

Philatelic Bulletin

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Editorial

Contrary perhaps to some belief our new stamps do not just 'happen', for it is now some 13 years since the Postmaster General of the day laid down the policy under which they are issued.

We are grateful, then, that Ian Finlay, in the first of his new series of articles quotes the policy and shows some examples of how various stamps meet the requirements. In later articles Mr Finlay will concentrate on some of the major themes which are covered by British stamps. We look forward to them and hope they will encourage more collectors — especially newcomers to the hobby — to concentrate on the thematic approach.

British Airways Souvenir Cover

A souvenir cover commemorating the 40th anniversary of the first air mail service to Shetland will be issued on 23 November 1977. The cover will contain a souvenir brochure and will bear a 10p Scottish definitive postage stamp cancelled with one or two rectangular handstamps, both depicting a DH84 Dragon aeroplane and containing the legend '40th Anniversary First Mail Flight to Sumburgh, Shetland, 23 November 1977'. One handstamp will be marked 'Dyce, Aberdeen' and the other 'Lerwick, Shetland'.

Covers, fully serviced and returned under separate cover, are obtainable from PO Box 100 British Airways, Glasgow Airport, Abbotsinch, PAISLEY, Renfrewshire PA3 2SD at 45p each including postage.

Customers are asked to indicate which handstamp is required.

Post Office Railway Souvenir Cover

We are sorry that the September Bulletin and order form advertised the price for the Post Office Railway Souvenir Cover as 9p instead of the correct price of 8p. We plan to refund in an economic way, the extra penny, now paid by those who have ordered the cover.

Bureau account holders will have their accounts adjusted by the appropriate amount. Bulk orders will be advised separately. Other customers will be refunded with their next order; they are asked to mark the order at the top 'Railway Cover refund' and to reduce their remittance by the appropriate sum.

The Late Reginald M Phillips CBE, Hon LL D, Founder And Benefactor of The National Postal Museum

It is with the deepest regret that we record the death on 10 October, of Mr Reginald M Phillips, one of the greatest figures in British philately over the past century. Mr Phillips, who was 90, became critically ill, following a fall in which he broke his thigh.

The greatest achievement for which Mr Phillips will be remembered by both philatelists and the general public, is the foundation of the National Postal Museum in London. Mr Phillips, fired perhaps by his mother's example, decided as a boy that stamp collecting would be his hobby. After a few years of general collecting, he became particularly interested in the line-engraved stamps of Great Britain and in the conception and creation of the Penny Black. In 1960, he startled the philatelic world by winning, with a selection from his collection of nineteenth century British stamps, the Grand Prix of the London International Philatelic Exhibition. The collection had never been shown before and perhaps only a dozen people knew of its existence, fewer its strength.

The story behind the Reginald Phillips collection is a fascinating example of the dedication, patience and insatiable curiosity which are the marks of the great philatelist. Early on Mr Phillips decided to build up a collection of the stamps of Great Britain designed to portray their historical aspect, particularly the story of the pioneering days that gave birth to the world's first postage stamp. For some 40 years this ambition filled his thoughts and occupied the larger part of his time and energies. He was aided in his ambitions by two factors: his friendship with many of the great collectors in his field, and the substantial fortune he had built up through his business activities. He was thus able in the 1950's to buy the choicest parts of the Seymour, McGowan and Adams collections. Two other collectors, Edward Granger and Dr Osborne, wanted unique items from their collections to go to Mr Phillips after their deaths. The name of Reginald M Phillips first caught the public eye in 1959 when he bought the largest known block of (43) Penny Blacks for £4,400.



Reginald Phillips showing Anthony Wedgwood-Benn one of the many rare postage stamps from his collection.

Copyright Mirrorpic London

In 1962 Mr Phillips approached the Post Office with an offer to donate his unique nineteenth century GB collection to the nation, with a view to it being preserved in a National Postal Museum to be established with the help of a cash donation from him of £50,000. These most generous gifts were accepted by the then Postmaster General, Mr Anthony Wedgwood Benn, in 1965 and the present Museum, in which the entire Reginald M Phillips collection is on permanent view, was opened by HM The Queen on 19 February 1969. The National Postal Museum, which also houses the philatelic archives of the Post Office, gives body to Mr Phillips' aspirations by enabling collectors, students and the general public to study his unique items.

Reginald M Phillips made other important contributions to philately, including the donation of a gold medal for stamp design awarded every five years, and the setting up of the Philatelic Unit at Sussex University. He was a most kindly man and his great concern for ordinary people in the modern world was evidenced by his munificent endowments to Sussex University for the education of blind and deaf children and for research on the application of scientific and technical knowledge to economic and social development. The present and future generations will long recall his foresight and generosity.

The Kings Stamps 1910-35 Part 7(b) The Choice of Colours II-III

The GPO (in a minute to the PMG dated 1 April 1911) were clearly aware of the shortcomings of the Hentschel proofs used in Colour Schemes A-DD and felt that these should not be submitted to the King. Instead, it was proposed that "as soon as a die for each design is engraved and approved, specimens can be obtained and submitted to His Majesty while the plates are being prepared by the Mint, thus avoiding delay...".

It was possibly in the knowledge of this that Mr Rigg of the Mint, having dealt with the $\frac{1}{2}d$ and $1d$ values, decided to provide similar proofs for the remaining values up to Threepence, printed in colours to match colour scheme DD. As will be seen from the illustration (figure 3) this could only be done by using the finished $\frac{1}{2}d$ 'Dolphin' and $1d$ 'Lion' dies for the similar $1\frac{1}{2}d$ and $2\frac{1}{2}d$ values, and the master (no value) Mackennal 'Wreath' design die for the $2d$ and $3d$ values⁹. In his letter (of 11.4.1911) forwarding these proofs to the GPO, Rigg commented: 'I cannot say much for them and would warn you that the paper is the regulation stamp paper, watermarked, gummed and calendered and much

inferior to that used for (the Hentschel essays in) your scheme. The $2d$ and $3d$ will, I may remind you, look differently when the metal is reduced round the letters and figures'.

And it was at that stage that the question of choice of colours had to rest for about six months. There were a number of excellent reasons for this hiatus. In the first place the Mint had to rely entirely on one engraver — J A C Harrison — as they were unable to find a second engraver whom they considered competent to deal with the finer work. In these circumstances it was only possible to proceed with the engraving of the various designs and denominations one at a time. In addition to the low values, Harrison had outstanding commitments in respect of the engraving of the master and value dies for the 'Seahorses' (the design had still to be finalised) and a special (larger and coarser) head die for postcards.

The mint was also very fully occupied with making the printing plates for the Halfpenny and One Penny stamps early enough and in sufficient quantities to allow these two values to be on general issue by Coronation Day.

Not only did J A C Harrison have to find time to complete the dies for the four values from $1\frac{1}{2}d$ to $3d$ but as the Royal Mint pointed out in a letter dated 1 May 1911 'The (Eve) designs for the $4d$ to $1/-$ stamps forwarded by the GPO to the Inland Revenue (in October 1910) were, in their then state, useless for any process here'. It was only at the very end of April 1911 that Eve had delivered to the Mint 'The large sketches with the duties (values) inserted upon which he had been engaged for some weeks'.

It was evident therefore that considerable progress would need to be made with the making of acceptable dies for the key values up to One Shilling, before any worthwhile colour scheme could be put up to King George V for his approval.

*Both completed by 31 March 1911.

⁹The dies for these four values (using the 'Downey' head) were completed during 1911 as follows: $1\frac{1}{2}d$ — 8 June, $2d$ — 4 July, $2\frac{1}{2}d$ — 29 May and $3d$ — 4 August.



Fig 3

British Special Stamps

36. Commonwealth Arts Festival, 1965



September 1965 was a busy month for the Post Office who probably wished that there were more than the customary thirty days ('hath September') to cope with three special issues of stamps. Issued on the 1st — at the same time as the Joseph Lister commemoratives — the Commonwealth Arts Festival pair, 6d and 1s 6d, preceded the eight Battle of Britain stamps by only a fortnight and tended to be overshadowed by the imminence of the 'Battle' issue and the memories it evoked. Consequently sales were down in comparison with most previous issues, being on a par with the 'Parliament' stamps of July that year.

Carnival figures and folk dancers from the Commonwealth were featured on the stamps for the Festival, which was held in London and other centres, including Cardiff, Glasgow and Liverpool, between 16 September and 2 October. The aim of the Festival was 'to promote the cultural traditions which exist in Commonwealth countries', and the participants came from all parts of the world, principally from the West Indies, West Africa, the Far East and North America. Hence the artists' choice of designs, though related in theme, were representative of two quite different forms of folk art.

The familiar Woodcut' figures and the emphasis on costume were indicative of a concerted design exercise on the part of David Gentleman and Rosalind Dease, the former well-known for

his woodcut technique ('Lifeboats' and 'Shakespeare'), the latter an expert on period costume. The designs were described at the time as 'pleasant and innocuous' and 'likely to give particular pleasure to those countries represented'. The simple layouts with their uniform arrangement of the Queen's 'Wilding' portrait, values and inscriptions, were beyond reproach.

The 6d stamp, black on a bright orange background, showed three dancing figures from the famous Trinidad Shrove Monday Carnival, an event of uninhibited revelry providing a wide choice of colourful subjects for the stamp designer. The 1s 6d stamp pictured folk-dancing by three members of the French-Canadian dance company, Les Feux Follets, the 'Will-o'-the Wisps'. The dancers were depicted in black on a light reddish violet background.

The stamps were photogravure-printed by Harrison and Son in sheets of 120 (6 x 20) on ordinary and phosphor-banded paper, watermark 'multiple crowns'. Apart from the usual minor constant flaws — a broken 'v' in 'Festival' (6d) and some dots and scratches — the issue was notably free on any major varieties, except that the 6d phosphor stamp is known with phosphor bands on the back as well as on the front!

Quantities issued (phosphor in brackets) were: 6d 12,264,840 (1,621,080); 1s 6d 5,003,000 (788,880).

JAMES WATSON

Great Britains Stamp-Issuing Policy

Postage stamps are basically utilitarian objects used to indicate that postage has been pre-paid. The appearance of most early stamps reflects this purpose. It was not long however before it was realised that stamps could be used to draw attention to a wide range of aspects of the issuing countries. Even so, it is more than obvious that countries differ considerably in their stamp-issuing policies in relation to such matters as frequency of issues, subjects chosen for depiction on stamps, numbers issued, cancelling to order, to mention but a few.

Up till about 1940, in fact almost to the precise centenary of the appearance of the Penny Black, the stamps of Great Britain had been very conservative compared with those of most other countries. Their interest was principally philatelic rather than thematic although this is, of course, not necessarily a criticism since they served their purpose effectively and, for the most part, tastefully.

During the past 35 years or so there has however been a marked change in Great Britain's stamp-issuing policy in relation both to the frequency of new issues and the subjects chosen for them. This change has undoubtedly added greatly to the attraction amongst collectors of Great Britain's stamps, both at home and abroad, even if it has not been without its critics.

Bearing in mind that the British Post Office, in common with those of most other countries, is annually inundated with suggestions for new issues, it is obvious that it has to have a policy relating to special issues of them. These special issues are, as it were, the condiments added to the basic fare of definitives many of which, at least in the past, had a useful life of several decades, when not disturbed by radical changes in systems of currency.

There are four basic criteria now applied to new issues of the stamps of Great Britain, namely:

1. to celebrate events of national and international importance;
2. to commemorate important anniversaries;
3. to reflect the British contribution to world affairs, including the arts and sciences;

4. to extend public patronage to the arts by encouraging the development of minuscule art.

In addition to these four basic criteria, it is also the policy that the number of special issues should be restricted to about eight a year.

It is not possible with postage stamp design, as in most other spheres, to please all the people all the time, and there might even be some people who consider that some stamps of Great Britain show every sign of having been designed by a committee. On the other hand, the totality of special issues is impressive, attractive and presents a very reasonable reflection of the four criteria set out above, even if their subjects do not perhaps refer to many of the major changes in British life and society which have taken place in the past thirty years or so. Compared with some countries, for example, British stamps have never been used for legitimate propaganda purposes such as for drawing attention to road safety or the dangers of drug addiction. Likewise, the one example of a 'charity' stamp bearing a surcharge, and issued in 1975 for Health and Handicap Funds, was not successful enough to suggest that such stamps will become a permanent item on the stamp-issuing scene.

Although it is difficult to assign any specific special issue to merely one of the categories listed above, the 4th criterion, for example, ideally being one which should be common to all special issues, it might be of interest to select a few examples falling into each of the other three categories.

Stamps concerned with events of national and international importance include the Commonwealth Arts Festival (1965), the opening of the Post Office tower (1965), the World Cup football competition (1966), the first flight of 'Concorde' (incidentally, also marked by a French stamp) (1969) and the investiture of HRH the Prince of Wales (1969).

Amongst the important anniversaries commemorated on the stamps of Great Britain have been the 400th anniversary of the birth of Shakespeare (an event commemorated philatelicly by several other countries (1964), the 100th anniversary of Lister's introduction of anti-

septics in surgery (1965), the 900th anniversary of the Battle of Hastings (likewise marked by a French stamp) (1966), the 100th anniversary of the birth of Ghandi (1969), the 100th anniversary of the birth of Vaughan Williams (1972) and the 50th anniversary of the setting up of the BBC (1972). It is perhaps in this sector that the main differences of opinion lie in relation to what anniversaries should be commemorated philatelically, although the restriction on the number of special issues obviously exerts a powerful influence here.

It is perhaps in the 3rd category that there has been the most satisfactory reflection of the stated policy. The work of many British painters has appeared on at least four sets of stamps while paintings of non-British artists have been featured in some of the Christmas issues. British technology is quite well represented, two specific makes of car even having been shown on a stamp from the 1966 set. Railways and ships have had their share of attention as have British achievements in telecommunications and chemistry. Architecture in its rural, bridge-building,

university and church aspects has resulted in highly attractive stamps.

Special stamps featuring British landscapes and fauna and flora have also appeared although they are difficult to assign to any one of the four categories involved.

It is difficult to realise that there have since 1940 been about 350 special stamps issued by Great Britain and, taken as a whole, they represent a very much more effective implementation of stated government policy than numerous examples which could be taken from other sectors.

Postage stamps are important far beyond their purely utilitarian purpose in that they accompany letters on their journeys to all corners of the earth and in this way serve to draw attention to the issuing country's achievements far beyond its shores.

It is hoped in further contributions to consider in greater detail aspects of British life and achievements as reflected on her postage stamps.

IAN F FINLAY

Born and educated in Australia, Ian F Finlay came to Britain in 1950. He has since then divided his time between translating, teaching and writing. He has translated several books from German and Dutch and written four books on languages, stressing their practical use in careers and in the industrial context. He has also written a book about Australian postage stamps, a book for children about stamps and a book on the French postal system and postage stamps. Over the years he has also written several hundred contributions devoted to stamps in specific fields such as music, medicine and transport in which his main thesis has been their potential value as visual aids. He maintains that there is a story behind virtually everything depicted on stamps and feels that this potential is not fully exploited in schools.

Collector's Pack 1977

The 1977 Collector's Pack of Stamps, containing all the year's special commemorative issues, will go on sale on 23 November.

The pack, costing £2.68, will be available from philatelic counters, most main Post Offices, and the Philatelic Bureau. To cover handling and postage on Philatelic Bureau orders, there is a charge of 9½p on orders of £10 or less, and 52½p on orders of more than £10 (sent by registered post).

New Stamp Rolls

Rolls of 500 stamps in 7p and 9p denominations suitable for stamp affixing machines used by businesses, will go on sale on 16 November. They will be available from post offices where there is likely to be a business demand, philatelic counters and from the Philatelic Bureau, Lothian House, 124 Lothian Road, EDINBURGH EH3 9BB. The 7p roll will cost £35.00 and the 9p roll £45.00. Both will be for sideways delivery.

Christmas Stamp Issue 23 November 1977

This year's Christmas stamps, values 5-7p se-tenant and 1 at 9p, designed by David Gentleman are based on the traditional song, 'The Twelve Days of Christmas'. This curious rhyme keeps alive the tradition of the twelve days of Christmas which link the 25 December and the Feast of the Epiphany on the 6 January.

The song dates back to a thirteenth century manuscript in the Library of Trinity College, Cambridge, entitled 'Twelve Days'. The origin of the song is uncertain, but its source is thought to be among the songs of French minstrels of the twelfth and thirteenth centuries.

For those who wish to be reminded, the last verse of the most popular version of this song is as follows:—

The twelfth day of Christmas
My true love sent to me
Twelve lords a-leaping,
Eleven ladies dancing,
Ten pipers piping,
Nine drummers drumming,
Eight maids a-milking,
Seven swans a-swimming,
Six geese a-laying,
Five gold rings,
Four colly birds,
Three French hens,
Two turtle doves, and
A partridge in a pear tree.

Printing Details

Printer: Harrison & Sons Ltd
Process: Photogravure
Format: Horizontal
Paper: Unwatermarked, PVA dextrin
Phosphor: 9p all over: 7p single bar
Sheet Size: 100 (in the case of the 7p stamps, 20 of each design)
Size: 41 mm × 30 mm
Perforation: 15 × 14
Colours and values: 7p grey: bright yellow-green, new blue, bright rose red, grey-black, gold.
9p dull orange, greenish-yellow, grey-brown, yellowish-green, grey black, gold.

Postcards

Postcard reproductions of each of the six Christmas stamps, will be available by mid-November from the Philatelic Bureau, all philatelic counters, and selected main post offices, price 7p each.

The Christmas first day cover and presentation pack are designed by Collis Clements.

Christmas Pictorial Airletter

A Christmas airletter will be issued on 16 November 1977, price 12p, of which 10½p is postage. Designed by Peter Gauld it illustrates a Christmas tree with decorations and presents, and the stamp impression features a robin.

Nine colours were used by McCorquodale Ltd to print the form by the Lithography process.



Stamps for Pleasure

10. The Thematic Collector

Collecting stamps by theme or design subject is not a new idea. It evolved gradually with the introduction of 'picture' stamps and commemorative issues during the 1920s and 1930s. Some countries, notably Canada and the United States, issued pictorials around the turn of the century, but these were comparatively 'thin on the ground' and for the collector of British stamps there is little of thematic appeal prior to the reign of King George VI.

In its simplest form the thematic collection is simply a gathering together of animals, flowers, ships, bridges or whatever subject takes the fancy of the collector. Broader subjects providing more scope for the enthusiast include painting, music, literature, history, religion, architecture, industry, telecommunications and the sciences — all subjects which embrace a variety of stamp designs and lend themselves to the 'narrative' type of collection, one prepared to a definite plan which develops a theme, tells a progressive story or illustrates a leading idea.

There is a third method of thematic collecting in which the 'purpose of issue' takes precedence over the designs of the stamps — world events and universal commemorations such as the United Nations' Freedom from Hunger, and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space campaigns involving many countries of the world whose stamps are often abstract or symbolic in design.

As stamps became more and more pictorial — and as printing methods improved so that many 'picture' stamps were miniature works of art in themselves — more people began collecting them for their designs alone, incurring the scorn and wrath of serious philatelists. Numerous controversies arose when thematic collections began to be submitted to society, national and even international competitions, the judges being at a loss how to adjudicate on a thematic entry in relation to a philatelic study.

All this was resolved in 1967 when the FIP (Fédération Internationale de Philatélie), philately's authoritative international body, introduced a set of regulations relating to 'subject, thematic and purpose of issue collections' and their place in the universal

competitive field. Among the recommendations were the common-sense ones that the thematic collection or display should be preceded by an explanatory introduction, setting out its purpose and arrangement, and that the stamps themselves should be captioned or supported by a descriptive text.

For the ambitious collector with his eye on a gold medal or even a modest bronze, the rules as outlined in national and international exhibition prospectuses have to be adhered to, but you are free to collect what you want and make your own rules, exercise your own collecting tastes and ingenuity, and build up an original and exciting stamp collection which will provide lasting pleasure.

The thematic collection has acquired a new significance and has become something much more than the mere accumulation of stamp pictures of anything from aircraft to zebras. Look through a *Gibbons Catalogue* or preferably their handy little checklist of stamps illustrated in colour — *Collect British Stamps* — and a whole host of thematic ideas and possibilities will spring to mind. Themes which at first glance appear to have limited scope may, to the imaginative collector, prove to be explicable, not only with unexpectedly related subjects, but also with the addition of appropriate British Commonwealth stamps.

Furthermore the thematic story can be embellished with commemorative or pictorial postmarks, photographs and picture postcards, used discriminately to enhance the theme. Most of the British paintings depicted on stamps may be found in the form of art reproductions on old picture postcards — Turner's 'Burial at Sea' (of Sir David Wilkie, RA, in 1840), and Constable's 'Hay Wain' are examples I have seen.

The more one thinks about 'thematics', the more exciting it becomes. And it is no mirage. All you need is a loose-leaf album with blank leaves, a good hand or a decent typewriter for captions and 'writing up' and a PLAN, coupled with the will to start your collection today.

JAMES WATSON

The Great Britain Decimal Stamp Book Study Circle

James Watson's article on 'Stamp Booklets' in the June 1977 edition of 'Philatelic Bulletin' pointed out that collectors of booklets have always shown great interest in them from the earliest days right up to the present reign.

However, no one throughout that time took the initiative to organise a consolidated study circle in order to study or catalogue, in detail, any/all of those numerous issues that appeared over those five long reigns.

A number of expert booklet collectors took the opportunity, on decimalisation, of establishing a study circle which became known as The Great Britain Decimal Stamp Book Study Circle. Its activities are designed to meet the needs of decimal stamp booklet collectors as far as it is practicably possible. The chief aims are:

- i. to promote and encourage interest in the study of GB decimal stamp books and related subjects;
- ii. to provide facilities and exchange of material relevant to the main objects of the circle;
- iii. to publish journals at regular intervals;
- iv. to publish results of research projects and studies in the form of catalogues, books, papers and pamphlets;
- v. to foster and encourage the formation of local and/or specialist groups;
- vi. to promote and encourage the inter-change of matters consistent with the main objects of the circle with other philatelic societies and associations.

'The Bookmark' is issued to members at regular intervals throughout the year and which, through the very informative (and often illustrated) articles supplied by members themselves, provides up-to-date information on current booklets thus enabling collectors to obtain their material at face value from their local Post Office.

The results of all studies are published in our well-known publication: 'The Bookmark Catalogue of British Decimal Postage Stamp Books' which, although referred to as a catalogue, does not resemble other catalogues in any way.

As it is not a price list and does not deal with general stamps the data on booklets found in the 300-odd pages is, therefore, tremendous.

Other activities include postal (auctions) bids, free advertising of members' wants and/or surplus material. The journal also has a 'Beginners' Corner' section from which newcomers may learn about and expand their knowledge of stamp booklet collecting.

Further detailed information on subscriptions and the other activities of the circle are available from:—

Mr J F A Spiteri (Publicity Secretary)
18 Henlow Close
TIPTON, West Midlands
DY4 8BE
Tel: 021-557 5350

Book Reviews

RAF Museum and Escaping Society Flown Covers, Reference Book Catalogue and Supplement.

This loose-leaf edition gives details of all commemorative covers issued by the Royal Air Force Escaping Society up to the summer of 1975. Those covers issued during 1976 are described in a Supplement of new pages which are simply inserted in the appropriate sections of the loose-leaf Guide.

Copies of this edition can be obtained from Wing Commander A J Munday, RAF Locking, Weston-Super-Mare, Avon BS23 7AA, at £2.55 (plus 66p postage) or the 1977 Supplement only at 80p post free.

Victorian Business Stationery

This month we are reproducing our final example of Victorian Business Stationery. It was sent to us by Mr R L Bilton of Bedlington, Northumberland, to whom we extend our thanks.

The inside of the cover contains an appeal for 1,000,000 penny postage stamps, to pay for the building of a church — St Mary's, Kilburn, London. Above the name and address on the front can be seen a note of the contents, presumably written by the recipient, as a reminder that he had, or should, make a donation.

All this we found interesting, and for further information we sought the help of the present minister. Because he is relatively new to St Mary's, he was unable to elaborate very much on its history but suggested that we contact Mr T L Prothero, a local schoolmaster and historian. Mr Prothero kindly undertook some research on our behalf, and it is with pleasure and our thanks that we are printing his story.

In the mid-19th Century the rapidly increasing population of the Metropolis necessitated the rapid expansion of house building and field after field on the outskirts were yielded up to the builders' needs. The pleasant suburb of the Kilburn of 1870-1880 was still a small village in 1854, set in fields with a charming brook meandering through the meadows, but the builders were encroaching rapidly.

A few responsible citizens who had moved into the district formed a committee expressly to organise the building of a church before the whole area was given over to house-building. The land for the church was given by Major-General Upton — and Rev George Read Adam, BA of St Mary's Hall, Oxford, was chosen as the first incumbent-designate. He, with Messrs R W Lucas and E W Stanley formed a Financial Committee, and were the driving force which eventually brought the church into being.

The first contract in connection with the church was dated 26 February 1856 and was for the foundation works of the entire structure based on the architect's plans.

These were completed by the early part of May 1856.



On 31 May 1856, the foundation stone was laid by Major-General Upton and the building of the Nave and Aisles commenced. Rev Adam and the Finance Committee were, meantime, hard at work trying to raise the necessary funds to pay for the structure. The whole neighbourhood was carefully and systematically canvassed; over 30,000 appeals were issued to Clergy and others in all parts of the Kingdom; whilst not the least productive was the idea of a 'Million Penny Postage Stamp Fund', which, although it never justified its title, resulted in the receipt of stamps, which realised over £1,200 (upwards of 288,000 penny stamps). We can but admire the patience, industry and perseverance by which such a result was attained. There was scarcely a parish in England at that time that had not in some measure contributed towards the building of St Mary's Church.

By the end of October 1856 the building of the fabric of the nave and aisles was completed and the interior completion such as flooring, pewing, plastering and glazing was set in hand. This was finished in time for the opening of the church for divine worship on 7 April 1857 — consecration being delayed until its completion by the addition of Transepts and Chancel.

To date the expenses amounted to £3,721, whilst the sum contributed amounted to £2,555. Thus further work had to be delayed until the debt had been paid. This was done by September 1858.

St. Mary's Church, Kilburn, London.
THE MILLION POSTAGE STAMP FUND.
APPEAL FOR A SINGLE STAMP.

200,000 Stamps already Collected.

It is hoped that very few persons will refuse to contribute one Penny Stamp towards the erection of a Parish Church.

The Committee of St. Mary's, Kilburn, have therefore resolved to attempt the arduous task of collecting One Million Stamps, equivalent to £4166 13s 4d, which sum would cover their present serious liability, and secure the completion of the Church; and it is believed that by system and perseverance, under God's blessing, this great end may be speedily accomplished.

You are, therefore, earnestly entreated to help forward this great work, by collecting amongst your friends 120 stamps, or by yourself contributing that or any smaller number.

Should you not be disposed to assist us in this way, it is hoped that you will return the enclosed paper and card with three stamps, thereby preventing loss to the Committee, and contributing one penny to the Fund.

The Committee having met with much kind sympathy, are encouraged to continue this laborious effort, feeling that the expense and trouble to each Donor is so little, and the benefit to the District so great.

The population of the District, already above 2000, is rapidly increasing. The Mother Church is distant one and a-half miles. A portion of the new Church, consisting of the nave and aisles, seating about 800 persons, is open for Divine Service, under the license of the Bishop of the Diocese. When completed the Church will contain 1150 sittings, of which one-third will be free.

"Thou shalt surely give him, and thine heart shall not be grieved when thou givest unto him: because that for this thing the Lord thy God shall bless thee in all thy works, and in all that thou puttest thine hand unto."—Deut. XV., 10.

GEORGE READ ADAM,
Minister.

May, 1859.

The following Gentlemen are Members of the Committee:—

THE REV. G. R. ADAM	Minister of St. Mary's, Kilburn.
J. CHETTERMAS, Esq.	11, Springfield-villas.
G. GREEK, Esq.	6, Upper Ramont-terrace.
R. W. LUCAS, Esq.	Albertville (Tramway).
J. NEATE, Esq.	25, Albany-road.
J. T. PEATE, Esq.	15, Marlborough-place.
G. OGG, Esq.	Ver-house, Mortimer-road.
J. G. RICHARDS, Esq.	4, Priory-road.
J. S. RIVOLTA, Esq.	25, Priory-road.
R. ROBINSO, Esq.	4, Springfield-villas.
W. SMITH, Esq.	15, Springfield-villas.
E. W. STANLEY, Esq.	Harlestone-villa, Mortimer-road (Secretary).
H. F. TURNER, Esq.	11, Kilburn-priory.
S. S. UNDERWOOD, Esq.	15, Blenheim-road.

Another £4,000 (approx) was needed to complete the building. The construction of the Chancel, Chancel Aisles and Transepts were completed by February 1862 and on 20 February 1862 the church was finally consecrated. There was still the tower and spire to be built, but until the debt on the church building had been paid and the funds for the tower and spire built up this work could not be undertaken.

The construction of the tower and spire was not commenced until November 1871 — nine years later — and was completed by the end of September 1872.

Thus the church fabric in its present form was complete.

T L PROTHERO

Forces Covers

To mark the Diamond Jubilee of WRNS on 29 November 1977 a special commemorative cover will be available. It will portray a Wren of 1917 and one of 1977 together with the badge of HMS Dauntless (the WRNS training establishment).

The following services are offered by the Royal Naval Philatelic Officer.

The cover bearing a 10p postage stamp will be cancelled with a pictorial handstamp depicting the WRNS badge and include the words, '60th Anniversary of the WRNS 29 November 1977'. It will be signed by the present Director of the WRNS, Commandant SVA McBride, Hon ADC, BA, WRNS and also by Mrs J A S Rossiter who served in the Great War, and whose official number in the 1939-45 War was 1. The cost will be £1.67. Alternatively, the cover as above but with a 9p stamp but signed by Mrs Rossiter only will cost 87p.

An unsigned cover bearing an 8½p stamp, cancelled with the special handstamp will be available at 40p.

Orders addressed to Cmdr P F Cole DSC RN (ret'd) Fleet Air Arm Museum, RNAS Yeovilton, Somerset BA22 8HL, must be accompanied by a stamped and self addressed envelope measuring 7" x 5" approximately. Remittances should be made payable to the Fleet Air Arm Museum.

RAF Cover AD 31, bearing an 8½p Silver Jubilee stamp, commemorates the Army Air Day held at Middle Wallop on 6 August 1977. The covers depicting the Sparrowhawks — the Army Gazelle helicopter team — were flown by them and are cancelled with a special handstamp BFPS 1559. They are available from Captain M A Carry, HQ Army Air Corps Centre, Middle Wallop, Stockbridge, Hants 5020 8DY, price 35p each plus 7p postage.

RAF Cover AD 33, bearing a 7p definitive stamp, commemorates the World Light Aeroplane Piloting Championships held at Wels in Austria during August 1977. The covers depict

the British team's aircraft — the aircraft in which they were flown — and are cancelled with a special handstamp BFPS 1589. They are available from Corporal B S Osborne, RAF Odiham, Basingstoke, Hants, RG25 1QT, price 40p each plus 7p postage. Overseas orders should include additional postage. All proceeds from the covers will be donated to the Battle of Britain Museum Appeal Fund.

Coventry Philatelic Society

The Coventry Philatelic Society will hold its annual stamp fair and exhibition at the Sibree Hall, Warwick Row, Coventry, on Saturday 19 November 1977 from 10.00 am until 6.00 pm. The event will include members' displays and dealers' stands.

6p Definitive Stamp

To help customers make up parcel rates more easily, the Post Office has reintroduced on general sale its 6p definitive stamp. The re-introduction which will be gradual, began towards the end of September. The stamp has been continuously available from the Philatelic Bureau and philatelic counters.

Letters to the Editor

Sir,

I should like to initiate in your letters columns, a debate on the current PO policy on the issue of so-called Commemorative stamps which have proliferated in recent years. Starting in the early '60s, the number of such stamps has steadily increased from an average of 8/year at an average value of 31½p/year to, in the last three years, an average of 24 at an annual value of 218p!

On correspondence over the last three years, I have had, apart from Christmas issues, a total of some 20 Commemorative stamps, out of several hundreds of letters, which suggests that these

stamps are hardly necessary for genuine postal purposes and that their issue is inspired almost entirely to raise money from philatelists. Moreover, many of the issues have a very tenuous 'commemorative' connection (eg the Social & Industrial Reformers issue) while this and many others can hardly be said to celebrate events of real national significance.

In my view, Britain has by its Commemorative policy now become hardly distinguishable from the 'postage stamp' republics of S America, Africa & Eastern Europe and this degrading slide should now be halted. Future Commemoratives should be issued only in celebration of events of genuine national significance, in which Christmas would, I believe, rightfully be included.

While such a change of policy might limit the scope of several good British stamp designers, this might be partly compensated by replacing our admittedly well-designed but horribly dull and monotonous definitives by, each five years, say, new sets of pictorial definitives featuring aspects of Britain and British life. Fewer stamps might also mean fewer badly designed stamps, the worst of which in recent years have been quite appalling and do little good for the image of Britain abroad.

Yours sincerely

Liverpool

K D WADSWORTH

Editor's note

If Mr Wadsworth cares to read Ian Finlay's article elsewhere in this Bulletin he may be reassured that our policy is NOT inspired to raise money from philatelists.

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'.

1 November 1977-31 October 1978 (P)

**'Discover a Great Holiday Scarborough
— Whitby — Filey. Write to Dept of**

Tourism Scarborough'. To be used at Scarborough — Whitby 1st and 2nd class.

'Export by Post'. To be used at the following offices:

(B) Glasgow (A) Kirkcaldy 14-25 Nov 1977

(B) Perth (C) Dundee 28 Nov-9 Dec 1977

(B) Edinburgh (B) Motherwell 12-23 Dec 1977

(B) Glasgow (A) Kirkcaldy 26 Dec 1977-6 Jan 1978

(B) Perth (B) Dundee 9-20 Jan 1978

(B) Edinburgh (B) Motherwell 23 Jan-3 Feb 1978

(B) Glasgow (A) Kirkcaldy 6-17 Feb 1978

(B) Perth (B) Dundee 20 Feb-3 Mar 1978

'Your Head Postmaster can Save you Money with Royal Mail Contracts'. To be used at the following offices:

(B) Perth (B) Dundee 31 Oct-11 Nov 1977

(B) Edinburgh (B) Motherwell 14-25 Nov 1977

(B) Glasgow (A) Kirkcaldy 28 Nov-9 Dec 1977

(B) Perth (B) Dundee 12-23 Dec 1977

(B) Edinburgh (B) Motherwell 26 Dec 1977-6 Jan 1978

(B) Glasgow (A) Kirkcaldy 9-20 Jan 1978

(B) Perth (B) Dundee 23 Jan-3 Feb 1978

(B) Edinburgh (B) Motherwell 6-17 Feb 1978

(B) Glasgow (A) Kirkcaldy 20 Feb-3 Mar 1978

'Collect Through the British Philatelic Bureau'. To be used at the following offices:

(B) Glasgow (A) Kirkcaldy 31 Oct-11 Nov 1977

(B) Perth (B) Dundee 14-25 Nov 1977

(B) Edinburgh (B) Motherwell 28 Nov-9 Dec 1977

(B) Glasgow (A) Kirkcaldy 12-23 Dec 1977

(B) Perth (B) Dundee 26 Dec 1977-6 Jan 1978

(B) Edinburgh (C) Motherwell 9-20 Jan 1978

(B) Glasgow (A) Kirkcaldy 23 Jan-3 Feb 1978

(B) Perth (B) Dundee 6-17 Feb 1978

(B) Edinburgh (B) Motherwell 20 Feb-3 Mar 1978

8 November-5 December 1977

'Enjoy a Sauna and Relax at St Margarets Baths'. To be reused at Leicester 1st and 2nd class.

21 September-30 November 1977 (P)

'Great Yarmouth Wish You Were Here'. To be reused at Great Yarmouth. 1st class.

26 September-30 November 1977

'Caravan Camping Holiday Show Earls Court 10-20th November 1977'. To be reused at the following offices: EDO, Paddington, SWDO, NDO, Mount Pleasant and NWDO. From 5 October-20 November 1977 it will also be available at ECDO.

29 August-17 December 1977

9 January-4 February 1978 (P)

'A Phone Saves Time and Money'. To be reused at the following offices:

(A) Rothesay 14-19 November 1977

(A) Dunoon 21-26 November 1977

(B) Kilmarnock 28 Nov-3 Dec 1977

(A) Irvine 5-10 December 1977

(B) Saltcoats 12-17 December 1977

(B) Motherwell 9-14 January 1978

(A) Lanark 16-21 January 1978

(A) Oban 23-28 January 1978

(A) Cambeltown 31 January-4 February 1978

(A) Denotes 1st and 2nd class

(B) Denotes 1st class only

(C) Denotes 2nd class only

NB As the die has to be forwarded from one office to the next the Slogan may not be available on the first day of each week.

The Sponsor is aware of and accepts this situation.

1 August 1977-31 July 1978

'Lee Valley Park for Free Leaflets and Leisure Information Phone Lee Valley 717711'. To be reused at Enfield. 2nd class.

(P) Denotes Pictorial.

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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