

Philatelic Bulletin



Volume 4: Number 12 August 1967



Contents

INTRODUCTION	2
CONDITIONS	2
A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE POST OFFICE	3
NATIONAL POSTAL MUSEUM NOTES	6
BRITISH DISCOVERY STAMPS	11
STAMP ISSUES IN 1968	11
FIRST DAY COVER SERVICES	12
POSTMARK SLOGANS	13
UNACCEPTED STAMP DESIGNS	14
SPECIAL HANDSTAMPS	15
SPECIAL ISSUES AVAILABLE	15
WITHDRAWAL OF BUREAU ITEMS	15

Introduction

In this month's issue we conclude our article on the History of the Post Office and are glad to learn that many of our readers have found it instructive.

We have varied fare ready for future issues ranging over such topics as Postal Uniforms, the Jubilee of the Penny Post and the Philatelic Bureau.

Next month sees the start of Volume 5 — don't forget to renew your binder if you have a complete set of the two earlier volumes.

Conditions

The Philatelic Bureau will be pleased to supply any number of stamps shown on its current stock list, subject to stocks being available, in mint condition only. For stamps not shown on the list, enquiries should be made of a stamp dealer.

We do not guarantee to supply stamps from particular cylinders or plates, position or cylinder blocks, particular editions of books or books with selected watermark.

Stamps are NOT supplied cancelled to order. Remittances, which *must* be sent with orders should be made payable to 'GPO Philatelic Bureau' and should include a handling charge of 6d for orders under 10s, and 3s 9d for orders of 10s and over (9d and 4/- respectively for orders to Overseas Countries, other than the Commonwealth). For orders to be sent by Air Mail the cost of the airmail postage should be added. Stamps are not accepted as payment for orders.

A Brief History of the Post Office

In our previous edition we traced the history of the Post Office until the time of the introduction of the mail coach.

This picturesque era in the history of the postal service was short-lived. The application of the steam engine to transport led to the rapid development of a national railway system, and in 1830 letters were sent by train for the first time on the Liverpool to Manchester route. By 1846 the railway had almost completely taken the place of the mail coach, but it is interesting to note, that, by 1887, the cost of railway transport was putting such a heavy burden on the parcel post service that night mail parcel coaches were re-introduced for a period. These coaches, again with armed guards, ran between London and the larger

towns until their work was gradually taken over by motor vans at the turn of the century. Horse-drawn vans were used on local routes until much later, some even up to just after the second world war.

John Palmer was appointed Controller General of Mails in 1786 on the understanding that he was to work independently of the Postmasters General (there were two at the time) and directly under the Treasury. This uneasy position led to constant differences, Palmer complaining of interference and the Postmasters General of not being kept in-



Devonport-London 'Quicksilver' Royal Mail Coach seen passing Star & Garter Hotel, Kew Bridge 1835. Coloured aquatint engraved by C. Hunt, published 1st November 1835. Mail Coaches were not officially named but this was a 'popular appellation' given to the Devonport Mail, the fastest of the long-distance Mail Coaches.

formed. The setting up by Palmer of a Newspaper Office in 1787, without their prior agreement, led to his dismissal in 1792.

Newspapers were carried free of charge when addressed to country Postmasters, certain Post Office officials called 'Clerks of Roads,' and Members of Parliament. In practice, however, there was so much abuse of this concession that nobody paid postage on newspapers and many people used them as a disguise for letters. In the new Newspaper Office, Palmer appointed eight sorters to separate the newspapers from the letters and to make sure that they did not contain messages.

The abuses continued, however, and in 1825 the Post Office legalised the position by allowing all newspapers to be sent free of charge provided that the tax on each copy (a considerable sum) had been paid. In 1835 the tax was reduced and in 1870 abolished, but in that year a charge of $\frac{1}{2}$ d. a copy for transmission of newspapers through the post was imposed. The posting of money was a difficult problem before the introduction of money orders and the establishment of a registered post. Sometimes notes were cut in half in a special way and each half sent separately — not a very satisfactory solution if only one half arrived safely!

In 1791 efforts were made to check the disappearance of money in the post, and the Clerks of Roads were encouraged by the Postmaster General to start a money order service as a private venture. The scheme came into operation in 1792 with a charge of 6d. in the £1 and with a limit of £5 5s. od. It was an expensive way of sending money, as letters were still charged according to the number of sheets used, and the money order itself had to count as one sheet.

Packets containing money orders and other valuables, generally called 'money letters',

were dealt with separately and the letter carrier had to obtain a receipt on delivery. No extra charge was made for this service. In 1840 the Money Letter system (which had by then become an entirely private concern) was withdrawn. The service was taken over by the Post Office and arrangements were made for the registration of packages for a prepaid charge, as is the practice today.

Rowland Hill, the great pioneer of Penny Post, was not a Post Office servant at all when he put forward his proposals for postal reform. He was first a schoolmaster, and later secretary to the South Australian Commissioners, and it was not until 1839, when the Government had accepted his proposals, that he was given a post at the Treasury to see the reform through. Hill had been deeply concerned about the high charges for the delivery of letters, and from his own experience in a middle class home he knew that the letter carrier was sometimes regarded with dismay, 'his demand being certain and often inconvenient; the recompense in the way of news doubtful.' He found that the greater part of these charges was really a tax. The cost of carrying the mail was relatively small, and the rates charged, based as they were on the number of pages and the distance a letter was carried, were in fact unjustified.

In 1837 Rowland Hill placed his plan for uniform penny postage before the Government. It was not until 1839, however, that the bill introducing it was finally passed, and on 10th January, 1840, letters were carried to destinations throughout England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland for 1d per half ounce.

As it was intended that the sender of the letter should in future pay the postage, it was necessary to find a convenient method of showing that postage had been paid in advance. On 6th May, 1840, the first gummed stamp was introduced. This stamp, the famous 'Penny Black' bearing a picture of Queen

Victoria's head, was the first stick-on postage stamp in the world and is still the most famous. Other governments were so impressed with the idea that they were quick to adopt it, and by the end of the 19th century most countries had their own stamps.

If Rowland Hill was satisfied with the results of his efforts, the Government was not, as the profits of the Post Office fell by two thirds during the first year of penny postage. They did not drop the scheme, but they did manage to 'drop' Rowland Hill from the position he then occupied at the Treasury. After a few years, however, when the Penny Post had become part of the national economy and its benefits were appreciated, he was appointed Joint Secretary to the Postmaster General, and later Secretary or permanent Head of the Post Office, the position now held by the Director General. During his years of office he did much for the Post Office, introducing new services and reforming some of those already in existence.

Anthony Trollope, best known to posterity as a novelist, was a Surveyor in the Post Office and is generally believed to have been responsible for the erection of our first pillar box in 1852 in Jersey. The pillar box had appeared in France a few years earlier, but no new idea is ever universally accepted, and the pillar box was no exception: there were those who con-

demned it as unsafe and who preferred to walk to the post office and place their letters in the hands of the clerk.

The introduction of penny postage in 1840, and of compulsory education in 1870, led to an enormous increase in the numbers of letters sent and in the number of staff required to handle them. The history of the postal service since that time has been one of continuous progress, keeping pace with developments in rail, road and air transport and with the growing complexity of commerce and the advance of education.

Preparing mail by hand for despatch has always required large numbers of sorters, resulting in a heavy wage bill for the Post Office. The proportion of income spent on labour has tended to rise since the second world war and has prompted research into the possibility of building machines to do the work of men in the sorting office. As a result machines now exist which separate packets from letters and long letters from short; turn letters round so that all stamps are in the same corner and sort letters at high speed. Experiments with coded addresses, and special marks which can be 'read' by machines, are expected to lead to even further mechanisation, and the inventiveness of Post Office engineers has also been turned with success to the very difficult problem of mechanising the sorting of parcels.

National Postal Museum Notes

Art and Technology in the Era of Postal Reform 1840

The tradition of employing the best available artistic talent and the most technically advanced printing methods of the day to design and print postage stamps and stamped stationery was established in the 1840 period of postal reform.

Rowland Hill, a practical genius with no mean skill as an engineer, a capacity for clear thinking and a memorable organising ability, was also a regular habitué of Art Galleries and artists' studios. He had some skill as a water-colourist and at least one sketch he made when a youth of sixteen has been preserved.

Henry Cole, Hill's assistant at the Treasury from 1839-1842, and who was later closely associated with the Great Exhibition of 1851 and was to become the founder figure of the Victoria & Albert Museum and much else besides, was also a practising artist. His

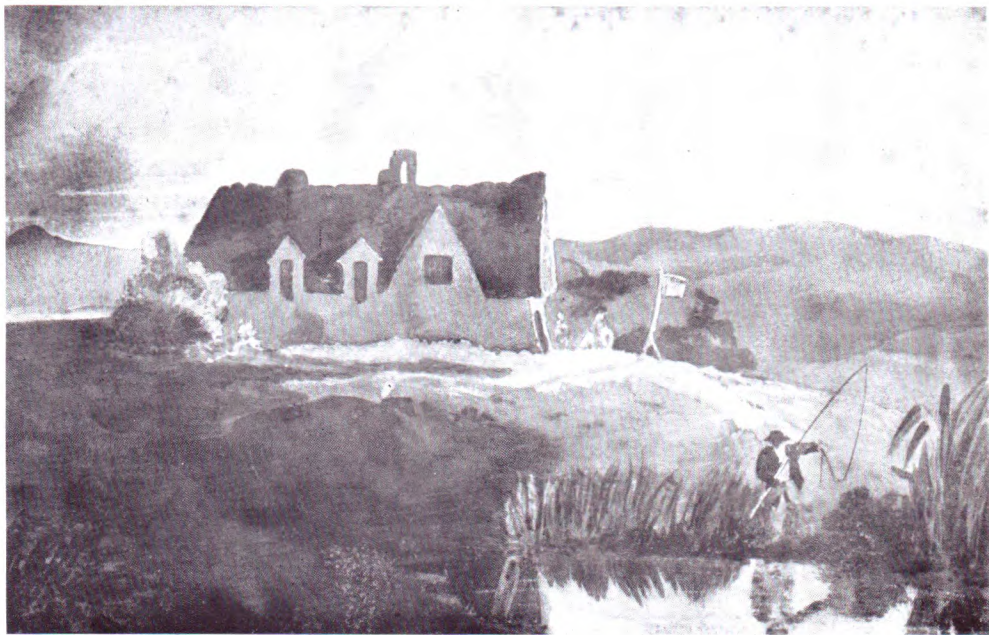
etchings were shown at the Royal Academy on numerous occasions.

Small wonder therefore that Rowland Hill and Henry Cole turned to artists they knew personally to produce designs for the world's first adhesive postage stamps and the first stamped stationery, and that they sought out the most advanced printers and paper makers of repute to produce the prepaid covers and stamps.

Outstanding amongst the artists of the period was William Wyon, Chief Engraver at the Royal Mint, whose portrait medal of the young Queen Victoria struck to commemorate the Queen's accession visit to the City of London in 1837, was adopted as the basis of almost all the stamps issued throughout the Queen's long reign.

There seem grounds for believing that the

Rowland Hill — Artist. A water-colour sketch by Rowland Hill in 1811, then aged 16.



artists, engravers and security printers of the 1840's were a fairly closely knit group. Henry Corbould who produced from the Wyon Medal a line drawing of the young Queen's head from which Charles Heath engraved the first adhesive postage stamp, was an old associate of Heath's who had previously engraved book illustrations from Corbould's designs. Jacob Perkins, whose firm Perkins, Bacon & Co. printed the first stamps, was

again an old associate of Heath's, who had done engravings for some of the Bank notes which had established Perkins' reputation in this country and in his homeland, the United States of America. There is an interesting print after Benjamin West PRA showing William Penn concluding his famous treaty with the North American Indians — printed by Perkins' hardened steel process. There is a curious similarity between Benjamin West's

W. Mulready. From Goldsmith's 'The Vicar of Wakefield'.





BOLOGNA — An engraving by John Thompson who also engraved the Mulready envelope.

drawing and part of the design for the first postal stationery by William Mulready RA, which suggests that the latter was guilty of plagiarism.

Rowland Hill, who had diligently pursued a policy of 'self improvement' himself was active on the Committee of the Society for the Diffusion of Useful Knowledge. The Society's Journal, *The Penny Magazine* of 1832, was

the first popular illustrated educational magazine: it contains an account of Rowland Hill's plan for poor-law and penal reform, one of the numerous causes he espoused during his restless active life. It was Charles Knight, the publisher of *The Penny Magazine*, who suggested to Hill the introduction of pre-paid postal wrappers: an idea which bore fruit in the first pre-paid postal stationery of 1840.

After a trial design by Henry Corbould for the pre-paid stationery had been rejected, Henry Cole commissioned a design from William Mulready RA from which a master engraving on a deeply cut brass plate was cut by John Thompson. Thompson had a fine reputation as an engraver: he did many book illustrations with Luke Clennel, a former apprentice of Thomas Bewick, than whom no finer wood engraver graced the pages of late 18th and early 19th century books. The Mulready letter sheets and envelopes were printed by William Clowes on John

Dickinson's silk thread security paper, purpose made for the job at Apsley Mills. This method of paper making, pioneered by John Dickinson, was a further technical breakthrough. There is an interesting record of a dinner party at the Mill House where Rowland Hill was Dickinson's guest. This same silk thread paper was used for the embossed adhesive postage stamps, designed by William Wyon, which were in use between 1847-1855. The Mulready 'envelopes' were themselves an important invention consequent upon the postal reforms of 1840. Until then each sheet



WILLIAM PENN'S TREATY WITH THE INDIANS,

WHICH HEEDS THE PROVINCE OF PENNSYLVANIA NORTH AMERICA 1681

The American Indians incorporated in Mulready's design bear a remarkable similarity to those shown in this popular print (cir. 1830) after a drawing by Benjamin West P.R.A. This print was engraved on a hardened steel plate by Perkins & Heath: it was Perkins' firm, Perkins, Bacon & Petch, which printed the adhesive stamps of 1840 from engravings executed by Charles Heath. This link between the Mulready envelope and the first stamps is perhaps of some interest.

of paper sent by post had to be paid for separately — an arrangement which favoured the single letter sheet and inhibited the use of covers. Even so, these early ‘envelopes’ were a crude improvisation. They were sold flat and had to be folded and gummed by the retailer or his client. Edwin Hill, Rowland’s brother, who was supervisor of stamps at the Inland Revenue Stamp Office, evolved a prototype envelope-making machine as early as 1840. This he subsequently developed in association with Warren De La Rue and it was patented in 1845. By 1851 De La Rue’s had eleven machines at work. Simultaneously John Dickinson, alive to the possibilities of this new market for paper, purchased and improved on an envelope machine invented by Rémond, a French engineer-designer. Competition between Dickinson and De La Rue was intense.

Thomas De La Rue, the founder of the firm that bears his name, achieved a further technical advance by printing playing cards by direct letter-press. Until then they were made by hand stencilling and the colouring added by water colour. It was this success which earned him the contract for printing the Inland Revenue Fiscal stamps of 1853 soon to be followed by the higher value postage stamps of 1855.

The engraver, whose portrait of the young Queen enriched these stamps and almost all the British and many Colonial postage stamps of the Queen’s long reign, was Jean Ferdinand Joubert de la Ferté. This artist, a refugee from post-Napoleonic France, had established himself by his superlative engravings of works by such well known Academicians as William Etty and E. J. Poynter.

Plainly, the pursuit of philately can lead one into very varied researches into the technical and artistic life of our civilisation.

F. Marcus Arman
Curator



Henry Corbould, who made drawings of the Wyon medal portrait of the Queen, and Charles Heath, who engraved the first adhesive stamp die from them, were old associates.

This engraving, cir. 1818, was made before Heath’s partnership with Jacob Perkins and Fairman and before Perkins’ hardened steel plate process was introduced.

To illustrate famous British discoveries, four special stamps are to be issued on 19th Sept. (not three as previously announced.)

The 4d value shows radar and the 1/- the discovery of penicillin. Both were designed by Clive Abbott, who also designed the recent EFTA stamps and the Post Office Tower series of 1965.

The jet engine and the invention of television are depicted on the 1s 6d and 1s 9d stamps, which were both designed by Negus-Sharland who were responsible for one of the 1965 Christmas Air Letters.

The Postmaster General recently announced that special stamps will be issued next year which will depict British Bridges, British Paintings, the centenary of the Trades Union Congress, the 50th anniversary of votes for women, the bi-centenary of Captain Cook's first voyage of discovery, and the Christmas theme.

He also announced that the new definitive issue of both high and low values will be completed.

The Printing details are:

Printer: Harrison and Sons

Paper: Plain coated unwatermarked.

Method: Photogravure with phosphor lines.

Machine: 4d reel fed 1/-, 1s 6d, 1s 9d sheet fed.

Size: 1.6" x 0.95"

Perforation: across Corner + 30
down Corner + 17

Diameter of holes: 0.0355"

No. to sheet: 120

Colours	4d	Yellow, red and black
	1/-	Slate, grey and blue
	1s 6d	Orange, green, blue, grey and black
	1s 9d	Buff, orange, mauve, black and slate

First Day Cover Services

British Discovery Stamps

The usual First Day Cover Services will be offered for this issue. The full service (A) which uses the specially designed envelopes, will cost 7s 6d each, while customers' own pre-addressed envelopes will be serviced for 5s 6d each. Applications to Bureau, please.

Philatelic posting boxes will be open for those who wish to prepare and post their own Covers and at the same offices the envelopes priced 6d each, and presentation packs priced 5s 7d each will be available.

List of Offices with Philatelic Posting Boxes:

London:

Chief Office, King Edward Street, EC1.

Battersea District Office, Lavender Hill, SW11.

Eastern District Office, Whitechapel Road, E1.

Northern District Office, Upper Street, N1.

North Western District Office, Eversholt Street, NW1.

South Eastern District Office, Borough High Street, SE1.

South Western District Office, Howick Place, SW1.

Western Central District Office, 181 High Holborn, WC1.

Wimpole Street, W1 Remnant Street, (Kingsway), WC1.

Southampton Street, Strand, WC2. Spring Street, W2. 111 Baker Street, W1.

110 Victoria Street, SW1. Trafalgar Square BO, WC2.

Aberdeen	Croydon	Leeds	Reading
Aberystwyth	Derby	Leicester	Romford
Aldershot	Doncaster	Lincoln	Rotherham
Ayr	Dorchester	Liverpool	Salisbury
Barnstaple	Douglas, Isle of Man	Llanelli	Sheffield
Bath	Dumfries	Llandudno	Shrewsbury
Bedford	Dundee	Londonderry	Skegness
Belfast	Eastbourne	Luton	Southampton
Birmingham	Edinburgh	Maidstone	Southend-on-Sea
Blackburn	Exeter	Manchester	South Shields
Blackpool	Fareham	Mansfield	St. Albans
Bournemouth	Folkestone	Middlesbrough	Stockport
Bradford	Glasgow	Newcastle-upon-Tyne	Stockton-on-Tees
Brighton	Gloucester	Newport,	Stoke-on-Trent
Bristol	Grimsby	Isle of Wight	Sunderland
Bromley	Guernsey	Newport, Mon.	Swansea
Burnley	Harrogate	Northampton	Swindon
Bury St. Edmunds	Harrow	Norwich	Taunton
Cambridge	Hastings	Nottingham	Torquay
Canterbury	Hereford	Oxford	Truro
Cardiff	Hounslow	Paisley	Tunbridge Wells
Carlisle	Huddersfield	Perth	Walsall
Chatham	Hull	Peterborough	Watford
Chelmsford	Inverness	Plymouth	Wolverhampton
Chester	Ipswich	Pontypridd and	Worcester
Colchester	Jersey	Porth	Worthing
Colwyn Bay	Kingston-	Portsmouth	York
Coventry	upon-Thames	Preston	

Postmark Slogans

'Dial carefully — All figure Telephone Numbers — Dial Correctly' will be used at Edinburgh Head Office in the transposed position from a provisional starting date of 1st August, 1967 to 31st July, 1968.

'Send to Town Hall for Guide — Cheltenham. The Centre for the Cotswolds' will be re-used in the transposed position at Cheltenham from 11th September to 10th November.

'Chichester Festival Theatre 30th May — 16th Sept.' will be withdrawn at Chichester on 9th September.

'Christians Pray for Coleraine's New Life Ask About It.' will be used in the transposed position at Coleraine from 1st September to 9th November.

'Find a Bin Put it In — Keep Harlow Tidy' will be re-used at Harlow in the transposed position from 28th September to 31st October.

'On Stage — Gaumont — Camelot 9th - 14th October Ipswich Operatic and Dramatic Society' will be in use at Ipswich in the transposed position from 14th September to 12th October.

'For Happy Retirement Isle of Man' will be re-used at Douglas and Ramsey I.O.M. in the transposed position from 25th September to 31st December.

'Luton Hats Head the World' will be withdrawn at Luton on 12th September.

'Orkney — The Green Isles of the North' will be used at Kirkwall in the transposed position until further notice.

'Prestwick Indoor Bowls' will be re-used at Prestwick, Ayrshire in the transposed position from 4th September to 28 October.

'For Work and Play. Scarborough. Sites and Labour Available for Light Industry' will be re-used at Scarborough in the transposed position from 26th September to 7th Dec.

'One Putt for Alcan Golf Championships St Andrews Oct 2-8' will now be used in the transposed position at St Andrews, Dundee, Carnoustie S.O. Dundee and not as stated in the July Bulletin.

'Beautiful Bournemouth For Sun Sea And Sands' will be withdrawn at Bournemouth on 31st August.

'Don't Invite Crime: Leave it Locked' will be used at Shrewsbury in the transposed position from 4th September to 28th October.

'Truro Cornwall's shopping centre' will be in use at Truro in the transposed position until 13th August 1968.

'Weymouth Pavilion Theatre and Ballroom' will be used at Weymouth in the transposed position from 10th September to 30th September.

'York Races 12th, 13th, 14th October' will be used at York in the transposed position from 20th September to 10th October.

'The National Postal Museum London Chief Office EC1' will be used at ECDO in the standard position until further notice.

'Blood Donors Save Lives Enrol Now Phone Newcastle/Tyne 37804' will be used in the standard position at Newcastle until 11th July, 1968.

'1888-1967 Have you seen it? Carnival time at Ryde IOW 3rd-9th Sept.' will be used at Ryde, Isle of Wight in the transposed position until 9th September.

'Guernsey — The British Holiday Abroad' will be re-used in the transposed position at Guernsey from 23rd June, 1967 to 22nd June, 1968.

'Bring your Factory to Bracing Skegness Lincs.' will be in continued use at Skegness in the transposed position from 21st September to 13th December.

'Skegness Illuminations nightly from 19th August. Lincolnshire's Holiday Playground' will be withdrawn from Skegness on 20th Sept.

'The National Forgemasters Association International Forging Conference 1967 Sheffield Sept 19-21' will be withdrawn at Sheffield on August 31, and not August 8 as stated earlier.

Covers for reposting to Head or District Postmasters concerned.

Unaccepted Stamp Designs

Paris Postal Conference Centenary

Issued 7th May 1963

Miss M. Ashstead



Mr J. Matthews



Mr M. Coaman



Bradbury Wilkinson



Harrison & Sons



Special Handstamps

'Bicentenary and Anniversary Edinburgh' at Edinburgh 16th August to 16th Sept. 1967.

'National Society for Cancer Relief Day Floors Castle' will be used at Kelso 27th Aug.

'Epsom and Ewell Borough Show' will be used at Epsom on 26th August 1967.

'The Greenwood Camp, Packington Park, Meriden, Coventry' will be used at Coventry 25th to 28th August 1967.

'First English Heraldic Congress Oxford' at Oxford 11th to 15th September 1967.

'E. Midland Federation of Stamp Clubs 17th Convention' will be used at Peterborough on 7th October 1967.

'Centenary Aboyne Games' will be used at Aberdeen on 6th September 1967.

'Ninth Convention of Federation of Surrey Philatelic Societies' will be used at Croydon on 9th September 1967.

'Croydon Philatelic Society Diamond Jubilee' will be used at Croydon on 11th September 1967.

Withdrawal of Bureau items

The Battle of Hastings stamps will be withdrawn from sale on 13th October 1967.

Special Issues Withdrawal

In future stocks of special stamps will be withdrawn from sale at all post offices two months after the issue date.

To introduce this scheme it is necessary to group the initial withdrawal dates as follows:

Pictorial Birds	1st August 1967
Pictorial Technology	1st August 1967
Battle of Hastings	1st August 1967
EFTA	9th September 1967
British Flora	9th September 1967
British Paintings	9th September 1967

All special stamps will continue to be sold from the Philatelic Bureau and the Philatelic Counter at London Chief Office, subject to stocks being available, for one year.

Special Issues available from Philatelic Bureau

Pictorial Birds	4d (blocks of 4)
Pictorial Technology	4d, 6d, 1s 3d, 1s 6d
Battle of Hastings	4d (blocks of 6), 6d, 1s 3d
Christmas	3d, 1s 6d
EFTA	9d, 1s 6d
British Flora	4d (blocks of 4), 9d, 1s 9d
British Paintings	4d, 9d, 1s 6d

The Christmas 3d are available in plain only and the British Paintings in phosphor only. The remainder are available both plain and phosphor.

Philatelic Bulletin Publication Date

Some of our readers are under the impression that the Bulletin is due to be published on the first of each month.

This has never been done, we prefer instead to be flexible so that we can take into account the incidence of parliamentary or press announcements.

Our aim is to despatch the Bulletin from Edinburgh during the first ten days of the month but this has to be varied on occasions.

Philatelic Sales Counter—London Chief Office

So that we can deal as speedily as possible with the large number of customers who visit the counter on the first day of a new stamp issue we limit sales to the stamps issued on that day and do not sell other items.

We apologise to the few customers who are occasionally inconvenienced by this arrangement.

National Postal Museum

The National Postal Museum is presenting an Exhibition at the Philatelic Bureau, GPO Edinburgh illustrating the theme of our 'Art and Technology in the Era of Postal Reform' article. The Exhibition will run for one month from 21st August.

Articles and illustrations appearing in the *Bulletin* are the copyright of the Postmaster General. Requests to reproduce this material, which should be addressed to the Editor, Philatelic Bulletin, PSD/HMB, Post Office Headquarters, London E.C.1, will receive prompt and careful consideration. Annual subscription 7/6 for 12 issues, post free, should be sent to the Philatelic Bureau, 2-4 Waterloo Place, EDINBURGH 1.

Printed in Great Britain by Krisson Printing Ltd, for the General Post Office, St. Martin's-le-Grand, LONDON E.C.1.