

Philatelic Bulletin

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Editorial

Our recent article on 'gutter pairs' did, as we expected, arouse a considerable amount of interest. We have been inundated with letters including many asking for permission to reprint the article. One or two correspondents have raised a query on one of the points Mr Walker made and as soon as he returns to the office from a spell of indisposition we will publish his further comments.

We are delighted to feature this month the Horses stamps together with background notes for which we thank the various contributors. If these stamps are as well received as Patrick Oxenham's previous, Wildlife, series both we and he will be satisfied!

Last October we mentioned that if a mere 1% of Bulletin readers submitted an entry for our Stampex trophy the judges would have 1000 to consider! Our plea fell on deaf ears we fear but we will return to it later. We are also concerned

at the scarcity of entries for the Melville Junior Stamp Competition and we have undertaken to help publicise it. We will publish some advance notes as soon as we can in time for the 1979 event.

'Cycling' Stamp Issue 2 August 1978

Four special postage stamps, values 9p, 10½p, 11p and 13p, illustrating examples of cycles which have been manufactured in this country over the years, will be issued on 2 August 1978. The machines depicted are: the penny-farthing, a 1920s tourer, a modern small wheel cycle, and a modern road racing cycle.

First Day Cover Services

The following first day cover services will be offered by the Philatelic Bureau, Edinburgh, including a choice of two pictorial handstamps: Philatelic Bureau, Edinburgh, and, Harrogate, North Yorkshire.

Service A

This consists of the official Post Office cover, addressed to the correct postal address of the destination required, and bearing all four stamps. The cover will be cancelled, Philatelic Bureau, Edinburgh or Harrogate, North Yorkshire as requested, and despatched for a charge of 61½p. For deposit account customers the charge will be 57p.

Service B

Customers own pre-addressed covers bearing the correct postal address, will be given the full set of stamps, cancelled and despatched for a charge of 51½p per cover.

Service C

For bulk orders of 50 or more covers all to the same address, under the conditions of Service A, the charge is 59p per cover.

The usual first day of issue facilities will be available at offices with philatelic posting boxes. Application forms, available from the Philatelic Bureau, Edinburgh, and at all Head Post Offices, should be returned not later than 24 July 1978.

Gems from the RM Phillips Collection

LVII Rainbow Trials on Dickinson Paper



Although not a career Treasury official, Rowland Hill, very quickly acquired the proper respect for economy. The unusual Two-penny 'Rainbow' trials illustrated as this month's gem bear witness to this.

On 22 February 1841 Rowland Hill recorded in his Journal that he had written to John Dickinson, the maker of the (silk thread) paper used for the Mulready and 1841 envelopes, to enquire if he would also be prepared to manufacture and supply watermarked paper for printing adhesive stamps. Hill's idea was that if such an arrangement could be brought about it would do away with the current need for the Excise Office to keep supervisory staff at two separate mills in different parts of the country. Dickinson replied that he could not undertake the watermarked hand-made paper but recommended for the postage labels his special paper with very fine silken threads. Though Hill had his doubts about the security of the silk thread paper (the threads might come out) the quality and low price of a sample supplied by Dickinson did impress him. A further sample in which the threads had been fixed in the paper by the use of gelatine, was produced by Dickinson on 3 March. It consisted of five pieces of paper so small that only two part-

rows of stamps could be printed on each piece.

The samples were sent by Rowland Hill to Perkins Bacon on 9 March with a request that they should be printed from one of the trial plates. J B Bacon, the printer, used the small plate of twelve (1841) Two Pence stamps (made to print specimen stamps for the Notice to Postmasters) with the upper right corners blanked off with, probably, wax. The top two rows were printed in red on three of the sample pieces and the lower two in blue on the remaining two pieces. This made a total of 24 essays in red and 16 in blue. Of these, blocks of eight in each colour are in HM the Queen's collection. Illustrated above are examples of the trial in each colour. A further eight (much larger) sample sheets of this paper were provided by Dickinson on 10 April but this time the printing plate used was Plate XI (in red).^{*} The verdict resulting from these trials was one of qualified approval but nevertheless it was decided to continue the use of the 'Crown' watermarked paper (supplied by Stacey Wise) for the adhesive labels.

A G RIGO DE RIGHI

^{*}For reference see Philatelic Bulletin of March 1974 'Gem IX'.

The Jubilee of the Coronation Air Letter

It was a happy thought, in the summer of 1952, to propose marking the Coronation of HM The Queen with, both a special set of stamps, and also Britain's first commemorative Air Letter. Not only the first but also, in the opinion of many, one of the most attractive special Air Letters ever issued.

The idea of having a special commemorative Air Letter arose out of discussions, beginning in June 1952, on amending the layout and inscription of the current Air Letter form at the same time as arranging for a new impressed 6d stamp bearing the effigy of the Queen. Changes contemplated included the use of white (instead of blue) paper, the use of vari-coloured borders (already in use elsewhere in the Commonwealth) and even a possible change to a single-flapped format.

By early September the Post Office were thinking in terms of printing a Coronation symbol on to the new standard Queen Elizabeth air letter forms then under discussion. Apart from the question of additional costs, several factors had to be taken into account. Air Letter forms were then (as now) printed by Messrs McCorquodale



on a rotary machine suitable only for two-colour printing — ie the letterpress-printed stamp (6d purple) and the inscriptions etc (blue). If the symbol were in a third colour it would have to be separately printed on another machine which would both slow up production and add substantially to the cost.

Forces' Coronation Letter

One project appears to have consisted in overprinting existing 'Forces Letter' (air mail) forms (Huggins AP7) with a Coronation symbol in a contrasting colour. Although essays were made, using both 'Crown' and 'GPO' symbols in red, blue and green (see fig. 1), the idea was soon abandoned.

Coronation Air Letter — early proposals

On 7 October 1952 the question of special Air Letter forms was again raised during a general planning meeting on Post Office contributions to the Coronation celebrations.

Though it seemed natural to use one of the Coronation adhesive stamp designs on the special Air Letters this raised difficulties. For one thing the existing stamp designs all included the words 'POSTAGE' and 'REVENUE' and the Inland Revenue authorities had confirmed that the word 'Revenue' must not appear in stamps used on postal stationery.

At first it seemed, therefore, as if the choice lay between the existing surface printed 6d Air Letter stamp (with the Queen's effigy substituted) or



fig 1

a special design which would involve commissioning an artist and thus lead to further delay. However, it was suggested that a feasible alternative might be to alter the word 'Revenue' to 'Postage' on one of the Coronation stamp designs.

The meeting finally agreed to explore both alternatives. Firstly, the use of the existing Air Letter stamp design, with the crown changed to the St Edward's Crown. The effigy of King George VI should be replaced by one of the Queen based on the Dorothy Wilding photographic portrait as used in the new 1½d definitive stamp but without the Coronet. It was considered that the use of an ordinary size stamp would leave more space on the form and lessen the risk of its appearing overcrowded. Secondly, Mr Gordon Russell of the Council of Industrial Design should be consulted about the Coronation symbols and about the possibility of using one of the Coronation designs in an amended form.

Work on a revised version of the ordinary-size air mail stamp was quickly started, the engraving of the necessary surface-printed die being entrusted to Mr Doubtfire of Messrs Thomas De La Rue & Co. In the event the work on the die took so long that the first (and only) proof (probably from the die) of this stamp — printed on the special Air Letter form — was not delivered until 5 February 1953. By this time opinion had definitely swung in favour of using a

suitably amended version of one of the Coronation stamp designs.

One of the artists approached (through the Council of Industrial Design) to design a special Coronation symbol for the Air Letter was Stuart Rose, who subsequently became Design Director for the Post Office. By late December 1952 Stuart Rose's preliminary design for the Coronation symbol and wording on the front of the Air Letter had met with Post Office approval and essays incorporating it were ready by early February 1953. Also in December composite essays were made for an amended Air Letter form allowing space for a Coronation symbol in the lower left corner. It is perhaps significant that on each of these essays *two* KG VI 6d stamps (which had been cut off air letters) were stuck side by side to represent a double-size (Coronation) stamp.

The Final Design

Although it would obviously have been preferable, for considerations of cost and speed of production, for McCorquodales to print only in two colours (on the rotary press) — with the main part of the Coronation symbol and the stamp in red and the inscription etc in blue — in fact three colours were used, the stamp being separately printed in a different shade of red.

At the beginning of February 1953 final decisions were taken by the Postmaster General, after consulting Sir Kenneth (now Lord) Clark, on two matters.

The first concerned the colours to be used for the Coronation symbol and associated wording. Stuart Rose's original design (as shown in a proof dated 11 February — see fig II) had only the Royal cypher and the national plant symbols in red; the rest of the design being in blue. The final decision was that the date '1953' and the word 'CORONATION' should be printed in the same red colour as the cypher.

The second choice related to the actual stamp to be impressed. Having seen trials of both the Doubtfire engraved 6d stamp (see fig III for a proof showing this impressed on a complete Air Letter) and of the Farrar-Bell Coronation stamp design with amended wording and value, the



PMG had no hesitation in selecting the commemorative stamp.

A third decision, taken in early February, concerns the colour of the printed stamp. Proofs exist of the selected Coronation stamp design (on the approved forms) in various shades of red and of the KG VI air letter stamp in various shades of purple. These latter were produced for comparison with the colour of the ordinary (adhesive) 6d stamp.

Although only a single red shade was apparently selected for both the stamp and the central part of the Coronation symbol, in practice, since the stamp was printed on the (letterpress) Air Letter by lithography in a separate operation, slightly different shades of red resulted.

Though the stamp on the issued Air Letter was lithographed, most of the early proofs have the stamp printed by photogravure, necessarily by Harrison & Sons (since McCorquodales had no photogravure machinery). This makes sense because the adaptation of Farrar-Bell's original art work for the 1s 6d Coronation stamp must have been done photographically by means of overlays since the original artwork remained unaltered. The Coronation Air Letter was issued simultaneously with the adhesive stamps, on 3 June 1953. Suitably overprinted and surcharged it was also used in the Persian Gulf Agencies.

The excellence of Stuart Rose's design is testified to by the fact that part of it is still used on the current (1978) Air Letter forms of The Gambia!

A G RIGO DE RIGHI

The 1978 Melville Competition

The judging for the 1978 Melville Junior Stamp Competition took place on Friday, 10 March, at Harmers Auction Rooms in Bond Street. The judges were most impressed with the number of entries received this year, and also with the very high standard of some of them. They were pleased to see that the advice given in previous years regarding undesirable issues had been taken much to heart and, with the exception of very

few first time entrants in the younger classes, none of these 'labels' were shown. The judges felt that some entries had far too much writing up, and that competitors should avoid using stamps as illustrations for their write-up, rather than the other way around.

Major award winners include:

Class A: Cup and Silver Medal — Peter Richards (Woking and District PS); Bronze/Silver Medal — Ian Charters (Oxford University PS).

Class B: Cup and Silver Medal — Martyn Jackson (Midland Philatelic Federation); Bronze/Silver Medals — Ian Dewar (Germany and Colonies PS), Clive Roberts (Aberconwy PS); Bronze Medal — Lloyd Hogg (Leicester PS).

Class C: Cup and Silver Medal — Philip Simpson (Association of Essex Philatelic Societies); Silver Medal and Cartwright Medal — Paul Blakey (Sunderland PS); Bronze/Silver Medals — Philip Blakey (Sunderland PS), Paul Lewis (Hull and District PS), Ian Smith (Exmouth PS).

Class D: Cup and Bronze/Silver Medal — Martin Sondhelm (Marple and District PS).

1979 Special Stamps

The subjects of next years stamps will be:

- February: British Dogs
- March: British Flowers
- May: Direct Elections to the European Parliament
- June: Horse Racing
- July: Children (UN Year of the Child)
- August: Centenary of Sir Rowland Hill's death
- September: Police
- November: Christmas

Further details will be announced later.

Forces Covers

Visit by HM The Queen to the RAOC Souvenir Cover

We have been advised that, as an alternative, the 9p Tower of London stamp will be used on the Royal Army Ordnance Corp commemorative cover marking the visit of HM The Queen to Bicester.

The Tower of London was the first Ordnance Depot in the Kingdom.

The cover, referred to as Cover 'B' and costing 50p, is available from the Philatelic Officer, Planning Branch, Control Ordnance Depot, Bicester, Oxon OX6 0LD.

RAF Cover HA24, currently available, commemorates the 60th Anniversary of the Royal Air Force and the founder, Marshal of the RAF, Lord Trenchard. The cover depicts a Bristol F2B over the RAF Staff College, Bracknell, and bears a Scottish 7p definitive stamp, cancelled with BFPS 1607 handstamp. It can be obtained from Wing Commander P L Quin, RAF Staff College, Bracknell, Berks RG12 3DD, price 40p plus 7p postage.

All proceeds from the sale of this cover will be donated to the Battle of Britain Museum Appeal Fund.

Visit of HM The Queen to Berlin

A commemorative cover is now available to mark the visit of Her Majesty The Queen to Berlin on Wednesday 24 May. The design incorporates the Royal Crest, The Berlin Field Force Insignia and the Berlin Bear, together with the inscription, 'HM Queen Elizabeth II visits Berlin 24 May 1978'.

A 9p definitive stamp is affixed to the cover, cancelled with a special BFPS handstamp — number 2478, which includes the following details:— 'Visit by HM The Queen to Berlin 24 May 1978'.

The cost of the cover is 82p including postage. Remittances by postal order or cheque should accompany orders addressed to:— The Philatelic Officer, Q Branch, HQ Berlin Field Force BFPO 45.

Aldershot Army Display 23-25 June 1978

To commemorate this occasion a special philatelic cover will be available containing an insert giving details of the Army Benevolent Fund.

The cover will be on sale at the Display from the Forces post office and a special one-day handstamp — BFP5 number 1608 — will be used on the 24 June only.

Covers may be ordered through the post, and will be sent direct or under cover. A limited number will be signed by the General Officer Commanding South East District, in whose area the Display will be held.

Unsigned covers will cost 35p each, or 42p if returned under cover — to UK addresses only. Signed covers will cost £1.25 each. Proceeds from sales will go to the Army Benevolent Fund.

Orders, with remittances, should be sent to:— The Philatelic Office, HQ South East District, Steele's Road, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2DP.

Royal Navy Cover

To commemorate the 38th anniversary of the sinking of the Italian cruiser Bartimeo Calleoni on 19 July 1940, by HMAS Sydney of the Royal Australian Navy, a special cover will be available from 19 July 1978.

The cover, depicting the action will be signed by Vice-Admiral Sir John Collins KBE CB RAN (ret'd), Captain of the Sydney at the time, and Commander Philip Cole DSC RN (ret'd) who was serving aboard HMS Hyperion, one of four destroyers also engaged. The cover, cancelled with a special handstamp — the design of which will incorporate the badge of HMAS Sydney and the BFPS number 1618 — will bear an 11p 'Horses' stamp and is priced at £1.67.

A second cover bearing the 10½p 'Horses' stamp, cancelled and signed by Commander Cole only, will cost 87p. An unsigned cover with a 9p 'Horses' stamp and cancelled with the special handstamp will cost 40p.

Orders addressed to the Royal Naval Philatelic Officer, RNAS, Yeovilton, Somerset B22 8HT, should be accompanied by a stamped and addressed envelope.

Horses Special Stamps Issue 5 July 1978

Man has derived from the Horse enormous pleasure in sport and recreation. This beautiful animal, blessed with great strength and speed, is of such a temperament that it allows itself to be both servant and friend of man.

In this, the centenary year of the Shire Horse Society of England, the Post Office will issue, on 5 July, a set of four special stamps featuring horses. The subjects are as follows: Shire Horse (9p); Shetland Pony (10½p); Welsh Pony (11p); and Thoroughbred (13p).

Printing Details:

Designer: Patrick Oxenham

Printer: Harrison and Sons Ltd

Process: Photogravure

Format: Horizontal

Size: 30 × 41 mm

Perforation: 14 × 15

Paper: Coated, unwatermarked

Adhesive: PVA dextrin

Phosphor: All over

Sheet No: 100

Values and Colours:

- 9p: New blue, chrome-yellow, rosine, grey, chestnut, grey-black, gold
10½p: New blue, chrome-yellow, bright purple, grey, chestnut, grey-black, gold
11p: Blue-green, chrome-yellow, bistre, grey, chestnut, grey-black, gold
13p: Emerald, olive, yellow, reddish-brown, chestnut, grey-black, gold

A presentation pack — price 53½p — containing all four stamps, and the first day cover, were designed by Collis Clements FSIAD.

Postcards

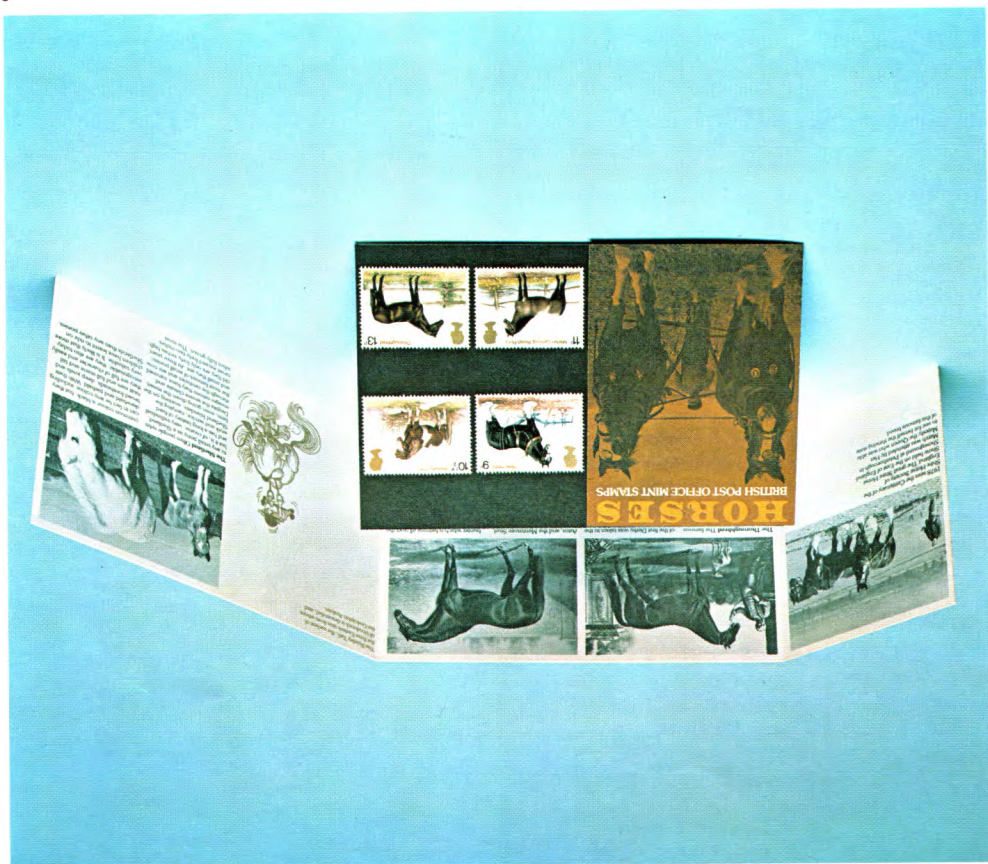
Postcard reproductions of each of the four stamps will be available by late June from the Philatelic Bureau, all philatelic counters and selected main post offices, price 7p each.



HORSES
POST OFFICE FIRST DAY COVER



Mrs J Robinson
200 Manorbier Road
ILKESTON
Derbyshire
DE7 4AB



Horses

The Shire Horse

The Industrial Revolution vastly increased the demand for dray horses, and their numbers continued to grow until the first World War. Nearly every ton of goods that was moved on canal or rail (and many that were not) was short-hauled at one or more stages of its journey by these massive animals — mostly geldings, because mares stayed at home to breed and do the farm work, while only one in a hundred males was retained as a stallion.

Taller and heavier than their mediaeval Great Horse ancestors, and bred mostly in the Fens, the Midlands and Lancashire, they were known until about 1820 as Blacks. But other colours, especially bay, then became common and the pedigree society, founded in 1878, chose the vague title 'English Cart Horse', before adopting the new-fangled name 'Shire' six years later. Its stud book, which made selective breeding possible on a large scale, and its London Show (restricted after 1904, when 862 animals, including 481 stallions, were exhibited) transformed the quality of even ordinary specimens.

Since the 'twenties, the Shire has been gradually modified — less hair on the legs, less weight, greater activity. But he still has plenty of silky 'feather' and tremendous power. Stallions average 17.2 hands — 5'10" at the withers, the ridge between the shoulder-blades. Revived interest in economical horsepower has lately restored the breed to agricultural shows in most areas and the National Shire Horse Show, held in March at Peterborough, brings together upwards of 150 'English Cart Horses'.

The Shetland Pony

The Shetland Pony is the smallest of British native breeds and probably the purest, any out-cross results in an increase in height. The maximum height for an adult is 42 inches and 40 inches for a three year old or younger. The Shetland is noted for its strength in relation to its size, it is most courageous yet has a very kind and even temperament, docile and easily trained.

It may be assumed from bones found in the Bronze age dwellings in Shetland that ponies comparable in size to those of today were in domestic use 2000 years ago; little other blood has been introduced and virtually none during the last 1200 years. The Shetland Pony Stud Book Society was formed in 1890, the first of such a Society for British native ponies and now has world-wide membership.

They are essentially general purpose ponies, whose principal role always has been pack or saddle work, for about 100 years only out of their very long history were they used extensively for draught in coal mines. Now the pony is seldom if ever employed on the crofts on their native Islands, but it is extremely popular the world over as a child's first mount or as a splendid harness pony for adult or child.

Many are bred still in the Shetland Isles although the number is considerably smaller than formerly. It would be difficult to name a country where this pony is unknown, many are bred in Australia as well as in Canada and the USA to where large numbers were at one time exported. South American, some Asian and not a few African countries have had imports and very many have gone and still go to European countries, Holland, Denmark, Sweden, Belgium and France all have Societies to foster the breed in those countries.

Welsh Ponies and Cobs

The first written references to ponies and cobs in Wales appear in the laws of Hywel Dda (Hywel the Good), ruler of Deheubarth, written in the year 930. As a result of these laws, Wales was the only nation in Europe to have a National Literature (as distinct from Latin) and this literature mentions three types of horses and ponies in Wales:

- (a) the Palfrey, ie the riding pony
- (b) the Rowney or Sumpter which was the pack horse
- (c) the Equis Operarius or working horse (Cob rather than Shire horse), the light able-bodied animal that pulled the sledge or small gambo.

Several references and descriptions of ponies and Cobs are found in Welsh literature of the 15th and 16th century.

Available evidence suggests that the Welsh Mountain Pony has existed, in all fundamental respects very much as we know it now, since pre-historic times. For hundreds of years they ran wild throughout the country and became such a nuisance to the hill shepherds and those engaged in agriculture that they brought unto themselves considerable persecution. King Henry VIII considered that only animals capable of going to war were of any value and ordered the destruction of all stallions under 15 hands and mares under 13 hands. Fortunately some small animals escaped slaughter by escaping into the hills of Wales and managed to survive, and increased its intelligence and inherent virtues, a characteristic which it passes on, when used as foundation stock for the breeding of other kinds of horses and ponies.

Welsh ponies and Cobs have a decidedly 'Arab-like' appearance in their make-up and although alien blood has been introduced within the existence of the Welsh Pony and Cob Society, from the references to the type of animals existing over many centuries, it is more likely that the 'Arab-like' appearance has been here since the Roman occupation: they accompanied the Romans from the African campaigns and abandoned wholesale in the UK when they withdrew in AD410.

Some discreet infusion of Thoroughbred, Eastern and Hackney blood may have occurred from that date, but the greatest measure of improvement has been brought about by the intelligent and careful selection within the breed itself.

About the year AD 1700, farmers began to realise that ponies and cobs could be an asset when grazed on the Welsh hills with sheep and cattle and a market gradually developed for the ponies along these lines and for the Cobs to do light farm work. The demand for these animals increased and hundreds changed hands singly or in droves in the big autumn Fairs; more people took an interest in their breeding and the

stallions were more carefully selected.

In 1901 a number of landowners, farmers and enthusiasts formed the Welsh Pony and Cob Society and the first volume of the Welsh Stud Book was printed. Members numbered about 200 (compared with the present-day 6,800) and the animals very soon became world famous with surprisingly large numbers, eg 100 to 200 being exported around the year 1920 to countries as far as the USA and Australia.

The Thoroughbred

The thoroughbred was developed in England and is the kind of horse used for racing in almost 50 countries. It is, arguably, the most handsome of breeds, combining strength and grace with beauty; it is, without question, the fastest.

Charles II gave racing the foundation from which the thoroughbred was launched and in the 100 years following the Restoration more than 150 stallions were imported, half of them Arabians, the remainder equally divided between Barbs, from North Africa, and Turks. Every one of the world's thoroughbreds traces back in the male line to one of three of these imported stallions — the Byerley Turk, captured from the Turks in 1686-7, the Darley Arabian, foaled in 1700, and the Godolphin Arabian, foaled in 1724 — but none of the three raced and very few of the Eastern stallions evidently possessed much speed.

One school of thought insists that all thoroughbreds are descended exclusively from 'true sons and daughters of the desert'. The probability is, however, that the basic stock in England, where racing had taken place since the Roman occupation, was the factor for speed. This stock had evolved from Galloway ponies and miscellaneous strains from Spain and Italy imported over the centuries but it was the prepotent Eastern stallions who enabled English breeders to establish a distinct thoroughbred type.

The entire thoroughbred population numbered only a few thousand by the middle of the last century; now it probably exceeds half a million. And as the population has increased, so

has its speed though the rate of improvement has slowed appreciably in the last 50 years.

Values have risen sharply, in Europe and, more markedly, in North America where the stud fee for the services of a stallion can be as

high as 60,000 dollars. In 1977 four and a half million dollars was paid for a half share in The Minstrel, winner of the Epsom Derby that year, and at Newmarket a yearling established a new European record price of 250,000 gns.



Her Majesty The Queen, President of the Shire Horse Society, seen with J David Kay, one of the Deputy Presidents, at the National Shire Horse Centenary Show earlier this year

British Special Stamps

43. Landscapes, 1966

These were Britain's first 'non-event' stamps (other than definitives), and were thus an innovation on the part of the Post Office who sensibly relaxed their somewhat severe — and largely self-imposed — code of specific events and personalities meriting commemoration on stamps.

The four pictorial stamps, issued on 2 May 1966, were designed by Leonard Rosomon of the Royal College of Art. They were carefully selected to represent the four principal regions of the United Kingdom. England was the subject of the 4d stamp which showed a tree-studded view of the Sussex countryside near Hassocks, while the rolling meadows and hillsides of the dairying county of Antrim in north-east Ulster are seen on the 6d stamp for Northern Ireland.

Wales was represented by the grim old castle at Harlech, an ancient town in Merionethshire, North Wales, facing the sea, on the 1s 3d. It was a Lancastrian fortress during the Wars of the Roses, and its capture by the Yorkists in 1468 was the subject of the well-known song, 'The March of the Men of Harlech'. A mountain landscape with forest pines in the foreground — the Cairngorms, famous now as a winter sports' resort — illustrated Scottish scenery on the 1s 6d.

All the designs came from Mr Rosomon's own portfolio of sketches, and were all parts of the country he knew well from his numerous painting expeditions 'on safari'.

Leonard Rosomon, then 52 and a newcomer to stamp design, was born in Hampstead, London, and was educated at Deacons School, Peterborough, Durham University, the Royal Academy School and the Central School of Art. He painted murals for the Festival of Britain and for the British Pavilion at the Brussels World Fair, and his works have been exhibited in galleries all over the world. He also designed the 1s 6d 'Menai Bridge' stamp for the series of 'British Bridges' in 1968.

The 'Landscapes' stamps incorporated a new and striking cameo profile of the Queen, adapted by David Gentleman from the coinage design by Mrs Mary Gillick, OBE, setting a precedent for future stamp issues, although the silhouette gradually became much reduced in size.



The stamps were photogravure-printed by Harrison and Sons in sheets of 120 (6 × 20) on ordinary and phosphor-banded paper, watermark multiple crowns. The 6d and 1s 6d on ordinary paper, and the 6d (only) on phosphor paper, are known with the watermark inverted. Several varieties are recorded — 4d (ord), dash or hyphen before the 'E' of 'ENGLAND'; (ord and phos), light green flaw in tree-trunk; 6d (ord and phos), 'AN' for 'AND' in the imprint 'HARRISON AND SONS LTD' (later corrected); and the 1s 3d (ord and phos), broken 'D' in 'LTD' of the same imprint.

Quantities sold (phosphor in brackets) were: 4d 80,326,440 (11,283,720); 6d 11,531,760 (2,459,280); 1s 3d 5,286,000 (1,242,720); and 1s 6d 5,462,640 (1,204,200). There were no presentation packs for this issue.

JAMES WATSON

Forthcoming Events

Welsh Philatelic Society

The Welsh Philatelic Society is holding its second philatelic weekend from Friday 30 June to Sunday 2 July. The event will take place at the Snowdonia National Park Study Centre, Plas Tan y Bwlch, Maentwrog, Gwynedd, and will include displays on Anglesey Postal History; Welsh Postal Rates; Mechanical sorting of mail; Post Office films and the Annual General Meeting of the Society. For further details please write to:— Mr Peter Brindley, 'Ceris', Braich, Tregarth, BANGOR, Gwynedd LL57 4PD.

Methodist Philatelic Society

The Methodist Philatelic Society was founded in September 1970 and has an international membership of over 200. The function of the Society is to encourage the study of philately associated with Methodism, and to provide a means of communication on all related philatelic subjects.

The Society offers a Newsletter, issued four times a year; a Cover Service, through which all known Methodist related stamps and postmarks are supplied to members making a deposit; a Friendly Exchange of material and information through correspondence with fellow members.

For further information please write to:— The Secretary, Mr L Hebditch, 27 Kingsmead Close, Cheltenham, Gloucester GL51 0AW.

Britain's Heritage on Stamps

The new thematic display which has been on show at Parham, West Sussex, has been transferred to Chicheley Hall where it will remain until 9 July.

Chicheley Hall is in Chicheley, two miles east of Newport Pagnell, Bucks, on A422, and is open Wednesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays between 2.30 pm — 6 pm.

Welsh Pony and Cob Society

First Day Cover

On 5 July 1978 the Post Office will issue a special set of stamps depicting horses and ponies, the 11p value of the issue will depict a Welsh Pony.

To commemorate this unique occasion the Society is to produce its own specially designed

first day cover. All such covers serviced by the Society will be carried from the Offices at Aberystwyth by a Welsh Pony to the Head Post Office (Aberystwyth) for cancellation on 5 July by the bilingual 1st Day Issue handstamp. Each cover will bear a cachet 'posted by Welsh Pony Express'.

The cost of a first day cover is 50p (inclusive of the stamp value 11p).

Those who will wish to have the complete set (4 Horses/Ponies) of stamps on a cover must add 33p to the price mentioned above.

Orders giving the names and addresses to whom the covers should be sent together with the appropriate remittance to The Secretary, Welsh Pony and Cob Society, 6 Chalybeate Street, ABERYSTWYTH, Dyfed SY23 1HS.

The British Decimal Stamps Study Circle

The Honorary Secretary of the BDSSC to whom all enquiries should be directed is now Mrs M Wild, 9 Elm Grove, Forest Hall, Newcastle upon Tyne NE12 0AN.

Book Reviews

A Portrait of Royalty

Those of our readers who have enjoyed Marcus Arman's contributions to the Bulletin over the years may like to know that one of his last major works before his recent death was the writing of a book for Hallmark Replicas Ltd.

The book traces something of the history of this country through the various monarchs since Queen Victoria and discusses some of the stamps issued during each reign. Beautifully produced, the book is lavishly illustrated in both black and white and colour.

A limited number of 'A Portrait of Royalty' by F Marcus Arman are available from Hallmark Replicas Ltd, 8 Cromwell Place, London SW7 2JN, price £1.75 including postage and packing.

Discovering Picture Postcards

The many people who have 'discovered' picture postcards will find much to interest them in the new book in the well known 'Discovering' series.

The author, C W Hill traces the origins and development of these fascinating items with his usual style and wit. He discusses the many changes in make-up and content and illustrates his story with several black and white reproductions. It is obviously not meant to be an exhaustive study of the subject but serves an admirable purpose as an introduction.

'Discovering Picture Postcards' by C W Hill is published by Shire Publications, Cromwell House, Church Street, Princes Risborough, Aylesbury, Bucks HP17 9AJ, price 70p.

Special Handstamps

Unless otherwise stated, items for reposting should bear $\frac{1}{2}p$ in excess of the normal postage and should be sent to the Head Postmaster of the Town where the special posting box is located or the relevant District Postmaster in London marking the outer cover 'Special Handstamp'.

28 June 1978 (P/R)

Norfolk WI Diamond Jubilee 28 June 1978 Norwich Norfolk. Special posting box at the WI Tent Royal Norfolk Showground, Dereham Road, New Costessey, Norwich NR5 0TT.

24 June 1978 (P/C)

Aldershot Army Display 24 Jun 78 British Forces 1608 Postal Service. Items for reposting as for handstamp of 1st April 1978.

30 June-8 July 1978 (R)

The Salvation Army International Congress Wembley. Special posting box at the Main Entrance Foyer, Wembley Conference Centre, Empire Way, Wembley, Middx HA9 0DZ.

1 June 1978 (P/C)

Royal Marines Beat Retreat Gibraltar Per Mare Per Teram 1 Jun 78 British Forces 1613 Postal Service. Items for reposting as for handstamp of 6 May.

23 June 1978 (V/O)

Holkham Sheep Shearing 23 June 1978 Wells-Next-The-Sea Norfolk. Special posting box at the Holkham Hall Estate,

Wells-Next-The-Sea, Norfolk NR23 1AB.

NB Because of the design of this handstamp customers are requested in the addressing of their covers to allow for a vertical/oval cancellation 57 millimetres.

12 June-31 December 1978

The World's 1st Garden City Letchworth 75th Anniversary 1903-1978. To be used at the following Offices:

Letchworth — 12 June-9 September 1978

Stevenage — 11 Sept-31 December 1978

Letchworth — 1st class

Stevenage — 1st or 2nd class

Repeat Campaigns

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'.

6 March-7 July 1978

Collect Through The British Philatelic Bureau. To be reused at the following Offices:

Glasgow — 29 May-9 June 1978. 1st.

Kirkcaldy — 29 May-9 June 1978. 1st.

Perth — 12-23 June 1978. 1st.

Oban — 12-23 June 1978. 1st and 2nd.

Edinburgh — 26 June-7 July 1978. 1st and 2nd.

Motherwell — 26 June-7 July 1978. 1st.

Aldershot Army Display The Greatest Free Show In The Country Last Friday, Saturday And Sunday In June. To be reused at the following Office:

Brighton — 5 June-17 June 1978. 2nd class.

6 March-7 July 1978

Export By Post. To be reused at the following Offices:

Edinburgh — 29 May-9 June 1978. 1st and 2nd.

Motherwell — 29 May-9 June 1978. 1st.

Glasgow — 12-23 June 1978. 1st.

Kirkcaldy — 12-23 June 1978. 1st.

Perth — 26 June-7 July 1978. 1st.

Oban — 26 June-7 July 1978. 1st and 2nd.

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