

Philatelic Bulletin



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MURILLO

HARRISON

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Introduction

It is a little early to talk of Christmas but as the first of this year's Christmas stamps is to be issued on 18th October we give this month full details of the very fine stamps which we are sure will prove popular. We also show reproductions of the two Christmas Air Letter forms.

We have thought long and hard before introducing a 'Letters to the Editor' column and hope that it will serve as a useful means of airing readers' views on the British stamp scene. Brief letters will stand more chance of being published than long screeds! The first selection will be printed next month.

National Postal Museum Notes: The First Year

On 12th September 1966, in the presence of Mr Reginald M. Phillips of Brighton, its founder, the Postmaster General opened Britain's National Postal Museum at London's Chief Post Office. Since then around the Reginald M. Phillips splendid collection of 19th century British Postage stamps the Museum has developed steadily so far as its present, first-stage, limited accommodation permits. Despite its short life the Museum has had over 40,000 visitors including many from overseas.

On the basis of information obtainable only in the Museum many serious students of philatelic and postal history have been assisted to produce learned contributions to the Philatelic press about the origin of the 19th century British postage stamps and stamped stationery. Indeed most of the pages of

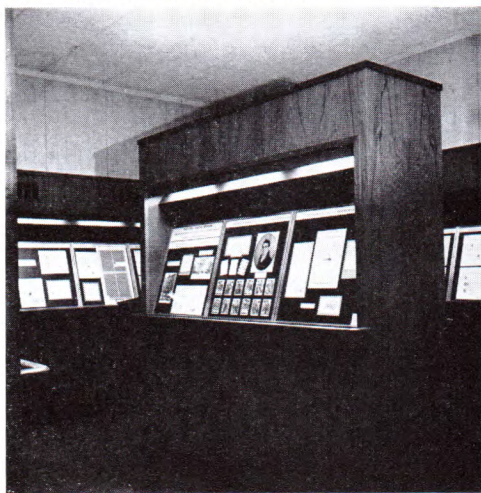
several philatelic magazines are almost exclusively devoted to reporting the results of these researches.

Philatelic societies and school parties are now booking for organized group visits to the Museum during the winter months. We are glad to welcome them during the day or on Thursday evenings and to provide guide-lecture facilities. Prior arrangements are necessary: telephone the Curator 01-432 3851. It is gratifying to announce that work has commenced on a major extension of the Museum which, when completed towards the Autumn in 1968, will enable us to show many more of the riches of the Phillips collection and much else besides.

The enlarged Museum, designed by Mr Frederick E. Jones, FRIBA, in conjunction with

The Philatelic Sales Counter, London Chief Office.

The National Postal Museum.



the Ministry of Public Building and Works, is an exciting project. The existing entrance, hard by that of London's refurbished Chief Post Office with its philatelic sales enclosure, also the work of Mr Jones, which does a brisk business especially on 'First Days of new issues', is being retained.

In the present small gallery a staircase will lead to the mezzanine floor above which will also provide exhibition space and give access to the main gallery, the curator's office and students' room. This main gallery will show a much wider range of 19th century British Postage stamps from the Phillips collection and in addition the Post Office 'Berne' collection of stamps from all over the world. All these overseas stamps will be displayed in such a way that visitors will be able, without prior appointment, to study most if not all the stamps issued by every postal administration since their inception. So far as we know this will be a service no other Museum in the world at present provides.

The task of preparing the enormous amount of material for exhibition in the much enlarged Museum has already commenced. Perforce it must engage much of the Curator's time and because of this the current exhibition telling the story of the House of De La Rue and the first surface printed stamps will run until the end of October, when it will be replaced by a display of surface printed stamps dating from 1865 to the end of Queen Victoria's long reign.

Present Post Office plans for special postage stamps are to use the issues to portray aspects of the British heritage — our life, our culture, our achievements, our arts, and so on.

We seek to give stamps the widest possible appeal through choice of subjects and designs and in this way stimulate interest in them in this country and the world over.

This policy is being continued in 1968 when there will be four special stamp issues. These will include one issue to mark three anniversaries — the centenary of the Trades Union Congress, the 50th anniversary of Votes for Women and the bi-centenary of Captain Cook's first voyage of discovery. There will be pictorial issues depicting British bridges and British paintings. And there will again be Christmas stamps.

During 1968, too, the issue of the new definitive low and high value stamps will be completed. The new definitives, with new profile portrait of the Queen by Arnold Machin, are already available in a number of denominations. The first stage of the issue was on 5th June with the 4d, 1s 0d and 1s 9d. The second stage was on 8th August with the 3d, 9d and 1s 6d.

Looking ahead to 1969 it has already been decided by the Postmaster General to have a stamp issue to mark the installation of Prince Charles as Prince of Wales.

To enable this year's Christmas stamps to be used on the bulk of the Christmas mail for abroad the 4d stamp will be issued on 18th October and the 3d and 1s 6d on 27th November.

Postmark Slogans

'Barnstaple salutes her Famous Freeman Sir Francis Chichester' which was to have been used at Barnstaple last July will now be in use 1st to 31st October 1967.

'Aberystwyth — Record Sunshine' is being re-used at Aberystwyth in the transposed position from 17th September 1967 to 16th September 1968.

'Norwich Cathedral Antique Fair St Andrews Hall 25th October 10.30 a.m.' will be used in the standard position at Norwich from a provisional starting date of 9th to 24th October.

'26th October Petersfield Orchestra Beethoven Evening — The Town Hall' will be used in the transposed position at Petersfield from 12th to 25th October.

'Sue Ryder Homes Cavendish Suffolk — Remember The Child Victims of Hitler' will be used in the standard position at Saffron Walden, Basingstoke, Camberley, East Grinstead, Cranbrook, Haslemere, South Western District Office and in the transposed position at Saxmundham, Kidderminster, Redditch from 23rd to 28th October. It will also be used from 31st October to 6th November in the standard position at Andover, Berwick on Tweed, Trowbridge, Glasgow Head Office, Northern District Office, Harrow and Wembley, Leeds, and in the transposed position at Taunton, Kirkcaldy, Oban, Barry, Keighley, and Sheffield.

'New Industry Thrives in Sunderland' is being re-used at Sunderland from 1st August 1967 to 31st March 1968.

'Come Sail on the Ferry to New Brighton Wallasey' will be re-used at Wallasey from 12th November until further notice.

'The Centre for the Cotswolds send to Town Hall for Guide — Cheltenham' (design showing columns of a building) will be re-used at Cheltenham from 11th November 1967 to 10th January 1968.

'Borough of Eccles 1892-1967 Charter Celebrations' will be withdrawn from Eccles S.O. Manchester on 9th November.

'You Dig Harlow why not an allotment' will be re-used at Harlow from 1st to 30th Nov.

'Choose Ryde Isle of Wight for Happy Holidays' will be re-used at Ryde from 10th September 1967 to 23rd August 1968.

'Southend-on-Sea Modern Centre for Business and Industry' will be re-used at Southend from 16th October 1967 to 30th June 1968.

'Remember To Use The Postal Code' will be used at Sheffield from 1st November until further notice, and at Nottingham and the following Nottingham Sub offices: Beeston, Long Eaton, Hucknall, Sutton in Ashfield, Kirby in Ashfield and Eastwood. From 23rd October until further notice.

Covers for re-posting to Head or District Postmasters concerned.

Christmas Stamps — First Day Cover Services

For the second series of this year's Christmas stamps — the 3d and 1s 6d to be issued on 27th November — both the Bureau and Bethlehem cancellations will be available for first day cover collectors. In both cases the full service (A) using the specially designed envelopes will cost 4s 9d each and the fee for servicing customers' own pre-addressed envelopes will be 2s 9d.

Orders should be sent to the Head Postmaster, Llanelli, Carm., for the Bethlehem postmark or to the Bureau for the usual 'Philatelic

Bureau' cancellation. If *both* postmarks are required the application forms should be sent to the Bureau.

ALL ORDERS FOR STAMPS MUST BE
SENT TO THE BUREAU.

In addition to these services special philatelic posting boxes will be available at the offices shown below for those customers who like to prepare and post their own covers. No presentation packs will be issued for these stamps.

List of Offices with Philatelic Posting Boxes:

London:

Chief Office, King Edward Street, EC1.

Battersea District Office, Lavender Hill, SW11.

Eastern District Office, Whitechapel Road, E1.

Northern District Office, Upper Street, N1.

North Western District Office, Eversholt Street, NW1.

South Eastern District Office, Borough High Street, SE1.

South Western District Office, Howick Place, SW1.

Western Central District Office, 181 High Holborn, WC1.

Wimpole Street, W1. Remnant Street, (Kingsway), WC1.

111 Baker Street, W1. Southampton Street, Strand, WC2.

Spring Street, W2. Trafalgar Square BO, WC2.

110 Victoria Street, SW1.

Aberdeen	Exeter	Oxford
Aberystwyth	Fareham	Paisley
Aldershot	Folkestone	Perth
Ayr	Glasgow	Peterborough
Barnstaple	Gloucester	Plymouth
Bath	Grimsby	Pontypridd & Porth
Bedford	Guernsey	Portsmouth
Belfast	Harrogate	Preston
Birmingham	Harrow	Reading
Blackburn	Hastings	Romford
Blackpool	Hereford	Rotherham
Bournemouth	Hounslow	Salisbury
Bradford	Huddersfield	Sheffield
Brighton	Hull	Shrewsbury
Bristol	Inverness	Skegness
Bromley	Ipswich	Southampton
Burnley	Jersey	Southend-on-Sea
Bury St Edmunds	Kingston-upon-Thames	South Shields
Cambridge	Leeds	St Albans
Canterbury	Leicester	Stockport
Cardiff	Lincoln	Stockton-on-Tees
Carlisle	Liverpool	Stoke-on-Trent
Chatham	Llanelli	Sunderland
Chelmsford	Llandudno	Swansea
Chester	Londonderry	Swindon
Colchester	Loughborough	Taunton
Colwyn Bay	Luton	Torquay
Coventry	Maidstone	Truro
Croydon	Manchester	Tunbridge Wells
Derby	Mansfield	Walsall
Doncaster	Middlesbrough	Watford
Dorchester	Newcastle-upon-Tyne	Windsor
Douglas, Isle of Man	Newport, Isle of Wight	Wolverhampton
Dumfries	Newport, Mon.	Worcester
Dundee	Northampton	Worthing
Eastbourne	Norwich	York
Edinburgh	Nottingham	

Christmas Air Letter Forms

This year we are again issuing Christmas pictorial air letter forms.

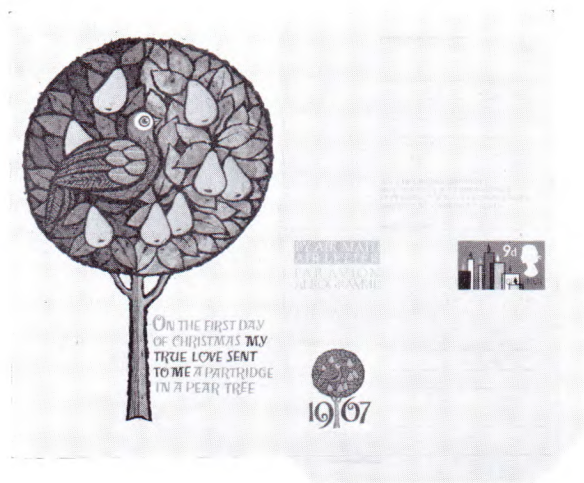
There are two designs; one shows a partridge in a pear tree illustrating the carol 'The Twelve Days of Christmas' while the second depicts the three wise men offering their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh to the child Jesus.

The pear tree design is the work of Clive Abbott who produced the Santa Claus in Reindeerland panel in last year's form and who was responsible for the EFTA and Post Office Tower stamp designs.

The design of the nativity scene is by Eric Fraser.

Both forms have the same printed stamp design of brightly coloured Christmas candles by Michael and Sylvia Goaman who designed last year's Christmas air letter stamp.

The forms will be available from 1st November 1967 at 10d each and for recognition purposes will be known as 'Pear Tree' and 'Nativity'.



We receive many letters from collectors all over the world and feel that some would be of interest to our readers.

We propose, therefore, to introduce a 'Letters to the Editor' column in which we will publish those of especial interest. Due to limitations of space it will only be possible to print a few each month and we hope that contributors will understand if their letters are not all published.

Don't all rush, please!

Letters not exceeding 200 words on topics relating to British stamps, postal history etc, should be addressed to The Editor, Philatelic Bulletin, PSD/HMB, GPO Headquarters, London EC1.

Withdrawal of Bureau Stock Items

Stocks of 6d Battle of Hastings phosphor and 6d Technology phosphor are exhausted and no further orders for them can be accepted.

Special Handstamps

Collectors of special handstamp cancellations are reminded, that when the word 'PAQUEBOT' appears on the handstamp, re-posting facilities are not available, as only those items, collected from the ship in question, may be cancelled with a 'PAQUEBOT' handstamp. This rule applies to the special handstamp 'Paquebot. Posted at Sea. Queen Mary', which will be used at Southampton on those days when the 'Queen Mary' arrives back from her last Atlantic voyage and her last cruise.

As a marked contrast to last year's children's designs this year's three special stamps illustrate religious themes and are taken from classical paintings.

The 4d stamp to be issued on 18th October will show Murillo's painting of the Madonna and Child Jesus, and will be printed in yellow, red, green, grey and gold.

'The Adoration of the Shepherds' ascribed to the School of Seville is depicted on the 3d stamp and is in five colours, yellow, red, blue, black and gold, while Louis Le Nain's 'Adoration of the Shepherds' in yellow, pink, red, blue, black, brown and gold forms the subject of the 1s 6d value. Both the 3d and 1s 6d values will be issued on 27th November.

The names of the artist and printer are shown on the bottom gutter of the stamps, which are printed by Harrison and Sons. The Queen's head and value appear in gold with the 3d and 4d values indicated in figures and the 1s 6d in words.

The stamps will all have phosphor lines and will be printed by photogravure. The printing processes are:

Paper: Plain coated.

Machines: 3d, 1s 6d Sheet fed rotary.
4d Reel fed rotary.

Size: 3d and 4d 1.6" × 1.173"
1s 6d 1.2294" × 1.6"

Perforation: 3d and 4d 30 × 21
1s 6d 22 × 30

Diameter: .0355"

Number of stamps to sheet: 3d 120
4d 120
1s 6d 60

'The Madonna and Child' is in the Rijks Museum, Amsterdam and the other two in the National Gallery, London.

Philatelic Agency in New York

Philatelists and stamp dealers in America and Canada are now able to buy British postage stamps direct from New York, following the appointment of Stanley Gibbons New York subsidiary, StanGib Limited, as philatelic distributors for the Post Office in the two countries. Official title of the new agency is The British Post Office Philatelic Distributors. It is situated in the StanGib building on 20 East 54th Street, New York, where showrooms will exhibit original art work and essays featuring the most recent issues of British stamps as well as other publicity materials. The agency will also conduct a nation-wide publicity campaign aimed at the promotion of sales of British stamps, which are already earning the UK useful dollars but which, it is hoped, will earn much more.

The Philatelic Bureau, Edinburgh, will continue to meet orders from customers for first day covers and other items as required.

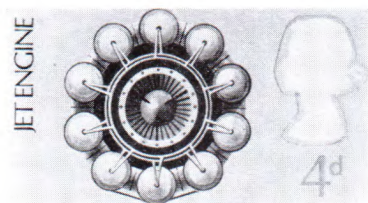
Special Handstamps

'Polonaie Millenium Documentary and Philatelic Exhibition' will be used at Birmingham 10th to 12th November 1967.

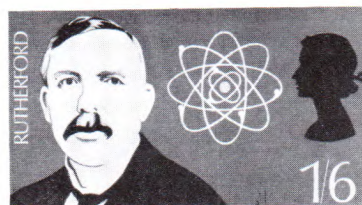
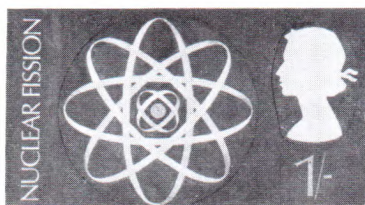
'11th November 1967 Finchley N3' will be used at London NDO on the occasion of the Middlesex and Associated Philatelic Societies Exhibition.

'Barnstaple Devon Honours Sir Francis Chichester' which was announced for last July, will now be used at Barnstaple HO on 12th October 1967. Sir Francis Chichester will be made a Freeman of Barnstaple on that day.

**Unaccepted Stamp Designs
British Discoveries
Issued 19th September
1967**

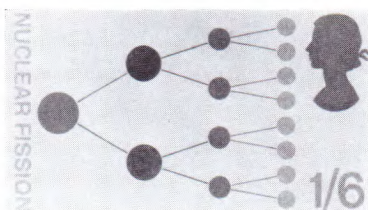
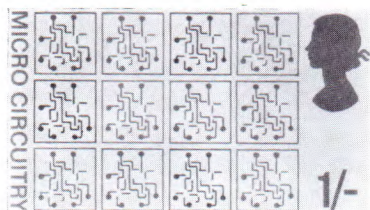
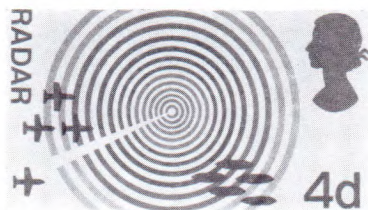


Clive Abbott

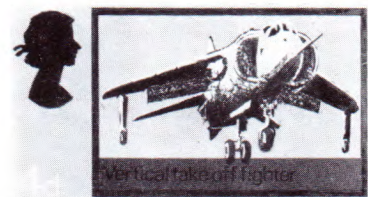


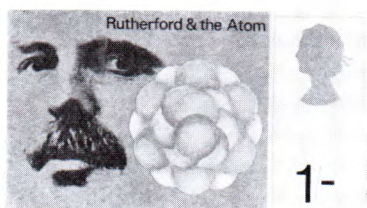
Peter Gauld

Margaret Calvert



Harrison & Sons





Negus Sharland

The Perforating Machine of Henry Archer

It is well known that during the early years of adhesive stamps each stamp had to be cut from the sheet and this was a laborious and time wasting business, especially during busy periods at Post Offices.

One of the first ideas to overcome this problem was a suggestion that a line be placed between the stamps by means of a cut in the engraving. It was thought that the paper would be pressed into the cuts during the printing process and a simple form of detaching them would result.

The Post Office was so beset by difficulties in finding fugitive inks and suitable obliterators that it did not consider suggestions for separating the stamps.

The principle of perforation was known at this time but it was not until 1847 that Henry Archer invented a machine for treating sheets of stamps. He wrote at some length to the Postmaster General and informed him of his invention and pointed out the many advantages which it would bring.

The letter must have been persuasive enough for the Post Office to reply that they would wish to see the machine before coming to a decision as to its usefulness, and on 14th October 1847 it was duly inspected. The Officers who saw the machine were so impressed that they recommended it to the notice of the Commissioner of Stamps.

Eventually Archer was asked to have two machines built at his own expense and to forward them to Perkins, Bacon and Petch. The first machines were not very successful as it was found that the piercing rollers damaged the tables on which the sheets of stamps were laid and this system had to be abandoned.

In 1848 a third machine was built on a new principle and was the forerunner of the comb perforating machine. This invention was patented and the machine tested by Perkins, Bacon and Petch. The first trials in December 1848 were not a success as the gum clogged the works and made accurate spacing of the perforation impossible.

A number of alterations were made to the machine and in May 1850 the Board of Inland Revenue informed the Treasury that the machine was to be brought into use.

It is thought that about 5,000 sheets of penny stamps were perforated during these experiments and although most of the sheets were destroyed some were put into circulation. During the trials sheets came from plates 90, 92-101 and 105 and all the stamps used bore check letters from Alphabet 1.

In September 1850 Henry Archer was offered £500 for his invention and then £600 but Archer refused such paltry sums. Eventually after a Select Committee had reported on his case the Treasury paid him £4,000 for the machine, patent rights and all the expenses he had incurred.

We have to be grateful for the tenacity Archer showed as without his efforts it may have been many more years before the first perforated stamps were issued.

British Discovery Stamps

These stamps were printed on coated water-marked paper and not as shown on page 11 of the August Bulletin. This was because it was found that there was just sufficient of this type left to cope with this particular issue. We offer apologies for any confusion our earlier announcement caused.

Conditions

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

Stamps are NOT supplied cancelled to order. Remittances, which *must* be sent with orders should be made payable to 'GPO Philatelic Bureau' and should include a handling charge of 6d for orders under 10s, and 3s 9d for orders of 10s and over (9d and 4/- respectively for orders to Overseas Countries, other than the Commonwealth). For orders to be sent by Air Mail the cost of the airmail postage should be added. Stamps are not accepted as payment for orders.

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