

Philatelic Bulletin



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STOP PRESS

EFTA Stamps

For operational reasons we have decided that all offices in the London Postal Region will sell only phosphor treated stamps for this and succeeding special issues. Plain and phosphor stamps will be available from the Philatelic Sales Counter at London Chief Office and the G.P.O. Philatelic Bureau, Edinburgh.

Introduction

We conclude the series of articles on ‘The Oldest Post Office’ and continue our new feature of notes on the activities of the National Postal Museum.

The first of this year’s special issues is due on February 20th and we give full particulars of the stamps, designers etc.

The Oldest Post Office in the Country

We conclude our series on old Post Offices with a further selection.

Penshurst Sub-Office, Tonbridge 1861.

The village of Penshurst was made a 'Penny Post' under the control of Tunbridge Wells in 1828.

The present Sub-Postmistress, Mrs G. Eagleton, says that the Post Office has been in the Eagleton family, and the same building, since 1861.

Stoke Climsland Sub-Office, Plymouth 1862, possibly circa 1839.

Post Office records indicate that a Penny-Post Receiving House, under the control of Callington, was opened in the village of Stoke Climsland in about 1839, when a hand date-stamp was issued for 'Stoke Climsland Penny Post'. The present Sub-Postmaster, Mr R. H. Birch, says that the Post Office has been in the same building since 1862, when one James Mitchell was appointed Postmaster (Mitchell, incidentally, held the office until his resignation in about 1911).

Local belief has it that the Post Office was in its present building even before Mitchell's appointment in 1862 as local records do not show any other suitable premises being in the village at that time.

Potterspurty Sub-office, Towcester circa 1866 (site dates from 1845).

A Receiving House was opened in Potterspurty January 1845, to 'serve the villages of Potterspurty, Yardley, Gobions and Grafton Regis, the letters for which amount to 216 in a week. The expense of this arrangement to be 10s. a week for a foot post Messenger to deliver the letters and £4 a year for a Receiver of Letters at Potterspurty'.

The present Post Office building is said to stand on the site of the village's first Receiving

House of 1845, which was demolished about a hundred years ago. An ancient stone cottage which adjoined the original Post Office still exists.

The present Sub-Postmaster, Mr F. C. Osborne, says that his family have held the office ever since the premises were rebuilt in about 1866, and probably even earlier.

Darlington Head Post Office 1865.

The present Head Post Office of Darlington was built in 1865, and was the first Post Office in the town to have been provided by the Department. Previously, as was quite usual, the accommodation for the Post Office had been provided by the Postmaster, at his own expense.

Caergeiliog Sub-Office, Holyhead 1894, unofficial postal centre circa 1840.

Caergeiliog is not recorded in the list of Post Offices in the *Post Office Guide* until the January 1894 issue.

But family legend has it that in about 1840 the ancestress of the present Sub-Postmaster, Mr R. F. Griffiths, opened a shop in the very building which houses the present Post Office, and that by the 1850s she was sending a man out into the village delivering letters for a fee of one penny a letter — a common practice in places without an official postal service.

During the days of coaches Caergeiliog was on the route of the London-Holyhead Mail Coach and the ancient toll gate is very near the present Post Office. But it is very improbable that, in the absence of an official Receiving House, the Mail Coach would have offloaded the village's mail in passing. It is much more likely that, in the absence of an official postal service, the ancestress of Mr Griffiths undertook to carry the villagers' letters to and from the nearest Post Town — for a fee.

National Postal Museum Notes

The current exhibition at the National Postal Museum has as its theme the endeavours to prevent fraud and forgery in the early days of postage stamps. The exhibition opened on December 28th and will run for about two months.

The production every year of millions of postage stamps, every sheet of which had to be a precise replica of the original plate, was a formidable task when the world's first adhesive postage stamps were introduced in Britain in 1840. The Treasury were properly concerned with security and every care was taken to ensure that 'back room' engravers could not produce fraudulent imitations of the new stamps.

The fears of the Treasury in this regard were well founded; for many years fraudulent copies of Bank Notes had been troublesome and many attempts had been made to embody anti-forgery devices in Bank Note printing methods.

These experiments influenced the designs for

the stamps and the printing methods adopted to safeguard the revenue.

The exhibition shows many examples of suggestions received in the Treasury competition of 1839 and chronicles why the suggestions were not adopted and also the reasoning which led to the introduction of stamps bearing the Sovereign's head against an engine turned background.

The drawings by Henry Corbould of the Queen's head, the Treasury competition entries, numerous colour and cancellation trials, together with examples of the penny black, twopence blue and penny red stamps from 1840 to 1856 give specialists, and less serious collectors, a unique experience and one of great historic interest.

The museum is open Monday to Friday between 10.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. at London Chief Post Office, King Edward Street, EC1. Bus or Tube to St. Pauls.

E F T A Stamps F D C Services

In addition to the list on page 14 of the December Bulletin special philatelic posting boxes will be available at the following offices:

London Battersea D.O. S.W. 11.
London Eastern D.O. E. 1.
London Northern D.O. N. 1.
London N.W.D.O. N.W. 1.
London S.E.D.O. S.E. 1.
London W.C.D.O. W.C. 1.
110 Victoria St., S.W. 1.
Remnant Street, W.C. 2.
Southampton Street, W.C. 2.
111 Baker Street, W. 1.
Wimpole Street, W. 1.
Spring Street, W. 2.
Bath.
Hereford.
Rotherham.
South Shields.
Walsall.



EFTA Stamps

On 31st December 1966 the European Free Trade Association became the world's first free trade area. On that date most of the remaining import duties on industrial goods traded between EFTA countries were removed. This means that we are now part of a single industrial market of almost 100 million people.

Achievement of free trade comes three years earlier than was envisaged in 1960 when EFTA was established. This is itself evidence of the Association's success. Meanwhile the expansion of trade between EFTA countries since the Association came into being has been dramatic — in fact this trade has doubled. Our exports to EFTA countries have also risen substantially in this period, and should continue to expand. Although the individual populations of our EFTA partners are relatively small, their standards of living are generally very high. Some of them are among the most prosperous countries in the world.

EFTA's aims are not limited, however, to the creation of free trade between EFTA members. The Association's ultimate goal has always been a single European market. Work to achieve this and to end the economic division of Europe goes on. Meanwhile the achievement of industrial free trade within EFTA is itself a major contribution to the movement towards European economic unity.

To mark this achievement the Post Office is to issue two stamps on 20th February 1967.

The stamps valued 9d and 1s 6d were both designed by Clive Abbott (of the Post Office Tower stamps fame) and submitted by Harrison and Sons Ltd, the printers of our low value stamps.

The 9d stamp shows a merchant ship being loaded and bears the flags of member countries. It is in eight colours, red, brown, yellow, dark blue, light blue, green, lilac and black.

The 1s 6d stamp depicts a cargo plane being loaded and shows the flags of the EFTA countries. There are nine colours, red, brown, yellow, dark blue, light blue, green, purple, black and grey.

A profile of the Queen's head appears on the stamps which are to be printed by Harrison and Sons Ltd by photogravure, with and without phosphor lines. The stamps are to be the normal special issue size and will be issued in sheets of 120.

Full details of the first day cover services and presentation packs for this issue were given in the December issue of the Bulletin but those of our readers who prepare their own first day covers should refer to the list of *additional* philatelic boxes mentioned separately in this issue.

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.

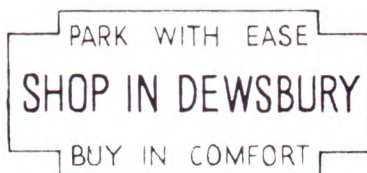
These stamps are available with or without phosphor lines.

Postmark Slogans

'Reindeerland Christmas 1966' used by the Philatelic Bureau on envelopes containing cards sent in reply to 'Father Christmas' letters.



'Park with ease — Shop in Dewsbury — Buy in Comfort', will be in used in the transposed position at Dewsbury during the period 5th December 1966 until 4th December 1967. Covers for reposting should be sent to the Head Postmaster, Dewsbury.



'Great Yarmouth and Gorleston on Sea for "Fine" holidays', will be in used in the transposed position at Great Yarmouth from 12th December 1966 until 12th November 1967. Covers for reposting to Head Postmaster, Great Yarmouth.

Specimen not available

'Book your place in the Sun at Margate' will be used in the transposed position at Margate during the period 1st December 1966 until 30th November 1967. Covers for reposting to be sent to the Head Postmaster, Margate.



'Scarborough Benelux Festival June 4th-10th. First of a grand new series on Belgium, Holland and Luxemburg will be used in the transposed position during the period 1st March 1967 until 8th June 1967 at Scarborough. Covers for reposting should be sent to the Head Postmaster, Scarborough.



Father Christmas

The Post Office and Father Christmas worked hand in hand again at Christmas to ensure that replies were sent to the children who wrote to Father Christmas at one of his many fictitious addresses.

Attractive cards specially designed by Daphne Padden were sent to over 40,000 children in envelopes which carried the special Reindeerland post paid franking. A copy of the frank is included in our postmark slogan feature.

Reindeerland

My dear young friend

Thank you for writing to me. My team of gnomes has been working very hard making all sorts of toys ready for Christmas. Of course there may be some things they have not thought of, but when I load my sledge I will do my best to see that you get the presents you would like.

My reindeer is a good old friend so I am sending you this picture of him dashing along trying out our new sledge. He is really excited as we all get ready for our big journey; and we are looking forward to calling on you and all our other friends on Christmas Eve.

*I hope you have a very happy Christmas.
Santa.*



Unaccepted Stamp Designs

We are up to date with our series of unaccepted stamp designs which we started with the Salvation Army issue. The feature has been so well received that we feel sure our readers will be interested in earlier issues and we show this month those from the National Nature Week issue of 16th May 1963.



Harrison & Sons



Enid Marx



R. Sellar





R. Marber



De La Rue



Bradbury Wilkinson



M. Wilson

Special Datestamp

This attractive one day datestamp will be used at the 150th Anniversary Exhibition of 'The Scotsman' newspaper at Edinburgh on 25th January to cancel commemorative envelopes containing a special edition of the newspaper.

A member of the Philatelic Bureau staff will be at the exhibition to answer customer enquiries and a small display will be mounted.



Withdrawal of Bureau Stock Items

For the convenience of customers and in order to avoid inconsistencies in withdrawal from sale of Special and Commemorative postage stamps, we are introducing a regular programme commencing with the Pictorial 'Landscape' issue of 2nd May 1966.

Thereafter, we shall withdraw Special and Commemorative stamps from sale *One Year* after the dates of issue unless stocks have been exhausted earlier.

Any 'Landscape' stamps remaining unsold will be withdrawn from Bureau stocks at close of business on 1st May 1967, and we shall advise our customers of the terminal dates for subsequent issues at least 3 months in advance of withdrawal.

Postmark Slogans — Correction

The slogan 'For work and play, Scarborough, sites and labour available for light industry' will be used between 26th September and 7th December 1967 and NOT as quoted on page 9 of the December Bulletin.

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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