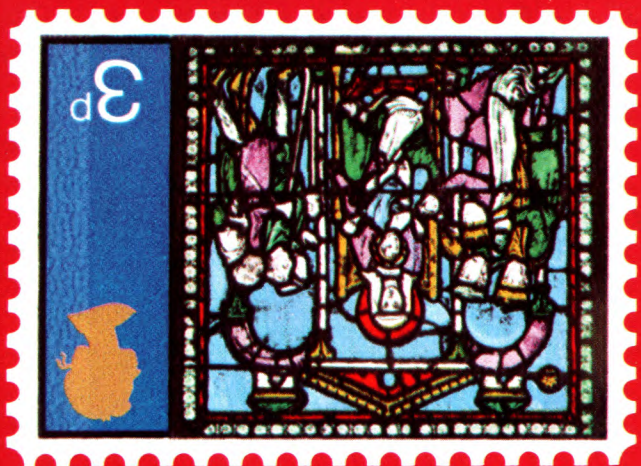


Philatelic Bulletin

Volume 9 Number 3 November 1971



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Introduction

Pride of place this month goes to a report on the recent three-day seminar at the University of Sussex philatelic unit. Many topics close to the heart of collectors were aired and only good can come from the discussions by so many experts. Professor West and his associates at Sussex are to be congratulated on a very successful event.

Christmas will soon be with us again and we have our usual Collector's Pack available as an ideal present. For those who are just

starting a collection we are offering a special package of an album, catalogue and the Collector's Pack at a very attractive discount price.

Newcomers to the hobby will find much to interest them in Tony de Righi's feature on "Stamps are just a beginning", and it is possible that some experienced collectors will learn something from it.

Special Christmas Offer

Each year thousands of people of all ages realise the enjoyment which can be gained from a stamp collection. As Marcus Arman, the National Postal Museum's first Curator once put it, "We take delight in arranging things which interest us in orderly sequence to increase their meaningfulness. Finding out the whys and wherefores enriches our experience of living, broadens our horizons and removes the occasions of boredom."

At this time of the year our thoughts are turned towards presents, either for our relations and friends, or for ourselves. To help all those who are starting the fascinating hobby of stamp collecting we are offering a special Christmas package.

The package contains the famous Netto Great Britain stamp album, an illustrated catalogue of British stamps and our 1971 Collector's Pack which contains six different sets of mint stamps.

The normal price of these items would be £3.27½ but we are offering the complete package for £2.80 post free. Those wishing to take advantage of this unique offer should order from the Philatelic Bureau as soon as possible.

York Philatelic Counter

The temporary philatelic sales counter at York closed on Saturday 16 October 1971.

Stamps are just a Beginning

The other morning a lady came into the museum to ask my advice about a small collection of postage stamps. She had started it, she explained, when she was a small girl, but when she left school she had lost interest and the album had lain neglected, at the back of a desk drawer for more years than my visitor cared to admit to.

I must have seen – we all must have seen – dozens of similar little “collections”. A printed album with one page (more or less) for each country, headed by a couple of illustrations. Below, a jumble of postage stamps, mostly well and truly used except for those lovely mint Liberias and Mozambiques which we so generously handed out by packet-makers in the 1930's. If some grown-up relative had lived or travelled abroad then the collection might include some mint and used sets from those countries; but usually the album housed not a collection but a haphazard accumulation of odd stamps from all over the world.

Even forty years ago the possible number of postage stamps for a world-wide or general collection was over 50,000; now we have in the National Postal Museum's “Berhe” collection over 250,000 issued stamps without taking account of varieties. Small wonder, therefore, that so many young people give up attempting to complete their collections; indeed give up stamp-collecting in their teens in favour of sport, or dancing or any one of a dozen competing interests.

Some of us, of course, have continued to be interested in postage stamps: if we hadn't there wouldn't today be perhaps one million keen collectors in Britain and some two to three million in the United States as well as the many millions in other countries from Chile to China. Only a small proportion of these who have persisted have continued as general collectors, like the old lady of some eighty years of age who until three years ago was still adding to the collection her mother started in 1865 and which the daughter had



Miss G. Dods worth
13 Rutland St
Kensington
S.W.

A modern example of the marking applied to a letter posted on board a ship and arriving “loose” at a British port.



The famous block of 43 mint 1d blacks which is part of the R. M. Phillips collection in the National Postal Museum.

taken as a young girl. It is perhaps sad that such collections have had their day but with 6000 or more new stamps being issued every year, even a long-lived millionaire has little real hope of successfully completing his collection.

Stamp collecting, like fretwork or model trains, used to be classed as a hobby. But that was at a time when a hobby was something one squeezed into such brief moments as were left after the more serious things like

work (both at school and for a living) or sport. Today, the position is already much altered and is continuing to change very fast indeed. In fact most responsible people are convinced that while young people will probably spend longer over their studies, adults will work shorter and shorter hours so that problems will arise of how best to use their leisure. As "hobbies" become "leisure occupations" their popularity will surely depend on the real scope they offer both to young people and to



A typical subject, in this a flower, on which to base a thematic collection.

adults.

Philately ranks in almost every respect as one of the most fascinating and worthwhile of leisure occupations, since its subject matter is intimately bound up with innumerable facets of human life.

When Mr. Reginald M. Phillips of Brighton persuaded the Post Office to found the National Postal Museum, he was particularly concerned to make available for all to see, the collection of historic documents and stamps which trace the story of the birth of the world's first adhesive postage stamp. The 1840 Penny Black and Rowland Hill's postal reforms which made necessary the invention of adhesive postage stamps, were the visible signs of a communications revolution which in due course has swept, not only Britain, but the whole world, from the parochial isolation of expensive coach-borne letters to aerial mails which link the peoples of the whole world at prices which all can afford. The development of commerce, religion, science

and education, and the growth and cohesion of new nations have all owed much to cheap and efficient postal communications. The early part of the R. M. Phillips Collection in The National Postal Museum records the British story which started it all – for those with historical turn of mind there is an unlimited field of serious study in assembling and studying the philatelic material which illustrates similar and subsequent developments both here and overseas.

Art and Technology are major human activities and philately is closely connected with both. For those with an interest in art, postage stamps – the design of which are all directly derived from drawings, paintings, engravings, woodblocks, and even electronic scribbles – can be collected to illustrate forms of industrial design, or artistic styles from Bushmen drawings to Picasso.

In the complex field of printing technology, postage stamps provide material for the study of virtually every method of reproduction,

from hand-set type to modern multi-colour printing. Many of these processes can be studied in the museum where the R. M. Phillips and Post Office collections together provide original material for detailed investigation of the whole process of stamp production. In the R. M. Phillips collection, for instance, there are original drawings proofs of completed and incomplete dies specimens of machine engraving, trial printings and a wealth of other material from 1837 to 1901; the Post Office collection has similar material from 1910 onwards including proofs of individual printing cylinders building up to a multi-coloured stamp. Other aspects of philately which are currently gaining great popularity are postal history and thematic (or topical) collections which have been two of the themes on which special exhibitions have been staged in the National Postal Museum; since 1969. In September 1970 "350 Years of Anglo-American Postal Relations" showed the immense part played by postal communications in linking the peoples of Britain and the United States in the fields of religion, commerce, shipping, aviation and literature. In March 1970 a display of "Ships on Stamps" approached philately from another angle, that of illustrating the design, development and use of ships and boats throughout the world by means of stamps. The range of subjects covered by stamp designs of the past few decades is now so vast that almost any theme from sport to space exploration can be illustrated philatelically.

Perhaps only a limited number of collectors study the purely philatelic aspects of postage stamps. The bringing together in one collection of all the possible variations on the theme of a stamp or an issue, the investigations of problems of printing, plating and so on; are challenges which many collectors take pleasure in meeting. For such collectors, particularly in the field of Great Britain, the kind of material and records available for study in the National Postal Museum is indispensable. The Reginald M. Phillips

collection contains innumerable unique pieces which provide the key to many problems of the issues of Queen Victoria; the Post Office collection and records (including those of the Royal Mint) cover every issue since 1901.

Stamp collecting, philately, call it what you will, is a hobby and a relaxation with the widest possible scope. It is as simple or as complex as you, the collector, care to make it; it can be a pastime or the occasion for absorbing study, it can be directly linked to almost any other human interest you can name.

The Museum's displays, its holiday seasons of film-shows and young people's lectures, all serve to illustrate the immense range of interests which can derive from postage stamps and for the non-collector show the important place which postal services have played in the everyday life of the community for over three hundred years.

Camp Postmarks of the United Kingdom

Collectors interested in covers and postcards bearing postmarks of service camps in the United Kingdom will find this extensive list very useful.

Mr R. A. Kingston, due to his interest in postal history and because of his contact with numerous army camps during his military service in the First World War, began to specialise in postmarks of army camps and their offshoots. He now has a most extensive collection of camp postmarks.

The author has compiled an exhaustive list, well illustrated in black and white, of the material in his collection and by the co-operation of other collectors has added their information to his own.

This book *Camp Postmarks of the United Kingdom* by R. A. Kingston is published by the Forces Postal History Society at a price of £1.00.

Wolverton The Link Between the Post Office, Railways and Printers

Mr George Bonnington of McCorquodale & Co. Ltd. who for 20 years has been the Manager of the Post Office works in charge of the production of Postal Stationery at Wolverton has been so kind as to write an article on the origins and developments of the firm.

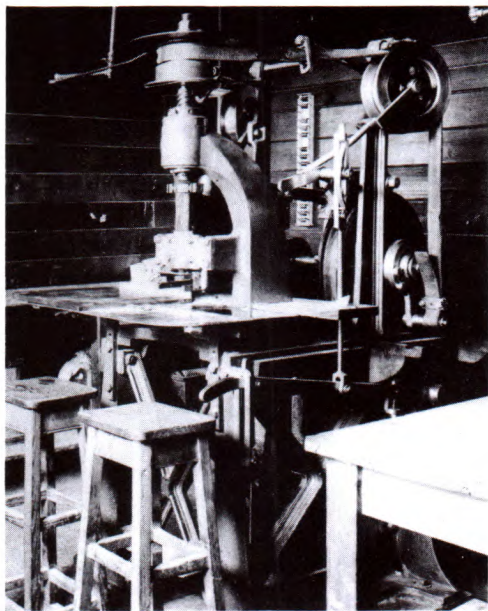
The firm of McCorquodales was founded by the late Mr George McCorquodale at Newton-le-Willows Lancashire in 1846. He was of Scottish descent, the family coming from Loch Awe in the Western Highlands.

During its early days at Newton-le-Willows, the firm concentrated on printing for the Railways which were then in their period of initial expansion. In order to deal with the volume of printing that was required, McCorquodale's opened further factories in London at Cardington Street near Euston Station, at "The Armoury" in St Thomas Street near London Bridge Station, and in Maxwell Street Glasgow for the Scottish Railway work. At one time, before the amalgamations of the railways had taken place, McCorquodales were printing for more than eighty Railway Companies.

In 1877 the chairman of the LNW Railway Co., Sir Richard Moon, expressed his desire to have a printing works at Wolverton to employ the daughters of the men in the railway works, where coaches were built for the LNW Railway.

With the introduction of Travelling Post Offices, Wolverton also played a major part, many were built there, including coach No. 40 which was the last of this type and was purchased in 1961 by the Railway Preservation Society for preservation and restoration. This Travelling Post Office was the last to be built by the old LNW Railway and formed part of a batch of vehicles which were 50 feet long. The construction of this TPO had commenced in 1908.

However these Railway Works were originally Locomotive works and in 1846 when the London Birmingham railway amalgamated with the Grand Junction and Manchester and Birmingham railway to



form the London and North Western Railway Company, it was decided to bring the various scattered carriage and wagon departments of the new company into one large works and Wolverton was chosen as the site for the new factory. The locomotive works were removed to Crewe and the Wolverton Carriage and Wagon Works were established in 1865, but the complete changeover did not take place until 1877.

This was a very significant year for Wolverton, because the firm of McCorquodale's had submitted in 1877 two essays for Registration Envelopes to the Postmaster General which were accepted by the Post Office. The contract was given to them to manufacture the first official Registration Envelope, a contract incidentally that has been held by McCorquodales for 94 years at the present moment.

Possibly this influenced their decision to accede to the request of Sir Richard Moon to establish a factory at Wolverton. It was opened in 1878 with approximately 20

employees.

The work carried out when the factory first opened was the manufacture of official Registered Envelopes for the GPO and for many years a Government Excise Officer controlled the security of this work.

Until 1880 the envelopes were sent to the stamping department at Somerset House to have the stamp embossed, however in this year the stamp was re-positioned on the flap of the envelope and a stamping machine (illustrated) was purchased from Somerset House and installed at Wolverton. From this date onwards the Registered Envelopes have been stamped at Wolverton. During recent years the embossed cameo stamp has however been incorporated in the manufacture of the envelope and is no longer a separate operation.

The colours of the stamp over the years have changed many times from Blue, Red-Brown, Grey-Green, Orange, Carmine, Puce-Brown and Grey etc, to the present new design stamp in Slate-Grey, the old Tudor Rose design which was introduced in 1953 and used until 1970 had to give way to the eight sided new stamp similar to the first embossed stamp of 1847.

In 1910 McCorquodales obtained a further contract for additional items of Post Office Stamped Stationery, and considerably enlarged their factory to accommodate the manufacture of these items, which included the lettercard and postcard, the latter celebrating its centenary in 1970.

The lettercard and postcard were printed on a Connell letterpress reel fed platen machine, it was rather sad to see these fine old machines destined to the scrapyard after serving so faithfully for almost 60 years. This was of course due to the change of printing method to Photogravure and the addition of Phosphor.

In 1923 contracts were secured for the production of Postal Orders and Old Age Pension forms together with the production of Widows and Orphans forms; the demand rapidly increased for Postal Orders and in

1937 approximately 350,000,000 were being printed per year.

During the war years that followed, the firm worked at full capacity to meet the requirements of the Post Office during which time additional items such as Air Letter forms were introduced; today Air Letters have been produced for over 50 countries throughout the world.

Mr Peter Jennings who is an authority on Air Letters has produced many articles on this subject and his *Air Letters by the Million* is recommended to everyone interested.

Collector's Pack 1971

An ideal gift for new collectors. The pack contains a whole year's commemorative stamp issues from Philympia 1970 to the Modern Universities Issue of 1971.

The pack will be issued on 29 September containing six sets of stamps issued in 1970/71 – Philympia, Christmas 1970, Ulster Paintings, Literary Anniversaries, General Anniversaries and Modern Universities.

The pack will be sold from all offices which normally sell packs at a price of £1.15.



British Post Box in Malawi

The Victorian pillar box illustrated was brought into Malawi by the British Central Africa Protectorate in 1891 when postal services were first introduced. At that time there were post offices at Chiromo, Blantyre and Zomba only. Three years later the service was extended to cover the whole country. The post box shown in the photograph is one of the two known in the country and is situated in the centre of Blantyre, the other has recently been moved to the new postal museum at Namitumbu, which has been built into the original postal runners' rest house, halfway between Blantyre and Zomba. Both these post boxes are still in regular use with daily collection services.

We are grateful to Mr A. Whittaker of Blantyre, Malawi for the loan of his photograph.



Philatelic Unit University of Sussex Inaugural Seminar

The inaugural seminar on "The Future of Philately" was held at Sussex University from 24 to 26 September and was attended by representatives of the University, the Post Office and the Crown Agents, stamp designers and printers, the philatelic trade and press and a cross-section of collectors.

At the opening dinner, Mr George Downes chairman of the Post Office Stamp Advisory Committee spoke of stamp design and the problems involved in choosing the subjects to be depicted on stamps. He paid tribute to British stamp designers and printers who have combined to improve the standard and described how the Post Office is continually searching for new ideas, improvements and technical know-how to achieve still better results.

The first speaker at the seminar itself was Stuart Rose the Post Office Design Advisor.

He pointed out the operational requirements of stamps and their suitability for use on mail which is increasingly subject to mechanisation. He admitted that his greatest interest was to synthesise these needs with the other elements which have a bearing on the matter.

He went on to talk of the likes and dislikes of the public and of the problems inherent in producing a tolerable graphic design for even the least promising subject and mentioned that the most difficult were generally those concerning political or international organisations.

Mr Rose illustrated the development of the GB definitive designs from the Wilding portrait series of 1952 to the current Machin designs and showed that the development of the design of present stamps is related to the progress in multi coloured printing and to the ever widening, experience of British stamp

designers.

Introducing this paper on the marketing of stamps, Mr Brian Crowther of the Post Office pointed out that the tendency for postal administrations to sell their stamps direct to collectors involved bringing to philatelic marketing a professional approach usually devoid of the personal involvement with stamps which was characteristic of the dealer.

It was remarkable that virtually no basic research had been done to find out why people collected stamps. Recent limited work commissioned by the Post Office pointed to a number of motives: the desire for things of value; the desire for completeness; the desire to hunt or chase; and the desire for control. These led to such satisfaction as pride of ownership and of having accomplished something unique and important which were apparent at any exhibition.

The stamps of a country such as Great Britain, where day to day postal operations were on a vast scale must always conform to operational needs. A decision to enter the philatelic market for profit implied the acceptance of certain other disciplines on the choice of subject or design. Here it was important to distinguish operational requirements from such conventions as a "need" for a full set of definitive stamps (apart from the values sold in booklets or rolls).

For a mass market an annual stamp programme should be moderately priced (in present terms at about £1.25 a year for special issues). Its subjects ought to have a distinctive British quality which also appealed to the important overseas markets in Europe, North America and elsewhere. The designs should be acceptable to the mass of collectors and should also have thematic appeal.

Looking to the future, it was likely that there would be a greater emphasis on the local approach to collectors and a greater effort by the Post Office to provide information to assist them on all aspects of the hobby. A healthy development was the growing co-

operation between the Post Office, the Crown Agents and the philatelic trade in promoting stamp collecting.

Mr John Hayball of the Crown Agents described their role as an intermediary serving some 50 postal administrations and provided a fascinating insight into the problems which they met in dealing with so many newly independent states who were beginning to understand the revenue potential of stamps.

Mr R. F. York of Harrisons presented a paper on the problems involved in the production of modern stamps and the likely developments in printing techniques which would affect the nature and quality of the stamps available to collectors in the future. In contrast to the sessions devoted to modern issues, Mr A. L. Michael of Stanley Gibbons dealt with the marketing of fine stamps. He took pains to distinguish between the speculator and the investor who sought by careful expenditure to build up a fine and valuable collection which reflected his personal tastes. He analysed the reasons for the fluctuations in popularity of certain stamps or countries and other factors in the market which raised problems in establishing stamp values.

Finally the future of the hobby was examined by Mr M. Clarke of the stamp Collecting Promotion Council, Mr Kenneth Chapman, the editor of *Stamp Collecting* and Mr G South the Secretary of RPS. Here it was agreed that postal history and thematic collections would be the major areas of growth, but Mr Chapman reminded the seminar of the brilliant study of the Machin definitives on display in the Philatelic Bureau Gallery (see *Bulletin* for October). This was ample proof that traditional philatelic studies could still be made of modern issues.

So the seminar ended with a general feeling that those who had taken part had gained from a unique opportunity to exchange ideas and agreement that there was scope for many more such occasions.

British Presentation Packs

We have had many requests for a list of presentation packs since numbering was introduced. We hope the list below is informative to our readers.

<i>Pack No.</i>	<i>Issued</i>
1 Paintings 1968	12 Aug
2 Collectors 1968	16 Sept
3 Gift 1968	16 Sept
4 Christmas 1968	25 Nov
5 British Ships	1969:
6 Concorde	15 Jan
7 High Value Definitives	3 Mar
8 Low Value Definitives	5 Mar
9 Anniversaries 1969	5 Mar
10 British Cathedrals	2 Apr
11 Prince of Wales	28 May
12 Collectors 1969	1 July
13 Post Office Technology	15 Sept
14 Christmas 1969	1 Oct
15 British Architecture 1970	26 Nov
16 General Anniversaries 1970	1970:
17 Literary Anniversaries	11 Feb
18 Decimal High Value Definitives	1 Apr
19 IXth British Commonwealth Games	3 June
20 Collectors 1970	17 June
21 Philypia, International Philatelic Exhibition	15 July
22 Christmas 1970	Sept
23 Regional, Scotland	18 Sept
24 Regional, Wales	25 Nov
25 Regional, N. Ireland	9 Dec
26 Low Value Decimal	9 Dec
26A Ulster '71 Paintings	1971:
27 Regional Decimal, Scotland	15 Feb
28 Regional Decimal, Wales	16 June
29 Regional Decimal, N. Ireland	7 July
30 Regional Decimal, Isle of Man	7 July
31 No Issue	7 July
32 Literary Anniversaries	28 July

32A General Anniversaries	25 Aug
33 Modern Universities	22 Sept
34 Collectors 1971	29 Sept
35 Christmas 1971	13 Oct
36 Postage Due Labels	3 Nov
37 Low Value Decimal	25 Nov
38 High Value Decimal	25 Nov

Royal Pioneer Corps and Corps of Royal Military Police

Both the Royal Pioneer Corps and the Corps of Royal Military Police celebrate their 25th Anniversary of the granting of the Distinction 'Royal' on 26 November and 28 November 1971 respectively.

Commemorative covers will be available for both events at a cost of 25p each from the respective Philatelic Officers at:-

- (a) Royal Pioneer Corps
521 Coy RPC
Craven Hill
Bicester
OXON
- (b) Royal Military Police Training Centre
Chichester
SUSSEX

25 Anniversary Inspectorate of Radio Services Royal Air Force

To commemorate its 25 Anniversary the Inspectorate of Radio Services, RAF will issue a souvenir cover on 30 November 1971.

Known colloquially as IRIS the Inspectorate provides an independent inspection of RAF signals and radio facilities at home and overseas for the Ministry of Defence (Air Force Department). Its tasks embrace in-flight assessment of the performance of communications provided for the control of aircraft, periodic 'user' checks of radio aids

to navigation, airfield approaches and air traffic control facilities, and inspections of the RAF ground and airborne radio servicing systems throughout the world.

The covers will depict the Argosy Aircraft, and will be stamped with the 9d Concorde stamp, and will be cancelled by a special British Forces Postal Service handstamp in use on the day.

Fully serviced covers will be available at a cost of 25p each from:-

The Philatelic Officer
CR and D 5
HQ 90(S) Gp
RAF Medmenham
Marlow
Bucks
FL7 2ED

National Army Museum Series Military Covers

Three further covers in this series are being prepared for issue during November, 1971.

14 November 1971

Group 3 No. 11 – Famous Generals – Lord Roberts.

17 November 1971

Group 4 No. 12 – Battle of Lucknow. This is the last cover in the group of Campaigns and Battles.

17 November 1971

Group 5 No. 8 – Indian Mutiny Medal. A one day exhibition of Medals will be held at the National Army Museum Chelsea.

Special pictorial British Forces Postal Service handstamps 1249, 1250 and 1251 respectively will be used.

Special Issue

A special cover (not included in the National Army Museum Series of 60 covers) will be issued on 11 November, 1971 to commemorate the official opening by Her Majesty the Queen of the National Army Museum, Chelsea. This cover will portray a Trophy of Arms and the special pictorial British Forces

Handstamp 1261 will be used to cancel the postage stamp.

Orders should be sent with remittance of 25p for each cover to:-

The Philatelic Officer
National Army Museum Appeal
Duke of Yorks Headquarters
Kings Road, London SW3

Overseas customers please add 5p for postage by surface mail or the 20z rate for airmail.

Christmas 1971 Air Letter

The air letter will be on sale between 13 October and 24 December and not as stated in the October *Bulletin*.

Special Handstamps

Reposting Facilities

Unless otherwise stated, items for reposting should be sent to the Head Postmaster of the town in which the special posting box is located, marking the outer cover "Special Handstamp."

26 November 1971

**Royal Pioneer Corps 25th Anniversary
26 November 1971. British Forces 1156**

Postal Service. Items for reposting to:-
The Philatelic Officer, Royal Pioneer Corps, 521 Coy RPC, St Davids Bks., London Road, Bicester, Oxon, OX6 05O.

30 November 1971

**25th Anniversary Inspectorate of
Radio Services 30 November 1971
British Forces 1174 Postal Service.**

Items for reposting to the Philatelic Officer, RAF, Medmenham, Marlow, Buckinghamshire.

Postmark Slogans

Reposting facilities

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

marking the outer cover "Postmark Slogan".

1 November – 30 November 1971

1946 New Town Stevenage 1971 25th Anniversary. To be used at Stevenage, Herts.

Londonderry Gateway to Industry will now be used in Londonderry from 12 September 1971 to 31 March 1972.

Repeat Campaigns

Portsmouth and Southsea Naval Port Premier Resort will continue in use at Portsmouth until 31 July 1972.

Portsmouth and Southsea. For the Holiday of a Lifetime will continue in use at Portsmouth and Cosham until 31 July 1972.

Dundee for Development will continue in use at Dundee until 31 July 1972.

Shrewsbury Historical Centre Brochure from Information Bureau, Shrewsbury, Salop will be in use at Shrewsbury until 28 November 1971.

Cambridge Information about Investments from City Treasurer in use at Cambridge until 28 December 1971.

Industry Prospers in Peterlee will continue in use at Peterlee until 31 August 1972.

A Happy Christmas. The Post Office will be used at over 550 offices.

1 November – 31 December 1971

1 May – 30 June 1972

The Church Army 90 Years of Service. To be used at Manchester, Leeds, Bristol, Exeter, Birmingham and three London District Offices – South Eastern, Paddington and East Central.

1 October 1971 – 19 February 1972

Civic Theatre Barnsley Aladdin this Christmas Season, Phone 6757. To be used at Barnsley, Yorks.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Mr Carpenter,

British stamps

With reference to your letter of the 6th

instant in the *Scotsman* of the 10th idem, I would certainly endorse all the points you made therein, as would also my correspondents in New Zealand, U.S.A. and the Netherlands, with whom I exchange stamps.

I would, however, mention that I have been a regular customer of your Philatelic Bureau since it opened in EDINBURGH, and I have found the counter-staff there most charming, obliging, efficient and at all times infinitely patient with callers. As a retired Bank Manager I have much experience with the public, and I have found them most demanding and difficult at times. No doubt you will agree with me on that point. You are therefore to be congratulated on your choice of counter-staff who are most able to cope with their public.

I trust you will not mind my writing to you on this theme, but I feel that, in business, complaints are usually quite numerous, while good work does not always receive notice, and so I send you and your Staff good wishes in your excellent work.

Yours sincerely,

JOHN T. ROBERTSON

Edinburgh.

(We are pleased to publish this tribute to our Bureau staff sent to the Director of the Post Office, Scotland-Editor).

Dear Sir,

Your topical feature to coincide with the recent Universal Esperanto Congress, London was a tonic for collectors of that material and appreciative thanks are recorded to the Editor and author for such timely publication.

Whilst recognising that the article was not intended to be comprehensive, it might assist any reader, who was thus introduced to the potential pursuit of the Esperanto theme, to know that more than 200 different machine or hand cancellations have been used since 1912.

Yours faithfully,

L. J. COLLARD

Weston-Super-Mare.

Dear Sir,

I read R. Down's letter in the August edition of this *Bulletin* with interest. Having studied Zoology at University and being a part time Naturalist as well as Philatelist I would warmly welcome an annual issue on Natural History.

Another thought which has occurred to me relates to some small books I acquired as a youngster, the I-Spy books. Could not a series of stamps be based on unusual sights around our countryside which, with a bit of effort, can be found. This could widen the scope of stamp collecting for the youngsters. Such a series could incorporate natural formations (minerals etc) Botanical and Zoological specimens and man made objects such as octagonal pillar boxes and green telephone kiosks.

Yours faithfully,

R. A. WRIGHT

Bexley, Kent.

Dear Sir,

The letter of R. Downs appearing in the August issue of the *Bulletin* struck responsive chords with my own thinking. As a foreigner – albeit one who has specialised in the stamps and postal history of Great Britain for 20 years – perhaps my views have an even greater objectivity than his.

I am one of those people who believe that the quality, character and simplicity of the earlier Victorian stamps gave them an unsurpassed beauty and distinction. Modern British stamps are more colourful and the design more modern, but I must agree with Mr Downs that the subjects chosen often make me wonder.

As he says, there are far more – and far more interesting – subjects to depict than the motorways. Subjects which may remind not only the British public but the world at large of the contributions to culture, welfare and enjoyment which Britain has made might be more appropriate than some of the subjects

chosen.

For my own part, I would like to see a series of stamps dedicated to the three best-known Englishmen on earth or, rather, I should say to their fictional creations which are so lifelike that they have assumed their own reality. I refer to Alice, to the Captain of HMS Pinafore and – above all – to Sherlock Holmes. From Tibet to Tasmania, from Spitzbergen to the South Pole, these are the Englishmen people know and cherish. I think it long overdue for their philatelic commemoration.

As a member of the Sherlock Holmes Society of London, I propose to suggest to that organisation that suitable application be made with a view to the design and production of a stamp in honour of the Master of Detection and his companions.

Please accept my thanks for your efforts in bringing us the *Bulletin* which is so superior in content and design.

Cordially yours,

ROBERT N. BRODIE

Forest Hills, New York.

Dear Sir,

My suggestion may not meet with approval in Great Britain or seem necessary in some of the Commonwealth Countries but I am concerned with the ever growing number of independent countries, large and small.

The younger generations throughout the world surely make up the largest proportion of stamp collectors and I feel that to a great many the presence of the profile of Queen Elizabeth alone has only little meaning in determining that the stamps are of Great Britain.

We, the older generations know well the reason for this but I feel that the time may well be at hand when consideration should be given to having the words "Great Britain" somewhere included in the stamp designs.

We should be ever aware of keeping that name of Great Britain before the world and

how better than by the greatest of mediums –
the postage stamp.

Yours truly,

R. G. CATTLIN

*Killara, New South Wales,
AUSTRALIA.*

Dear Sir,

After reading R. Downs letter in the August issue, I find myself in complete concurrence with the writer. One or two points more, why do we have to be typically British, by this I mean, drab and so “wishy-washy” and colourless, when I compare the British issues with those of the Commonwealth Islands. Also why do we have to always have rectangular stamps, can’t somebody design a stamp which is perhaps triangular, this I believe would be revolutionary in British Postal History. So come on let’s get “with it” and have a few very interesting issues.

Yours faithfully,

D. FORD

Gosport, Hants.

Dear Sir,

Thank you for Leslie Wood’s very good article on Esperanto.

One point, obviously implied, could perhaps be made fully explicit: that, while Esperanto is used with great success for many more significant cultural activities and for numerous personal and business relationships, it is also the ideal language for the philatelist and the Esperanto press often carries small advertisements from collectors all over the world. A great deal of friendly exchanging goes on; and many Esperantists who do not themselves collect stamps take the trouble to put philatelic stamps on their foreign correspondence, knowing that these are sure to give pleasure to someone. This, indeed, is why I buy most of my stamps from the Bureau!

Yours sincerely,

MARJORIE BOULTON

Burslam, Stoke-on-Trent.

Dear Sir,

I was most interested to see the concern expressed by one of your correspondents, R. Downs, on the present trend of special stamp issues in Britain today.

I am rather worried about the fact that year by year we have a “Programme” of issues commemorative and otherwise. The sheer regularity of it all can not only become a bit tedious to philatelists but rather discouraging to young collectors who are always trying to “catch up”. Furthermore doesn’t this regularity tend to obscure the really important events which anyway would quite spontaneously commend themselves. Frankly, I do hope that the Queen’s Silver Wedding next year will not only be as magnificently commemorated as George VIs but that the occasion will not just be lost as one more issue among a regular programme of other anniversaries etc.

Yours sincerely,

R. H. S. RANGLES

Lancaster.

Dear Sir,

Having only recently become aware of the existence of the *Philatelic Bulletin*, I am anxious to acquire back numbers not available from your bureau, and I write to ask if, by kindly publishing this letter, some subscriber may happily be able to supply my wants which are for the complete volumes Nos. 1 to 6 inclusive. If anyone able to help would write to me stating what they can offer, together with the price required, I will reply by return.

Your assistance in this matter will be most appreciated.

Yours truly,

E. W. ADAMS

*Flat P, Harbour Lights,
Mooragh Promenade,
RAMSEY,
Isle of Man.*

(Any reply to Mr Adams should be sent direct to his home address and NOT to the Editor).

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