presumably written to his daughter.

Yours truly,

ROBSON LOWE

Editor
The Philatelist

Dear Sir,

I would like to say how pleasant I find the designs of the new Christmas stamps.

However, as a Christian, I must object to the remarks that Sally Stiff makes in her article in your November issue. The 'traditional story' as she describes the Nativity is based on historical fact. It is therefore not surprising that it has remained 'in exactly the same form' for over 700 years.

B. W. MARTIN

Burnham, Bucks.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Sir,

Answering Mr. G. Photiades' letter printed in November 1970 *Bulletin* I disagree re his comments regarding 'devaluation' of the royal emblem. I support the 'no-name', but 'emblem

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