

Philatelic Bulletin



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HARRISON AND SONS LTD

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Introduction

A number of our readers who have asked whether we would issue a binder will be pleased with the announcement that one is now available. We are sure that they will be very popular and have no hesitation in recommending them.

‘Local’ first day covers are to be issued for the new regional stamps, and full information about the stamps and our services is given. Our leading article this month, ‘Works of Art by the Million’, tells the story of a new stamp from its conception, through all its processes to the day it is sold.

Our other regular features complete this issue.

The following special handstamps will be used at the local events as shown:

‘Special Charity Exhibition 24 JAN 1967 London W.1’ at the Western Central District Office London on 24th January 1967. Covers for reposting to the District Postmaster, Western Central District Office.

‘The Scotsman 1817-1967 Edinburgh 25 JAN 1967 150th Anniversary’ at Edinburgh on 25th January 1967. Covers for reposting to the Head Postmaster, Edinburgh.

‘CYNHADLEDD BIOLEG YMBELY-DREDD PORTMEIRION RADIATION BIOLOGY CONFERENCE CYMRU NATO PORTMADOC CAERNS.’ at Portmadoc on the 20th FEB 1967 and from 31st MAR to 11th APRIL 1967. Covers for reposting to the Head Postmaster, Portmadoc.

‘Scottish Philatelic Congress 1967 Bridge of Allan’ at Glasgow on 22nd April 1967. Covers for reposting to the Head Postmaster, Glasgow.

‘Clacton on Sea Essex AEPS 23rd Annual Convention 29th April 1967’ at Clacton on 29th April 1967. Covers for reposting to the Head Postmaster, Clacton on Sea.

New Regional Stamps and Local First Day Covers

New 9d and 1s 6d stamps for Wales and Monmouthshire, Scotland and Northern Ireland will be on sale at all post offices in those areas, at the Philatelic Bureau, Edinburgh and the Philatelic Sales Counter, London Chief Office, EC1 from 1st March 1967.

The stamps will only be issued with phosphor lines.

The designs of the stamps are the same as the original 6d and 1s 3d regional stamps respectively, but the colours have been changed to olive green and steel blue.

The change has become necessary to meet the demand for these denominations and is a temporary measure until a new range of regional stamps is issued.

The new stamps will be sent automatically to our customers who have standing orders for the regional series.

On this unique occasion the Post Office is offering special first day cover services. The Head Postmasters of Cardiff, Edinburgh and Belfast will each provide the services for the stamps of their respective regions. The full service (A) under which the Post Office will provide a specially designed envelope, type the name and address of the intended recipient, affix the stamps and cancel with a first day hand stamp will cost 5s 3d each, while customers own pre-addressed envelopes will be serviced under our (B) system for 3s 3d each.

Application forms for these services have been sent to our readers who are reminded that should they require covers from only *one* region the application and remittance should be sent to the Head Postmaster concerned e.g. Cardiff for the Welsh stamps, Edinburgh for the Scottish and Belfast for the Northern

Ireland stamps. If covers are required from more than one region the application and remittance *MUST* be sent to the Philatelic Bureau, Edinburgh. In all cases the covers will bear the cancellation Cardiff, Edinburgh or Belfast, as required.

Our customers who have standing orders for first day covers have been approached to ascertain their wishes as three different covers will be available on this occasion.

Philatelic posting boxes will be available at certain offices within the regions for the use of collectors who like to prepare and post their own covers:

List of offices with philatelic posting boxes:
Scotland. Aberdeen, Dumfries, Dundee, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Inverness and Paisley.
Wales. Aberystwyth, Cardiff, Colwyn Bay, Llandudno, Llanelli, Newport (Mon.), and Swansea.

N. Ireland. Belfast and Londonderry.

The specially designed envelopes will be on sale at all Crown post offices in the three regions. Each region will sell only those envelopes designed for it, but envelopes for all regions will be available from Philatelic Bureau, Edinburgh, and the Philatelic Sales Counter, London Chief Office, EC1.

There will be no presentation packs for this issue and orders for mint stamps by post should be sent to the Bureau.

Bulk orders for the special envelopes will be met by the Bureau on the following terms:

250 £4 3s 4d	1,000 £15	5,000 £60
500 £8	2,500 £33	10,000 £104

(plus handling charge).

NO philatelic services will be provided by offices other than those mentioned but first day cover application forms will be available from all offices in Great Britain which normally have philatelic posting boxes.

Phosphor Treated Postage Stamps

To help to 'speed the mail' it has been decided that when stocks of the general series of postage stamps below 2s 6d are sold out they will be replaced in Post Offices by phosphor treated stamps.

This decision has been taken to ensure that maximum use can be made of existing and projected Automatic Letter Facing machine installations. For these machines to work to their best advantage it is essential that letters passing through them bear phosphor lined stamps. We find at present that additional manual work and some delay to correspondence results from plain stamps which have been purchased outside the areas in which the automatic machines are in use being affixed to letters posted *within* the areas. This is especially prevalent in commuting areas where large numbers of people buy stamps in outlying districts but post their letters at places like London WDO, Glasgow or Southampton where automatic machines are situated.

When phosphor stamps only are available the machines will re-act to every letter and the mail will be dealt with faster and more efficiently than at present.

The scheme is already in operation at offices in the London Postal Region where the changeover in the $\frac{1}{2}$ d, 1d, 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d, 2d, 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d, 3d, 4d, 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ d, 6d, 9d, 10d, 1s 3d and 1s 6d range is taking place. Further denominations will be added gradually to the phosphor series and the scheme extended to the whole country.

Philatelists can continue to obtain both plain and phosphor stamps from the Philatelic Bureau Edinburgh and the Philatelic Sales Counter, London Chief Office, EC1.

EFTA Stamps — First day Cover Services

In addition to those previously announced a philatelic posting box will be provided at Llanelli.

From the Editor

We have been chided because we do not publish information about new stamp issues in advance of the daily newspapers.

The first information about forthcoming stamps is given to Parliament by the Postmaster General and particulars of designs etc to subsequent press conferences. The daily press are thus able to print the facts in their next editions. It is, of course, impossible for us to arrange for the announcements to coincide with the publication of the monthly Bulletin.

Our regular readers will know that we give full particulars of the stamps, designers, printing processes etc and it is our hope that the Bulletin serves as a permanent record of the British philatelic scene insofar as the Post Office enters into it.

Obsolete Stamps

We have been asked about the period of validity for postage stamps. Those issued in the reigns of Queen Victoria and King Edward VII are no longer valid for the pre-payment of postage and thus the earliest which can be used is the King George V issue.

Withdrawal of Bureau Stock Items

Stocks of the 6d Pictorial Landscape phosphor, 3d Christmas phosphor stamps, and 2/- plain booklets are exhausted and no further orders for them can be taken.

Stocks of the remaining Landscape stamps will be withdrawn from sale on 1st May 1967.

Works of Art by the million

The new stamp policy has brought a revolution in stamp design. During 1966 nine special issues were sold, a total of 30 different stamp designs.

And with more designs needed every year British artists are finding a new outlet for their talents. Stamps have become miniature works of art, perfectly and skilfully reproduced by the million.

The basic idea for a new stamp first finds its way to the Postal Services Department, GPO Headquarters, where all suggestions are handled for special issues — 50 or more a year from outside organisations and members of the public.

The Postal Services Department compiles for the Postmaster General a full list of suggestions received, and a short list of events or items which might be worth marking by a special stamp issue is drawn up.

When the Postmaster General has made his decision on the stamp programme for the coming year, the Council of Industrial Design is asked for the names of suitable artists. The Council, who have a list of artists who specialise in a particular field, pick those they consider best suited for the job. The Post Office stipulates that of the three artists asked to submit designs for each issue, one should be a new artist. The stamp printers, too, are asked to send in their ideas. 'A stamp designer must know about printing from A to Z,' said Mr David Gentleman, who has designed Winston Churchill, Battle of Britain, World Cup and Battle of Hastings stamps among others. 'A design may look wonderful as a piece of art work, but it may well present problems too great for the printer to solve. A stamp design should have

unity and simplicity and should not be crowded with symbolism or heraldry.'

Artists have from four to six weeks to complete the job. They submit their design, four times larger than stamp size, and they are then sent to the Post Office Photographic Section.

The Section produces a black and white stamp-size photograph of each design, and these, with the original art work, are sent to the Stamp Advisory Committee. The Committee, without knowing which designs belongs to which artist, makes a first and second choice.

The chosen designs are sent to the printers who produce full-colour stamp essays. The Stamp Advisory Committee can now see what the design and colour look like when printed in stamp form and can confirm, or amend, the original recommendation.

The Postmaster General then writes to the Queen enclosing his recommended first and second choices. Sometimes the Queen agrees with the recommended choice, sometimes not. The agreed designs go back to the printers. Either to Harrisons at High Wycombe who print all the lower value stamps, or to Bradbury Wilkinson at New Malden, who print the stamps from 2s 6d to £1.

The printers send proof sheets to the Post Office Supplies Department whose job is to check the proofs, stamp by stamp under a magnifying glass, comparing them with the approved essays. If everything is in order, one sheet is sent to the printer.

Harrisons, at their factory at High Wycombe, print stamps for nearly every country in the world. But now they are finding the British stamps are providing them with their greatest ever challenge.

The strip of six Battle of Hastings stamps, issued in October, was printed in a blend of nine colours.

It was the first time that Harrisons had ever used nine colours to print a stamp. Four basic colours — red, yellow, blue and black — are ample for normal full-colour printing.

When Harrisons receive the art work for a new issue, they must first determine how many printing colours are needed. Then they photograph the art work and master negatives are made, twice the size of the stamp.

Any re-touching is done, at this stage only, to the master negative. Each master negative is photographed up to 960 times by a special 'step and repeat' camera which produces the images on a large glass sheet. Elaborate machinery, precisely linked to the timing of the camera shutter, moves the glass sheet between shots, producing neat rows of pictures of the stamp. These are known as multi-positives.

There is one glass sheet for each colour, and the image on each sheet is transferred to a screened carbon tissue, and from the tissue to the copper printing cylinder.

Proofs are taken from the etched cylinders, and girls examine each stamp with a powerful magnifying glass. They mark the 'spots', showing faults in the etching.

Correcting the blemishes is painstaking work. For example, the bird stamps needed eight printing cylinders carrying a total of 91½ million recesses. Each tiny recess had to be perfectly etched and coincide exactly to give perfect colour reproduction.

But all this work would go for nothing if care were not taken with the paper. Like the guy ropes of a tent, paper stretches and

contracts according to moisture content.

Consistency is maintained by an automatic humidity control and air conditioning plant. To print the bird stamps 394½ miles of paper in reels 11¼ inches wide were used — 12½ tons of stamps!

Humidity control is needed for a different purpose in the paper gumming process — to prevent curling. Here the paper, previously specially coated to improve the quality of the printing surface, has liquid gum arabic applied.

Inks for stamps also present special problems. They must not contain any arsenic or other toxic matter, must remain fast to the paper when soaked, and must not fade when exposed to strong light.

As well as the colours, the printers must also apply the invisible lines used for automatic letter facing. They use a special phosphor ink, developed by Post Office engineers and Harrisons together over the last five years.

After printing, the sheets of stamps are perforated to the standard Post Office specification.

Girls examine the finished sheets for flaws, flicking through hundreds of sheets at amazing speed.

Any flawed sheets are collected, counted and burned by security officials.

Some sheets are made up into reels for slot machines, others are cut out into books of stamps.

All the stamps are delivered to Post Office Supplies Department for distribution throughout the country.

(Reprinted with acknowledgements to COURIER, the GPO staff newspaper).

National Postal Museum Notes

News of large scale fraudulent philatelic operations affecting collectors on the other side of the Atlantic was reported in the Press in Great Britain a few days after a new Exhibition on the avoidance of forgery was opened at the National Postal Museum at London's Chief Post Office.

This parallelism was entirely fortuitous. By a further strange coincidence the Museum's current Exhibition chronicles the fact that whereas the adoption of the adhesive postage stamps of 1840 was a unique British achievement it was an American, Jacob Perkins of Philadelphia, whose security printing processes made it possible to print the stamps. Jacob Perkins in the early part of the 19th century had revived the art of steel engraving for the production of Bank Notes in New

England. He came to London and sought an outlet for his talents as a security printer. Perkins' unique contribution to the ancient art of engraving from a steel plate was to harden the plate after engraving and to perfect a method of transferring the engraving from one plate to another — a necessary step towards mass production. He spent many years in perfecting his plate transfer process whereby soft steel rollers under heavy pressure were made to take up, in relief, the impression from the original steel plate, and after hardening, to transfer the original design any number of times necessary for printing. It was this process of Perkins which made it possible to produce every year millions of postage stamps each of which was identifiable as a replica of the original engraved die.

This aspect of the production method adopted for the world's first postage stamps is exemplified in the display at the National Postal Museum with numerous items from the Reginald M. Phillips' collection which is exceptionally rich in this early material.



Jacob Perkins

Special Issues available from Philatelic Bureau

Pictorial Landscape	4d, 6d, 1s 3d, 1s 6d
World Cup	4d, 6d, 1s 3d
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

These stamps are available with or without phosphor lines, except 6d Landscape and 3d Christmas phosphor which are exhausted.

Postmark Slogans

The slogan 'Select Bexhill-on-Sea, Quiet, Clean, Good Music and Theatre Free colour folders or P.O. 1s for town guide to Publicity Dept. B.P.O. Bexhill-on-Sea, Sussex.' will continue in use until further notice at Bexhill-on-Sea in the transposed position. Covers for reposting to the Head Postmaster, Bexhill-on-Sea.

Specimen not available

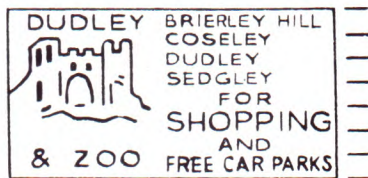
'Carnival, B'Ham & Aston Universities, Proceeds to charity, Procession 4th March 1967' will be used in the transposed position at Birmingham from 4th February 1967 until 3rd March 1967. Covers for reposting to the Head Postmaster, Birmingham.

Specimen not available

'Ship thro' Bristol', is being re-used for the period 3rd May 1966 until 18th February 1967 and 5th March 1967 until 2nd May 1967 in the transposed position at Bristol. Covers for reposting to the Head Postmaster, Bristol.

Specimen not available

'Dudley & Zoo, Brierly Hill, Coseley, Dudley, Sedgley for shopping, and free car parks' will be used in the transposed position at Dudley Worcestershire from 23rd January 1967 until 21st July 1967. Covers for reposting should be sent to the Head Postmaster, Dudley.



The slogan 'Visit Hastings Embroidery' which was to have been in use until 10th February 1967 has now been replaced by 'Hastings, Popular with visitors since 1066' until 10th February 1967, in the transposed position at Hastings. Covers for reposting to the Head Postmaster, Hastings.

Specimen not available

'For Happy Holidays, Isle of Man' is being re-used for the period 26th December 1966 until 2nd April 1967 in the transposed position at Douglas. Covers for reposting to the Head Postmaster, Douglas, Isle of Man.

Specimen not available

'Lively Lovely Llandudno' is being re-used at Llandudno in the transposed position from 1st January 1967 until 11th December 1967, then again from 27th December 1967 until 31st December 1967. Covers for reposting to Head Postmaster, Llandudno.

Specimen not available

'Drive to Prosperity, site your factory at Consett Co. Durham, First Class manpower available' will be used at Newcastle upon Tyne in the transposed position, from 1st February 1967 until 31st January 1968. Covers for reposting to the Head Postmaster, Newcastle upon Tyne.

Specimen not available

'Visit Salisbury Historic Market City' was re-introduced at Salisbury on 18th September 1966 and will continue in use until 20th June 1967. Covers for reposting to the Head Postmaster, Salisbury.

Specimen not available

'Shropshire and West Midlands Great Show May 17th and 18th' will be used in the transposed position at Shrewsbury from 27th February 1967 until 7th May 1967. Covers for reposting to the Head Postmaster, Shrewsbury.

SHROPSHIRE AND WEST MIDLANDS GREAT SHOW SHREWSBURY MAY 17 TH & 18 TH
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‘Shrewsbury Summer Show 24th June 1967’ will be used at Shrewsbury from 8th May 1967 until 25th June 1967 in the transposed position. Covers for reposting to the Head Postmaster, Shrewsbury.



‘Skipton Gateway to the Yorkshire Dales’ will be used in the transposed position at Skipton from 20th February 1967 until 19th February 1968. Covers for reposting to the Head Postmaster, Keighley.



‘Come sail on the ferry to New Brighton Wal-lasey’ will continue in use until further notice at New Brighton in the transposed position. Covers for reposting to the Head Postmaster, Liverpool.

Specimen not available

‘Visit Historic Warwick in the heart of Eng-land’ is in use from 28th December 1966 until 7th February 1967 in addition to the period 16th April 1967 until 16th July 1967 at War-wick and Leamington in the transposed posi-tion. Covers for reposting to Head Postmaster Warwick and Leamington.

Specimen not available

‘Yorkshire’s super sunshine resort Whitby for holidays’ in use at Whitby in the transposed position from 7th December 1966 until 6th December 1967. Covers for reposting to the Head Postmaster, Whitby.

Specimen not available

Binders for Philatelic Bulletin

240 Stamp obliterators engraved 'Are you under insured' will be used during various periods between the 23rd January 1967 and 19th November 1967. Some of the offices using the slogan include, in London: Western Central District Office, South Western District Office, North Western District Office; and elsewhere: Aldershot, Horsham, Reading, Aylesbury, Ipswich, Sudbury, Birmingham, Coventry, Worcester, Barnsley, Doncaster, Louth, Wakefield, Bolton, Oldham, Wigan, Ballymena, Portadown, Omagh, Aberdeen, Falkirk, Perth, Exeter, Plymouth, Truro, Cardiff, Neath and Wrexham.

**ARE YOU
UNDER-INSURED**

Periods of use are as follows:

week commencing Monday 23 January

„	30	„
„	6 February	
„	13	„
„	17 April	
„	24	„
„	1 May	
„	8	„
„	24 July	
„	31	„
„	7 August	
„	14	„
„	23 October	
„	30	„
„	6 November	
„	13	„

We have had many requests asking if a binder could be provided so that the Bulletin could be easily filed.

A first class binder is now available which will hold twenty-four copies of the Bulletin.



As each copy is received it is quickly and easily inserted into the binder which is strongly made with stiff covers. It is attractively bound in rexine leathercloth in dark red.

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

We are confident that there will be a great demand for the binders especially at the price of only 15s post free.

Send your remittances to the Philatelic Bureau, 2-4 Waterloo Place, Edinburgh 1, and you will receive by return this magnificent binder which will turn your loose copies into a reference volume.

Unaccepted Stamp Designs

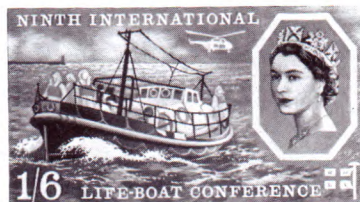
We continue our series of unaccepted designs from past issues and feature this month those of the International Lifeboat Conference issued on 31st May 1963.



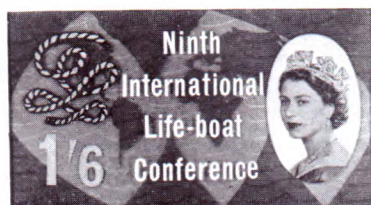
David Gentleman



Faith Jaques



A. Breese





De La Rue



Bradbury Wilkinson



J. Matthews





Harrison & Sons

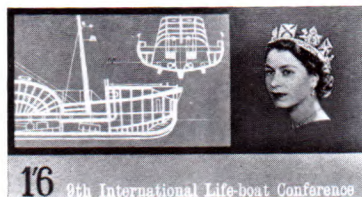


J. Farleigh





H. Schwarz



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.

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