

Philatelic Bulletin



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Contents

INTRODUCTION	2
SOME EARLY STAMP CANCELLING MACHINES	3
NEW STAMP ADVISORY COMMITTEE	4
REGIONAL AND DEFINITIVE STAMPS, POSTAGE DUE LABELS – FORTHCOMING CHANGES	5
POSTMARK SLOGANS	6
BRITISH BRIDGES – FIRST DAY COVER SERVICES	7
NATIONAL POSTAL MUSEUM NOTES	8
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR	11
WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE	13
POSTAL CODING	14
SPECIAL HANDSTAMPS	14
INTERPEX – SPECIAL PHILATELIC BULLETIN	14
NEW PRINTINGS OF OLD STYLE DEFINITIVE STAMPS	15
HELP US TO HELP YOU	15
CONDITIONS	15

Introduction

It may seem a little early to print background articles about stamps which are not due to be issued until 1st June but as there are four different events commemorated on that day it is necessary to start now to publish them in time. The first of the articles is on Women's Suffrage.

For the first of this year's special issues – the British Bridges – we are offering a choice of cancellations and details are given.

There are many changes in paper, gum etc. due this year and we are able to give the up-to-date list. We will publish further information as soon as it becomes available.

Some Early Stamp Cancelling Machines

We left our last instalment by speaking of 1895 when the bulk of machine stamping in the United Kingdom was still being done by Pearson-Hill machines and a few of the nearly defunct Höster machines.

In the following year questions in the House of Commons by Mr Henniker Heaton had the effect of accelerating negotiations between the Post Office and the Canadian Postal Supply Company concerning a new electric 'Bickerdike' machine. Once again trials were satisfactory but the price of the machines – £250 each – was considered too high and the trial machines removed from London. In 1898, however, two machines – the 'Boston' and the 'Bickerdike' were compared and as the latter was proved more efficient and the Company had reduced its terms sixteen of them were

purchased. During their lifetime they involved the Post Office in constantly increasing expenditure until in 1908 they were valued at 35s for scrap!

Long before this, in 1902 and 1903, a new improved form of the 'Hey Dolphin' was tested and although it was capable of stamping 500 letters a minute the percentage of misses was high and correspondence was liable to mutilation as it passed through the machine. The machines were removed and the Company's further offer in 1905 to provide yet another version was refused.

The fate of the 'Pearson-Hill', the 'Boston' and the 'Bickerdike' machines was finally sealed by the introduction of a machine of new design made by the Columbia Postal Supply Company of New York. The machine – which



'Columbia' Automatic Stamp Cancelling Machine.

was electrically driven – was capable of stamping up to 600 a minute and was able to accept letters faced separately by several men whereas the earlier machines had to be fed by one operator.

Twelve of the machines were purchased in 1902 and more were bought during the following years at about £100 each. This price included cylinders, type holders, triangular dies, name, 'Paid' date and time stamps, obliterations, inking pads etc. The use of these machines resulted in appreciable savings in time estimated at £100 per annum for each and the initial outlay was soon recovered in this way.

Development in the field of cancelling machines was continuous and it seems that every year another new or improved model was tried. It surprised no one when a Norwegian machine – the 'Knag' was submitted and after trials which showed it to be superior to the 'Columbia' a further twenty-one were purchased. An innovation of this machine was that it gave a 'continuous' impression.

For use in offices where electric power was not available a 'Knag' hand machine was introduced. The machines which were hand driven and capable of stamping 450 letters a minute were very successful and a considerable number were in use throughout the country.

The last machine we shall cover in this review of the early days is the 'Universal'. This was yet another American machine which gave a very clear, neat impression consisting of a circular date stamp and a series of wavy lines. The machine was made in two types, a fast and a slow. Both were put on trial in London offices and the 'fast' machine proved the better. There were some mechanical difficulties with the stacker at the outset but with the help of the Engineer in Chief these were overcome.

The Universal became the backbone of our machine strength. Over 1,600 are in use today compared with none in 1912, whereas Knag machines have increased only from 107 to 232 in the same period.

Surprisingly enough speed of cancelling has

not increased as much as might be expected – the current machines are able to cancel between 600 and 700 a minute and this is not significantly more than 50 years ago. The standard of impression is more accurate now and the number of misses is considerably less.

The Post Office keeps all aspects of development under very close watch and while the basic machine remains unaltered, various experiments are today being carried out to make improvement wherever possible.

New Stamp Advisory Committee

We were able to give the first news last month of the Postmaster General's new committee which he has set up to advise him on his stamp policy. The Committee will suggest artists to be invited to submit designs, the briefs to which they will work and the designs to be submitted for the Queen's approval.

The members of the Committee are drawn from a variety of backgrounds as the bibliographical notes show.

The 11 members are chairman Mr G. R. Downes, Director of the Operations and Overseas Department of the GPO; Mr Brian Batsford, Conservative MP for Ealing South; Mr Kenneth Chapman, editor of Stamp Collecting; Professor Richard Guyatt, Professor of Graphic Design at the Royal College of Art; Mr R. A. G. Lee, fellow and council member of the Royal Philatelic Society; Mr Anthony Lousada, vice-chairman of the council of the Royal College of Art; Mrs Louise Pearce, past organiser of the National Association of Women's Clubs; Sir Paul Reilly, Director of the Council of Industrial Design; Mr George Rogers, Labour MP for North Kensington; Mr Stuart Rose, F.S.I.A., Typographer and graphic designer, Typographic advisor to the Postmaster General since 1963, vice-chairman of the Board of Governors of the Central School of Art and Design; Mr Herbert Spencer, member of the Faculty of Royal Designers for Industry.

Regional and Definitive Stamps, Postage Due Labels – Forthcoming Changes

This year will bring many changes in the make-up of stamps due to differences in paper, gum etc. The issue dates of the new types depend on the date we sell out the current stocks and we cannot be exact in our forecasts.

The changes known so far are :

Regionals		<i>Changed to</i>	<i>1968</i>
Scotland	3d	Unwatermarked	June
Wales	4d	Unwatermarked	June
N. Ireland	3d	Unwatermarked PVA gum	September
	4d	Unwatermarked PVA gum	July
Jersey	3d	Unwatermarked PVA gum	October
	4d	Unwatermarked PVA gum	October
Guernsey	3d	Unwatermarked PVA gum	December
	4d	Unwatermarked PVA gum	May/June
Isle of Man	3d	B3 Phosphor	July
	3d	Unwatermarked PVA gum	December
	4d	Unwatermarked PVA gum	June/July

Definitives			
New Definitive	4d	PVA gum	22 January
New Definitive	3d	PVA gum	April/May
Old Definitive	2s 6d	Coated, watermarked	May
Old Definitive	2s 6d	Uncoated, unwatermarked	July
Old Definitive	5s	Uncoated, unwatermarked	April
Old Definitive	10s	Uncoated, unwatermarked	April

The $\frac{1}{2}d$, 1d, 2d, 5d, 6d, 7d, 8d and 10d New Definitives will all be issued with PVA gum only.

Rolls		
Z (1d)	New Definitive PVA	March
X (1d)	New Definitive PVA	April
T (2d)	New Definitive PVA	April
H (4d)	PVA	May
A (4d)	New Definitive PVA	June
J (6d)	New Definitive PVA	August

Postage Due Labels

2d	Coated, unwatermarked paper	April
4d	Coated, unwatermarked paper	May
6d	Coated, unwatermarked paper	October
3d	Coated, unwatermarked paper	November
1s	Coated, unwatermarked paper	December

Stocks of $\frac{1}{2}d$, 1d and 5d Postage Due, and of 2s 6d, 5s, 10s and £1 To Pay labels on watermarked paper are expected to last several years.

Postmark Slogans

The slogan 'Gwyl Llyfran Cymraeg. Sir Aberreifi. Marwth 1-9 1968' will be in use in the transposed position at Aberyswyth from 1-9 March.

The slogan 'The Premier Provincial Antiques Fair. April 23-April 27. Solihull Civic Hall' will be used in the standard position at Birmingham from 17 March-27 April.

The slogan 'Bognor Regis Key to Happy Holidays' will be re-used at Bognor Regis from 14 Feb.-13 Feb. 1969.

The slogan 'Society of Commercial Accountants Silver Jubilee Conference Bristol. 4 May 1968' will be used in the transposed position at Bristol from 22 April-4 May.

The slogan 'Scottish Opera Spring 1968. Glasgow King's May 3-18' will be used in the standard position at Glasgow from 10 March-18 May.

The slogan 'Racing at Lanark' will be used in the transposed position at Glasgow Head Office from 15 April-5 May.

The slogan 'Harlow the 21 Town 1947, 1968' will be used in the transposed position at Harlow from 1 March-9 April.

The slogan 'Harlow Motorists Week May 12-19' will be used in the transposed position at Harlow from 10 April-19 May.

The slogan 'Ilkley 26th May Great Britain v. Holland' will be used in the transposed position at Bradford Head Office from 22 April-25 May.

The slogan 'Isle of Man International T.T. Races' will be re-used at Douglas and Ramsey from 1 April-12 May.

The slogan 'Jersey for Sunny Summer Holidays' will be re-used at Jersey from 1 April-30 June.

The slogan '250th Anniversary. Thomas Chippendale. Cabinet Maker. Born at Otley 1718' will be in use in the transposed position at Leeds from 1 April-28 July.

The slogan 'Crime Cut - Liverpool' will be in use in the standard position at Liverpool from 24 Feb.-23 March.

The slogan 'Bollington Festival 31 May-9 June' will be in use in the transposed position at Macclesfield from 9 April-8 June.

The slogan 'Newark and Notts Show May 3 & 4' will be used in transposed position at Newark from 11 March-4 May.

The slogan 'Shropshire and West Midlands Great Show May 17th and 18th' will be in use in the transposed position at Shrewsbury from 7 March until further notice.

The slogan 'Southport Flower Show August 28, 29, 30' will be used in the transposed position at Southport from 8 April-7 April 1969.

The slogan 'Roker and Seaburn Sunderland's Twin Resorts' will be re-used at Sunderland from 1 April-31 July.

The slogan 'Torbay Devons Golden Playground' will be in use in the transposed position at Torquay from 7 Feb. until further notice.

The slogan 'Miles of Curving Golden Sand Whitley Bay, Northumberland' will be re-used at Whitley Bay from 1 Feb.-31 Jan. 1969.

The slogan 'York Races' will be re-used at York from 22 April-12 May.

The slogan 'International Order of Good Templars Centenary 1968' will be used in the standard position at Canterbury from 23 March-20 April.

'York Races' will be used in the transposed position at York from 23 May until 12 June.

From the provisional date of 19 Feb. the slogan 'Remember to use the postal code' will be replaced by the slogan 'Remember to use the postcode'. The offices using the slogan will remain unchanged.

'Beautiful Bournemouth For Sun Sea and Sands' will be re-used at Bournemouth from 1 May until further notice.

'Chichester Festival Theatre May 21 to Sep. 14' will be used in transposed position at Chichester from 23 April until further notice.

'Racing At Hamilton' will be used in the transposed position at Glasgow SDO from 6 May until 14 June.

'Play All Year Round In Harlow's Play Scheme' will be re-used at Harlow from 20 May until 19 June.

'Ilkley Park For Pleasure' will be re-introduced at Bradford from 26 May until 31 May.

'Isle of Man International Cycle Races' will be re-used at Douglas and Ramsey from 13 May until 9 June.

'Wallasey Festival of Sport 2 June-17 June 1968' will be re-used at Liverpool from 6 May-17 June.

'Listen to BBC Radio Stoke-on-Trent VHF 94.9' to be used in the standard position at Stoke-on-Trent from 4 March until 1 April.

'The New Bible Exhibition Town Hall Swindon Wilts 27 May-1 June' will be used in the standard position at Swindon from 6 May until 31 May.

'York Minster Fund' will be used in the transposed position at York from 4 March until 31 March.

The slogan 'Aberdeen Students Charities Campaign April 15-20 1968' will be in use at Aberdeen in the standard position from 18 March until 20 April.

The slogan 'Join One of Coleraine's New Life Bible Study Groups Now' will be in use at Coleraine in the transposed position from 8 March-4 April.

The slogan 'Do You know How to Dial an All-figure Telephone Number? If in doubt refer to Instructions' will be in use at Manchester from 12 March until further notice.

The slogan 'Fly the Prestwick Way - The World o'er' will be re-used at Prestwick from 1 April until 11 May.

The slogan 'Stop-over at Stirling-The Centre of Things' will be in use at Stirling in the transposed position from 13 March until 3 August.

British Bridges - First Day Cover Services

For the first of this year's special stamp issues on 29th April we are again offering several types of first day cover services. The stamps are *4d*, *9d*, *1s 6d* and *1s 9d*.

We are offering a further service on this occasion as, in addition to the normal Philatelic Bureau handstamp, we are arranging for covers to be cancelled 'Bridge, Canterbury, Kent', if required.

The charges are as follows:

Full service (A) under which we provide the envelope, type address, affix stamps and cancel with specified handstamp - *7s 4d*.

Restricted service (B) where we affix stamps to customer's own pre-addressed cover and cancel with handstamp - *5s 4d*.

The usual facilities for customers who wish to prepare their own covers will be available at the offices listed on page 13 of the January 1968 *Bulletin* with the exception of Epsom, Kirkcaldy and Sutton and with the addition of Stafford and Darlington.

Orders for the Philatelic Bureau or Bridge, Canterbury, Kent, postmarks **MUST** be sent to the Bureau.

National Postal Museum Notes

The Dawn of the 20th Century

King Edward VII came to the throne on 22nd January 1901 and for the first time in philatelic history designers of British postage stamps were faced with the problem of re-designing stamps on the accession of a new sovereign.

Discussions on the new series of stamps began immediately and a few days later, on 1st February, De La Rue's submitted a statement showing the cost of new dies and plates and their claim for dies and plates rendered obsolete.

The original essay designs were based on those for the Victorian stamps of 1887 (the so called Jubilee issue). None of these stamps of 1887 showed a crown above the cartouche framing the vignette portrait of Queen Victoria. This portrait plainly had to be replaced by that of the new King and it was originally proposed to show a three-quarter face portrait of King Edward VII in uniform. This design however did not meet with His Majesty's approval and he directed that a new design be prepared based on a portrait medalion made by Emil Fuchs, an Australian artist

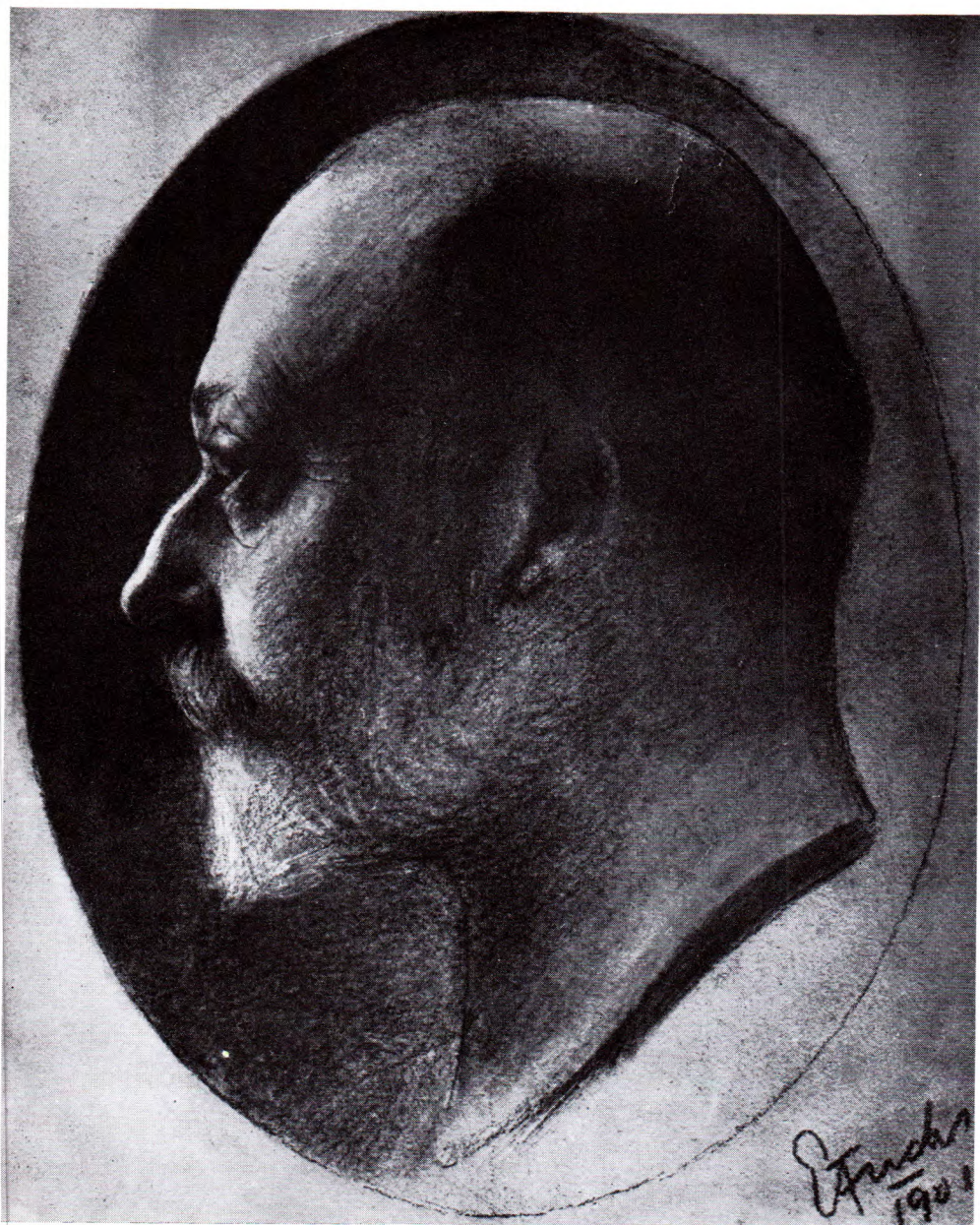
then working in London. In the event the King gave Emil Fuchs sittings for an entirely new drawing which we reproduce. It was from this drawing that the stamps of the reign were prepared. In the final designs the details over the cartouche framing the portrait of Queen Victoria on the stamps of 1887 were modified so as to include a crown. This had not been necessary on the Victorian stamps as the Queen was shown wearing a diadem.

Artists drawings showing these modifications to the 1887 issue and the substitution of King Edward VII's portrait by Emil Fuchs for that of the late Queen, are shown in the Museum's current exhibition closing on 1st April. They are from the Reginald L. Phillips collection.

Despite the alacrity of Messrs. De La Rue in producing estimates of the cost of new dies within a few days of the old Queen's death, some months were to elapse before the first stamps of the new reign were registered at the Stamp Office, Somerset House. The new $\frac{1}{2}d$ stamp was registered on 26th September 1901



1901. Essays for King Edward VII stamps.



Artist's drawing for postage stamps.



Issue of 1887.

and the 1d stamp three weeks later. The 2½d, 6d and 2s 6d were issued in December of the same year.

February 1902 saw the production of the new 1½d, 3d, 1s, 5s, 10s and £1 stamps, and in March the 2d and 4d values were registered followed in April, May and June by the 5d, 9d and 10d denominations.

The first ever 7d stamp, grey black on white paper with the Imperial Crown watermark was introduced on 13th May 1910 towards the end of King Edward VII's reign. A parcel weighing 7lb could be posted for sevenpence at that time.

F. MARCUS ARMAN

IMPORTANT NOTICE

THE NATIONAL POSTAL MUSEUM WILL RE-OPEN
IN MUCH ENLARGED PREMISES IN THE AUTUMN

To permit the necessary building work to continue it will be necessary to
close the existing temporary Museum on 1st April 1968.

An announcement about the re-opening of the Museum
will be made as soon as possible.

Museum notes will continue to appear in the *Bulletin* each month.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Sir,

You asked for views upon the letter from B. D. Gurnier concerning cylinder block numbers.

The multiple printing of such numbers *purely for the benefit of collectors* must be rejected. We want to collect what genuinely needs to be printed to meet the needs of the Post Office and its contractors. Do not let us follow those countries who produce material mainly for the collector.

The difficulty of obtaining what needs must be printed is quite another matter. The answer lies quite simply in the hands of your Bureau, sir. You have seen fit to use the term 'Philatelic' in your title, yet this term is denied by your refusal to sell just those items which are required by the serious collector.

Obviously you must only sell what is correctly available at the ordinary Post Office; errors are the province of the stamp dealer. But I venture to suggest that you should sell cylinder block numbers etc., inverted water-marks resulting from special printing methods of booklets (now ceasing), particular issues of booklets and *sections* of coil rolls. In this way you really would justify the title 'Philatelic Bureau' and not just a 'mail order post office counter'.

Yours faithfully,

PHILIP A. W. OVERELL

Thetford, Norfolk

Dear Sir,

I was very interested to read the letter from B. D. Gurnier and your comment in the February *Bulletin*. I also collect cylinder blocks and wholeheartedly agree with Mr Gurnier's suggestion, which should apply to both commemoratives and definitives.

I hope the Post Office will pass on the suggestion to the stamp printers.

Yours faithfully,

JOHN G. GROVES

Muswell Hill, N10

Dear Sir,

I refer to B. D. Gurnier's letter on page 13 of your February 1968 issue *re*: four sets of cylinder numbers on each sheet of stamps.

I feel strongly that this suggestion should *not* be adopted. Any addition to the normal printers requirements merely to serve the purpose of collectors is, to my way of thinking, quite wrong.

In the same way I agree with your comments in the same issue that 'cancelled to order' stamps should not be issued.

Yours faithfully,

S. H. SCOTT

Penrith, Cumberland

Dear Sir,

In No. 7 of volume 4 of the *Philatelic Bulletin* you asked 'anybody for a £5 F.D.C.?' I think that now, 100 years after the last £5 stamp, would be a very good time to issue another one.

In view of the Nation's economic situation this would give a very welcomed 'boost'. I would suggest an issue of around the 6,000,000 mark.

I think this stamp, given adequate publicity in the press, would be very well received.

Yours faithfully,

ALAN A. TAYLOR

Kenton, Middlesex

Dear Sir,

I was rather surprised to read that only 34% of the readers found that the feature on Postmark Slogans was interesting. I find these lists invaluable to a side line that I have to my collection of Great Britain stamps. This is to link the design on the stamps with the Postmark Slogan. May I quote one or two possi-

bilities from the list in the January 1968 issue of the *Bulletin*.

The slogan 'Racing at Ayr The Ideal Holiday' with the 1967 9d British Painting stamp. 'Free Parking Wakefield' with the 1966 British Technology 6d value. As a final example the 3d P.O.S.B. stamp of 1961 with the slogan 'Save at Work With Your National Savings'.

The list of possibilities is practically endless and each new issue of stamps increases the possible combinations.

Yours faithfully,

P. RAMSAY

Batley, Yorks

Dear Sir,

Why do all our stamps have to be ruined by the name of the publisher printed at the bottom, and very often the artist's name as well?

We used not to do this, and other countries don't.

Yours faithfully,

MRS W. N. HANSELL

Sherborne, Dorset

(We feel that both the artist and the printer deserve recognition of their work. As the stamps go all over the world, this publicity could lead to commissions from overseas countries which would help the export drive. Ed.)

Dear Sir,

Allow me to express my satisfaction with your excellent magazine, particularly your new 'Letters' column, which I find most interesting.

Noting Mr Martin's letter on British philatelic quality, and that of Mr Field on special issues, may I add the comments of a U.S. collector? I have dealt variously with a

dozen or so philatelic offices throughout the Commonwealth, and have not found one capable of matching the efficiency and care of the G.P.O. Such an organisation is a tribute to the United Kingdom, and goes hand in hand with what must be some of the finest, most timely and interesting commemoratives in the world.

My collection of British commemoratives has been exhibited thus far in four philatelic shows. It never fails to win remarks (though not necessarily prizes!) on the quality and beauty of British special issues. Much of this interest centers around the 1929 Universal Postal Union £1 black. Perhaps a future article could be devoted to this fine engraving?

The issuance of a Christmas commemorative has certain advantages. Users get satisfaction out of applying a timely adhesive to their Christmas mail, and this small representative of the season helps express the joy of the holiday. The 1966 children's designs were especially effective in this manner. If, as Mr Field remarks, the issuing country has restricted her commemorative output so as not to render special issues commonplace, I feel that a single or set of Christmas stamps is warranted.

Before closing, I should mention the activities of the Churchill study unit of the American Topical Association, which I am now trying to form. The A.T.A. is concerned with stamps issued concerning a particular subject, or topic. The Churchill unit will attempt to provide research and discussion of the world's commemoratives honoring the late Sir Winston Churchill, K.G. Whilst most of such stamps are not U.K. or Commonwealth issues, they do have an application to Britain's greatest contribution to the statesmen of this century. Should you be interested in further information, or a sample of such a topical collection, I would be most happy to oblige.

Best wishes for continued success in the New Year.

Yours faithfully,

RICHARD M. LANGWORTH

Pennsylvania, U.S.A.

Women's Suffrage

The passing of a registration bill in 1918 containing a clause giving women the right to vote, provided they had reached the age of thirty years and were householders or married to householders, was the result of an extended campaign by a group of the female population of Great Britain for complete political equality for women.

In the ancient world, the government systems were based on a theory that no woman could take part in political matters unless she was a reigning queen. This practice held its own until the French Revolution in the late 18th century. However, the revolution became unpopular in Britain, and it was not until forty years later, when the Chartist Movement brought out a Charter containing a clause on Women's Suffrage, that the subject again came to light. The real beginning, however, was in 1865, when John Stuart Mill was elected to Parliament.

Mill was a great advocate of this reform, and as a result of his election, a group of ladies formed a women's suffrage committee. This committee organised a petition containing 1,499 names, and Mill presented it to Parliament in 1867. In 1870, Jacob Bright proposed a bill for extending the franchise to women. The bill passed into second reading, but there was not time for it to proceed further.

During the 1870s, the majority of the Members of Parliament were in favour of the reform, but Gladstone killed the chances of an amendment by announcing that women would 'overweight the Bill' and must be 'thrown overboard'. Accordingly, the Liberals voted against the bill; by now, the suffragettes had realised the difficulties of trying to secure reform when they themselves had no political power. When the county councils were created in 1888 women were included in the electorate. It was not until 1907 that women were made eligible to serve on the councils, and also to hold the office of mayor.

Between 1884 and the early 1900s, the suffrage movement was comparatively quiet, although propaganda continued, and huge

petitions were collected each year. One development was the formation of a National Union in 1897 from the smaller, scattered suffrage societies, under the presidency of Mrs Henry Fawcett. In 1903, renewed interest was shown in the movement with the formation of the Women's Social and Political Union, led by Mrs Emily Pankhurst. Before long, this society had adopted militant tactics to achieve its aims.

In 1906, the Liberal Party came into power, and, at a meeting in Manchester, Christabel Pankhurst and Annie Kenny, two suffragettes, were ejected for asking the new government's attitude towards women's suffrage. They were given the choice of a fine or imprisonment; both chose the latter, and the ensuing public sensation gave much publicity to the suffrage movement. Thereafter, the movement adopted the policy of heckling cabinet ministers and of marching with petitions to Parliament. Disturbances and arrests followed, all of which increased the popularity and strength of the movement.

From 1906, the movement went from strength to strength. In 1907 the first public demonstration took place when three thousand women marched through London. This was followed by gatherings in the Albert Hall, in Hyde Park and in other public places; their war-cry, 'votes for women' appeared in the most unexpected places – on pavements, sandwich boards, newspapers and countless leaflets. Suffragettes chained themselves to railings to show their indignation, and there was the famous incident when one member of the movement threw herself in front of the King's horse running in the Derby, killing herself in the process.

The Prime Minister, H. H. Asquith, was a staunch opponent of the cause; however, the only way to end the disturbances seemed to be by granting the suffragettes their wishes. Accordingly, a committee of M.P.s was set up in 1910 to look into the matter. A bill was drafted which was acceptable to the suffragettes; however Asquith stopped its passage

after the second reading. In the autumn of 1911, Asquith announced that he proposed to introduce a franchise bill for 'male persons only'. This prompted more violent protests by the suffragettes. In 1913, a promised bill containing women's suffrage amendments was withdrawn after it had passed its second reading – more women were imprisoned after the resulting disturbances.

At the start of the war in 1914, the Suffragettes diverted their energies to helping the country through the economic difficulties. The suffragette prisoners were released, and, as a result of its war work, the movement gained more prestige.

Finally, in 1916, when a new registration bill was introduced, the suffragettes pointed out that their claim ought also to be considered. Asquith invited the Speaker to call an all-party conference to discuss the matter, with the outcome being the introduction of a proposal by Lloyd George's government in 1917 to give female householders or wives of householders aged over 30, the right to vote. In 1917, this clause was carried by a majority of 7 to 1 and was passed by the House of Lords early in 1918. The age limit was imposed to ensure that there was still a majority of male voters.

In November 1918, an act making women eligible for election to Parliament was passed. Finally, in July 1928, a bill was passed giving complete political equality to women, and the Women's Suffrage Movement in Great Britain came to an end, having finally achieved its goal.

Postal Coding

Due to the increase in postal mechanisation and postal coding an enormous number of our address plates for *Bulletin* subscribers need amending.

To show the code on many thousands of plates is a mammoth task and it would be a great help to us if all our readers would quote their code as soon as one is allocated and to use it on all correspondence to the Bureau.

Special Handstamps

A special handstamp '18th ANNUAL MIDDLESEX CONVENTION' will be in use at London WC District Office on 27th April 1968. The sponsors are the London & Provincial Stamp Club, who are holding the exhibition in Great Russell Street WC1. There will be a special box provided.

A special handstamp engraved 'LINCOLN CASTLE 1068-1968' will be in use at Lincoln on 5th May 1968. A motif of Lincoln Castle will be incorporated.

'Gabriel Convention St. Paul's London EC1' will be used to cancel items posted at the Guild of St. Gabriel Convention in the crypt of St. Paul's Cathedral on 30th March 1968. Rectangular design. Requests for reposting should be sent to the Controller, East Central District, London EC1.

A special rectangular handstamp engraved 'BIRTH OF TEES-SIDE 1st APRIL 1968' will be used at Middlesbrough. A motif of a stork is incorporated.

A special handstamp 'BIBLE COME TO LIFE EXHIBITION', which was to be used on 5 March 1968 at Coleraine, Co. Derry, has been cancelled. The exhibition was called off due to an outbreak of Foot and Mouth disease in the area.

Interpex – Special Philatelic Bulletin

For this international philatelic exhibition held in New York between 1st and 3rd March we produced a special edition of the *Bulletin*. Lavishly illustrated in colour it contains unique articles and features and will be an attractive addition to readers' libraries.

We have reserved some copies for interested subscribers to the *Bulletin* who may order them from the Philatelic Bureau, 2-4 Waterloo Place, Edinburgh 1, price 2s 6d (30c) each, post free. Early application is advised, as we expect a great demand for this magnificent *Bulletin*.

New Printings of Old Style Definitive Stamps

Some of our Deposit Account holders with standing orders have remarked that not all the stamp changes now proposed (e.g. introduction of PVA Gum etc.) were catered for when their orders were originally placed.

We suggest that depositors who wish to have specimens of watermark or gum variations included in their orders should advise the Bureau as soon as possible.

Those Customers who have already written will of course, receive their specimens without the need to write again.

Help us to help you

Readers will have learned that we are going to issue some of the Old Style Definitive stamps on unwatermarked paper.

As these become available they will be listed on the Customers Order Form which is always enclosed in your monthly *Bulletin*.

We ask you not to place orders for these stamps before they are listed as we cannot supply them in advance.

The need to hold over premature orders gives rise to congestion in the Bureau and may delay attention to your other requirements.

Conditions

The Philatelic Bureau, 2-4 Waterloo Place, Edinburgh 1, will be pleased to supply any number of stamps shown on its current order form, subject to stocks being available, in mint condition only. For stamps not shown on the form, enquiries 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 watermark.

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