

Philatelic Bulletin

Volume 8 Number 4 December 1970



Contents

CYLINDER NUMBERS	2
RECENT CHANGES	2
AUTOMATIC LETTER FACING MACHINES	2
PHILATELIC SALES COUNTERS – REVISION OF HOURS	2
LETTER BOXES AT RAILWAY STATIONS AND ON TRAINS	3
EXPERIMENTS WITH A NEW THREE-WHEELER MAIL VAN	3
NATIONAL POSTAL MUSEUM NOTES	4
BRITISH POSTAL STATIONERY	6
RAF MUSEUM	7
THE NATIONAL ARMY MUSEUM SERIES – MILITARY COVERS	7
PHILATELIC SALES COUNTER	7
PHILYMPIA STAMPS ON DISPLAY AT EDINBURGH	8
POSTMARK SLOGANS	8
LIST OF OFFICES WITH FIRST DAY OF ISSUE POSTMARKING FACILITIES	10
CHRISTMAS 1970 PRESENTATION PACK	12
REGIONAL PRESENTATION PACKS	13
PHILATELIC POSTING BOX	13
SPECIAL ISSUES – 1968	13
POSTAGE STAMP BOOKS AND STATIONERY	13
SPECIAL HANDSTAMPS	13
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR	14
SANDRINGHAM POST	15

Introduction

Many philatelic societies ask the Post Office to provide displays or sales counters at their local exhibitions and while we are keen to participate on any reasonable occasion we are sometimes frustrated by being asked to provide

services at short notice. These exhibitions are usually planned by the societies many months beforehand and it would help our Head Postmasters and Public Relations Officers to make display material available or provide counter services if as much notice as possible could be given. We have a limited amount of displays but given sufficient notice it is possible to plan their distribution to enable everyone to be satisfied.

The mention of philatelic exhibitions reminds us that we recently met one of Britain's foremost exhibition designers who has designed several major philatelic shows for us. This is a very specialized art and one which we hope to discuss in future issues of the *Bulletin*.

Cylinder Numbers

Our sincere apologies for the confusion in the November *Bulletin* when details of the Philympia stamps cylinder numbers were ascribed to the Christmas stamps.

Recent Changes

The 1s 9d definitive stamp is now available on coated unwatermarked paper with PVA.

Automatic Letter Facing Machines

The machines at London WCDO referred to in the November issue of the *Bulletin* are not yet in operation. Notice will be given when they come into operation.

Philatelic Sales Counters – Revision of Hours

The opening times of the Blackpool and Sheffield philatelic sales counters have been revised as follows:

<i>Blackpool</i>	
Monday–Friday	9am–5.30pm
Saturday	9am–12.30pm
<i>Sheffield</i>	
Monday–Friday	9.30am–5pm
Saturday	9.30am–12.30pm.

Letter Boxes at Railway Stations and on Trains

The idea of stations being fitted with receptacles for letters was first mooted in 1843 by Rowland Hill but it was not until 1854 that the Postmaster-General gave permission for the installation of letter boxes at stations at the expense of the Post Office. The boxes erected were normally wooden and until 1857 often did not display the hours of collection. When they were eventually included, it was together with the words 'Letter Box' and the Royal Arms.

A later model was the Bracket Box, a special wooden type of letter box widely used by 1883. Its location was by no means restricted to railway stations.

There are various other types of letter box which are or have been in use at railway stations. Among these is one which basically is just an ordinary pre-1904 type A (large) cast-iron wall box. At first glance these free-standing wall boxes appear very similar to London's first-ever pillar boxes of 1855. In the wooden double-aperture posting-box of London's Charing Cross and the similar one, but with just one posting aperture, at Portsmouth Central station, one can see something of a reversion to the private letter boxes James Ludlow of Birmingham once supplied to hotels, etc. Posting boxes are also a feature of the free-standing self-service kiosks for the automatic sale of postage stamps and stamped stationery, which have been in use since 1962 at some railway stations.

From 1882 letter boxes were also fixed to sorting carriages of mail trains for late letters from the public. For such letters a late-letter fee was levied. This service still exists though now such letter boxes are fitted into the window of the Travelling Post Office and portable letter boxes are sometimes suspended from the side of ordinary railway carriages for short periods, at stopping places.

It was suggested as early as 1855 that letter boxes be fitted to ordinary railway carriages. This proposal was turned down for these reasons: that it would be necessary to have a sorter on every train if the letters were to be

sorted and despatched as they reached their respective destinations along the line; that a messenger from the Post Office would have to be in attendance when the train arrived; that the cost of the letter boxes which would be used almost exclusively by the travelling public would be enormous; finally, that the railway companies would not take kindly to the public walking on to their platforms merely to post letters.

In 1889, however, to supplement existing postal facilities on the station, experimental movable late-fee letter boxes were installed at 5 provincial stations through which Travelling Post Offices passed. Where possible they were hung on, or near, the ordinary letter box, whence they were taken to the Travelling Post Office.

Over the years then, the evolution of the letter box at the railway station and on trains has been steady but not dramatic. It is a field in which experiment is still very possible, though lack of public interest makes the motivation for this rather slight.

The information on which this article is based is taken from Jean Farrugia's 'The Letter Box'.

Experiments with a New Three-Wheeler Mail Van

The Post Office mail van fleet consists of 11,500 red 50 cu ft vehicles, of which every year 2,000 are replaced. This large percentage replacement and the costs involved have led to experiments in more economical vehicles.

For the first time the Post Office is going to try three-wheeled motor vans to collect and deliver mail. Two Mk. III Reliant Super 5 cwt, 700 cc vans (50 cu ft) have already been put through 3,000 miles of road trials by the Post Office and shortly 50 red glass-fibre-bodied vehicles are to be used on an experimental basis in Aberdeen, Chelmsford, London, Horsham, Lincoln, Manchester and Shrewsbury. A significant saving in the three-wheeler is that it costs only £10 a year to tax, compared with £30 for the familiar mail van.

National Postal Museum Notes

Some King George VI Essays

This month I have selected, somewhat arbitrarily, some more items from the National Postal Museum's exhibit in the Court of Honour at Philymphia, to describe and illustrate.

The 1937-51 definitives of King George VI represented the first major change in design in such issues (if one excepts the Edward VIII issue) since 1912. Two artists, Eric Gill and Edmund Dulac, both eminent for their design work in both fields, were responsible for the designs adopted for the King George VI definitive stamps. The Museum exhibit included two pages of original watercolour drawings by Dulac, beautifully done in exactly the size of the proposed stamps. The drawings consist of a number of variations on two basic designs, what Dulac called his '1840' design, and his 'hexagonal' design. Dulac proposed that the new issues should be bi-coloured and his sketches of April 1938 were later that month taken to essay stage. The essays were printed in imperforate strips of three and a selection of these, in both designs and a variety of colour combinations, are reproduced here (Figs. 1-3). Although Dulac's proposals for bi-colour stamps were not taken up, his 'hexagonal' design was adopted for all values from 7d to 1s.



Fig. 2



Fig. 3



Fig. 1

Gill and Dulac were responsible also for unadopted designs for the first two commemorative issues of King George VI's reign. Fig. 4 illustrates an essay for the Coronation stamp in red-brown from a modified design by Gill. This was prepared in March 1937. The commemoration of the centenary of the Penny Black in May 1940 presented a particular



Fig. 4

problem to the artists in that it was almost obligatory to combine in one design the portraits of both the reigning monarch and Queen Victoria as depicted in 1840. Similarly the design was expected to incorporate the monograms of both monarchs and the two centenary dates. Dulac's attractive design (Fig. 5) was considered of sufficient merit to be taken to essay form and perforated essays of the 2½d value in five colours were submitted to the King on 9 January 1940.



Fig. 5

Curiously enough, only eight years later another commemorative issue, the Silver Wedding of the King and Queen, once again called for designs featuring a double portrait. In addition to their accepted designs, Joan Hassal and Mr G. T. Knipe also produced other interesting designs for the Silver Wed-



Fig. 6



Fig. 7

ding which were taken to essay stage (Figs. 6 and 7). The 2½d Hassal essay was rejected by the King on 27 January 1948; the elaborate Knipe essays for the £1 value also reached the stage of submission for Royal approval. Joan Hassal's designs were commissioned by the eventual printers, Harrison & Sons Ltd; one of their staff designers, Mr Palmer, produced a design for the £1 value for which essays were made in both deep blue (Fig. 8) and red-brown. These were not submitted to the King. In all cases the designers were required to use specific Royal portraits taken by Dorothy Wilding. In discussing further material shown by the Museum at Philymphia, I will be back-grounding and illustrating in the next issue a



Fig. 8

number of issues projected between 1935 and 1942 but which for various reasons never saw the light of day except in Post Office circles.

A. C. RIGO DE RIGHI

A reader of this Bulletin has made the useful suggestion that, from time to time, we should print the address of the National Postal Museum, with some directions on how to get there. The Museum is situated in the same King Edward Building as houses the London Chief (Post) Office and shares the same main entrance. The address is King Edward Street, London EC1, which is a turning off the north side of Newgate Street, close to St Paul's Underground Station on the Central Line. King Edward Street can also be reached by a very short walk from the main door of St Paul's Cathedral, through Cathedral Place, to Newgate Street. Buses passing very close to the Museum are Nos. 8, 22, 25 and 501 (along Newgate Street), and Nos. 4, 6, 9, 11, 15, 502 and 504 (passing St Paul's Cathedral).

British Postal Stationery by A. K. Huggins

By coincidence, this very readable record of British Postal Stationery came from the press during the week in which the oldest collector of this subject, Marcus White of Worcester, Mass., died at the age of 93. He had collected postal stationery for over 80 years (it was popular when he started) and had amassed such tonnage that he had to buy the house next door so that he would have somewhere to live. He would have loved this volume.

Dr Huggins is a young man and we shall hope for more such works from him, but even if his life-span should surpass that of Marcus White, it is doubtful if he can produce a better study on any subject.

No one who has explored this interesting subject will disagree with the statement that more than one generation of collectors has been handicapped through the lack of an adequate text book. It has been a weakness of many enthusiastic students to produce a manuscript which was so complicated that the natural enthusiasm of a reader was killed.

This volume is divided into 25 sections, 1 on the early essays, 4 on envelopes and letter sheets,

4 on postcards, 2 on newspaper wrappers, 4 on registration envelopes, 2 on letter-cards, 2 on airmail letter sheets, 2 on telegraph cards and forms, 1 on certificates of posting, 1 with 5 appendices which detail with SPECIMEN over- and under-prints, advertising rings, etc, a bibliography and an index. A little study and the volume becomes easy to use.

Post Office issues of any one category are rightly dealt with in a separate section to the Stamped to Order varieties. As a guide to the collector, most items have been priced in decimal sterling.

The book is printed on art paper, excellently illustrated with 4 pages in colour which have considerable charm.

If you have any postal stationery you will need this volume. You may be richer than you think.

R. L.

Published by the Great Britain Philatelic Society, London. Obtainable from the publishers, price 78s post paid, or from other suppliers of philatelic literature.

RAF Museum

To commemorate the formation in 1934 of the RAF's Rotary Wing Force (one of the first in the world), a special cover will be issued by RAF Ternhill on 10 January. It will depict the Avro Rota Cierva C30. A special decorative British Forces Postal Service No. 1160, Handstamp, based on the plan view of a helicopter, will be used to cancel the 9d Welsh Regional Stamp.

All covers will be flown to the advanced helicopter landing ground on Mount Snowdon, where a Forces Post Office will be established for the day – a special cachet will be applied to the covers to commemorate this event.

Covers will cost 5s each and should be available by mid-January. Orders with remittance should be sent to:

Philatelic Officer,
RAF,
Ternhill,
Market Drayton,
Salop,

where a posting box will be provided on the day.

National Army Museum Series – Military Covers

The following covers were issued on 10 November but were not notified in the November *Bulletin*.

Group 2 No. 4 Historical Uniforms

The cover shows a uniform of an ensign and sergeant of the 9th Foot, Peninsular War period, with descriptive stiffener and special handstamp No. 1217.

Group 5 No. 3 Medals

The cover shows the Military General Service Medal, the first ever to be issued to all participants in a campaign, the medal having 29 bars. It commemorates the anniversary of the Battle of Nivelle for which a bar to the medal was awarded. The special handstamp shows a portion of the ribbon with the Nivelle bar affixed.

A further two covers will be issued on the 4 and 18 December 1970.

Group 2 No. 5 Historical Uniforms (4 December)

This cover depicts the uniform of an officer of the Royal Horse Artillery and commemorates the anniversary of St Barbara, the Patron Saint of the Artillery. The special handstamp No. 1219 shows the badge of the Royal Artillery. This cover will be issued with:

Group 5 No. 4 Medals (18 December) which commemorates the 125th anniversary of the issue of the medal for the SUTLEJ campaign of 1845/46, with special handstamp No. 1220 showing the reverse of the medal.

The 20 covers issued in 1970 are therefore:

Group 1/one, Group 2/five, Group 3/four, Group 4/six, Group 5/four.

The issue of Group 1, Famous Regiments, has been delayed by the intention of commemorating those famous Infantry Regiments which recently have been amalgamated or whose titles have changed. A number of these will be issued early in 1971. The Group, when complete, will therefore be unique of its kind.

Copies of all issues are available at 5/- each from:

The Philatelic Officer,
National Army Museum Appeal,
HM Tower of London,
London EC3N 4AB.

Items for re-posting only should be sent to:

The Philatelic Officer,
Inglis Barracks,
Mill Hill,
London NW7.

Philatelic Sales Counter

A philatelic sales counter was opened on 30 November 1970 at Trafalgar Square branch office, London WC2.

The hours of business are 10 am to 7 pm Monday to Friday, 10 am to 4.30 pm Saturday.

Philympia Stamps on Display at Edinburgh



We illustrate part of a very colourful display shown at the Bureau gallery during September.

This exhibition featured the Philympia issue against a background showing details of the

techniques used to produce classic Victorian postage stamps.

Other sections highlighted the award-winning Post Office film 'Picture to Post' and also

Postmark Slogans

The Civic Theatre presents 'Red Riding Hood' Panto Season 1970/71 Tel Barnsley 6757 will be used at Barnsley until 13 February 1971.

Fairfield Christmas Circus 26 Dec to 23 Jan 01-688 9291 (pictorial) will be used at Croydon until late in January 1971.

Chessington Zoo Open every Day is being re-used at Kingston upon Thames until 10 December 1970.

See the Christmas Lights and Shop In Newbury will be used at Newbury until 26 December 1970.

Wolverhampton is on your Way will be used at Wolverhampton until 31 July 1971.

Skegness Illumination Nightly from August 8. On the Dry Lincolnshire Coast will be used transposed at Skegness from 1 July 1971 and until further notice.

North Riding Sponsors Development Tel 0609 3123 will be replaced at Northallerton, Thirst and Richmond as soon as possible by **North Riding Sponsors Development**.

Remember to use the Postcode will be used at Crewe until further notice.

'Cinderella' Commencing Xmas Eve Floral Hall Southport will be used transposed at Southport until 7 January 1971.

Great Yarmouth and Gorleston on Sea Fine for Family Holidays will be used at Great Yarmouth until 30 November 1971.

Remember to use the Postcode will be used at Stevenage (Herts) and District from 11 January 1971 and until further notice.

Aberdare U.D.C. Have Industrial Sites Available Now (pictorial) will be used at Aberdare from as soon as possible and until further notice.

Nurse in Historic Bury St Edmunds (pictorial) will be used at Bury St Edmunds from 7 December 1970 until 28 February 1971.

Lewisham Concert Hall SE6 Tel 01-690 3431 Christmas 1970. Robin Hood and the Babes in the Wood will be used at Catford until 2 January 1971.

See the Christmas Decorations in Gloucester (pictorial) will be used at Gloucester until 26 December 1970



three recent stamp issues – British Ships, Cathedrals and Rural Architecture.

Although designed primarily to meet the needs of enthusiasts who like to write up their

collections in depth, the display was an interesting example of how a great deal of detailed information can be conveyed in a visually attractive manner.

Holiday in Edinburgh is continuing in use at Edinburgh until 15 September 1971.

Invest in Success – Come to Jarrow will continue in use at Jarrow for a further twelve months.

Are You on the Voters List – Check Now will be used at 150 offices including Altrincham, Penrith, Stockport, Barry, Neath, Aldershot, Canterbury, Maidstone, Keighley, Sheffield, Lincoln, Bedford, Chelmsford, Grantham, Peterborough, Bournemouth, Penzance, Ayr, in London at Northern District Office, Hornsey N8, Eastern District Office, North Western District Office, South Western District Office and South Eastern District Office until 12 December 1970. Coleraine and Omagh until 10 December. Edinburgh NWDO and Glasgow until 12 December 1970.

City of York 1900th Anniversary Celebrations Jan–Dec 1971 will be used at York from 20 December 1970–18 April 1971, 10–19 May, 10–16 June, 8–25 July, 1–13 September, 5 October–December 1971.

Wigan is Growing – Come and Grow with it will be re-used at Wigan from 1 September 1971 until 30 November 1971.

York Races appropriate dates will be used at York from 19 April–9 May, 20 May–9 June, 17 June–7 July, 26 July–15 August, 17–30 August, and 14 September–4 October 1971.

Whitby Yorkshire for Family Holidays Attractive Harbour Sands & Moors (pictorial) will be used at Whitby from 7 December 1970 until 6 December 1971.

Weymouth Quatercentenary Celebrations 30 May to 13 June 1971 will be used at Weymouth from 14 December 1970 until 13 June 1971.

Hemel Hempstead Pavilion presents Babes in the Woods Dec 26–Jan 9. Now booking, Tel: Hemel Hempstead 4451 will be used at Hemel Hempstead from 7 December 1970 until 3 January 1971.

Wigan – Hub of the North West will be re-used at Wigan until 1 March 1971.

Modern Wigan Has no Peer will be re-used at Wigan from 2 March 1971 until 31 May 1971.

See the New Wigan for Yourself will be re-used at Wigan from 1 June 1971 until 31 August 1971.

List of Offices with First Day of Issue Postmarking Facilities

LONDON

Chief Office, King Edward Street, EC1A 1AA
 Battersea District Office, 202 Lavender Hill, SW11
 Eastern District Office, 206 Whitechapel Road, E1 1AA
 Northern District Office, 116 Upper Street, N1 1AA
 North Western District Office, 220 Eversholt Street, NW1 1AA
 Paddington District Office, Spring Street, W2 1JE
 South Western District Office, 9 Howick Place, SW1
 South Eastern District Office, Borough High Street, SE1
 Western Central District Office, 181 High Holborn, WC1A 1AA
 Western District Office, Wimpole Street, W1M 7AA
 Trafalgar Square, WC2N 4DL
 110 Victoria Street, SW1
 Remnant Street, (Kingsway), WC2A 3JR
 Southampton Street, (Strand), WC2E 7HB
 111 Baker Street, W1M 1FE

Handstamp reads

London EC
 Battersea SW11
 London E1
 London N1
 London NW1
 Paddington W2
 London SW
 London SE1
 London WC
 London W1
 London WC
 London SW
 London WC
 London WC
 London W1

Aberdeen
 Aberystwyth, Cardiganshire
 Aldershot, Hants
 Ayr
 Barrow-in-Furness, Lancs
 Basildon, Essex
 Barnsley, Yorkshire
 Barnstaple, Devon
 Bath, Somerset
 Bedford
 Belfast
 Birmingham
 Blackburn, Lancs
Handstamp reads 'Blackburn and Accrington'
 Blackpool, Lancs
Handstamp reads 'Fylde Coast, Lancs'
 Bognor Regis, Sussex
 Bolton, Lancs
 Bournemouth
Handstamp reads 'Bournemouth-Poole'
 Bradford, Yorkshire
 Bridgwater, Somerset
 Brighton, Sussex
 Bristol
 Bromley, Kent
 Burnley, Lancs
 Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk
 Caernarvon
 Cambridge
 Canterbury, Kent
 Cardiff
 Carmarthen
 Carlisle, Cumberland
 Chatham, Kent *Handstamp reads 'Medway Kent'*

Chelmsford, Essex
 Chester
 Chesterfield, Derbyshire
 Chichester, Sussex
 Chippenham, Wilts
 Colchester, Essex
 Coventry, Warwickshire
 Crawley, Sussex
 Croydon
 Darlington, Co. Durham
 Dartford, Kent
 Deal, Kent
 Derby
 Doncaster, Yorkshire
 Dorchester, Dorset
 Douglas, Isle of Man
 Dover, Kent
 Dumfries
 Dundee
 Dunfermline, Fife
 Durham
 Eastbourne, Sussex
 Edinburgh
 Enfield
 Exeter, Devon
 Fareham, Hants
 Folkestone, Kent
 Glasgow
 Gloucester
 Grimsby
Handstamp reads 'Grimsby and Cleethorpes, Lincs'
 Guildford, Surrey
 Great Yarmouth, Norfolk
 Halifax, Yorkshire

Hamilton, Lanarkshire
 Harrogate, Yorkshire
 Harlow, Essex
 Harrow and Wembley
 Hartlepool, Co. Durham
 Hastings, Sussex
 Haverfordwest, Pembs
 Hemel Hempstead, Herts
 Hereford
 Hounslow, Middx
 Horsham, Sussex
 Huddersfield, Yorkshire
 Hull, Yorkshire
 Ilford, Essex
Handstamp reads 'Ilford, Essex'
 Inverness
 Ipswich, Suffolk
 Kendal, Westmorland
 Kingston upon Thames, Surrey
 Kings Lynn, Norfolk
 Lancaster and Morecambe
 Leamington
Handstamp reads 'Warwick & Leamington Spa'
 Leeds
 Leicester
 Lincoln
 Liverpool
 Llandudno and Colwyn Bay
One handstamp reads 'Llandudno, Caernarvonshire'
and one reads 'Colwyn Bay, Denbighshire'
 Llanelli, Carm's
 Londonderry
 Loughborough, Leics
 Louth, Lincs
 Lowestoft, Suffolk
 Luton, Beds
 Maidstone, Kent
 Manchester
 Mansfield, Notts
 Middlesbrough, Teesside
Handstamp reads 'Teesside'
 Newbury, Berks
 Newcastle-upon-Tyne
 Newport (IOW)
 Newport (Mon)
 Northallerton, Yorkshire
 Northampton
 Norwich, Norfolk
 Nottingham
 Oxford
 Paisley, Renfrewshire
 Perth

Peterborough
 Plymouth, Devon
 Pontypridd, Glam
One handstamp reads 'Pontypridd, Glam'
and one reads 'Rhonda, Glam'
 Portsmouth and Gosport
Handstamp reads 'Portsmouth, Hants'
 Preston, Lancs
 Reading, Berks
 Reigate & Redhill, Surrey
 Rhyl, Flintshire
 Richmond & Twickenham
 Rochdale, Lancs
 Romford & Dagenham, Essex
 Rotherham, Yorkshire
 Rugby, Warwickshire
 St Albans, Herts
 Salisbury, Wilts
 Scarborough, Yorkshire
 Scunthorpe, Lincs
 Sheffield
 Shrewsbury, Salop
 Skegness, Lincs
 Southall, Middx
 Southampton
 Southend-on-Sea, Essex
 South Shields, Co. Durham
 Stafford
 Stevenage, Herts
 Stirling
 Stockport, Cheshire
 Stockton-on-Tees, Teesside
Handstamp reads 'Teesside'
 Stoke-on-Trent, Staffs
 Sunderland, Co. Durham
 Swansea, Glam
 Swindon, Wilts
 Taunton, Somerset
 Telford, Salop
 Torquay, Devon
 Truro, Cornwall
 Tunbridge Wells, Kent
 Walsall, Staffs
 Warrington, Lancs
 Watford, Herts
 Wigan, Lancs
 Windsor, Berks
 Wolverhampton, Staffs
 Worcester
 Worthing, Sussex
 Yeovil, Somerset
 York

Christmas 1970 Presentation Pack

The Christmas stamps described in the November *Bulletin* are available in presentation packs, price 3s 3d each, from the Bureau and all Head Post Offices.

They will, of course, make ideal Christmas presents for budding collectors as will our 1970 Collectors pack which contains 6 sets of stamps for 24s.



Postage Stamp Books and Stationery

The prices and contents of the packs will be as follows:

3d, 4d (sepia), 4d (red), 5d, 6d, 9d, 1s 3d, 1s 6d.

3d, 4d (sepia), 4d (red), 5d, 9d, 1s 6d.

3d, 4d (sepia), 4d (red), 5d, 9d, Is 3d, Is 6d.

A philatelic posting box will be provided at Richmond and Twickenham on future first days of issue.

The number of stamps issued for the 1968 special issues are:

4d	97,458,120
9d	8,773,080
1s 6d	9,451,400
1s 9d	5,924,800

4d	97,757,920
9d	9,135,240
Is Od	9,872,160
Is 9d	6,217,440

4d	I85,034,000
Is 0d	I7,953,440
Is 6d	8,878,440
Is 9d	5,739,000

4d	326,078,360
9d	17,102,520
1s 6d	21,344,760



Our article in the October *Bulletin* on the first GB postage stamp books prompted a reader to let us have a photo of one of the early stamp vending machines which he noticed in Pembroke.

Numerous enquiries have been received about the special handstamp **Concorde 002 First Flight Mach 2 Fairford Glos.** This handstamp will be used only on the day on which the aircraft flies at twice the speed of sound.

Mensa Annual Gathering 13 December 1970 will be used to cancel items posted in the special posting box to be provided at the Victory Club, 73 Seymour Street, London W2 2HF.

Items for re-posting should be sent to the District Postmaster, Paddington DO, Postal Branch, London W2 1AA.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Sir,

I have just been looking through the previous issues of this year's *Philatelic Bulletin* and having read of several methods of removing stamps from paper, I wondered if any of your readers have their own methods of determining watermarks. Not so important for modern stamps, but quite a problem for collectors who are trying to build up their collections from earlier years.

I know all about the use of rectified benzene, but as well as being somewhat messy it is almost impossible to obtain the liquid in this area.

Some watermarks will show if the stamp is laid face down on a black surface and the angle of light source changed to bring about the best result, but alas the 'Wilding Issues' still leave me with a lot of stamps but no clue as to the gap they fill.

Manorbier, Pembrokeshire

R. J. SPICK

Dear Sir,

The members of this Society have been very interested to read the letters which have appeared in recent issues of the *Philatelic Bulletin* in regard to Mr Samuel Graveson and his collection of the postal history of Kent – particularly the letter in the October issue from Mr R. M. Browne, as he is a member of the Society still, though not now living in the area.

You may like to know that the Graveson Collection of Kent Postal History is still safely in the possession of this Society, the custodian for the past few years having been Major V. R. B. Smallwood. The collection has been on show on a number of occasions recently, the last occasion being a week or two ago when it formed part of an exhibition of stamps staged by the Society as its contribution to Ashford's Jubilation – to mark the 500th anniversary of Ashford Parish Church. The display was staged in the church, and part of the Graveson collection was shown, alongside the frames of modern GB issues, kindly loaned for the occasion by the Post Office, through the good offices of our Vice-President,

Mr R. W. Hughes, who is Head Postmaster of Ashford. The contrast between the old and the new made a very striking display, we felt.

The society will be very happy to arrange to show the Graveson Collection to any other Kent Society who may wish to see it at any time.

Yours faithfully,

(Mrs) G. M. PULLEN

Hon. Secretary,

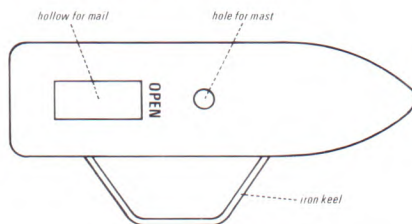
Ashford (Kent) Philatelic Society

Dear Sir,

I was interested in the article 'Origins of the Letter Box' in the October issue of the *Philatelic Bulletin*.

St Kilda was evacuated in 1930 but prior to that the islanders sometimes used to send letters by 'St Kilda mail boat' when inclement weather or a period without vessels calling precluded sending mail by more conventional means.

When visiting the island of Pabbay in the Sound of Harris I saw a St Kilda mail-boat in a byre. It was about 2ft long and of wood, shaped like a child's toy yacht. There was a hole in the deck for a mast and an iron keel. There was a hollow gouged in the hull for the letters. This receptacle originally had a wooden covering and in the hull close to the letter space was carved, OPEN. The little vessel used to be launched in the hope that it would eventually go ashore on one of the main islands or the mainland itself and be discovered.



Yours faithfully,

BRIAN G. LANE

Wooler, Northumberland

A Sub-Post Office was opened at Sandringham House in 1877, the residence of the Prince of Wales, to provide him with a telegraph service. The office came under the jurisdiction of the Head Postmaster at Kings Lynn, five miles away.

The arrangements the Post Office made with HRH Prince of Wales were that he would be charged with the actual salaries of the telegraph clerks during their period of employment at the office. Any additional expenditure that might be incurred, for example, travelling and subsistence, would also be paid by the Prince.

William Henry Mann was the first Sub-Postmaster to be appointed to this post. He served at the office from 1 December 1877 until 30 September 1918.

The office became a Money Order and Savings Bank Office in 1878. In 1886, Sandringham's first Public Telegraph Office was established at Sandringham House at the request of the Prince of Wales. However, the wire between Kings Lynn and Sandringham was the property of the Prince, and so it had first to be purchased from him by the Post Office. This was done and the transaction approved 31 January 1886.

In 1888, the charge being made by the Post Office for the special telegraphist was discontinued. However, the telegraphist, Mr Warmington, was to continue his employment at the office in order to serve the Prince during his visits to Sandringham House. Specially printed envelopes were supplied to the Postmaster to be used for the Prince's telegrams.

Sandringham became a Railway Sub-Office in 1900. It was open for Money Order and Telegraphic business from 8 am to midnight, every day, including Sunday, for the receipt and despatch of telegrams addressed to or sent by persons staying at Sandringham House.

In addition to his postal and telegraphic duties, the Sub-Postmaster was required to do some typing and teleprinter work. Later, he also acted as keeper of the household stationery.

The Postmasters who later held this appointment, were: John William Eatwick (who was William Henry Mann's successor) 1 October 1918 until 24 July 1927. Frederick Christopher Bunn, 25 July 1927 to 31 October 1952. The last Postmaster to hold this post was Antony Seaman Hanslip, 1 November 1952 until 9 February 1968 when the office was closed.

*The Post Office would like to wish readers of the
Philatelic Bulletin
a very happy Christmas and a
prosperous New Year*

Articles and illustrations appearing in the *Bulletin* are the copyright of the Post Office. Requests to reproduce this material should be addressed to the Editor, Philatelic Bulletin, OOD/CSD, Postal Headquarters, St. Martin's-le-Grand, London EC1A 1HQ.

The annual subscription to the *Philatelic Bulletin* for 12 issues a year is 10s including postage by surface mail to anywhere in the world, or airmail to anywhere in Europe. For air mail to countries outside Europe the subscription is £1 8s.

Subscriptions should be sent to the British Post Office Philatelic Bureau, 2-4 Waterloo Place, EDINBURGH EH1 1AB.

Printed in Great Britain by Westerham Press Ltd
for the Post Office, St. Martin's-le-Grand, LONDON EC1A 1HQ.