

Philatelic Bulletin



Volume 3: Number 7 March 1966



THELMA ROBINSON

HARRISON AND SONS LTD

Contents

INTRODUCTION	2
MAIL FOR H.M. SHIPS	3
PICTORIAL STAMPS	4
POSTMARK SLOGANS	5
WATERMARKS AND PSEUDO-WATERMARKS	10
NEW STAMPS FROM BAHRAIN	12
COMMEMORATIVE STAMPS	12
CONDITIONS	12
UNACCEPTED DESIGNS	13

Introduction

We are able this month to give preliminary information about Britain's first pictorial series, details of new stamps from Bahrain, together with full particulars of the first day cover services for both issues.

We are sure that our articles on watermarks and mail for H. M. Ships will prove interesting especially to our younger readers.

Our popular unaccepted stamp design feature is continued with the United Nations issue and we complete this month's edition with post-mark slogans and Bureau news.

Mail for H.M. Ships

Imagine that you are responsible for delivering mail, letters, parcels, etc., to a house, a village or even a small town which is liable to shift its location without warning to any part of the world.

This is the task which faces the Department responsible for Her Majesty's Ships mail.

The responsibility for H. M. Ships mail has changed hands from time to time. Until well into the Second World War the General Post Office 'Ships Division' dealt with mail addressed H.M.S. c/o G.P.O. LONDON In 1944 as a result of discussions between the GPO and the Admiralty, the Writer (Postal) Branch of the Royal Navy was formed. By this arrangement the responsibility for H. M. Ships mail was divided between GPO civilian staff in its initial stages and Royal Navy personnel during the latter stages of its journey to the addressee. Many of the Royal Navy officers, ratings and Wrens engaged on this work were Post Office employees in civilian life.

After the war the Writer (Postal) Branch of the Royal Navy was discontinued and the responsibility for Ships mail reverted to the GPO.

However, by agreement with the GPO and the Admiralty a Naval Reserve Postal Branch was formed in 1950 most of whose members are employed by the Post Office. Their job in any future emergency will be to set up and organise a Naval Postal Branch.

Recently the peace-time control of H. M. Ships mail was transferred to the Forces Post Office who deal with mail addressed to H.M.S. B.F.P.O. SHIPS at the Home Postal Depot, Mill Hill, London.

It has been agreed that in any of the Armed Forces the biggest boosters of morale are home leave and mail, in that order. How then do those responsible tackle the job of delivering letters, parcels, etc., to sailors carrying out their patrols, exercises and all the other tasks that fall to ships of Her Majesty's Royal Navy.

In peace-time with unrestricted communica-

tion between ship and shore the job is fairly straightforward. Ships signal direct to the H.P. D. their mail diversion requirements via a Teleprinter link. From these signals, despatch dates for air mail, surface mail (parcels, newspapers, etc.) are determined. For instance, if a ship is due to leave Gibraltar for Malta on 20th of the month, air mail for that ship will continue to be sent to Gibraltar until about 17th of the month, but surface mail will be despatched/diverted to Malta from about 1st of the month. In this way it is often possible to ensure that mail is waiting at the arrival port. The same applies to mail for a flotilla, a squadron, or a Fleet. The trouble really begins when a ship or unit of ships, proceeding to a predetermined port of call is suddenly ordered to alter course for some other destination due to disaster, emergency or bad weather. Air mail schedules are reasonably flexible, and the ever helpful Royal Air Force come to the rescue whenever possible, but what of the surface mail in such circumstances. If it is at the Base Depot awaiting despatch, the parcels etc. can be withdrawn and re-routed. If the mail is on the way to its original port of call, as is often the case, it will travel perhaps thousands of miles before being delivered. Imagine the state of Mum's cake when it finally turns up! All this in peace-time when there is usually no secrecy attached to the movement of H. M. Ships.

In war-time the problem is magnified, and must remain confidential.

Mis-sorting of mail must be avoided at all costs. Another point to consider is the movement of individual members of a ship's company, which frequently results in mail arriving at the ship to which it is addressed, only to find that the addressee is thousands of miles away.

This article has only touched the fringe of the subject, but it is sufficient to show that everything possible is done to see that letters and parcels, so lovingly written and wrapped, arrive safely and quickly into the hands of the right 'Jolly Jack'.

Pictorial Stamps

Britain's first series of pictorial designs is to be issued on 2nd May 1966.

The stamps will be issued in four denominations, 4d, 6d, 1s 3d and 1s 6d, with and without phosphor lines. Full details of the designs and artists will be printed in the April edition of the Bulletin.

A full first day cover service on specially designed envelopes will be available from the Philatelic Bureau for this series, but presentation packs are not being issued.

The inclusive charge for the full first day cover service will be 6s 6d. In addition the Bureau will service customers' own envelopes for a total cost of 4s 6d. Application forms giving full details are enclosed for those who wish to make use of these services.

The Philatelic Bureau date stamps will be used on these covers and no variations will be available.

For those who prefer to prepare and *post* their own covers, the official first day envelope will be available in advance from the Bureau and the offices shown hereunder where philatelic posting boxes are being provided. The envelopes will be 6d for a single copy. For bulk orders the prices are:

250 £4 3s 4d	1000 £15	5000 £60
500 £8	2500 £33	10,000 £104

List of offices with philatelic posting boxes:

London Chief Office, King Edward Street, London, EC1.

London S.W.D.O., Howick Place, London SW1.

London, Trafalgar Square, London, WC2.

Aberdeen	Leicester
Aberystwyth	Lincoln
Belfast	Liverpool
Birmingham	Llandudno
Blackpool	Londonderry
Bournemouth	Luton
Bradford	Maidstone
Brighton	Manchester
Bristol	Middlesbrough
Cambridge	Newcastle upon Tyne
Cardiff	Newport, Mon.
Carlisle	Northampton
Chelmsford	Norwich
Chester	Nottingham
Colchester	Oxford
Colwyn Bay	Peterborough
Croydon	Plymouth
Derby	Portsmouth
Douglas, Isle of Man	Preston
Dundee	Reading
Eastbourne	Romford
Edinburgh	Sheffield
Exeter	Shrewsbury
Fareham	Skegness
Glasgow	Southampton
Gloucester	Southend on Sea
Grimsby	Stockport
Guernsey	Stockton on Tees
Harrow	Stoke on Trent
Harrogate	Swansea
Hastings	Swindon
Hounslow	Taunton
Hull	Tunbridge Wells
Ipswich	Wolverhampton
Jersey	Worcester
Kingston on Thames	York
Leeds	

Postmark Slogans

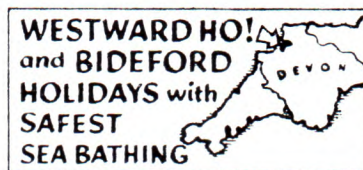
The slogan 'Bath Festival 1966 June 15-26' will be in use in the transposed position during the period 1st April to 24th June 1966. The present slogan 'Bath the Georgian City' will be discontinued during that period. Covers for reposting to the Head Postmaster at Bath.



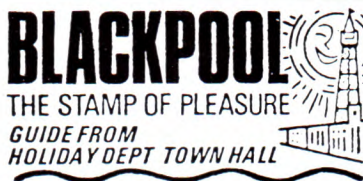
'Bedford Charter Celebrations March-September Charter Year 1166-1966' is the slogan which will appear at Bedford, in the transposed position, during the periods 28th February to 14th May 1966, 6th June to 2nd July 1966 and 18th July to 20th August 1966. Covers for reposting to the Head Postmaster at Bedford.



'Westward Ho! and Bideford Holidays with Safest Sea Bathing' is to appear at Bideford in the transposed position, from 14th March 1966 to 13th March 1967. Covers for reposting to Head Postmaster at Bideford.



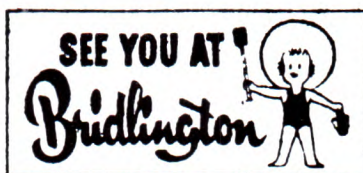
A new slogan, 'Blackpool The Stamp of Pleasure Guide from Holiday Dept, Town Hall' will be used in the transposed position at Blackpool during the period 8th March to 31st July 1966. Covers for reposting to Head Postmaster at Blackpool.



The slogan 'Bournemouth the resort for sun, sea, sands and glorious gardens' has been in use in the transposed position since 25th December 1965 and will continue until 7th July 1966. Covers for reposting to Head Postmaster at Bournemouth.



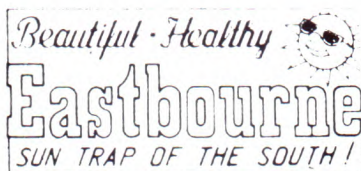
'See you at Bridlington' has been in use in the transposed position since 7th December 1965, and will continue until 6th December 1966. Covers for reposting to Head Postmaster at Bridlington.



'Buckhaven and Methil for Industrial Expansion' has been extended for a further year from 12th February 1966 until 11th February 1967. Covers for reposting to Head Postmaster at Buckhaven.



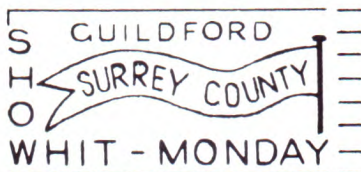
The slogan 'Beautiful, Healthy Eastbourne, Sun Trap of the South' has been extended for a further year from 24th February 1966 until 23rd February 1967. Covers for reposting to Head Postmaster at Eastbourne.



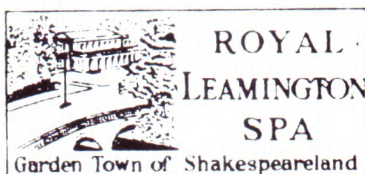
'Elgin bids you welcome' has been extended for a further year from 2nd March 1966 until 1st March 1967. Covers for reposting to Head Postmaster at Elgin.



The slogan 'Guildford Surrey County Show Whit-Monday' will be in use again this year in the transposed position, between 1st May and 28th May. Covers for reposting to Head Postmaster at Guildford.



The slogan 'Royal Leamington Spa, Garden Town of Shakespeareland' has been used in the transposed position from 28th February and will continue until further notice. Covers for reposting to Head Postmaster at Leamington.



The slogan 'Newark and Notts Show May 6-7' will be in use in the transposed position between 27th March and 7th May 1966. Covers for reposting to Head Postmaster at Newark.



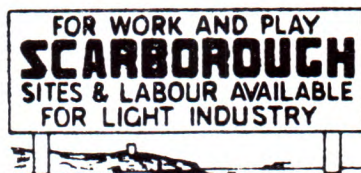
A new slogan is to be brought into use at New Brighton, Wallasey. 'Come sail on the Ferry to New Brighton, Wallasey' will appear in the transposed position from 1st March 1966 until 31st December 1966. Covers for reposting to Head Postmaster at Liverpool.



'Ship Thro' Bristol' has been extended a further year in the transposed position from 3rd May 1966 to 2nd May 1967. Covers for reposting to Head Postmaster, Bristol.



Four slogans will appear at Scarborough this year. 'Scarborough celebrates a thousand years Festival of Norway May 23-27' will run from 1st March until 26th May 1966. 'Scarborough tops for a summer show' is to run from 27th May until 31st August 1966, 'Scarborough for big sport in September' from 1st September until 30th September 1966, and 'For work and play — Scarborough — sites and labour for light industry' from 1st October until 7th December 1966. All are to be used in the transposed position. Covers for reposting to Head Postmaster at Scarborough.



'Shropshire and West Midlands Great Show May 18th and 19th', in use in the transposed position since 28th February, will terminate on 8th May. Covers for reposting to Head Postmaster at Shrewsbury.

SHROPSHIRE AND
WEST MIDLANDS
GREAT SHOW
SHREWSBURY
MAY 18TH & 19TH

The 'Shropshire Show' slogan will be replaced on 9th May 1966, by 'Shrewsbury Summer Show 25th June', appearing in the transposed position and terminating on 26th June. Covers for reposting to Head Postmaster at Shrewsbury.

S HREWSBURY
UMMER
HOW
25 JUNE 66

'Shrewsbury Musical and Floral Fete 17-18 August' is the slogan to appear in the transposed position from 27th June until 18th August 1966. Covers for reposting to Head Postmaster at Shrewsbury.

 SHREWSBURY
MUSICAL &
FLORAL FETE
17-18 AUG.

50 dies bearing the slogan 'Imperial Cancer Research Fund 'Cancer Week' 11-17 May' will be used from 4th May until 17th May, in the standard position. Offices include Romford, Wimbledon, Preston, Leeds, Gloucester, Solihull and Ashford. Covers for reposting to Head Postmasters.

IMPERIAL CANCER
RESEARCH FUND
'CANCER WEEK'
11 - 17 MAY

'Ulster Week in Sheffield March 21-26' is to be used in the standard position during the period 14th March to 26th March 1966. Covers for reposting to Head Postmaster at Sheffield.

ULSTER WEEK
 *in Sheffield*
March 21 - 26

The slogan 'Bromsgrove Festival 23rd April - 7th May' has been in use since 20th February, and will continue in use until 7th May. Covers for reposting to Head Postmaster at Bromsgrove.

BROMSGROVE
FESTIVAL
23RD APRIL - 7TH MAY

'Macclesfield Arts Festival 66 May 13th-22nd 1966', will be in use in the transposed position at Macclesfield during the period 14th March 1966 to 30th April 1966. Covers for reposting to Head Postmaster, Macclesfield.



'Dr Barnardo's Homes 1866-1966 100 years of Child Care' will be used on 75 dies. Some of the offices to be included are as follows:

DR. BARNARDO'S HOMES
1866-1966
100 YEARS OF CHILD CARE

Period 1 7th March - 3rd April 1966

Finsbury Park	Dundee
Bromley	Bradford
Colchester	Manchester South
Yeovil	District Office
Loughborough	
Neath	

Period 2 18th April - 15th May

Sutton	South Shields
Hackney	Ellesmere Port
Bishops Stortford	
Chippenham	
Nuneaton	
Hereford	
Perth	

Period 3 30th May - 26th June

Twickenham	Port Talbot
Leytonstone	Dunfermline
King's Lynn	Halifax
Swindon	Wigan
Aston	

Period 4 11th July - 7th August

Barnet	
Camberwell	
Ipswich	Rotherham
Guernsey	St. Helens
Stafford	
Pwllheli	
Dumfries	

Covers for reposting should be sent to the Head Postmasters at the offices concerned.

Specimens not available of following slogans:

'Bath and West Show 1966 Shepton Mallet June 1-2-3-4' is the slogan to appear in the transposed position at Dorchester and Devizes, and in the standard position at Bristol, from 1st March until 31st May. Covers for reposting to Head Postmasters.

'Visited the Heated Pool at Windsor' is to be used in the transposed position during the period 1st May to 11th June 1966. Covers for reposting to Head Postmaster at Windsor.

The slogan 'Peterborough Show July 19-20-21' will appear in the transposed position at Peterborough, during the period 1st June to 21st July 1966. Covers for reposting to Head Postmaster at Peterborough.

'Inverness the Highland Capital' has been in use in the transposed position since 2nd January, and will continue until 1st January 1967. Covers for reposting to Head Postmaster at Inverness.

Watermarks and Pseudo-Watermarks

J. Ferdinand Kayser F.I.M.

Watermarks and pseudo-watermarks are not marks in the generally accepted sense of the term. They are recognisable devices or designs which show up when the paper is held up to the light.

Watermarks are formed during an early stage of manufacture of paper by thinning the pulp whilst it still lacks cohesion by locally compressing it with metal replicas of the desired device, known in paper mills as 'bits'.

The prefix 'pseudo' does not mean that a mark has been produced for an illegal purpose. It is used to designate a mark that has been introduced into paper near to the end of the production line whilst the paper is still damp, or at a later stage.

There are two sorts of pseudo-watermarks. One sort is produced by pressing a hard rubber or metal die into the damp paper. Sometimes this is done just before the paper has been finally dried; in German literature this is usually called a *Molette* mark. At other times, finished paper is suitably damped, then 'marked' and again dried. Pseudo-watermarks are also produced by printing the desired device onto the paper with a colourless printing ink consisting of, say, Canada balsam in xylene, spermaceti and linseed oil, megilp, or other colourless quick-drying fluid.

Watermarks and pseudo-watermarks have one property in common. In plain paper they can be easily seen and photographed if illuminated by transmitted light, but are often obscured by printed matter and by cancellation marks. All types of marks are more translucent to visible light than the unmarked paper and are hence more heavily recorded on the negative, and appear as lighter areas in positive prints.

One can, however, distinguish between the different marks by comparing the photograph with the beta-radiograph. The stopping power of a thin foil for beta-radiation is directly proportional to its weight per unit area. The average overall weight of a British stamp is about 8.5mg per cm²; the watermarked portion is, however, significantly lighter (say, 7.5mg per cm²) and hence allows more beta-rays to pass



2a

than does the rest of the paper. The result is that a watermark is more heavily recorded on the film and appears lighter in positive prints. Pseudo-watermarks produced by pressing a die into damp paper do not, however, make any weight changes and so are not recorded in beta-radiographs.

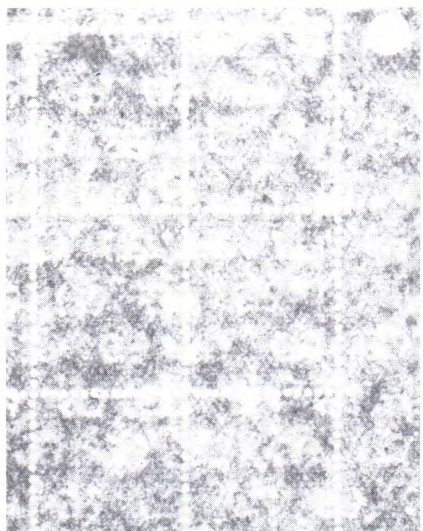
If a pseudo-watermark be produced by printing with a colourless ink, there is an increase of weight. The mark is hence less heavily recorded on the film, and shows up on a positive print as a dark image.

The weight increase due to printing and to cancellation marks is insignificant and is not recorded in beta-radiographs.

Watermarks and pseudo-watermarks in stamps may be so obscured by heavy printed matter or by the cancellation mark that it is difficult and, indeed, impossible to see or to photograph them. It is also, of course, possible that initially they were indistinct.

(In this communication, the author is considering only non-destructive tests for shewing the difference between the different marks that may be incorporated in paper. By photograph, he means a photograph taken by transmitted light, and by 'beta-radiograph' he means a positive print from a beta-radiograph, which is itself always a negative).

No. 1a is a photograph of an early British stamp, and shows no sign of a watermark, which is, however, quite clear in the beta-radiograph.



No. 1b. The watermarks on many of the present British stamps often lack clarity and vary considerably, and there is little to choose between photographs and beta-radiographs, as is shewn by 2a and 2b.



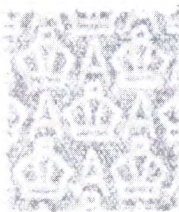
1a

1b



3a

3b



photograph No. 3a, thus shewing that it was produced by die pressure on the damp paper.



4a

4b



2b

No. 4a illustrates a pseudo-watermark which appears on some Swiss stamps. This is undoubtedly produced by die pressure as there is no sign of it in the beta-radiograph No. 4b.

The writer has been unable to find a postage stamp with a printed pseudo-watermark, and the one shewn in Figures 5a and 5b was marked by him. It was stuck to an envelope and a line was then drawn across it with Canada balsam in xylene, and when it was dry the stamp was steamed off. As usual, this left a considerable amount of gum on the back of the stamp.

The mark shews as a light diagonal line in Photograph No. 5a, and as a dark line in the beta-radiograph No. 5b. The lighter area in the latter shews where the gum has been almost completely removed. Both photograph and beta-radiograph shew traces of the watermark.



5a

5b



Some Australian stamps, on the other hand, have particularly clear watermarks, as illustrated by the photograph, 3a, and the beta-radiograph, 3b. It will be noted that neither the printed matter nor the cancellation mark is to be seen in the latter. Neither is there any sign of a pressure-produced pseudo-watermark, which can be seen as a light-coloured net work in

Correction

In our article on Westminster Abbey in the February edition we said that every sovereign except Edward V had been crowned in the Abbey. We should of course have added that Edward VIII was not crowned in the Abbey and offer apologies for our oversight.

New Stamps from Bahrain

The GPO Philatelic Bureau has undertaken the philatelic sale of four new stamps to be issued on 28th March 1966 to commemorate the opening of the sixth Bahrain Trade and Agricultural Show.

The stamps are two coloured and will be produced by Messrs Thomas De La Rue and Co. Ltd, by the litho process. They were designed by Mr Lewis who designed the recent Bahrain issue and show a bowl containing produce grown on the farms in Bahrain with a background of shipping, road and air transports. A portrait of the Ruler, His Highness Shaikh Issa bin Sulman al Khalifa appears in the left hand corner.

The stamps will be in four denominations: 10, 20, 40 and 200 fils.

The exchange rates are:

1000 fils — 15/- — \$2.10

270 fils — 4/- — 60 cents.

The Bureau's customers who have placed standing orders for Bahrain stamps will receive them without the need for further application. A first day cover service will be provided *from Bahrain* and will consist of an official envelope bearing all four stamps cancelled with a special first day cancellation at a cost of 370 fils, 586d sterling or 80 U.S. cents. Orders should be sent to the Philatelic Bureau, Post Office, Bahrain and NOT to London.

Commemorative Stamps available from Philatelic Bureau

Joseph Lister Centenary	4d, 1s
Commonwealth Arts Festival	6d, 1s 6d
Battle of Britain	4d*, 9d, 1s 3d
Post Office Tower	3d, 1s 3d
20th Anniversary of the U.N.	3d, 1s 6d
I.T.U.	9d, 1s 6d
Robert Burns	4d, 1s 3d
Westminster Abbey	3d, 2s 6d

All stamps are available with or without phosphor lines, except I.T.U. 1s 6d and Abbey 2s 6d which are available in plain only.

**in blocks of 6*

Bureau Topics

We sometimes find it necessary to contact customers to clarify some part of their orders. It would be a help to us if customers would quote their telephone numbers so that we can ring when necessary.

Our standing order customers are reminded that there is no need to submit orders for stamps or first day covers unless additional items are required. In this event we would appreciate a note making it clear that the order is for additional requirements.

We would ask our readers to return the reminder form when renewing subscriptions for the Bulletin or to include a note saying that a renewal is required. Unless we have this information we cannot differentiate between a new subscription and the renewal of an existing one unless we check our records for every remittance

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, inquiries 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 2s 6d for orders of 10s and over. 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.

Unaccepted Stamp Designs

David Caplan



Bradbury Wilkenson & Co



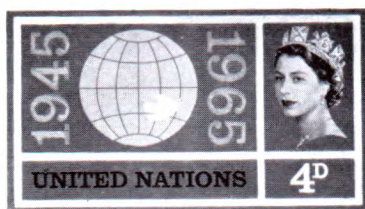
Harrison & Sons Ltd.



Jeffery Matthews



Peter Ray



Peter Gauld



Frank Arris



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, will receive prompt and careful consideration. Annual subscription, 12 issues 7/6 including postage.