

Philatelic Bulletin

Volume 14 Number 10 June 1977



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Editorial

There is little doubt that in the last ten years or so the number of GB collectors has grown both at home and overseas and this surge is reflected in the many letters we receive from the forty or so countries to which we send the Bulletin. We thought it to be worthwhile therefore to invite the views of some of our overseas friends on the

subject of British stamps. In this month's Bulletin we publish the first in the series — by a Frenchman — and will follow with articles from Holland, America, Germany and Italy. We may then round off this fascinating experiment with the more insular thoughts of an Englishman!

When welcoming Peter Shrives to his new post as Design Adviser in our March issue we said he was responsible for the design of the first presentation pack — that for the Shakespeare issue of 1964. We have been reminded that as early as 1960 certain stamps were sold in packs (which in those days were basically window envelopes) at the British Exhibition in New York.

RN Commemorative Cover

A further commemorative cover in the Royal Naval Air Service series was issued on 27 May 1977 for the Anniversary of the Sinking of the German battleship, 'Bismarck' in 1942.

The covers are signed by serving officers of the action. Prices: double signed £1.62; single signed 82p; and unsigned 35p. Orders accompanied by a stamped addressed envelope, should be sent to:

Cmdr P F Cole DSC RN (ret'd)

RN Philatelic Officer

RNAS

Yeovilton, YEOVIL,

Somerset BA22 8HX

Cheques and postal orders should be made payable to 'Fleet Air Arm Museum'.

New Handling Charges

As a consequence of the new postage and registration rates the Philatelic Bureau handling charges will be amended as follows from 13 June 1977.

United Kingdom

Orders under £10

10p

Orders £10 and over

70p

Overseas — (Surface and European all-up)

Orders under £10

11½p

Orders £10 and over

71½p

Gems from the RM Phillips Collection

XLVII. One Penny Red: Plate 51 with Hand-Engraved Letters



Among the most interesting of all the perforated One Penny Red stamps are those printed from Plates 50 and 51 of Die 2. These two plates were produced as an experiment to test the efficiency of engraving the corner letters by hand instead of punching them in. All the letters are of course different from each other, and tend to be somewhat larger than normal.

The plates were made and engraved in 1856, being registered on 25 June. As the experiment was not considered satisfactory, the plates were

withdrawn and held in reserve, until brought out and used between 1861 and 1864.

Although it is estimated that some 450,000 sheets were printed from each of the two plates, unused blocks from either are rare. This corner plate number block of 12 from the two bottom rows of plate 51 is therefore most interesting and exceptional, and worthy of a place amongst the gems of the Reginald M Phillips collection.

A G RIGO DE RIGHI

British Special Stamps

31. Opening of Forth Road Bridge, 1964

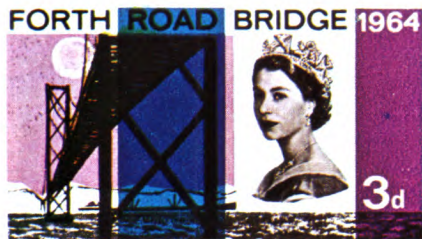
One look at a map — preferably a road map — of Scotland reveals the necessity for the Forth Road Bridge, which was opened by Her Majesty the Queen on 4 September 1964. On the same day collectors were able to buy the two special stamps issued for the occasion. They were designed by Andrew Restall, who used a little more than a half of each stamp to portray the might and magnificence of the new bridge.

The map shows the deep penetration of the Firth of Forth into the heart of Scotland (almost to Stirling), and the fortuitous narrowing of the estuary at Queensferry on the north bank and South Queensferry, the site selected some 80 years previously for the famous old railway bridge, eventually opened in 1890. The new bridge cost £20 million and at the time of its completion it was hailed as the largest suspension bridge in Europe with its main span of 3,300 feet, a distinction which (I believe) has passed to Turkey where the bridge over the Bosphorus has a span of 3,523 feet.

deck carrying the roadways, cycle tracks and footpaths.

The bridge's main features are the twin towers, each 512 feet high, and the two cables from which the deck is suspended, each 7,000 feet long and two feet in diameter, between the massive anchorages. The 3d stamp, drawn from water level close to the north bank, shows the distant tower of 'a skeletal bridge rising into the early morning sky with the moon hanging over the snow-capped Lothian Hills to the south'. A tanker passes under the main span, heading for Grangemouth, the busy Stirlingshire port about 15 miles upstream.

The 6d stamp depicts a 'close-cropped' version of the main span as seen from high on the south bank at an angle which includes both towers, cables and deck in a foreshortened perspective, which includes a distant view of the familiar outline of the railway bridge. The latter is a vast, solid creation of tubular steel, more than 5,000 feet in length and built at a cost of a



The success of Mr Restall's stamp designs stems entirely from his choice of unusual and boldly-conceived viewpoints. No attempt was made to show the bridge in its entirety. Making the best of the three colours allocated to each design, he produced two exciting perspectives, one emphasising the height, 150 feet above river level, and width, approximately 80 feet, of the

'mere' £3,500,000. Its construction involved the labour of 5,000 men for seven years, a gross weight of 51,000 tons of steel and 5 million rivets. Its deck, which carries the main north-eastern railway, is more than twice the height of the adjacent road bridge's deck — about 360 feet above high-water level.

Both stamps have black for the Queen's

'Wilding' portrait and the bridge, blue as the complementary colour and reddish violet (3d) or brown-red (6d) in bold vertical panels. Colour trials displayed by the Post Office at the time of issue showed the reversal of '1964' and '3d/6d', i.e. white on colour, to be a final-stage amendment for the sake of clarity.

Born at Headington, Oxfordshire, in 1931, John Andrew Restall, DA, LSIA, was educated at George Watson's College, Edinburgh, and studied drawing and painting at the Edinburgh College of Art. Since then he has worked as a designer in print, and in advertising, and it was perhaps a lucky omen that earlier in 1964 he won a competition for a painting of the Forth Road Bridge, sponsored by the *Daily Mail* in conjunction with the Arts Council of Scotland. Later he became senior lecturer in advertising design at the Coventry College of Art, and in 1965 he was awarded the Post Office-sponsored Fellowship in Minuscule Art at the Royal College of Art, which occupied him for two years

in exploring new design techniques for postage stamps.

His subsequent designs have included the 9d 'Battle of Britain' stamp (1965), the ITU Centenary stamps (1965), the 1s 3d and 1s 6d 'British Technology' issues (1966), another bridge (9d Aberfeldy) in the 'British Bridges' series of 1968, and the British Commonwealth Games' stamps of 1970.

The stamps were photogravure-printed by Harrison & Sons in sheets of 120 (6×20) on ordinary and phosphor-banded paper, watermark 'multiple crowns'. The 3d is known imperforate between the stamp and the top margin (ord. paper), and with a conspicuous dot adjacent to the '3' of '3d' (ord. and phos. paper). And if you find the 6d with 'light blue omitted', you'll be 'laughing all the way to the bank'!

Quantities sold (phosphor in brackets) were: 3d 108,098,480 (8,020,920); 6d 12,055,960 (1,240,800). Presentation packs: 10,453.

JAMES WATSON

Professor Howard Robinson

Professor Howard Robinson, author of the standard work, *THE BRITISH POST OFFICE*, passed away in January of this year at the age of 91. His book, published in 1948, is held in very high esteem throughout the Post Office as well as by the advanced students of British postal history.

Howard Robinson was an American professor of history and taught English history at several universities in America. He was at Oxford during the 1930s and contributed much to Anglo-American understanding.

During the period of research of his book, he spent a considerable time in Post Office Records where he soon established friendships with the staff and frequent visitors to that department. He was passionately interested in British traditions and this too brought him many friends in our country.



A Frenchman Looks at British Stamps: Reverie on an old album of 'GB'

Between British postage stamps and myself there have grown up effective links which go back to adolescence. First of all, because of their early beginnings, '1840' and 'Rowland Hill', they were the first. A fabulous background hallowed with prestige, the effigy of Queen Victoria, paled a little by time, disfigured a little by cancellations which aroused visions of 'Round the World in 80 days'. The small signs in the corners, at the bottom (sometimes I found my own initials there) and the minute plate numbers that could only be detected with the aid of a magnifying glass, all added to the pleasure.

To tell the truth, I have never held a penny black in my hands, but I particularly, allowed my imagination to run away with me armed with illustrated catalogues or at international exhibitions, where I came face to face with the two-penny blue in blocks of 12, and even, of 38; one block had a snip in it at an angle as if the 'King' with his scissors had cut off one or two of these family miniatures to give — as a present — to a young prince-philatelist. I never had this chance. My first album was presented to me by an uncle, an officer whose regiment was stationed in Africa. He had a kind face and a well-trimmed beard, rather like King George V, and his name was George.

Other reigns followed. The photographs of the young princesses, Elizabeth and Margaret smiled as in fairy stories from the covers of the magazines. Then the bombs extinguished the lights of the Christmas candles and it was for you, and for us, years of tears. You were fully justified in showing in the 1965 'Battle of Britain' set, how the Spitfires and Hurricanes defended the skies of London. There is in my collection a small envelope which came from your country in 1945; it was cancelled with a peal of bells which exulted, and the 'V' for victory sign. I am very attached to this item, although it is not a rarity.

But, let us come back to the history of your postage stamps. For many years they showed no other illustration than that of the reigning monarch. The paper revealed in its transparency, water-marks such as a 'rose', a marine anchor,

or a garter, and the royal effigy surrounded itself with complex ornaments in the taste of the period.

Setting out these vignettes an album page savoured more of numismatism than of philately; the original shades of colours were not sufficient to break a certain monotony, but they were safe values. For a long time your Postmaster General resisted the inflationary trend. Your 'One Pound' and 'Five Pounds' with their arched and proud sterling sign and banknote style were at the dawn of an irresistible upwards rise which has put them at inaccessible levels in the catalogues. When the first commemorative was produced it was like a small revolution and each stamp that followed was hailed as an exceptional event. When Elizabeth II ascended the throne the British Posts had not even attained their 100th stamp after more than a century. Since then, you have clearly reversed this policy of moderation, one for which you are envied by many French collectors.

The presence of your sovereign on each of your postage stamps takes me into a world of fantasy. I would not be surprised to see the Queen of England looking over the shoulder of Winston Churchill; peering into the future; meditating upon the Battle of Hastings; or returning the salute of a mounted Roman Centurion at York at the beginning of the Christian era. It is not normal for a Queen to be associated in retrospect with the important dates of national history and to appear in the company of the heroes of her country, Shakespeare or Robert Burns, Hudson or Walter Scott? Of course, all the illustrious figures who rise in her postal wake are not all necessarily British. I am thinking of Tutenkhamun, the 'Three Kings' and the Angels with their musical instruments, but it is never wrong to make friends in this world.

It gives me pleasure to contemplate the Queen of Great Britain surrounded by water-lilies, dog-roses, anemones, convolvulus, tits and gulls, in exotic chorographic settings; or by worthy footballers. To gaze upon the Cairngorms, the Bridge at Aberfeldy, a picture of the Madonna by Murillo, or a landscape by Constable; to escape

aboard Elizabethan galleons, or to go on a cruise on the Mauretania, the first holder of the Blue Riband in 1907; to fly in the Concorde; to be involved in all sorts of memorable events such as Captain Cook's first voyage of discovery or the first use of antiseptics in surgery by Lister.

Up to 1966 the designers skilfully positioned the Queen's effigy in a variety of 'frames', black or white squares, simple or laureated medallions, vertical inscriptions etc. This caused problems. In 1963 when a stamp was issued to commemorate the laying of the Canada-Australia marine cable it was necessary to lengthen the format to enable the Queen to look at the globe across the waves of the Pacific Ocean. In fact, the Queen, in three-quarters profile, was not looking at the ocean but at the millions of users who stuck this royal effigy on their letters.

Since then the royal effigy has become a profile, more and more discreet. It appears mostly in the top right-hand corner of the stamp, facing left. More rarely it is on the left and its gaze is fixed in the opposite direction. In two stamps of a painting set of 1968 it was even right at the bottom; but these changes are certainly only made necessary for aesthetic considerations: nothing authorizes one to think that they are brought about by internal political considerations.

From all of the above, the reader would be wrong to conclude that the author's love of postage stamps has developed in him a leaning towards anglomania, or an immoderate admiration for the constitutional monarchy. I am quite French and very republican, but since we are talking about philately let us be fair and recognise the profound liberalism of the British Crown.

In the world there are 'kings' and even 'presidents' who would never agree to squeeze themselves up to enable an oak or a chestnut tree to spread green foliage all over a stamp. I do not know of any Heads of State who would tolerate promiscuity with a 'Snowman' or a steam fire-engine of 1830. I am not sure that the late General de Gaulle, would have allowed the massive reproduction of his profile above the

amusing silhouette of a man playing at bowls, which, with us, is as popular as cricket is with you.

I must finally, make a confession. At the age of 17 I began a collection of English stamps which included a superb specimen of an unhinged new green and red one shilling Edward VII, and then I had to sell it one day when I was very hard up. Having written this article I now feel like starting all over again from the very beginning.

ROBERT HARRBURGER

Silver Jubilee Coins

A unique memento of the Queen's Silver Jubilee — crown coins specially produced by the Royal Mint — are available at all main post offices.

The cupro-nickel crowns are 1½ inches in diameter and weigh about 1 oz, have a face value of 25p and will be legal tender. They will be issued at post office counters on request — either in exchange for cash or included in change for other transactions. They will be available for three to four months and possibly longer, depending on demand.

One side of the new crown bears an effigy of the Queen on horseback during a Trooping of the Colour ceremony. On the other side the historic Coronation regalia is depicted — including the crown, eagle, and ampulla which contains the anointing oil used during the ceremony, together with the anointing spoon. They are surrounded by a floral border.

New Silver Jubilee Stamp

Following the recently announced increase in postal rates a 9p Silver Jubilee stamp will be issued on 15th June 1977. The additional stamp has been produced to ensure that a Jubilee stamp at the first class inland letter rate is available throughout the period of the Queen's Silver Jubilee Tour of the United Kingdom.

The stamp is of the same design, format and produced by the same printing process as the 8½p except for value and colours. The 9p Jubilee stamp colours are: pale lavender, grey, black, maroon, silver.

Victorian Business Stationery

We are indebted to Mr Matthew Trinder of Wheatley, Oxford, for sending us a fine example of early privately produced business stationery, advertising the services of a removal, storage and warehouse company.

The front of the cover illustrates what might

well be a forerunner of the present day container system.

The circular date stamp and oval obliterator (No 6) was first used at Churston Street SO in 1874.

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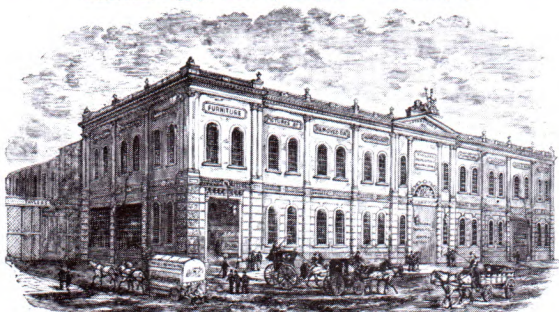


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*About One Acre of good
Chilgrange to Let close to the
Palace—Light and Dry.*

Memorandum August 23rd 1898

Charles Jones Esq^r

Sir,

I am in receipt of your favour dated August 20th enclosing the delivery order signed by Mr. Virgihart, and I return herewith that Lady's letter which was left by you.

Yours obed^{tly}
Walter Taylor
Per 24

Stamps for Pleasure 5. Stamp Booklets

The Post Office calls them 'books' — collectors and catalogue editors, 'booklets'. Fortunately we all know that what is meant are the handy-sized booklets (or little books!) containing a convenient number of postage stamps equivalent to contemporary postage rates, and supplied, would you believe, at no extra charge! With few exceptions, a stamp booklet has always cost the sum total of the face value of the stamps within it. In fact, the only exceptions I can trace are the first editions of the first Post Office booklets, introduced during the reign of King Edward VII from March 1904, when an additional $\frac{1}{2}d$ was charged for the booklet itself.

Booklet style and format have varied little throughout the reigns. The first booklets bore the Post Office cypher and details of the contents on the front cover as, invariably, they do today, and while at first the booklets were wire-stapled, thread-stitched is the usual method of binding. Again the first booklets were 'Post Office' red in colour, and it wasn't until 1916 that covers were printed in other colours — orange, blue, green and the inevitable buff.

Booklets are made up from specially printed sheets which, when sub-divided and guillotined, provide several small 'panes' (or leaves) for making up into booklet form. For convenience, the rows of stamps may contain two or more different face values and may also be arranged in a complex pattern of *se-tenant* (different values side by side) or *tête-bêche* — rows inverted in relation to adjoining rows.

From the earliest days, the Post Office was well aware of the revenue potential of advertisements in stamp booklets — on the covers and within their pages. The fourth Edward VII issue (1908) contained Post Office notices printed on the interleaves, while the fifth and sixth (1909) introduced trade advertisements by Chas. Baker & Co. and Brimsdown Lamps respectively. These were all 2s booklets, and trade adverts appeared on the front cover in 1917, among them one for 'Harmer, Rooke & Co.'s Stamp Auctions'. The introduction of 3s and 3s 6d booklets during George V's reign brought more permutations of advertisements —

Keith Prowse, Bourneville Cocoa and 'Watson's Matchless Cleanser Soap' on the cover are examples — while the series of 2s booklets which started in 1924 included for the first time trade advertisements on the stamp-size 'make-up' labels within the panes. These were discontinued in 1973.

Special larger-than-normal size booklets were issued for the Silver Jubilee of George V in May 1935, 2s and 3s types, while there were 2s, 3s and 5s booklets containing Edward VIII stamps in 1936. Two different types of Silver Jubilee stamps were used in the booklets, besides that used for sheet stamps, and these may be distinguished by variations in shading and in the thickness of the frame-lines in Barnett Freedman's design. Edward VIII's reign was also noteworthy for the introduction of (6d) booklets sold in slot-machines outside the main London post offices.

Dated booklets, showing the month of issue instead of a serial number, appeared in 1943, and gradually came to be issued and dated for each consecutive month of the year or for alternate months, according to demand. When graphite-lined and phosphor-banded stamps were introduced, 1957-60, these were also included in booklets as well as the plain definitives. Booklets with the now familiar pictorial covers were introduced in March 1968 (10s 'Livingstone'), and the appetising 'Stamps for Cooks' £1 booklet containing a dozen recipes (1.12.69) was followed by the lavish £1 'Story of Wedgwood' booklet (24.5.72), now a scarce collector's item. Contemporary booklets include the 'Swedish types' in which the pane of stamps is affixed by the selvedge inside the cover and folded over.

Some booklets have short lives as postal rates increase and the combinations of stamps have to be revised to make up suitable booklets. Indeed the 10p letter and the regular £1 stamp booklet seem inevitable!

Collecting booklets is a fascinating sideline. Start with one of those narrow chocolate boxes and store your booklets in small transparent envelopes, then graduate to a booklet album. For display purposes some collectors 'explode' their

booklets, unstitching them and mounting cover and individual stamp panes in blank looseleaf albums. Many of the earlier booklets are hard to find and have enhanced values: one could start with the current range and 'take it from there'. All booklets of the present reign are listed in the Gibbons' *Elizabethan Catalogue*, while the entire range of GB booklets is recorded in great detail in the Gibbons' *Great Britain Specialised Catalogue*, Volumes 2, 3 and 4. JAMES WATSON

Silver Jubilee Review of the Fleet by H M The Queen

To mark the 25th Anniversary of Her Majesty's accession a Fleet Review will be held on 28 June 1977 at Spithead, Portsmouth. Approximately one hundred and sixty warships from British, Commonwealth and Foreign Navies, together with vessels from the Merchant Navy and other organisations, will be reviewed by the Queen aboard the Royal Yacht Britannia. To celebrate this historic event, the Royal Navy will issue a commemorative philatelic cover.

The cover will depict three flags: the Royal Standard, the flag of the Lord High Admiral and the White Ensign, alongside a Royal Navy crest, with the word 'Spithead' on the name plate and the date, 28 June 1977, on the scroll. The crest will contain the words — Silver Jubilee Review of the Fleet by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

The covers will bear the 10p Silver Jubilee postage stamp and cancelled with a special handstamp. The handstamp will use the Royal Cypher as its central motif and has been allocated the number British Forces Postal Service 5277, representing the period of Her Majesty's reign 1952-1977. The covers will be handstamped in Portsmouth at the Fleet Review Mail Office and will contain an insert which on one side carries details of all the fleet reviews held since the reign of Edward III and on the reverse an anchorage chart of all the major ships in the review.

Fully serviced covers at 40p each (return

postage paid), can be ordered from the Philatelic Officer, Jubilee Review Staff, HM Naval Base, Portsmouth PO1 3LT, and will be despatched under plain cover on the first posting after 28 June 1977. The closing date for orders will be 21 June 1977.

Remittances made by bank cheque, giro cheque, postal order or money order should be crossed and made payable to the Philatelic Officer, Jubilee Review. Alternatively, giro transfers may be sent either via the National Giro Centre or direct to the Philatelic Officer, account number 21 072 4005, stating clearly in the message space the quantity required.

For overseas orders an additional 10p should be added, for every two covers, for the cost of return airmail postage.

Philatelic Societies

Railway Philatelic Group

The latest publication by the Railway Philatelic Group is entitled, 'An Introduction and Guide to the Travelling Post Office', written by A M Goodbody, it is intended as a guide and introduction to the TPO service. It describes those currently operating, how to obtain the postmarks, and complements parts 1 and 2 of the series on the 'History of the TPOs' by H S Wilson which have already been published. The contents include a map, four half tone illustrations and 21 illustrations in black and white. This most useful little book can be obtained from Publications Office: Mr A J Lowe, 'Stable Becks', Silver House, Grasmere, Ambleside, Cumbria LA22 9PX, price 75p.

British Royal Portraits Study Group

A new study group has been formed to cover research and exchange ideas on the subject of royal portraits as used on postage stamps.

Membership is invited from anyone able to contribute knowledge or wishing to receive information. Enquiries should be sent to: Mr L E Copeland, 20 Chapel Hay Lane, Churchdown, Gloucester GL3 2ET.

Postal Mechanisation Study Circle

A new philatelic society has been formed in Great Britain, called the Postal Mechanisation Study Circle, to study all aspects of automation in the Post Office but particularly those concerned with the automatic sorting and cancelling of mail. This modern postal history is most clearly seen in postcodes, phosphor dots and ancillary markings on envelopes which have been mechanically sorted. Details of the Study Circle are available from the Secretary, David Thompson, of The Old Vicarage, Little Milton, Oxford OX9 7QB.

Knutsford Philatelic Society

The Knutsford Philatelic Society is a newly formed society. Bulletin readers in the Knutsford and North Cheshire areas who may be interested in joining are asked to contact the Secretary, Mr T E Lusher, 6 Fox Grove, Knutsford, Cheshire WA16 8BD.

Welsh Philatelic Society

The Welsh Philatelic Society is this year, for the first time, holding a philatelic week-end from Friday 10 June to Sunday 12 June. The event will take place at the Snowdonia National Park Study Centre, Plas Tan y Bwlch, Maentwrog, Gwynedd, and will include, discussions, displays and lectures together with a competition, the subject of which is, 'Welsh Philately'. For further details please write to Mr Hugh Johnson, 2 Rosedale, Abberley, Worcester WR6 6BA, as soon as possible.

'Three-in-one Special Handstamps'

The 25th Anniversary of the International Joint Headquarters of Northern Army Group and Second Allied Tactical Air Force will be commemorated by the issue of a pictorial cover and the use of three special handstamps by the British Forces Postal Service, the Belgian Forces Post Office and the German Post Office on Thursday 23 June 1977.

The cover will portray the two crests of Northern Army Group (NORTHAG) and

Second Tactical Air Force (TWOATAF) with the flags of each nation surrounding the NATO star.

The commemorative cover is available from the Philatelic Office, HQ NORTHAG, BFPO 40, at 35p plus 6½p postage.

Royal Air Force Covers

RAF cover (HA 15) will commemorate the career of Major G H Scott, CBE AFC, who not only captained the R34 on its remarkable return flight across the Atlantic in 1919 but also directed the flying trials of those two famous rival airships, the R100 and the R101. Scott lost his life in the crash of the R101 in 1930. The cover depicts the R101 at Cardington and is to be issued with a special commemorative handstamp (BFPS 1566) which will mark the 60th Anniversary of Royal Air Force Cardington. The covers will be flown in a balloon from Cardington and should be available from the Project Officer, Squadron Leader F Gates, No 217 MU, Royal Air Force Cardington, Bedford MK42 0TH, on or about 29 June 1977 at 35p plus postage.

Another cover in this series, HA 16, is to commemorate the career of Group Captain Leonard Cheshire, VC DSC DFC, the war-time CO of 617 Squadron. He was awarded the VC for many acts of gallantry. After the war he founded the Cheshire Foundation Homes for the Sick. The cover will depict Cheshire's badly damaged Whitley returning after a successful raid on Cologne, for which he was awarded the DSC. It will be issued with a special commemorative handstamp (BFPS 1570) to mark the 40th Anniversary of RAF Linton-on-Ouse (Bomber Command) and will be flown over the route taken by the Whitley on the night of 12/13 November 1940. The covers will be available from the Project Officer: Wing Commander R P Langton, OC Admin Wing, Royal Air Force Linton-on-Ouse, York, YC6 2AJ, on or about 1 August 1977 at 35p plus postage.

A Royal Air Force Cover (C45) commemorating the introduction of the Hawker Siddeley Hawk into RAF Service is to be produced. It will depict the Hawk, along with

the Hunter and the Gnat it is to replace, and was flown from RAF Valley on 28 April. The covers will be available from the Project Officer: Flight Lieutenant R G Pike No 1 Squadron No 4 Flying Training School, Royal Air Force, Valley,

Holyhead, Gwynedd, on or about 15 June 1977 at 35p plus postage.

All the proceeds from these covers will be devoted to the Battle of Britain Museum Appeal Fund.

Stamp Books: Stamp Rolls: Stamped Stationery

There will be three new stamp books to meet the revised postage rates from 13 June — two counter books — 70p (10 × 7p) and 90p (10 × 9p) and a 50p machine book (3 × 9p: 3 × 7p: 2 × 1p). They will be on sale on 13 June from the Philatelic Bureau and from philatelic counters. From the same date the 70p and 90p books will also be on sale at all other Post Offices; and the 50p books from vending machines operating on a trial basis at London's Chief Post Office, King Edward Street, and at the Trafalgar Square, Queensway, Islington and Upper Holloway offices.

The 50p book containing a se-tenant pane of eight stamps — 3 × 9p: 3 × 7p: 2 × 1p — has two formats with the single phosphor bar on the 7p stamp positioned either to the left or the right hand side — the mirror image technique. In a packet of 25 books the two formats will be mixed in the ratio 12:13.

The content of the 10p book (1 × 6p: 3 × 1p: 2 × ½p) will not change but there will be a

variation in make-up; the six stamp se-tenant pane will be moved from a central cover position and stuck by its narrow margin to the open end of the book. This is to reduce the variation in book thickness over its length and to improve machine vending. These books which contain revised postal information will be available for sale from the Philatelic Bureau and from philatelic counters on 13 June.

There will be two new stamp rolls, designated XL and YL, containing 500 × 7p stamps (£35.00) and 500 × 9p stamps (£45.00) respectively. These will be for lengthways issue.

New ready stamped stationery will be introduced on 13 June. The new envelopes, registered envelopes, lettercards and postcards will be available on that day from the Philatelic Bureau and from philatelic counters.

Revised selling prices reflect increased stationery prices, increased postage rates and the new 60p registration fee. VAT inclusive these will be:-

Item	Size	Postage Rate	Selling Price	
			Single	Pkt of 10
Postcards		9p	10½p	£1.02
Lettercards		7p	9½p	90p
Lettercards		9p	11½p	£1.10
Envelopes Size 1	146mm × 95mm	7p	9½p	90p
Envelopes Size 1	146mm × 95mm	9p	11½p	£1.10
Envelopes Size 2	235mm × 120mm	7p	10p	95p
Envelopes Size 2	235mm × 120mm	9p	12p	£1.15
Registered Envs				
G	156mm × 95mm	9p	73p	£7.30
H	203mm × 120mm	9p	74p	£7.40
K	292mm × 152mm	9p	78p	£7.80

A new G2 registered envelope for use by forces personnel overseas will also be available but only from the Philatelic Bureau. It has a surface printed red 60p stamp.

Special Handstamps

Unless otherwise stated, items for reposting should bear $\frac{1}{2}p$ in excess of the normal postage and should be sent to the Head Postmaster of the town where the special posting box is located or the relevant District Postmaster in London, marking the outer cover 'Special Handstamp'.

4 April 1977-3 April 1978 (P)

Eden Court Inverness The Theatre of the Highlands. To be used at Inverness. Second Class.

4 April 1977-3 April 1978 (P)

Barnardo's Cares About Children Dr Barnardo's PO Box 82 Cardiff CF1 1TZ. To be used at Cardiff. First Class.

4 April 1977-3 April 1978 (P)

Barnardo's Cares About Children Dr Barnardo's Dept X 414 Antrim Road Belfast BT15 5BA. To be used at Belfast. First Class.

11 May-10 June 1977 (P/O)

St Martin-in-the-Fields 1952 The Queens Silver Jubilee 1977 London WC2. Special posting box at the porch of St Martins Church, St Martins Place London WC2N 4JJ.

11 May-25 July 1977 (O)

A Royal Jubilee Exhibition British Library London WC. Special posting box at the British Library British Museum, London WC1B 3DG.

11 May-10 June 1977 (P/R)

Croydon Celebrates The Queen's Silver Jubilee. Special posting box at the Foyer, Fairfield Halls, Croydon.

1-30 June 1977 (P)

Jubilee Exhibition North Devon. Special posting box at Post Office, Goodleigh, Barnstaple, Devon EX32 7LU.

14 June 1977 (P/R)

Provincial Mark Lodge Anniversary 1877-1977 14 June 1977 Monmouth Gwent. Special posting box at Monmouth SSO, Monmouth, Gwent NP5 3XA.

25 June 1977 (P/C)

Aldershot Army Display 25 June 77 British Forces 1584 Postal Services. Special posting box as for Exercise Makefast Handstamp of 11 May 1977.

4-16 July 1977 (P/R)

Silver Jubilee Pageant Guildford. Special posting box at Shalford Park, Guildford, Surrey.

26 May-31 October 1977 (C)

British Genius Exhibition Battersea London SW11. Special posting box at the Sales Area The British Genius Exhibition, Festival Gardens, Battersea Park, London SW11.

6 June 1977 (P/R)

Prudential Trophy The Oval England v Australia 6 June 1977 London SE11. Special posting box at The Oval Cricket Ground, London SE11.

8 June 1977 (P/R)

50th Anniversary 6000 King George V 8 June 1977 Hereford. Special posting box at Bulmers Railway Centre, Hereford HR4 0LG.

10 June 1977 (P/C)

Closure of Royal Air Force Andover 10 June 77 British Forces 1568 Postal Service. Special posting box as for Biggin Hill Air Fair 13 June 1977.

20 June 1977 (P/C)

HM Visit to Preston June 20th 77 Sigillum Comune Villae de Preston Lancashire. Special posting box at Preston BO, 41-43 Market Place, Preston PR1 1AB.

24 June 1977 (P/R)

Centenary Exhibition 24 June 1977 St John Ambulance London EC1. Special posting box at St John Ambulance Museum, St Johns Gate, Clerkenwell, London EC1M 4DA.

29 June 1977 (P/S)

St Peters School 1350th Anniversary 627-1977 29th June 1977 York. Special posting box at St Peters School, Clifton, York YO3 6AB.

Repeat Campaigns

RAF Benevolent Fund Repays the Debt we Owe 67 Portland Place London W1. To be reused at the following offices:

28 November-18 December 1977

London

Bromley and Beckenham, Croydon, Harrow and Wembley, Hounslow, Kingston-upon-Thames, Richmond and Twickenham, Romford and Dagenham, St Albans (2), EDO, ECDO, NDO, NWDO, Paddington, SEDO, SWDO, WCDO, WDO, Dartford, Southall.

Postmark Slogans

Unless otherwise stated, items for reposting bearing the appropriate postage rate should be forwarded to the Head Postmaster of the town where the slogan is to be used, marking the outer cover 'Postmark Slogan'.

6-18 June 1977 (P)

Aldershot Army Display The Greatest Free Show in the Country Last Friday Saturday and Sunday in June. To be used at Brighton

2 May-12 June 1977 (P)

Dover Castle Son Et Lumière Nightly May 12-September 24. To be used at Dover. First Class.

2 May-2 July 1977 (P)

The Queen's Silver Jubilee 1977 Review of the Fleet 28 June 1977 Portsmouth and Southsea. To be used at Portsmouth. First Class.

2 May-31 August 1977 (P)

The Queen's Silver Jubilee 1977 Portsmouth and Southsea. To be used at Portsmouth. Second Class.

23 May-16 July 1977

27 August-24 September 1977

1 October-31 December 1977

30 January-25 February 1978

Distress — Despair Telephone The Samaritans Aberystwyth 4535 in Con-

fidence Day or Night. To be used at Aberystwyth. Second Class.

9 May-11 June 1977

SNO Proms 77 Usher Hall Edinburgh 1 June-11 June. To be used at Edinburgh. First and Second Class.

9 May-2 July 1977

SNO Proms 77 Kelvin Hall Glasgow June 15th-July 2nd. To be used at Glasgow. First and Second Class.

13 June-30 July 1977

Ashville College 1877-1977. To be used at Harrogate. First and Second Class.

13 June 1977 until further notice

Star Attractions for '77 at Bridlington Secombe Yarwood Dodd. To be used at Bridlington. First and Second Class.

Repeat Campaigns

1-30 June 1977

28 November-31 December 1977

Take Up Tenovus. To be reused at Cardiff. First Class.

2-31 May 1977

28 November-31 December 1977

Tenovus Cares. To be reused at Cardiff. First Class.

9 May-2 July 1977

Oldham North Central Ring Shaw 44411. To be reused at Oldham. First and Second Class.

9 May-20 August 1977

Visit Southport Flower Show in August. To be reused at Preston. First Class.

Until 20 September 1977 (P)

Gt Yarmouth Wish You Were Here. To be continued at Great Yarmouth. First Class until 20 September. Second Class from 6 June until 18 September.

P denotes Pictorial

R denotes Rectangular

C denotes Circular

O denotes Oval

T denotes Triangular

Requests to reproduce articles and illustrations appearing in the *Bulletin* should be addressed to the Editor, Philatelic Bulletin, PMK 3, Postal Headquarters, St Martin's-le-Grand, LONDON EC1A 1HQ.

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