

Philatelic Bulletin



Volume 3: Number 2

POST
OFFICE
TOWER



1/3

ARNOLD

HARTNELL & CO. LTD.

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This month's edition includes information about the next two special issues, the Post Office Tower and 20th anniversary of the United Nations stamps. We also print an article on the Post Office Tower and miscellaneous Bureau news.

We have been pleased with the many kind things said about our first issue of this volume and the suggestions offered for our consideration. We had hoped that our venture would be popular and it was gratifying to have your letters with such comments as 'I am delighted with the new presentation'; 'May I congratulate you on the new form and style of the *Bulletin*'; 'The arrival today of the new *Bulletin* marks a great step forward which, I am sure, must meet with the approval of all interested persons'; '. . . I received the first number of the revised *Bulletin* with which I am very pleased. It certainly gives the *Bulletin* a more professional look'.

Surprisingly enough we have had little comment about the smaller date stamp we used on the Battle of Britain first day covers. Acting on the grounds that silence signifies assent we intend to use the same type for the Post Office Tower covers.

The 3d and 1s 3d stamps issued on 8th October 1965 to mark the operational opening of the Post Office Tower feature a comparison between London's old and new architecture.

The 3d stamp is vertical and depicts the 620 ft. Tower springing from a symbolic foreground of Georgian type buildings typical of those found in the immediate vicinity. The colours are two shades of blue and yellow.

Georgian architecture is again pictured on the 1s 3d stamp which is horizontal and shows the Tower overshadowing the broad sweep of the famous Nash Terrace at Regent's Park. The colours are two shades of green and blue.

In each stamp the Dorothy Wilding portrait of the Queen is featured with the legend 'Post Office Tower.'

The names of the artist and the printer have been introduced for the first time in the bottom margin of the stamps as an experiment.

Both stamps were designed by Clive Abbott, a newcomer to stamp designing.

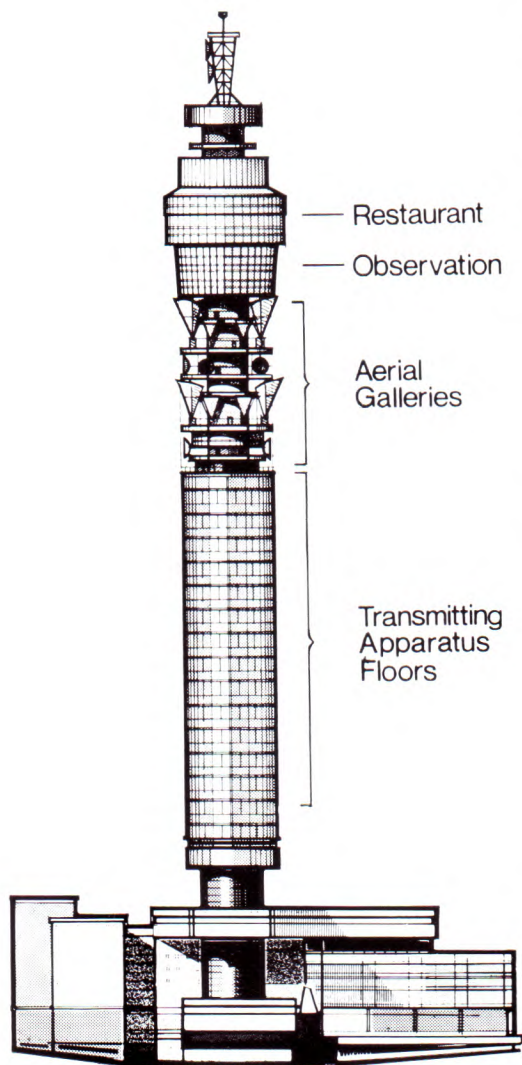
He was born in 1933 and was a student at Wimbledon School of Art. He is now art director in a London advertising agency, although he has previously designed Post Office greetings telegrams. He has never before attempted stamp design, and we are sure that these striking stamps will be well received.

He is married to the eldest daughter of the late Sid Field, the film and stage comedian, and has two daughters.

The stamps will be printed by the photogravure process by Harrison and Sons Ltd, and will be issued both with and without phosphor lines.

The accepted designs are in accordance with the recommendations of the Postmaster General's Advisory Committee, set up by the Council of Industrial Design at the invitation of the Post Office. The members of the Committee are Sir Kenneth Clark, K.C.B., C.H., F.B.A., the Lady Sempill, A.R.C.A., James Fitton, R.A., F.S.I.A., Milner Gray, R.D.I., F.S.I.A., Professor R. Guyatt, F.S.I.A., A.R.C.A., Abram Games, O.B.E., F.S.I.A., and Sir John Wilson, Bt, K.C.V.O.

For the benefit of those of our readers who know little of the Tower and its functions the following will be of interest.

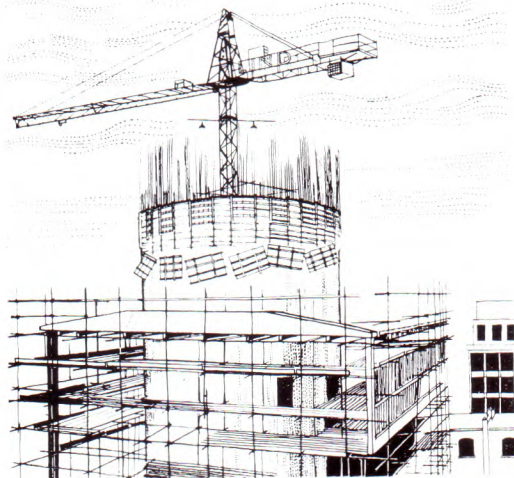


Rising like a giant lighthouse above the London streets, the Post Office Tower near Tottenham Court Road has attracted much public interest and speculation about its height and purpose, which is not surprising, for it soars 250 feet above the dome of St Paul's and is, in fact, the tallest building in Britain.

Its actual height? The Tower itself is 580 feet and this is surmounted by a 40 foot trellis mast supporting a radar aerial designed to help short range weather forecasting.

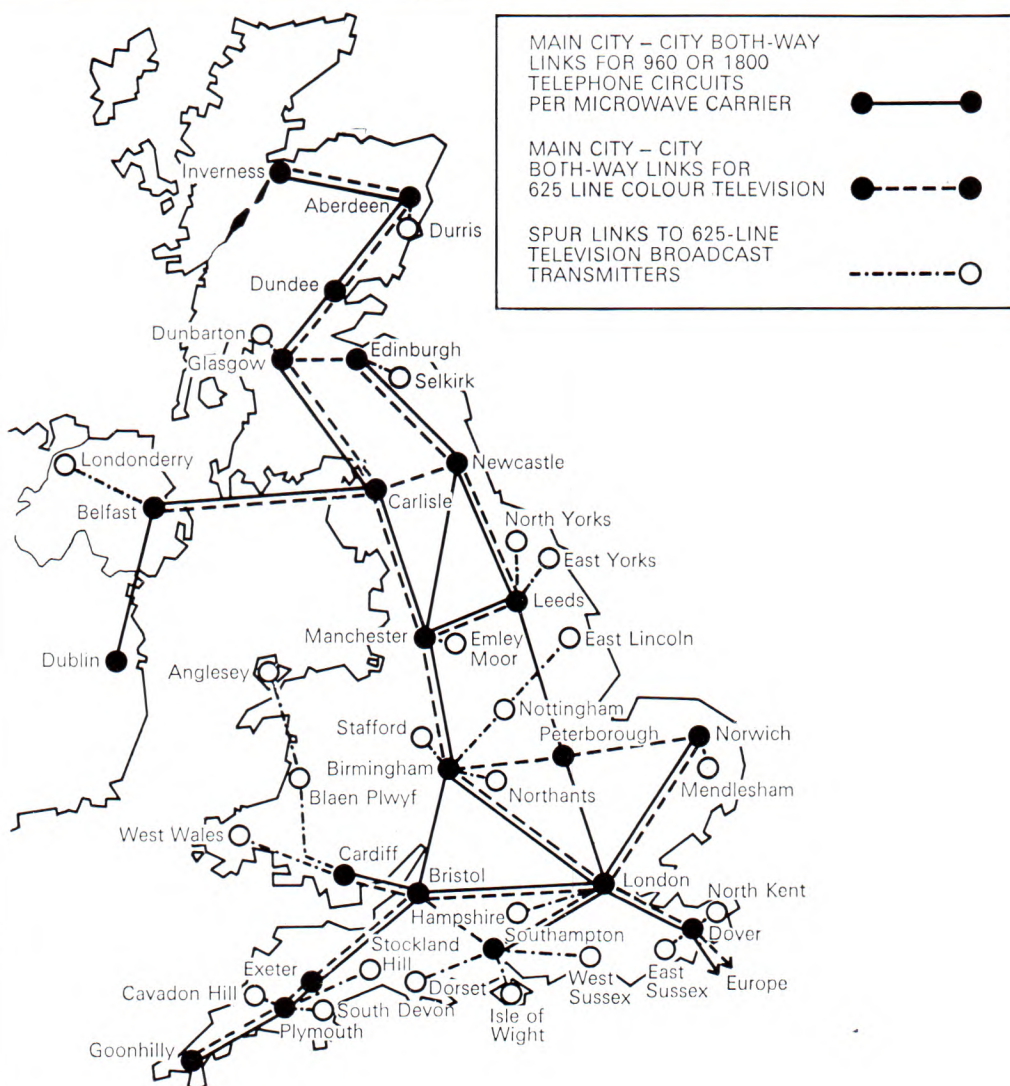
Why has the Tower been built? Essentially to provide more long distance telephone circuits and more television channels. In the past few years there has been a tremendous demand for telecommunication services. This has been particularly true of the Trunk service, where the number of calls made each year has increased by as much as 14 per cent. The popularity of television has also presented problems for the Post Office. More channels were required to extend the BBC 2, 625-line service, to cater for future additional circuits, and to allow for the introduction of colour television.

To provide these new requirements by traditional means would have meant extremely costly and difficult cable-laying operations throughout many



The 1970 Network

The extent of the microwave radio relay network required by 1970 to meet expected trunk telephone and television traffic demands.



parts of London, with inevitable congestion and chaos in the streets. Instead, the Post Office Tower has provided the additional capacity required by the use of microwave radio channels which carry telephone calls and television programmes between London and all parts of the country.

Telephone cables one can see and touch, but what of microwaves? What are they and what can they do? Fair questions, but difficult to answer in simple terms. Nowadays, because of radio, most people are aware of the terms 'wavelength' and 'frequency' as applied to a radio station to which they tune to hear a particular programme. For example, one of the Light Programme channels of the BBC operates on a 1,500 metre wavelength at a frequency of 200,000 cycles per second. Microwaves, on the contrary, have extremely short wavelengths and their frequencies are of the order of several thousand million cycles per second. Microwave radio signals behave much in the same way as visible light, i.e. they travel in substantially straight lines and, importantly, they can be concentrated into narrow beams by specially shaped reflectors or other devices. They can travel for 25 to 30 miles before being picked up by the aerial system at the next relay point.

Earlier, the Tower was referred to as a giant light-house; perhaps it is now possible to see that it really is something like one, with the major difference that instead of sending out a beam of light it is transmitting microwave radio signals on extremely accurate settings. There is still one essential requirement to mention. The path of the radio beam must be clear of all obstacles such as hills, trees and buildings if good quality transmission is to be achieved. In the country it is usually sufficient to mount the reflecting aerials on steel towers on hill-tops but in London and other cities the problem is different. London itself lies in a saucer-shaped depression so the Tower had to be high enough to allow not only for the surrounding high ground but also to rise above

the many-storeyed buildings erected in recent years or projected for building in the future.

The Tower aerials and the associated radio equipment will eventually provide for as many as 100,000 simultaneous telephone conversations and up to 40 television channels – in truth, a modern Tower of Babel!

Besides its strictly functional use the Tower will also add to the itinerary of London's attractions. The public will be able to view the panorama of London from galleries near the top of the Tower. Two lifts, each travelling at 1,000 feet a minute, will carry passengers to the three public observation platforms.

In addition there will be a public revolving restaurant and cocktail lounge near the summit; the restaurant will make between two and three complete revolutions every hour. Catering for the Tower restaurant has been undertaken by Butlin's Holidays Ltd, to whom inquiries should be addressed.

For those interested in facts and figures, the Tower, including its foundations, weighs 13,000 tons; 95 tons of high tensile steel were used to reinforce the base and 685 tons of mild steel to reinforce the Tower itself.

The cost of the Tower and the associated four-storey extension to the Museum Telephone Exchange is expected to be of the order of £2,500,000.

The Tower will initially be used to provide four main microwave radio paths – from London towards Birmingham, Coventry and the North; towards Southampton, Bristol and the West and also for the satellite communication ground station at Goonhilly Downs; towards Dover, Folkestone and the Continent; and towards Norwich and the North-East of England.

The map shows the network of radio links which will be needed by 1970 to meet anticipated trunk telephone traffic and probable 625-line television requirements.

The 20th anniversary of the United Nations will be celebrated on 24th October this year. The United Nations has also designated 1965 as International Co-operation Year. To mark these associated events the Post Office will issue two stamps on 25th October 1965.

Both stamps will be in a horizontal format. The 3d stamp features the UN symbol against a background of the figure '20' and will be printed in three colours, brown, blue and black. The 1s 6d stamp shows the clasped hands and laurel wreath symbol of International Co-operation Year and will be printed in three colours, red, green and black. In each stamp the Dorothy Wilding photograph of the Queen is depicted, with the legend '20th Anniversary United Nations' for the 3d stamp and 'United Nations 1945-1965' for the 1s 6d stamp. The stamps will be photogravure printed by Harrison and Sons Ltd and will be issued both with and without phosphor lines.

The Postmaster General had the assistance of the same Advisory Committee which recommended the designs for the Post Office Tower stamps.

Jeffrey Matthews, the designer of both stamps, is married and has two children. He has previously submitted stamp designs but this is his first success. He studied interior decoration at the Brixton School of Building and in 1952, after three years working in a studio, he became a freelance designer.

His work covers a wide variety of subjects and he specializes in packaging and lettering.

There will be no specially designed GPO first day covers or presentation packs for the United Nations stamps.

The usual philatelic posting boxes will, however, be available at the offices shown below for customers who wish to prepare and post their own first day covers.

Trafalgar Square B.O., WC2
London S.W.D.O.

London E.C.D.O. (Chief Office)

Aberdeen	Leicester
Aberystwyth	Lincoln
Belfast	Liverpool
Birmingham	Llandudno
Blackpool	Londonderry
Bournemouth	Maidstone
Bradford	Manchester
Brighton	Middlesbrough
Bristol	Newcastle-upon-Tyne
Cambridge	Newport, Mon
Cardiff	Northampton
Chelmsford	Norwich
Chester	Nottingham
Colwyn Bay	Oxford
Croydon	Peterborough
Derby	Plymouth
Douglas, IoM	Portsmouth
Dundee	Preston
Edinburgh	Reading
Exeter	Romford
Glasgow	Sheffield
Gloucester	Shrewsbury
Guernsey	Southend-on-Sea
Harrow	Stockport
Harrogate	Stockton-on-Tees
Hastings	Stoke-on-Trent
Hull	Swansea
Ipswich	Swindon
Jersey	Taunton
Kingston-on-Thames	York
Leeds	



20th ANNIVERSARY UNITED NATIONS

3d



UNITED NATIONS 1945-1965

1'6

quoting 'Nativity' or 'Snowflakes'.

Although the illustrations shown do not do justice to the colouring of the actual forms, we thought our readers would be interested in an advance view of the designs.

The Air Letter form was introduced in Britain in 1942 to replace airgraphs for the Forces. It was extended to civilian use two years later and has been since copied by nearly every other country. In 1947/48, the first full year for which separate

figures are available, 33.7 million Air Letter forms were issued to Post Offices. Since then sales have continued to grow and during the last financial year, just over 70 million were issued, so that sales have doubled in 17 years.

In addition, many private firms print their own Air Letters under licence from the Postmaster General and we estimate that about 10 million of these are posted every year.



DART, 1947/48

RECEIVER'S NAME AND ADDRESS

AN AIR LETTER SHOULD
NOT CONTAIN ANY ENCLOSURE,
IF IT DOES IT WILL BE SURCHARGED,
OR SENT BY ORDINARY MAIL.

POSTAGE BY AIR LETTER

BY AIRMAIL
AIR LETTER
PAR AVION
AÉROGRAMME

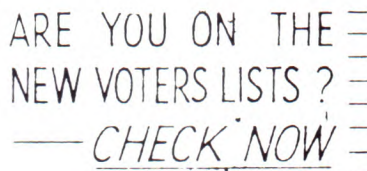


DO OPEN WITH CARE

297 obliterations engraved 'Post Early for Christmas' will be used during the period 9th December to 19th December 1965. The offices using the slogan include London Western District Office, Canterbury, Birmingham, Richmond, Manchester, Londonderry, Edinburgh, Bristol and Cardiff.



150 obliterations engraved 'Are You on the New Voters' Lists? - check now', will be used during the period 28th November to 8th December 1965. The offices include Edinburgh, Londonderry, Chelsea, Epsom, Maidstone, Nottingham, York, Stockport, Southampton and Hereford.



The slogan 'Park in comfort - Shop in Ripon - Shop in comfort' in use at Ripon since 12th July will continue in use until 6th November 1965.

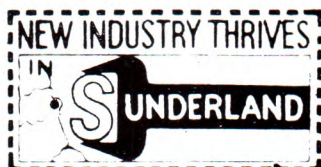


The slogan 'Roker & Seaburn – Sunderland's twin resorts' will continue in use at Sunderland until 30th September. It will be replaced on 1st October with the slogan. . .

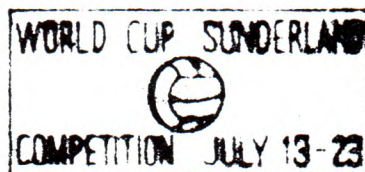
ROKER & SEABURN



'New industry thrives in Sunderland' which will be used until 31st December 1965.



On 1st January 1966 a new slogan 'World Cup Sunderland Competition July 13-23', will come into use and run until 31st July 1966.



With the increasing popularity of the *Bulletin* a number of our new subscribers will not have seen the remarks on this subject we printed in an earlier issue. Our longer established readers will pardon us for reprinting them.

We try wherever possible to meet our customers' requirements. Sometimes, however, we have to disappoint them for reasons beyond our control. If the following points are borne in mind when ordering it will help us to achieve speed and efficiency in dealing with orders.

(a) Please send the correct remittance to cover stamp orders, including the requisite handling charge of 6d for orders under 10s, and 2s 6d for those 10s and over. When ordering more than one issue in advance, a handling fee for each issue should be enclosed. Stamped addressed reply envelopes need not be sent.

(b) In view of the number of commemorative stamps being issued customers are asked to ensure that sufficient remittance is sent to cover standing order requirements.

(c) There seems to be some confusion among our overseas customers concerning the value of International Reply Coupons. These coupons, whatever their purchase price, are exchangeable for the cost of return postage for a minimum weight letter sent by surface mail, which in the UK is 6d.

The special handstamp for the Eyam Plague as announced in *Bulletin* volume 2 No. 6 was used a further week, from 5th to 11th September.



Bulletin Volume II

Our stocks of some of the Volume 2 issues are virtually exhausted and we are sorry to say that we are unable to meet orders for back numbers.

We mentioned in our last issue that presentation packs of the Post Office Tower stamps are on sale at the Bureau and at certain offices. While the demand for these very attractive packs is large there may be some of our readers who have not realized just how convenient and tasteful our packs of commemorative stamps are and what ideal presents they make.

Presentation packs contain the set of stamps, details of the artists, the printing processes and a brief summary of the event commemorated.

We confidently recommend them to any who have not so far bought them and are sure that no one will be disappointed with them.

Packs containing the following commemorative stamps are still available from the Bureau: Sir Winston Churchill 2s 6d, 700th anniversary of Simon de Montfort's Parliament 4s, Battle of Britain 5s, Post Office Tower 2s 6d each, plus of course, the normal handling charge of 6d for orders under 10s and 2s 6d for orders of 10s and over.

Due to the processes used in the manufacture of these books containing a se-tenant pane of two 3d and two 1d stamps, half of the books have the 1d stamps on the left of the pane and the other half have the 1d stamp on the right. We receive the books in packets of ten and as each packet does not contain all of the same type we regret that we cannot supply to order particular types of the books.

Commemorative Stamps available from Philatelic Bureau

Sir Winston Churchill	4d, 1s 3d
700th anniversary of Simon de Montfort's Parliament	6d, 2s 6d
Salvation Army centenary	3d, 1s 6d
Joseph Lister centenary	4d, 1s
Commonwealth Arts Festival	6d, 1s 6d
25th anniversary of the Battle of Britain	4d, 9d, 1s 3d
Post Office Tower	3d, 1s 3d

NOTE: All stamps are available with or without phosphor lines **except** the Simon de Montfort's Parliament 2s 6d, which is *not* available with phosphor lines.

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 watermarks.

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.
