

Philatelic Bulletin

Volume 7 Number 11 July 1970



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Introduction

Tony de Righi’s first article as Curator of the National Postal Museum appears this month and it is of such quality as to whet the appetite for more. Philatelists everywhere will be grateful to him for bringing to their notice such interesting material.

The various military and RAF covers are becoming increasingly popular, and details of the latest issues are given for the benefit of cover collectors, who will also be interested in our Commonwealth Games cover.

Pressure of space last month prevented us showing the new decimal stamps and ‘To Pay’ labels, but we have rectified it and also reproduce the fascinating Commonwealth Games stamps.

Details of the Philympia stamps are expected to be announced shortly, and we will print them with coloured pictures next month.

Reginald M. Phillips, CBE

We offer our sincere congratulations to Reginald M. Phillips of Brighton – the founder of the National Postal Museum – on his award of the CBE in the recent Birthday Honours List.

Open Day – Royal School of Military Engineering

To commemorate the Open Day of the Royal School of Military Engineering on 1 August 1970 a special cover will be produced.

Each cover will bear one of the four 5d stamps commemorating the Centenary of the Death of Charles Dickens and will be cancelled with a special British Forces Postal Service handstamp.



Fully serviced covers, at a cost of 5s each or £1 for the set of 4 bearing the 4 different postage stamps, are available from:

The Philatelic Officer
HQ RSME
Chatham
Kent

where a posting box will be provided on the day.

Centenary – 1 Squadron Royal Corps of Transport

To commemorate the Centenary of 1 Squadron Royal Corps of Transport a special cover will be issued on 15 July 1970. Fully serviced covers, stamped with the IXth British Commonwealth Games 5d stamp to be issued on the same day and cancelled with a special British Forces Postal Service handstamp, are available at 5s each from:

The Centenary Project Officer
1 Sqn RCT
Roman Way Camp
Colchester
Essex

where a posting box will be provided on the day. Items for reposting should also be sent to this address.

World Aerobatic Championships 1970

RAF Hullavington in Wiltshire has been chosen as the venue for the 1970 World Aerobatic Championships which are being held in Great Britain for the first time. The competition, under the auspices of the Royal Aero Club, will take place from 13 to 26 July 1970. To commemorate this major event in our aviation calendar the RAF Museum is issuing a special cover depicting the Armstrong Whitworth 'Siskin'. It will be stamped with the 5d Alcock and Brown stamp and cancelled with a special British Forces Postal Service No. 1117 handstamp. All covers will be flown aerobatically in a British team aircraft and will receive a suitable cachet to this effect.

Covers will cost 5s each and orders, with remittances, should be sent to:

The Philatelic Officer
RAF Hullavington
Chippenham
Wiltshire

They should be available for despatch soon after 26 July.

Items for reposting should also be sent to this address.

National Army Museum Series—Military Covers

On 13 August 1970 two further covers in this series will be issued.

Group 3 No. 2 Famous Generals

This cover illustrates a portrait of the famous John Churchill, the first Duke of Marlborough, who conducted the allied campaign against the French in the Low Countries from 1702–13. The covers will be cancelled with the special Pictorial British Forces Postal Service handstamp no. 1212, which illustrates Blenheim Palace.

Group 4 No. 5 Campaigns and Battles

This cover illustrates the Battle of Blenheim in 1704, one of the great victories of the Duke of Marlborough. The covers will be cancelled with the special Pictorial British Forces Postal Service handstamp no. 1213, which depicts the Churchill crest.

Each cover costs 5s (overseas customers, postage extra) and may be ordered from:

The Philatelic Officer
The National Army Museum Building
Appeal
HM Tower of London
London EC3

However, items for reposting only should be clearly marked 'Special Handstamp No.....' on the outer cover and forwarded to:

The Philatelic Officer
Inglis Barracks
Mill Hill
London NW7

where a posting box will be provided on the day.

Rotary at Philympia

The Rotary Club of Hammersmith is the host club to all Rotarians visiting London for Philympia. A lunch will be held at The Clarendon Restaurant, Hammersmith W6, on 21 September, when the Guest of Honour will be Viscount Hall, Chairman of the Post Office. Any Rotarian wishing to attend should advise Rotarian A. Usher, 17 Nassau Road, Barnes, London SW13, as soon as possible as seating accommodation will be limited.

50th Anniversary – No. 1 School of Technical Training RAF

The 50th Anniversary of No. 1 School of Technical Training RAF at Halton on 1 August is being celebrated by a reunion of ex-apprentices, an Open Day, and a special cover, No. S.C.13, in the current Museum series.

The cover depicts the S.E.5(a) aircraft, and the 5d Alcock and Brown stamp will be franked by a special British Forces Postal Service No. 1118 handstamp with the famous RAF Apprentices' 'Wheel' as the central motif.

All covers will be flown to the French Air Force's Apprentice Training Establishment at Cognac, Charente, where arrangements have

been made for them to be backstamped. A cachet, giving details of the aircraft in which they are flown, and of the pilot, will be applied to the covers, which should be available for distribution by 15 August.

Covers will cost 5s each (6s if signed by the pilot) and orders, with remittances, should be sent to:

The Philatelic Officer
RAF Halton
Aylesbury, Bucks

As with all covers in this series, all the work and organizing is undertaken by volunteers, and the profits given to the RAF Museum Fund.

The Post Office at Philympia

The largest stand that the Post Office has ever occupied at a philatelic exhibition, 8,000 sq ft, will house the Post Office contribution to Philympia 1970. The theme of the display will be the development of the postage stamp from 1840.

In addition to the display there will be a sales counter with twenty-two positions and a cinema in which there will be continuous showing of 'Picture to Post' and two new films now in production – one showing the British way of life as seen through special issue stamps and the other on the development of colour in British stamps from 1840 to the present day.

On each day of Philympia except Sunday 20 September coaches will leave the exhibition at regular intervals to visit some of the interesting postal places in London.

Separate tours will be arranged to see the treasures of the R. M. Phillips collection in the National Postal Museum; the famous Post Office Tower, the highest building in Great Britain; the new Western District Office; and the Post Office Records at Postal Headquarters.

Each tour will last about three hours and tickets will be available at a nominal charge.

In addition to these tours the organizers are arranging for visits to beauty spots and historically interesting places within easy reach of London.

'Discovering British Postage Stamps'

A new guide in the 'Discovering' series is now available and to a newcomer to the hobby it gives a clear picture of the history and development of British stamps.

The author, C. W. Hill, has produced a very readable booklet which describes the situation which led up to the postal reforms of the early nineteenth century and the introduction of the first adhesive stamps. He follows this with chapters on the various printing methods, varieties, colours, perforations, watermarks and phosphor lines all of which are of considerable interest.

Mr Hill goes on to trace the development of stamp design and reiterates the point so often forgotten that postage stamp design reflects the age it lives in. This chapter is probably the best in the book and puts into perspective some of the many facets of an exciting and inexhaustible subject.

In addition to the sections on stamps the book contains information on covers, postal stationery, first day covers, postmarks, slogans and much more of interest together with many black and white illustrations.

'Discovering British Postage Stamps' by C. W. Hill is published by Shire Publications at 4s 6d.

British Commonwealth Games

Forty years ago the first Commonwealth Games were held at Hamilton, Ontario. Since then they have been held in London, Sydney, Auckland, Vancouver, Cardiff, Perth, and Kingston, Jamaica.

They take place every four years and this year Edinburgh will stage what is often considered to be the largest meeting-point for the many races of the Commonwealth. A new sports stadium has been built at Meadowbank which will house five of the sports – Athletics, Badminton, Cycling, Fencing and Wrestling while the swimming and diving events will take place in the new Royal Commonwealth Pool. The remaining sports, Bowls, Boxing and Weightlifting will be contested at convenient venues in Edinburgh.

The competitors and officials will live in the Games Village at Edinburgh University's Pollock Halls of Residence with its libraries, lounges, a cinema, shopping and medical centre.

The Post Office will provide philatelic display kiosks with sales service at both the main stadium and the swimming pool where visitors and competitors will be welcome.

'G' Type Stamp Selling Machines

Listed below are the places where trial machines selling the 'G' type rolls are installed:

High St BO Colchester
Sevenoaks HO
Colmore Circus BO Birmingham
The Headrow BO Leeds
Victoria Sq BO Belfast
All Saints BO Manchester
Hope St BO Edinburgh
Cannon St BO Bristol
Albany Rd BO Cardiff
Town Centre BO Newport Mon
Broadway BO SW1
Kensington Church St BO W8
Swiss Cottage BO NW3

St Peters St BO St Albans
London Chief Office EC1
Broadwick St BO W1
19A Borough High St BO SE1
Holloway BO N7
WDO Rathbone Place W1
Gt Portland St BO W1
EDO 206 Whitechapel Rd E1
Ludgate Circus BO EC4
Trafalgar Sq BO WC2
Southampton Row BO WC1
Knightsbridge BO SW1

Air Mail – Vintage 1870

During the winter of 1870–1, the beleaguered garrison of Paris resorted to the air in a series of desperate attempts to break the blockade of the surrounding German armies. All communications in and out of the capital were in the hands of the enemy, and the citizens, soon to be reduced to eating their domestic pets, were completely cut off from the outside world.

Ever since the siege began pigeons had been used to carry urgent messages and military despatches out of the city. Many of these birds fell victims to hawks and other birds of prey, while the investing forces organized shooting parties to bring down the carriers and intercept their despatches.

A number of unmanned balloons were sent up, but these pilotless craft were completely at the mercy of wind and weather. They sailed on until brought down by gunfire or forced to the ground by loss of gas.

Sixty-six manned flights were made during the four and a half months siege, and of these the epic voyage of the *Ville d'Orleans* is certainly the best known to British philatelists. The balloon was crewed by 26-year-old Paul Valéry Rolier, a civil volunteer pilot, and his passenger 30-year-old Leonard Bazier described as a 'Franc-Tireur Sedentaire'.

The ascent was made from the Gare du Nord in overcast weather shortly before 11.30 pm on 24 November 1870, and by dawn the alarmed balloonists discovered they were over wind-swept seas.

At intervals during the next four or five hours they sighted seventeen ships but dared not descend owing to fierce winds and mountainous seas. At last, Rolier attempted to land the balloon on the deck of a passing Norwegian steamship but the force of the gale swept him half a mile past his target.

This bold manoeuvre very nearly cost the two men their lives, for as the *Ville d'Orleans* descended to sea level it was found to be travelling at nearly sixty miles an hour and height was regained only at the last moment by cutting adrift the heaviest bag of mail which weighed about three hundredweights. As it fell,

it burst open to cascade a trail of loose letters to mark the balloon's path to the coast of Norway.

Both men believed the jettisoned bag had been seen by the crew of the Norwegian vessel and taken aboard to safety. This was not so, and the heavy bag, its contents soaked with sea water, was left to float slowly towards the coast.

Meanwhile the *Ville d'Orleans* rose sharply into the clouds and continued its high-speed flight until it came to rest for a brief period on an isolated hillside, having covered a distance of nearly 800 miles in less than 15 hours. Its occupants quickly scrambled to safety while the tattered balloon bounded away to finally ground fifty miles farther on.

The jettisoned mailbag was recovered two days later purely by chance, when two fishermen saw it floating a mile or so from the coast of Norway. They brought it safely to the postmaster at Mandal who did his best to sort and dry out the letters and, after placing them in a secure box, forwarded them to the Norwegian postal authorities at Christiana.

The mail was promptly claimed by the French Consul who, despite the objections of customs officials and some wrangling over salvage money, had the box placed aboard the Leith steamship *Danzig* homeward bound for Edinburgh where it arrived on the morning of 30 November.

On arrival, the box and its contents, by now completely dried out, were at once transferred to London at the request of the French Consul at Edinburgh, and a number of letters to English addresses were delivered after back-stamping 'London 2nd December'. The remaining mail was presumably claimed by the French Embassy for onward transmission to Tours the temporary seat of government.

Covers bearing the cachet 'Par ballon Monte' datestamped at Paris on 24 November 1870 and back-stamped at London eight days later are known to collectors as 'Mandal Mail'. They are occasionally seen in collections of airmail rarities where their presence never fails to excite great interest and enthusiasm among aerophiles.

'Mayflower' Exhibition – Plymouth



The Head Postmaster of Plymouth, Mr W. H. Overmeer, showing Senator Saltonstall and the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress of Plymouth part of the display.

An exhibition to mark 'Mayflower' 70 is on display at Plymouth Head Post Office. The exhibition of stamps, artwork, etc, was opened on 4 May 1970 by Senator Leverett Saltonstall, representing the Governor of Massachusetts, who was accompanied by the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress Alderman and Mrs George Creber, Vice-Admiral Sir Ronald Brockman, Chairman of the 'Mayflower' Committee and Vice-Admiral Sir Donald Gibson, Director of the 'Mayflower' Celebrations.

During the ceremony, the Head Postmaster of Plymouth, Mr W. H. Overmeer presented the Senator with a special souvenir album of British postage stamps which the Senator promised to pass on to the State of Massachusetts.

'Philatelic Bulletin' Subscription Rates

Readers are reminded that their *Bulletins* will cost an additional 2s 6d a year from September 1970.

We have managed to keep the costs down until now but the inevitable rise in all sorts of prices forces us to increase the subscription to 10s. As this includes postage for the twelve issues we hope it will be felt worthwhile.

1971 Stamp Programme

In addition to the decimal stamps on 15 February 1971, four special stamp issues will be made during 1971.

In June the 50th Anniversary of the Northern Ireland Parliament will be marked by three stamps which will have a tourist theme illustrating aspects of the Northern Ireland scene.

Our Literary Anniversaries series will be continued in July when the bicentenary of the birth of Sir Walter Scott, the 150th anniversary of the death of John Keats and the bicentenary of the death of Thomas Gray will be commemorated.

September will see another in our British Architecture sets when four of Britain's newest University buildings will be depicted and these will be followed in October with the traditional Christmas stamps.

The values and dates of issue will be announced later.

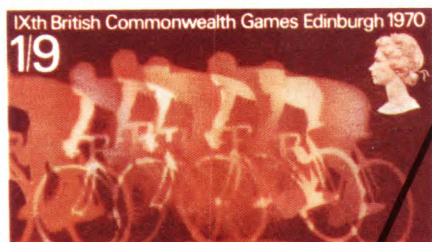
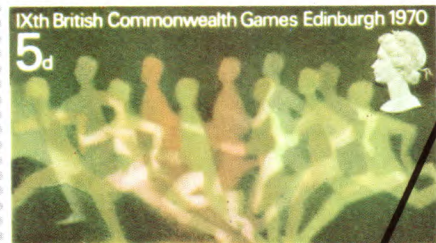
Gold Medal for Britain's Gandhi Stamp

A gold medal has been awarded to Britain's Post Office to mark the choice of last August's 1s 6d Gandhi Centenary Year Stamp as the best Gandhi stamp issued by any country in the world. The choice was made from 35 entries by the Indian Philatelic Society at the international Gandhi stamp exhibition in Calcutta.

The United Kingdom stamp was designed by Biman Mullick, who also won an IPS award for his design. Born in India, Mr Mullick came to Britain in 1960 to study advertising design at St Martin's School of Art and was the first overseas designer of a British stamp.

Another award won by the British Post Office at the Calcutta exhibition was second prize in the category for the best display of Gandhi material. The Post Office showed the original artwork for both accepted and unaccepted designs.

British Commonwealth Games Stamps



The IXth British Commonwealth Games take place this year in Edinburgh and the Post Office is to mark the occasion by issuing three stamps, 5d, 1s 6d and 1s 9d on 15 July 1970.

The stamps which illustrate three of the events, athletics, swimming and cycling, were designed by J. Andrew Restall, well known for his successful 1s 3d and 1s 6d British Technology and the 9d British Bridges designs. They are the second set of British stamps to be printed in 'Delacryl' by Thomas de la Rue Ltd. (A description of this process is contained in the October 1969 *Bulletin*.)

Presentation packs of the stamps priced 4s 8d

each will be available from all Head Post Offices or from the Philatelic Bureau.

Printing details

Printer : Thomas de la Rue & Co. Ltd

Size : 41 × 24 mm

Perforation : 14

Paper : Coated, unwatermarked with phosphor lines

No. to sheet : 120

Colours : 5d Emerald green, dark green, yellow, pink

1s 6d Brown, grey, purple, blue

1s 9d Pink, brown, mauve, orange

British Commonwealth Games Commemorative Cover

After the excitement of the General Election and the World Cup we can turn our attention to the Commonwealth Games to be held in Edinburgh between 16–25 July.

Because our Bureau is in Edinburgh we have a special affinity with that fair city, and for that reason and for the benefit of the thousands who will flock there for the Games we have produced a special commemorative cover for the event.



Covers bearing any of the Commonwealth Games stamps may be posted between 16–25 July at special boxes at the Games Village, all the venues and at various locations in the city, where they will be cancelled with a pictorial handstamp. The envelopes will be on sale from the Bureau, the philatelic sales counters and selected offices and all Games venues in Edinburgh priced 6d each. Those unable to post their covers may send them in a separate envelope to the Head Postmaster, Edinburgh EH1 1AA, for cancellation. The outer cover should be marked 'Special Handstamp'.

Only covers posted at or sent to Edinburgh will receive the cancellation. No A, B or C services will be provided.

June 1970 'Bulletin'

We apologize to those of our subscribers who were inconvenienced by the late receipt of the June 'Bulletin'. We despatched most on time, but a few were delayed by a shortage of order forms due to printing difficulties.

Presentation Packs

In Volume 5 No. 1 we printed a list of Presentation Packs prepared up to the British Paintings issue of July 1967. In response to the many requests we have received we now bring the list up to date.

British Discoveries. 19 September 1967.
4d, 1s, 1s 6d, 1s 9d.

British Bridges. 29 April 1968.
4d, 9d, 1s 6d, 1s 9d.

British Anniversaries. 29 May 1968.
4d, 9d, 1s, 1s 9d.

British Paintings. 12 August 1968.
4d, 1s, 1s 6d, 1s 9d.

Christmas 1968. 25 November 1968.
4d, 9d, 1s 6d.

British Ships. 15 January 1969.
5d, 9d (3 stamps), 1s (2 stamps).

Concorde. 3 March 1969. 4d, 9d, 1s 6d.

High Value Definitives. 5 March 1969.
2s 6d, 5s, 10s, £1.

Low Value Definitives. 5 March 1969.
 $\frac{1}{2}$ d, 1d, 2d, 3d, 4d, 5d, 6d, 7d, 8d, 9d, 10d,
1s, 1s 6d, 1s 9d.

Notable Anniversaries. 2 April 1969.
5d, 9d, 1s, 1s 6d, 1s 9d.

British Architecture. 28 May 1969.
5d (4 stamps), 9d, 1s 6d.

Prince of Wales Investiture. 1 July 1969.
5d (3 stamps), 9d, 1s.

Post Office Technology. 1 October 1969.
5d, 9d, 1s, 1s 6d.

Christmas 1969. 26 November 1969.
4d, 5d, 1s 6d.

British Architecture. 11 February 1970.
5d, 9d, 1s, 1s 6d.

General Anniversaries. 1 April 1970.
5d, 9d, 1s, 1s 6d, 1s 9d.

Literary Anniversaries. 3 June 1970.
5d (4 stamps), 1s 6d

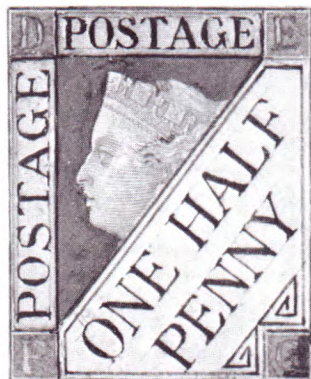


fig. 1



fig. 4



fig. 2



fig. 3

The First Halfpenny and Three Halfpenny Values – a Centenary

In three months time – on 1 October to be precise – just one hundred years will have elapsed since the issue of Britain's first $\frac{1}{2}d$ and $1\frac{1}{2}d$ postage stamps. Neither value is any longer current, but whereas the $1\frac{1}{2}d$ became obsolete in the mid-1960s (it had ceased to pay the minimum letter rate in May 1940) the $\frac{1}{2}d$ value almost made its centenary, being generally

withdrawn from sale only as recently as June 1969.

Like the other engraved issues both values are of considerable interest and afford scope for research. Moreover each of the two stamps has a character all of its own. The Halfpenny is small and compact like a miniature rose; the Three Halfpence is distinguished by the curious

three-sided frame which encloses the head and recalls the facets of the current 50p coin.

The reason for the issue of both new values in October 1870 was the introduction of new newspaper and printed matter rates which were notified to postmasters in a Postal Official Circular dated 20 September 1870. This stated that newspapers could, as from 1 October 1870, be sent by post for one halfpenny irrespective of weight and that copies of parliamentary proceedings, books, circulars, patterns and samples could all be sent within the United Kingdom at the rate of $\frac{1}{2}d$ per 2 oz.

While both values are relatively common they are becoming increasingly difficult to find in mint condition, especially in multiples. Newspaper wrappers or other coverings for printed matter on which postage has been paid with a single copy of either value – i.e. the purpose for which the two stamps were designed – are elusive. More often the $\frac{1}{2}d$ and the $1\frac{1}{2}d$, particularly the latter, were used in multiples to make up rates such as 2d, 3d or 6d.

The 1870 Halfpenny

The idea of a halfpenny value had apparently been considered as far back as 1865 because in that year a number of $\frac{1}{2}d$ essays were prepared by Messrs De la Rue, one of which is illustrated here (fig. 1). By 1868, when Somerset House prepared further essays, pressure was being put on the government to provide a cheap ($\frac{1}{2}d$) local delivery service for circulars and the like. In fact, in 1867–9, the Post Office was taking legal action to suppress the highly successful private local delivery companies which had mushroomed under Robert Bydome and Eyre and which, the courts eventually ruled, infringed the Post Office's monopoly.

By early in 1870 preliminary steps for the production of a halfpenny stamp were again under way. Essays were submitted by Perkins Bacon and by De la Rue (one is illustrated as fig. 2). It was finally decided that the $\frac{1}{2}d$ should be half the size of the 1d red and very similar in design. There was the same use of an engine-

turned background on which Frederick Heath (one of the two engravers of the 1d black) engraved the Queen's head. Like the 1840 penny the die proof struck in black (see fig. 3) has no corner letters.

The 1870–9 halfpenny is unique not only in being the only issued half-size British postage stamp but also in being printed from plates of 480 stamps each consisting of 20 horizontal rows of 24 stamps. Over the period of issue twenty plates were started – of these Nos. 2, 7, 16, 17 and 18 were not completed. The rarest plate, No. 9, was apparently used as a reserve plate and it is estimated that only some 50,000 sheets were printed from it – out of the estimated total of 4,156,000 *sheets* printed of the whole issue. This latter comes to the staggering total of nearly 2,000 million stamps issued and yet the stamp is nothing like so common as the 1d value; the reason of course is that they were all used on printed matter, cards or samples and relatively few survived.

The 1870 halfpenny sheets also had one further peculiarity; they were comb perforated in such a way that one of the side margins is normally imperforate. The only major errors are 'imperforate between' and imperforate on all four sides.

A number of colour trials was made early in 1870 of which examples can be seen in the R. M. Phillips collection in the National Postal Museum. The most interesting of these are perhaps the ones (in 12 colours) for which defaced miniature sheets of the 'Diadem' issue of New South Wales were specially prepared (see fig. 4). Although green was the colour originally selected for this stamp, in fact a rose-red shade rather similar to the 1d was actually used. Examples in purple on small star water-marked paper are colour trials prepared in 1878 for the Board of Inland Revenue in an attempt to secure lighter and more fugitive colours; a reminder of the GPO's obsession from 1840 onwards with the (largely illusory) danger of forgeries to defraud the revenue.

(To be continued)

A. G. RIGO DE RIGHI

New Decimal Stamps

These are Britain's first decimal stamps and 'To Pay' labels which have been on sale since 17 June 1970.

The low-value decimal stamps will be issued on D Day – 15 February 1971.



Postmark Slogans

See you at the Dairy Festival Hove Seafront Lawns 22–28 July will be used transposed at Brighton from 13–28 July 1970.

Ashcroft Croydon Whitehall Farces 01–688 9291 will be used transposed at Croydon from 13 July until 6 September 1970.

Harrogate Festival of Arts & Sciences August 4–15 1970 will be used transposed at Harrogate until 15 August 1970.

County Borough of Burnley French Week 27 September to 3 October 1970 will be used transposed at Burnley from 3 August until 16 September 1970.

Prestatyn Welcomes You will be used transposed at Prestatyn until 30 September 1970 and from 1 January until 31 March 1971.

Action for the Crippled Child will not be used until 2 August 1970.

Fly Direct from Manchester – Gateway to the World at the Heart of Britain is continuing in use at Manchester until further notice.

Bradford Means Business will be re-used at Bradford until further notice.

Blackpool Illuminations 4th Sept–25th Oct will be used transposed at Blackpool from 1 August until 24 October 1970.

Harrogate Festival of Arts and Sciences August 4–15 1970 will be used at Harrogate until 15 August 1970.

Becket 1170–1970 Festival Brentwood Brochure 3/6 post paid from Council Offices Ingrave Road will be used at Brentwood until 18 July 1970 and not until 31 July 1970 as previously published.

Powis Castle open June to Sept this slogan has now been cancelled.

The Dairy Festival – Pintas fill the Energy Gap will be used transposed at three London offices – South Eastern District Office, Battersea and Paddington, also at Cardiff, Southampton, Weston-super-Mare, Morecambe, Derby, Carlisle and Torquay until 17 August 1970.

Remember to use the Postcode will be used transposed at Eastern Central District Office London from 20 July until further notice.

Hinckley Multiple Sclerosis Hinckley 12 Sept 1970 slogan has been cancelled.

Ilkley Chamber Music Week July 18–25 1970 will be used transposed at Ilkley until 25 July 1970.

See the New Wigan for yourself will be used transposed at Wigan until 31 August 1970.

Wigan is growing – Come and grow with it will be used transposed at Wigan from 1 September until 30 November 1970.

The Masters Golf Tournament Lytham St Annes 9–12 September will be used transposed at Blackpool from 11 July until 29 August 1970.

Colchester Searchlight Tattoo August 5–8 Tel. Colchester 73000 will be used transposed at Colchester until 2 August 1970.

Visit Stoke Church Flower Festival 10–13 September 1970 will be used transposed at Stoke-on-Trent from 3 August until 12 September 1970.

Remember to use the Postcode will be used transposed at Sunderland from 13 July 1970 until further notice.

Special Handstamps

The Open 1970 Day 1 8 July St Andrews Fife Scotland; The Open 1970 Day 2 9 July St Andrews Fife Scotland; The Open 1970 Day 3 10 July St Andrews Fife Scotland; The Open 1970 Day 4 11 July St Andrews Fife Scotland; The Open 1970 Play Off 12 July St Andrews Fife Scotland will all be used to cancel items posted in the special collecting box at St Andrews Golf Course from 8–12 July 1970.

Mayflower 1620–1970 Boston Lincs will be used for items posted in a special posting box in the Guildhall, Boston, until September.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Sir,

The Queen's head which appears on the Concorde issue, as well as, for example, British Ships and the standard Air Letter, etc, is significantly superior to the plain silhouette which has been used on the majority of commemorative stamps recently.

May I, therefore, warmly recommend that this classically sculptured profile receives every consideration by the Design Panel in the case of special issues for the future.

Yours faithfully,

J. LOGAN BRIGGS

Dundee

Dear Sir,

Regarding correspondence from 'Colin J. V. Gray' of Great Yarmouth (Vol. 7, No. 8, April 1970).

Would you, either direct or through the *Bulletin*, continue this correspondence? I certainly find the proposed method of removing stamps from paper very successful providing the paper is thin. I cannot, however, satisfactorily dry a stamp by laying it on a sheet of clean blotting paper as suggested by your correspondent.

If whilst damp the stamp is laid face uppermost on blotting paper, then the gum adheres to the paper. If the stamp is laid face downwards then as it dries it cockles and becomes quite unsuitable for mounting.

Any recommendations which would enable me and others to dry stamps by merely laying them on a sheet of blotting paper would be greatly appreciated.

Yours faithfully,

ROBERT H. LAW

Newtownabbey, Co. Antrim

Dear Sir,

I was very interested to read Mr Robson Lowe's letter in the April *Bulletin* regarding the part played by Mr Samuel Graveson in the formation of the Postal History Society. In 1937 Mr Graveson was the winner of the Herts Philatelic Postal History Competition and was

presented with a cup by Captain G. L. Hearn, for his entry 'The Post into Kent and Foreign Parts'. When the Hertford and District Philatelic Society was formed in 1947 they were fortunate in having Mr Graveson, who was living in Hertford, as their first President. The cup which was won by Mr Graveson was presented by him to our Society and The Graveson Cup, as it is now known, is competed for annually by our members.

Your readers may like to know that Mr Graveson's Postal History collection is kept in the archives at County Hall, Hertford, and is available for inspection and research during normal office hours. Part of this collection will be included in the Society's displays at Hertford County Day on Monday 25 May and at Welwyn Garden City on 30 May 1970.

Yours sincerely,

A. STANLEY BARNES

Secretary Hertford and District
Philatelic Society

Dear Sir,

In your February issue you record that the Avro 504K was first used at Cranwell in 1920.

Unfortunately you are misinformed on this matter.

My own first flight in a 504K was at Cranwell, then a Royal Naval Air Service station, on 5 March 1918, and my log books show that I made a total of 71 flights in this wonderful 'bus' before I was demobilized in November 1919.

Yours faithfully,

W. E. LEWIS

Tunbridge Wells, Kent

Dear Sir,

As an American collector of British stamps, I eagerly awaited the April issue of the *Philatelic Bulletin*. Upon receiving my copy, I began to read the articles in order. Eventually, two items caught my eye. One of these was the illustration and short description of the Anglo-French essay in Marcus Arman's excellent article on the Gill/Dulac designs. The other

was R. J. Straker's letter proposing a series of international stamps.

After pondering his proposal for a while, I began to realize the advantages and problems that would be involved in 'internationalizing' the postal system. At first glance, the minuses seem to outweigh the pluses. The major problems would be developing a type of currency that these stamps could use universally, a language usable throughout the world, and, perhaps the most difficult barrier of all, a means of gaining international use and acceptance of these issues. The major advantages have already been enumerated in Mr Straker's letter.

I feel that the leaders of our various governments should meet to discuss a world-wide postage stamp series. If this proposal was accepted, the stamp would probably have no denomination. Individual nations would establish a uniform price in their currency to the other nations. The words 'International Postage' in various languages would be superimposed on a small central design, possibly the UPU symbol. The international reply coupon has already established this ideal to a certain point, and the international stamp would only add to the fine example that the IRC has set.

In conclusion, I feel that the international stamp would greatly simplify the achievement of our goals of world unity and peace.

Sincerely yours,

JOEL S. KAHN

Silver Spring, USA

Stamp Repurchase Scheme Extended

The Post Office has extended the scheme by which they repurchase postage stamps to include all £sd stamps of the current reign. Previously only stamps bought within the previous two years for postal purposes were repurchased.

This is being done to help those customers who would otherwise hold excess stocks of £sd stamps when they become invalid – within 18

months of Decimalization Day on 15 February 1971.

The Post Office will charge 15 per cent of the face value when repurchasing stamps included in the extended scheme. Denominations under 1s will be accepted only in half-sheets or multiples of half-sheets, other stamps only in quarter-sheets or multiples.

These stamps should be sent to the Postal Finance Department, Cashier's Section (SRG) Postal Headquarters, St Martin's-le-Grand, London, EC1A 1HQ. Included should be the name and address of the sender in block capitals, details of the quantity of stamps of each denomination, the value of those stamps, and the post office at which they were purchased and when.

Stamps bought for the postal use within the last two years should continue to be forwarded in accordance with instructions laid down in the *Post Office Guide* and the charge of 12½ per cent will continue to be made as at present.

Philatelic Bureau Handling Charges

There is good news for Bureau customers with the introduction of a new scale of reduced handling charges. The rates are now:

Orders under £2 to a UK or Commonwealth address 6d

Orders under £2 to any other address 9d

Orders £2 and above to UK or Commonwealth 3s 9d

Orders £2 and above to any other address 4s

The charges have been made possible by an increase in the minimum amount which becomes liable for the registration fee.

Philatelic Posting Box

A special philatelic posting box will be provided on first days of issue at Rochdale, Lancashire.

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