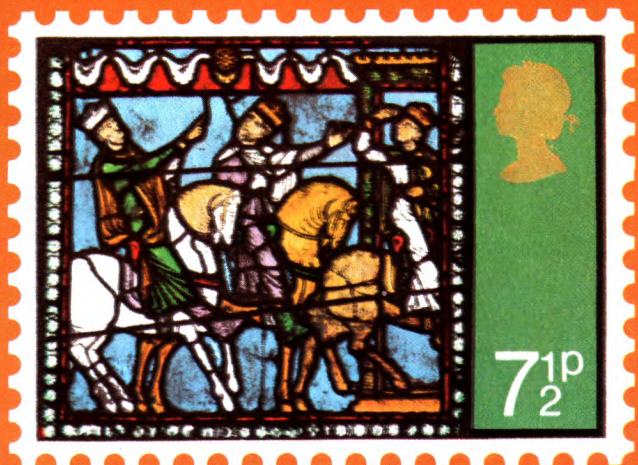


Philatelic Bulletin

Volume 9 Number 2 October 1971



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Introduction

This could almost be called our "stained glass" issue for in addition to details of the Christmas stamps which show some of the Canterbury Cathedral glass we reproduce the third in our series of wall charts which also has a stained glass theme. Readers looking for Christmas presents will, we are sure, be interested in these very attractive items.

The Machin head on our definitive stamps has become world famous and those lucky enough to be in Edinburgh should not miss the fascinating display of the Machin material which is on show at the Bureau gallery. Full particulars are inside.

Over the years we have featured a number of first flight covers and other interesting air mail items which has proved popular with many subscribers. They will be pleased to see from Tony de Righi's notes that a special exhibition of their subjects will be opened at the National Postal Museum on 26 October.

The British Philatelic Exhibition opens on 3 November and we will welcome all our friends to visit our stand or to enjoy our Exhibition in the Court of Honour.

German Language Presentation Packs

The numbers of German Language presentation packs sold are as follows:

1968 Paintings	7880
1968 Gift pack	1650
1968 Christmas	7298
British Ships	4416
Concorde	2827
High Value Definitives	4178
Low Value Definitives	4469
1969 Anniversaries	4539
Cathedrals	7200
Prince of Wales	9360

Britain's Pioneer Role in Airmails

Please return by 5 P.M. 9, Nfld.

POST OFFICE
NEWFOUNDLAND

C
LETTER BILL.

Correspondence with UNITED KINGDOM

No. of Order of Mail *3*
Despatched by *Perkins - Young, airmails*

No. of Letter Bags
No. of Bag Prints
Total

Stamp of
Despatching Office
P. M. GENERAL'S OFFICE
JUN 13 1919
St. John's, Newfoundland

Mail from St. John's, Nfld., for the Exchange Office
London, England

Departure of *June 13* 1919 at *4.12.25 p.m.*
Arrival of 1919 at

Stamp of
Receiving Office
LONDON
17 JUN 19
7 JUN 1919

I.—REGISTERED CORRESPONDENCE.

No. of Registered Articles

II.—CLOSED MAILS.

ORIGIN	DESTINATION	NO. OF CLOSED MAILS	OBSERVATIONS
<i>196</i>	<i>ordinary letters</i>		
<i>1</i>	<i>letter packet</i>		

Post Office for Newfoundland & Nfld. contained in Bag, connected with and forwarded per 14 June 19.

OFFICIAL REGISTRATIONS.

1. *Mr. V. Robinson*
Despatching Officer.
P. M. General
for Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, the Prince of Wales, etc.

Albert W. Munro
Receiving Officer.

The Air Mail Letter Bill of Alcock and Brown's Transatlantic flight



First Australian Airmail - the P.M.G. placing letter in mailbag

The two commemorative stamps issued in 1969 to mark the fiftieth anniversary of the first transatlantic and England-Australia flights may well have helped to remind stamp collectors of the very important pioneer role played by Britain in the development of airmail services.

Opening on 26 October, the National Postal Museum will be staging a special exhibition illustrating, with flown covers, contemporary pictures, waybills and models, the fascinating and dramatic story of the carriage of mails by air from balloon ascents to Harrier jump-jets.

Some of the very rarest items on show will

be cards and letters carried by balloons and primitive "stick and string" aircraft for publicity purposes within the United Kingdom prior to World War I. The section on the world's first *official* airmail service, the 1911 Coronation flights between London and Windsor, will include not only covers but some unique contemporary supporting material from the Post Office archives.

Another important section will deal with the establishment of direct services to and from various parts of Europe - the need for which was first recognised in 1916 when official messages were carried by air between Britain and the Western Front. In 1918-1919



a regular RAF mail service was organised from England, *via* Belgium, to British occupation forces headquarters at Cologne.

From 1919 right up to 1938, a succession of pioneer British airmen and airwomen – Ross and Keith Smith, Alcock and Brown, Alan Cobham, Captain Lancaster, Hinkler, Scott, the Mollisons, and Jean Batten amongst many others – showed that it was possible to carry letters swiftly from one end of the earth

to the other, in spite of adverse weather conditions, inadequate directional facilities and aircraft which were still in the early stages of development.

In 1924 Imperial Airways went into business and started investigating the practical possibility of opening regular routes to carry passengers – and, of course, mails – to all parts of the British Empire. At first the emphasis was laid on the route to India, the Far East and Australia, but later interest was extended to the African routes. Regular transatlantic mails were not achieved until the late 1930's; mainly because of delay in the design and production of large commercial aircraft capable of non-stop flights of 3,000 miles or more.

To open the exhibition at the National Postal Museum we will be welcoming Captain O P Jones CVO, OBE, probably by far the best known of all Britain's commercial airline pilots and the man who personally flew many of the Imperial Airways airliners which were used on the proving flights overseas. From 1946 to 1955 Captain Jones was BOAC's Senior Captain, North Atlantic. The concluding sections of the display will feature developments such as the introduction of airgraphs and airletters and the pioneer flights by BOAC jet aircraft.

Though, obviously, only a part of this long historic story can be illustrated, the quality of the material shown will be exceptional as the exhibition is being mounted with the full co-operation of the British Airmail Society and the Aerophilatelic Society. Covers, many pilot-signed, from almost all the historic flights will be on display together with unique additional material from the Post Office archives. Stamp collectors will not be forgotten, as although Great Britain has never issued official airmail stamps the exhibition will include unofficial British airmail stamps and vignettes and original artwork or proofs of airletters and relevant commemorative issues.

A G RIGO DE RIGHI

Machin Display in the Bureau Exhibition Gallery

A fascinating display of the Machin £.s.d stamps is being shown at the Philatelic Bureau Gallery until 10 October 1971. The low value section was created by Dr A S Law and Barbara Baker (of Stamp Collecting), and the high value display by Douglas Evans. We are grateful to them all and to Dr Law for his description of the exhibition.

Now that the £.s.d Machins have completed their run it is possible to look back on them and view the series as a whole. Philatelically it was a most interesting issue with many innovations. The severely simple design, the paper, the coating, gum and photogravure screen – all new to the definitive scene.

Mrs Baker and I have tried to give a pictorial account of the many stages which must obtain before an artistic idea is translated into the issued stamp.

Arnold Machin, the artist, has been most helpful in discussing the design and certain theories which he was able to confirm. From Harrisons and the Post Office have come photographs of the printing process. Messrs Timson, Messrs Halley and Sons, makers of the three most used printing presses, Wiggins Teape, the paper manufacturers and English China Clay have all contributed to the general display.

Interwoven with the printing process are panels showing the stamps as they appeared from 1967 to 1971. We have sought to re-create the pattern of printing at Harrisons and hope to have come close, at least, to a true representation of the issued warrants.

Rounding off the display are panels identifying the phosphor cylinders by way of the insert band, identifying the design cylinders in relation to the state of the Machin portrait and lastly showing reconstructions of uncut stamp book panes.

The high value display is from the collection of Mr Douglas Evans and shows details of the printing plates used during the period, sheet construction and paper, and is illustrated with a wealth of material.

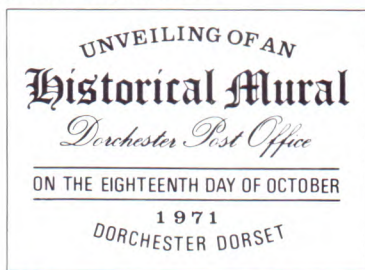
A S LAW

The First Post Office Postcard

The first pictorial postcard to be produced by the Post Office will go on sale at the Head Post Office in Dorchester, Dorset on 18 October 1971.

The postcard features, in colour, the historical mural which has been painted on one wall of the new Head Post Office in Dorchester and commemorates the unveiling of this magnificent painting. The mural itself is 50 feet long and 4 feet wide and was designed and painted by David Willis, MA(Cam), NDD.

The mural depicts the life of old Dorchester and the passing of events from 100 years ago up to the present day. Against a backdrop of old-fashioned shopfronts, election posters and entertainment advertisements dated about 1875, twenty-one different subjects show the variety of life in a county town. The lively street scenes and important local events depicted include the Fair held every year at Poundbury, the opening of the South Western Railway at Dorchester and the local celebrations for Queen Victoria's Jubilee in 1897 at the Roman Amphitheatre.



Special handstamp cancellation

The postcard will be on sale over the counter at Dorchester Head Post Office from 18 October, priced 5p. A special handstamp to be used on the first day of issue only is unusual in itself: the date will be written in words and not in numerals, and some of the wording will appear in Old English lettering. Collectors

who wish to purchase the postcard should write to the

Head Postmaster,
Dorchester,
Dorset

marking the envelope "Postcard". 5p per card should be enclosed with a stamped self-addressed envelope if the postcard only is wanted, or 15p per card will cover the cost of posting the card itself, including addressing, stamping, and the special handstamp cancellation.

Commissioning of the Comiberlant Headquarters, Portugal on 29 October 1971

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization's newest command "IBERLANT" was formally approved in December 1966 and on 29 October 1971, His Excellency the President of the Portuguese Republic, Admiral Americo Thomaz will officially open the war headquarters at Oeiras, near Lisbon.

IBERLANT is one of the three sea areas of the Allied Command Atlantic and COM-IBERLANT is directly responsible to the Supreme Allied Commander Atlantic for some 600,000 square miles of ocean, from Portugal's northern boundary to the Tropic of Cancer and extending some 500 miles westward into the Atlantic.

To mark the occasion a special souvenir cover will be issued and will be cancelled with a special British Forces Postal Service handstamp.

Covers will cost 25p each (plus 3p post and packing per order) and orders and remittances should be sent to:

**Philatelic Officer
Iberlant Nato Headquarters
British Forces Post Office 6.**

British Philatelic Exhibition

Old postal vehicles and uniforms will be a feature of the Post Office exhibit at BPE. The vehicles are a 1914 and a 1924 motor cycle, an 1882 five-wheeled "Centre-Cycle", also known as the "Hen and Chickens", and a 1914 parcel delivery tricycle.

Postmen's uniforms on show will illustrate every change in style since the first in 1793 - in 1837, 1855, 1861, 1868, 1910, 1930 and 1970.

Special handstamps will be used to cancel mail posted on each of the four days at BPE and one of these - to mark National Postal Museum Day on 6 November - will be sponsored by the Post Office. National Postal Museum Day will be opened by Mr George Downes, Postal Director of Special Studies and chairmen of the Museum Board. At 3 pm that day, Mr Downes will chair a public discussion on stamp collecting and the National Postal Museum. Those attending will be able to put questions to a small panel which will include the museum curator, Mr A G Rigo de Righi. Because of the restricted space available, admission to the discussion, which will last about 1½ hours, will be by ticket only. Applications for tickets, which are free, should be sent by post before 15 October to The Curator, National Postal Museum, King Edward Building, London EC1A 1LP in envelopes marked "BPE Ticket Application". The tickets will not cover admission to the exhibition itself.

In the Court of Honour the museum will be exhibiting two frames of 20th century stamps from the Post Office collection.

All the items normally available at philatelic counters will be sold at a Post Office counter which will remain open throughout the exhibition.

The classic Post Office documentary film *Night Mail* directed by John Grierson, with verse commentary by W H Auden and music by Benjamin Britten, will be screened twice daily.

Christmas Stamps 1971



The bulk of 12th and 13th century stained glass in England is at Canterbury, Lincoln, and York cathedrals. Probably the best of this period is at Canterbury. The Christmas stamps to be issued on 13 October 1971 are from a window of Canterbury Cathedral. They depict the "Dream of the Magi" 2½p, the "Adoration of the Magi" 3p and the "Ride of the Magi" 7½p, all fine examples of 12th century stained glass.

The stamps were designed by Clarke/Clement/Hughes, a design team whose particular emphasis is on graphic design, typography and illustration. This is their first postage stamp commission.

Printing details

Printer : Harrison & Sons

Designers : Clarke/Clement/Hughes

Date of Issue : 13 October 1971

Size : 31 mm x 40 mm

Paper : Coated, unwatermarked, phosphor-lined

Perforation : 15 x 14

Stamps per sheet : 100

Colours :
 2½p black, dark red, yellow, mauve, light blue, light red, green and gold
 3p black, light blue, yellow, green, red, mauve, dark blue and gold
 7½p black, yellow, light mauve, light red, light green, light blue, dark green and gold.

New Schools Material from The Post Office

Every year the Post Office issues schools material on the subjects behind several stamp issues. This year the Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland variations of the Decimal Definitives are so treated. Each country is covered by a separate wallchart which shows a relief map, and illustrates the national emblem, as used on the stamps issued last July. Further teaching material covers a number of topics which together illustrate the work of the Postal Services in each country and its geography.

The Northern Ireland section is available

now, and the Scottish and Welsh items are expected from the printers shortly.

Applications for the full set are welcomed from teachers and youth stamp club organisers, and should be sent to

The Schools Officer
 Postal Headquarters Publicity Branch
 Postal Headquarters Building
 St Martin's-le-Grand
 London
 EC1A 1HQ

If in fact you are running a Schools Stamp Club, please mention this in your letter.



This year's Christmas stamps show some of the glorious stained glass from Canterbury Cathedral. To complement these colourful stamps we are producing the third in our series of philatelic wall charts which will feature the stained glass theme and bear the full set of Christmas stamps.

The charts which measure 15" x 12" were designed by Peter Gauld and follow the

Dickens and Mayflower charts which proved so popular with collectors last year.

They become available on 13 October 1971 from Canterbury Post Office and the philatelic sales counters price 50p each or by post from the Bureau price 50p plus 10p handling charge.

Enquiries for discount rates for trade orders should be sent to the Bureau.

The Travelling Post Offices of Great Britain

by H. S. Wilson

Shrewsbury & York T.P.O.

There were probably more changes in connection with the designations and routes of this T.P.O. than with any other. In January 1891 the Post Office wrote to the L.N.W.R. saying that it proposed to run a Sorting Carriage between Shrewsbury and Crewe in connection with the accelerated mail from Plymouth via Bristol and Shrewsbury (see Bristol and Penzance T.P.O.). The timings were to be 10.46 p.m. ex Shrewsbury and 1.20 a.m. ex Crewe.

It was announced on 20th March 1891 that the new service would commence on 1st April and an increased payment of £800 per year would be made, the service to run every night. The Railway Company suggested using Crewe – Normanton coaches but the Post Office would not agree.

Apart from dealing with the West country mail the S.C. received direct bags from Weymouth, Dorchester and Salisbury. The duty was operated by eight officers from Shrewsbury, each receiving 2/- per trip and they dealt with both letters and parcels.

Due to difficulties caused by the transfer of mail at Crewe it was decided to combine the S.C. with the Normanton and Stalybridge T.P.O. to form the Shrewsbury and Normanton T.P.O. This new duty commenced on 1st February 1893 using two letter carriages and one parcel carriage in each direction. One letter carriage in each direction was fitted with nets and arms. The timings were Shrewsbury depart 10.45 p.m., Normanton arrive 2.23 a.m., depart 10.25 p.m., Shrewsbury arrive 2.10 a.m. The parcel carriage did not run on Sunday nights.

The next change came with the announcement in the P.O.C. dated 15 October 1895, that "the Mail hitherto designated the Shrewsbury and Normanton T.P.O. will in future be known as the Bristol, Shrewsbury and Normanton T.P.O. Two of the sorting carriages of this mail still travel between Shrewsbury and Normanton only, but the third carriage is attached to the Severn Tunnel train leaving Bristol at 7.40 p.m. and is joined to the others

on arrival at Shrewsbury at 10.40 p.m. There is no change in the running of the Mail north of Shrewsbury. The dated stamps . . . will be altered as soon as possible."

This change gave to the public in the West of England and South and Central Wales, a later Night Mail to the North. The Midland T.P.O. left Bristol at 7 p.m. and so there was a later post of forty minutes by the B.S. and N.T.P.O.

The Bristol carriage, fully fitted, operated as a Sorting Carriage from Bristol to Shrewsbury only, by staff from Shrewsbury, who travelled with the empty carriage on the 2.15 a.m. ex Shrewsbury. When the carriage arrived at Shrewsbury too late to connect with the T.P.O. it was worked to Crewe as a Special making connection with the T.P.O. at that point. Apparatus was worked at Sandbach, going East and at Wakefield going West.

The third extension came on 1 July 1902 when the T.P.O. was routed to York via Leeds and the designated altered to Bristol, Shrewsbury and York T.P.O. This change was due to the serious delays continually taking place at Normanton caused by the transfer of mails and the difficulty in marshalling trains. The timings were Bristol depart 7.40 p.m., York arrive 3.22 a.m., depart 9.35 p.m., Shrewsbury arrive 2.05 a.m.

It was this mail that was involved in the disastrous accident which took place on the morning of 15 October 1907. There were fifteen vehicles, including the three Post Office vans, on the train, hauled by Experiment Class Loco. No. 2052 built at Crewe in 1906. The approach to Shrewsbury station is on a sharp curve with a speed restriction of 10 m.p.h., but on this occasion for some unknown reason, the train approached the curve at full speed. The engine was derailed and ran for seventy five yards over the sleepers before turning on its side with the coaches piled up on it and beside it. The total casualties were eighteen killed, including three sorters and forty-four injured. Two of the Sorting Carriages were wrecked.

The fourth change took place in June 1910. The P.O.C. announced that "The T.P.O. which has hitherto run between Bristol and York and has been known as the Bristol, Shrewsbury and York T.P.O. now runs between Cardiff and York, and will henceforth be known as the Cardiff and York T.P.O. Night Mail." The change was a result of complaints by business people in Cardiff. The T.P.O. ran nightly between Shrewsbury and York but only on week-nights between Shrewsbury and Cardiff. Parcel working ceased on 7 November 1915 because of the war.

The fifth change took place on 4 October 1920 when the T.P.O. was divided, becoming the Shrewsbury - York R.S.C. and York - Shrewsbury R.S.C. and the Cardiff - Crewe S.C. and Crewe - Cardiff S.C. On 14 April 1930 the R.S.C. became a T.P.O. and in 1931 new 60' vehicles were provided having delivery arms but no nets. On 28 January 1938 the T.P.O. ceased its run on Saturday nights. It was suspended because of the war in September 1940 and restored on 7 October 1946 with Late Fee facilities available on 7 July 1947.

Young Collector's Corner

As readers will know I have recently been focusing attention on various philatelic societies and federations to determine how they cater for the young collector. This month I turn the spotlight on The Middlesex Philatelic Federation.

On 30 October the Federation will stage their seventeenth annual Juniors' Stamp Day and Competitions. After seventeen years it should be obvious that Middlesex are now very proficient at helping the young collector, there being a specially appointed sub-committee to organise such activities.

The late Curtis Elkan, who was a secretary of the Federation, gave a Cup for the best overall entry in the Junior Competition in the three age groups, under 12, between 12 and 15, and between 15 and 17. A few years ago Mrs. Kay

Goodman presented a Silver Salver for the best exhibit in the 17 to 21 age group.

This older age group was added because it was felt that too little encouragement was given to such collectors, and since they may not be inclined to join a Society, their interest in the hobby could wane.

The Junior Day is staged entirely for the young collector, and part of the display frequently includes the winning entries in the Melville Memorial Competition, from which many lessons can be learnt. The judges in the Competition are always well known, and they aim to give the competitors much constructive help.

The winning entrant in each age group receives a Sportrophy, while the first, second and third are all given a prize. Certificates are also awarded at the discretion of the judges, while all competitors not receiving prizes have the consolation of being given a packet of stamps or hinges.

Stewards are on duty to offer advice where needed, and there is also an information desk provided, from which old magazines are available free of charge.

Up to 500 schools in the area are sent details of the Junior Day and competition, and close contact is maintained with those schools which support stamp clubs, and with those children who enter the competition.

May I recommend a visit to Mellow Lane School, Hewens Road, Hayes End, Middlesex on the afternoon of 30 October, so that you can see at first hand the magnificent work of the Middlesex Federation.

Presentation Packs

The current high and low value decimal presentation packs will be withdrawn from sale on 24 November 1971. They will be replaced on 25 November by two similar packs which will contain the low value stamps $\frac{1}{2}p$ -10p selling price 60 $\frac{1}{2}p$ and the 20p, 50p and £1 high value stamps, selling price £1.75.

Mount Everest Expedition Postcard



In view of the recent interest in the Expedition to climb Mount Everest, we thought readers would find this postcard from the 1924 expedition interesting. It bears an Everest expedition stamp cancelled with a circular handstamp bearing the words Mount Everest Expedition,

Rongbur Glacier Base Camp.

The postcard also carries a 1½ anna George V Indian stamp with the Calcutta cancellation.

We are most grateful to Mr W S Hart for the loan of his postcard.

Literary Anniversaries Celebrations

The pages of history turned back 200 years recently when mail coaches carried commemorative covers during celebrations for the Thomas Gray and Sir Walter Scott bicentenaries.

Stoke Poges – Gray's home – was the first when on 28 July 1971 Rosalind Dease, who designed the Literary Anniversaries stamps, arrived by coach to open an Exhibition on the Life and Times of Thomas Gray. The Post



*Charlie Hazell with the mail
at Stoke Poges.*

Office provided a display and counter which created enormous interest for the many local celebrities and visitors.

Thousands of covers were posted in the special box which was cleared by Charlie Hazell a local postman with 36 years service and then carried by the mail coach to Slough. Included in the mail were letters of greeting from the Parish Council to the Queen, the Prime Minister and the Minister for the Arts. Several hundred miles to the north on 15 August Sir Walter Scott's birth was celebrated in style at his home at Abbotsford. Here again thousands gathered at the house and along the country roads to see an old Borders mail coach carry special covers from Abbotsford to Melrose.

Aboard were passengers in 18th century dress – Mrs Patricia Maxwell Scott, Sir Walter's great-great-granddaughter, Mr William Service, Head Postmaster, Edinburgh, Mr James Barker, Head Postmaster Galashiels and special correspondents from Scottish newspapers.

Christmas 1971 Air Letter



This year's Air Letter with its dove theme will be on sale, price 6p between 13 October and 24 October 1971.

The Air Letter was designed by Julian Gibb and printed by McCorquodale Ltd.

For collectors who wish to obtain a 'First Day of Issue' handstamp the usual philatelic posting boxes will be opened at 180 offices.

To Pay Labels - Presentation Pack

For the first time "To Pay" labels are being produced in convenient presentation packs. They will be available from 3 November 1971 and will cost £2 each.

The pack which contains illustrations of historical posters announcing the introduction of Postage Due labels; specimens of early surcharged covers and the labels, will be eagerly sought after by collectors who will find a great deal to interest them.

New Posting Box

For future First Day of Issue postings a special philatelic posting box will be available at Kirkcaldy Head Post Office, Fife, Scotland.

Book Review

Stanley Gibbons British Commonwealth Stamp Catalogue

The 1972 edition of the Stanley Gibbons British Commonwealth Catalogue represents a year's "hard labour", editing and revising (more than 15,750 price changes this time), and adding the new issues (32 additional pages of over 1750 new stamps).

The new look catalogue, with a complete change of stamps in full colour on the cover, now has improved and expanded information pages and an easy-to-read Index of Countries. Stamp prices have been thoroughly revised in accordance with market trends, especially for Great Britain and British Post Offices.

The new British Commonwealth Catalogue fully maintains its reputation enhanced last year by the award of a gold medal at Philympia.

The catalogue is published by Stanley Gibbons Ltd, 391 Strand, LONDON WC2R 0LX at a price of £2.50.

Postmark Slogans

Reposting facilities

Unless otherwise stated, items for re-posting should be sent to the Head Postmaster of the town in which the slogan is being used,

marking the outer cover **Postmark Slogan. Professional and Technical Education from 16. Filton Technical College Bristol 694217** was to have been used in Bristol from 22 August-12 September and 12 December-18 December 1971. This slogan has now been withdrawn and will not be used.

1 December 1971-18 March 1972 **Holiday St Ives Cornwall**. To be reused at Birmingham.

1 November 1971-30 June 1972 **Harlow Playhouse. Theatre and Arts Centre, Nightly**. To be used at Harlow.

11 September-16 October 1971 **Ilkley Trades Fair October 12-16**. To be used at Ilkley.

Mansfield Festival 1971 9-23 October will now be used from 30 August and not from 1 September as previously announced.

23 August 1971-31 March 1972 **Londonderry Gateway to Industry**. To be used at Londonderry.

1 September 1971-31 August 1972 **Preston Guild Merchant 4-9 September 1972**. To be used at Preston.

23 December 1971-22 December 1972 **Gem of the Highlands Write: Burgh Information Office. Oban**. To be used at Oban.

30 August 1971-3 June 1972 **Fast Freighting Direct from Manchester**. To be used at Manchester.

4 October-26 December 1971 **For Happy Retirement Isle of Man**. To be used at Douglas and Ramsay.

18 October-31 October 1971 **Hull Junior High Schools French Week 25th-29th October**. To be used at Hull, Yorkshire.

1 September-10 November 1971 **50th Anniversary Chadacre Agricultural Institute Nr Bury St Edmunds 1921-1971**. To be used at Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk.

1 September-30 September 1971. 21 October 1971. 1-9 December 1971. 22 December 1971-15 January 1972 **Neath Rugby Football Club 1871/72 1971/72 Centenary**. To be used at Neath, Glam.

1 September-17 October 1971 and 1 December 1971-15 February 1972 and 1 April-31

May 1972 **The Boys Brigade Tomorrow's Men.** To be used in the Glasgow 'C' Machine.
 13 September-16 October 1971 **Autumn Symphony Concerts Fairfield Croydon 01-688 9291.** To be used at Croydon, Surrey.
 3 October-16 October and 31 October-13 November 1971 **Bristol Light Opera Club. Song of Norway Bristol Hippodrome. November 15th-20th.** To be used at Bristol.
 30 October-19 November 1971 **Ulster Tree Week. November 15-20.** To be used at Belfast, Ballymena, Bangor, Coleraine, Enniskillen, Omagh and Portadown.
 1 November-30 November 1971 **Develop in Alloa, Glasgow, Edinburgh.** To be used at Stirling.

Courses in Philately

A further course of lectures on philately is to be presented in London by Richard West from September.

As in the past, two courses will be available: on Wednesday evenings from 6.30 to 8.30 p.m. at the Stanhope Institute, Queens Square, London WC1, and on Thursday evenings from 7.15 to 9.15 p.m. at the Camden Institute, Primrose Hill School, Princess Road, London NW1.

It is hoped that the courses will extend from the end of September until June 1972, and as before will cover a wide range of topics, with many visiting speakers, in an informal atmosphere.

Those interested in joining either of the courses should contact the respective Institutes for further details.

Special Handstamps

10 October 1971 **Clyde Submarine Base Open Day 10 October 1971 Helensburgh** Special collecting box at Clyde Submarine Base Faslane, Helensburgh, Dunbartonshire.

19 December 1971 **No 1 Squadron RAF Regiment 50th 1921-1971 Anniversary 19 Dec 71 BFPS 1190.** Items for reposting to the Philatelic Officer 8 Command Postal and Courier Communications Depot RE BFPO 34.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Sir,

In reading your "Young Collector's Corner" in this month's *Philatelic Bulletin*, I thought I would write you about my crowd. Both boys and girls from 8 to 13 years of age, come voluntarily to me to learn Esperanto. They join a children's Esperantists International Club, and as members, according to their knowledge, they correspond with one to three uncles or aunties in other lands, in Esperanto of course, as many of their correspondents do not know English. Most of them send stamps, mostly new sets as issued, with almost every letter. There is some philatelic rivalry among the children.

The members of the Yorkshire Esperanto Federation also send used stamps for competition by the children at the classes. The children are encouraged to study the stamps, some from communist countries, which are often very beautifully coloured and have attractive pictures which greatly interest the children. Soon there is to be an Esperanto Conference in our town at which the children are going to display their collections, along with drawings, paintings, etc.

By these means the youngsters not only learn about stamps, but also about life in many lands, among which are Japan, Russia, Canada, Hungary, Austria, Holland, Germany, France.

Most of the children have become interested in stamp collecting through the influence of the club, and so long as they continue to correspond, so long will their interest in philately continue.

Yours faithfully,

NORMAN BOOTH

Bridlington, Yorkshire.

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