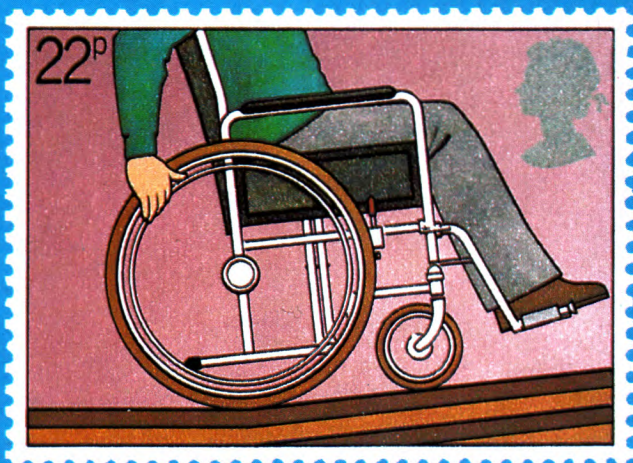


Philatelic Bulletin

Volume 18 Number 7 March 1981



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Elsewhere in this issue are details of two new philatelic sales counters to be opened this month.

More such counters, where there is a need, will be opened as part of Post Office policy to help the ever growing numbers of collectors.

For those collectors who prefer to have all new philatelic items sent to them through the post, the Philatelic Bureau, Edinburgh, is always at their service.

This month, for the first time, we are including an article on some of the definitive stamps issued during the reign of King George VI. The author is Peter Worsfold, an authority in this area of modern philatelic study, a member of the Great Britain Philatelic Society as well as the British Decimal Stamps Study Circle. He is a regular contributor to the GB Journal for whom he has written several papers on KGVI essays and definitives. In 1970 he was awarded a first prize for his writing, sponsored by 'Stamp Collecting', to coincide with Philypia 1970.

New Philatelic Sales Counters

Two new philatelic counters will be opened during the month of March.

On 16 March 1981 the Branch Office, 80-83 St Peter's Precinct, OLDHAM, OL1 1AD will open a philatelic counter. A special handstamp bearing the words, 'Opening of Philatelic Counter at Oldham 16 March 1981' will be applied on that day only to mail posted in a philatelic posting box situated in the Branch Office, St Peter's Precinct. For customers requiring this handstamp who are unable to call at the office, normal reposting facilities will apply. Covers should be sent to:- The

Head Postmaster, 21 Hamilton Street, OLDHAM, OL1 1AA.

Hours of business are: Monday-Friday 9am-1.30pm and 2.30pm-5pm.

On 23 March 1981 a philatelic counter will be opened at the Civic Centre Branch Office, Theatre Square, SWINDON, SN1 1QW. A special pictorial handstamp bearing the words, 'Swindon Philatelic Counter 23 March 1981' will be applied on that day only to mail posted in a philatelic posting box situated in the Civic Centre Branch Office. Normal reposting facilities will be available, covers should be sent to:- The Head Postmaster, Fleming Way, SWINDON, SN1 1AA.

Hours of business are: Monday-Friday 9.30am-5.30pm, Saturday 9.30am-12.30pm.

The Preparation of the Light Colour Definitives of King George VI

Towards the end of 1940 the Postmaster General, the Right Honourable W S Morrison, initiated a move which was to lead to a change in the appearance in some stamps of the definitive series of King George VI.

At his behest the Post Office prepared a report which examined two problems that had arisen in respect of the six lower values in that series. First of all the report mentioned complaints received from members of the public which concerned badly obliterated stamps. The low values were very deep in colour and postmarks applied to them did not show up very clearly. Moreover, some colours were thought to be difficult to distinguish in poor light, particularly the $\frac{1}{2}d$ green and the $2\frac{1}{2}d$ blue.

The second problem concerned the quantity of dye-stuffs used to produce the stamps, which was considered to be extravagantly excessive in the circumstances of war-time. This latter criticism was also directed against the low value stamps, the other stamps of this issue being much less deeply etched. The use of deep solid colour in the design had increased the consumption of ink quite considerably and had added to the wear and tear sustained by the printing cylinders.

A postscript to the report therefore proposed that the Post Office should ask Harrison the printers to "pursue the question of lightening the backgrounds of the $\frac{1}{2}d$ to $3d$ stamps avoiding, if possible, the question of modifying the design of the stamps".

During January 1941 various ways of reducing the depth of colour were investigated by Harrison. These were:

Method 1 – the use of weaker ink with existing cylinders.

Method 2 – the extension of the $4d$ – $6d$ series designs to the lower values.

Method 3 – a lighter background to the existing design produced by redrawing the background and alternatively by masking the background of the original design.

On the 16 January 1941 Harrison used the current $2d$ design to produce a series of three essays by Method 1. They were prepared in the six

Fig. 1 'Method 1. Essay A'



Fig. 2 'Method 1. Essay C'



Fig. 3 'Method 2. Essay D'

different colours of the $\frac{1}{2}d$ to $3d$ values. Essays type A were produced in ink weaker than that used for the current design in the proportion of 14 parts ink to 7 parts medium (fig 1). Essays type B had "still weaker" ink – 10 parts ink to 7 parts medium. Essays C, in "still further weaker ink", had 7 parts ink to 14 parts medium (fig 2).

Essays type D in the $4d$ value (Method 2) were also produced in the six different colours (fig 3).



Fig. 4 'Method 3. Essay Z'

Eight days later Method 3 was employed to prepare a further series of three Essays, X, Y and Z, again each in the colours of the six low values. Essays X produced in the 2d value had a shallow etch in the background areas of the design. Essays Y also in the 2d denomination had a slightly deeper etch although not as deep as the issued stamps. Essays Z were printed in the 2½d value. As mentioned previously, this involved a slightly different process, the masking of the background of the original design (fig 4).

On the 27 February 1941 a further report was written setting out the advantages and disadvantages of each of these methods.

Essays A, B and C were said to have advantages over all the others in being prepared from existing negatives, positives and cylinders. However, their adoption was ruled out because none of the three alternative shades was considered fast to light.

Method 3 (Essays X, Y and Z) was considered next. The effect of the masking for Z caused the lower part of the back of the head to merge with the background which had a ribbed appearance. Also the whole head looked somewhat larger. This essay was dismissed as unsuccessful.

In X and Y the lightening of the background by shallower etching lessened the previous striking contrast between the ground and the white parts of the design. The head itself appeared darker whilst the deep patch of colour at the nape of the neck was unduly dark. It was suggested that the draughtsman in Harrisons could tone this down but there was a reluctance to alter the design in this way without reference to the artist. It was held however that some sacrifice in the quality of the stamps to

achieve the desired saving in ink could be justified in the circumstances of the time. Moreover an approach to the artist could waste valuable time and, therefore, the minor defect should be accepted – if Essay X were to be selected.

This design was preferred to Essay Y because it offered the greater saving in ink and a lighter background for the postmarks. The main objection to Essay X was that it was thought that the stamps could be held to be "cheap" in appearance.

Method 2 (the adoption of the 4d – 6d designs for all the low values) was considered to be a good one for practical purposes. The use of this design would result in the greatest possible saving in ink. However, it was open to the objection that the pastel shades did not give a marked contrast in colours and there would be some risk of confusion between the colours of the 1d, 1½d and 3d stamps and that of the 6d and between the colour of the ½d and that of the 4d.

An effective compromise was felt possible by using Method 2 for the ½d, 1d and 2½d and leaving the 1½d, 2d and 3d unchanged. This would effect an equal economy in the use of ink as the adoption of Essay X for all values. The conversion of the 4d design would not entail more alteration to that design than the redrawing of the values. The design which was considered to have considerable merit, would be retained in its original balance and was one with which the printers themselves were accustomed to work.

On balance, therefore, the report recommended that the ½d, 1d and 2½d stamps should take the design of the 4d to 6d stamps.

However, both the Postmaster General and the Director General had strong preference for Method 3 Essay Y. It was, therefore, not surprising that it was this series of essays that was submitted to His Majesty King George VI for his approval. His Majesty took the opportunity of discussing the changes personally with the Postmaster General on the 1 April. Whilst the King accepted the proposed alterations to the 1d, 1½d, 2½d and 3d denominations he asked that the ½d and 2d essays should be redrawn. He expressed the view that in these values the head did not show up with sufficient prominence.

New essays Y(A) ($\frac{1}{2}d$ stamp) and Y(B) (2d) were submitted to His Majesty on the 9 June and accepted by him.

The changes to be made to the stamps were made public through the "usual channel" a pre-arranged Parliamentary question which was responded to in the following terms:

"These changes will make the cancellations of the postage stamps more effective and at the same time effect a very desirable reduction in the consumption of valuable dye."

It had been decided that the production of the most used values – the 1d and the $\frac{1}{2}d$ – should be given priority. Initially it was planned that these stamps should be issued towards the end of June. Difficulties in production occurred because of illness amongst Harrison's staff, however, and the $\frac{1}{2}d$ light ultramarine did not appear until the 21 July 1941, whilst the 1d pale scarlet was issued some three weeks later on the 11 August.

Although the preparatory work on the $\frac{1}{2}d$ and 2d values was completed well after that of the others, these stamps were the next to be available in Post Offices. The $\frac{1}{2}d$ pale green was issued on the 1 September and the 2d pale orange on the 6 October.

Stocks of the $\frac{1}{2}d$ and 3d values in the original design were sufficient for some considerable time and it was intended that stamps in the light colours would be printed when these stocks were exhausted. The 3d pale violet appeared on the 3 November but the $\frac{1}{2}d$ pale brown was issued nearly a year later on the 28 September 1942, long after the old stocks had run out.

Here the story should have concluded. However, the files of Post Office Records reveal an interesting postscript. In a letter to the Post Office, Edmund Dulac, one of the two designers responsible for the stamps, raised the question of the change in colour values and commented as follows:

"No doubt the Post Office had good reason for doing so, but, if I am not mistaken all the plate must have been reengraved; the background has, it seems, been etched out – while the King's head has been left untouched. As a result it has considerably lost in relief and the shadows are

Fig. 5 'Essay Dulac'



out of key with the rest of the design. I wish I had been approached when such a drastic alteration was contemplated. It would have been natural since it is my part of the design that is most affected. I would then have suggested the enclosed treatment which leaves enough light margin to show up the postmark and at the same time does not alter the value of the head against the background."

"The enclosed treatment" (fig 5) was a beautiful stamp size drawing by Dulac which shows only the emblems and lettering against the lighter background, the head itself being backed by solid colour in the original deep tone.

The reply from the Post Office was couched in very courteous, if a little sheepish, terms. It thanked Dulac for preparing the alternative design and promised it would be borne in mind if the designs were to be reconsidered at a later date. It explained that in normal times no change would have been agreed without taking proper steps to ensure that the interest of artistic quality had been properly considered. However, the circumstances of the day made the conservation of dye-stuffs of paramount importance and consequently it had been necessary to act immediately and without consultation.

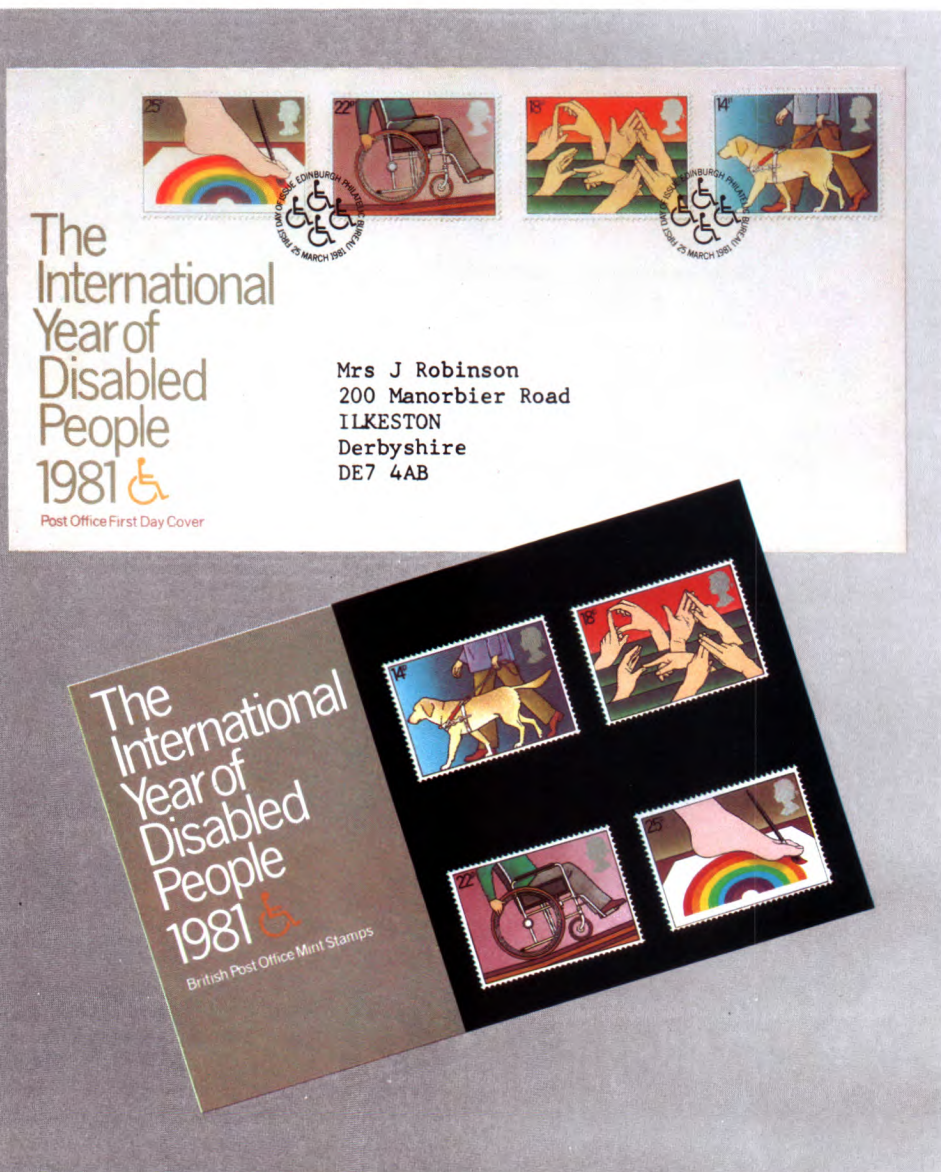
This unique example of Dulac's work is now in the archives of the National Postal Museum.

PETER WORSFOLD

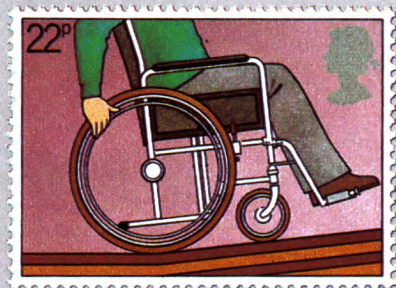
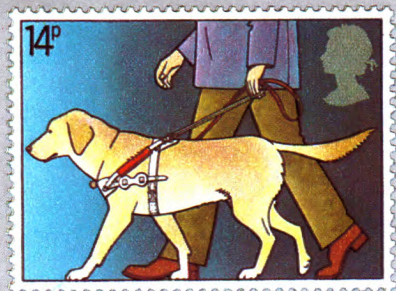
International Year of Disabled People Stamps Issue – 25 March 1981

The four stamps, details of which appeared in the February edition of the Philatelic Bulletin, depict a

Guide Dog; Sign Language; Person in a Wheelchair and a Foot Artist.



'Design Christmas Stamps' Competition Winners



The winners of the recently announced Post Office competition for the design of Christmas stamps, open to children, are as follows:-

7 years and under.

Samantha Brown (age 5)
RHOOSE, S Glamorgan
Lucinda Blackmore (age 6)
CLUTTON, Avon

Design
'Father Christmas'

'Angel'

8, 9 and 10 years

Sophie Sharp (age 8)
PRESTON, Lancs
Sarah Kutkaitis (age 8)
BLACKWOOD, Gwent

'Three Kings'

'Nativity'

11 to 16 years

Tracy Jenkins (age 14)
LUTON, Beds
Stephen Moore (age 16)
HORSHAM, Sussex

'Jesus Christ
Mosaic'

'Joseph and
Mary'

New Illustrated Stamp Books

No 6 of the second series of stamp books with illustrated covers to be issued on 18 March 1981 will be available from the Philatelic Bureau, philatelic counters and other offices.

Details of the make-up of each book is as follows:-

50p book: 3 x 11½p; 1 x 14p; 1 x 1p; 1 x ½p. All have two phosphor bars except the 11½p which has a single bar. The illustration is of a 1913 Bullnose Morris motor car.

£1.15 book: 10 x 11½p – single central phosphor bar. The illustration depicts a Vulcan and Lightning aircraft.

£1.40 book: 10 x 14p – phosphor coated paper. The Talylllyn Railway, Tywyn, is illustrated.

Queen Elizabeth II Definitive Stamps – Technical Details (contd)

Value	Cylinders		Printing Press	Perforator	Gum	Printing Date	Coating	Comments
1p	1	2	Timson 2	Grover	PVA	June '70	OCP	Some printed on GA paper
	1	2	Timson 2	Grover	PVA	Sept/Oct '70	OCP	
	3	1	Halley 3	Grover	PVA	March '71	FCP	Very short printing run
	3	1	Timson 2	Grover	GA	March '71	OCP	
	1	4	Timson 2	Grover	PVA	April/May '71	FCP	
	1	2	Timson 2	Grover	PVA	Sept '71	FCP	
	3	7	Halley 3	Grover	PVA	Jan '73	FCP	
	11	17	Jumelle	Pin Rotary	PVA/DEX	July '74	FCP	
	11	21	Jumelle	Pin Rotary	PVA/DEX	July '75	FCP	
	11	17	Jumelle	Pin Rotary	PVA/DEX	Jan '76	FCP	
	12	17	Jumelle	Pin Rotary	PVA/DEX	Jan '76	FCP	
	12	21	Jumelle	Pin Rotary	PVA/DEX	July '77	FCP	
	11	30	Jumelle	Pin Rotary	PVA/DEX	Jan '78	FCP	
	12	21	Jumelle	Pin Rotary	PVA/DEX	March '79	FCP	
	11	30	Jumelle	Pin Rotary	PVA/DEX	June '79	FCP	
	12	30	Jumelle	Pin Rotary	PVA/DEX	July '79	FCP	
	12	37	Jumelle	Pin Rotary	PVA/DEX	Sept '79	PPP	
	12	none	Jumelle	Pin Rotary	PVA/DEX	Nov '79	PCP	Variations in degree of gloss
	12	none	Jumelle	Pin Rotary	PVA/DEX	Feb '80	PCP	Variations in degree of gloss
	12	none	Jumelle	Pin Rotary	PVA/DEX	Aug '80	PCP	Variations in degree of gloss
	12	none	Jumelle	Pin Rotary	PVA/DEX	Sep '80	PCP	Variations in degree of gloss

Midland Postal Board

Picture Postcard Number 10

A new postcard, price 11p, featuring a Postman in period uniform with a hen and chickens cycle outside Gladstone Pottery Museum, Stoke-on-Trent, will be on sale at all philatelic counters from 31 March 1981.

The issue of the postcard marks the first anniversary of the opening of the philatelic counter in the Stoke-on-Trent Head Post Office. A special pictorial handstamp depicting a man at a potters wheel bearing the words, 'MPB Picture Postcard Number 10 1st DAY OF SALE 31 MARCH 1981 Stoke-on-Trent' will be applied on that day only to

mail posted in a philatelic posting box situated in the Stoke-on-Trent Head Office.

Customers requiring the postcard with the special handstamp who are unable to call at the Office, should send their order together with a fee of 36½p (which includes the cost of the postcard, 11½p second class postage, 12p service charge and 2p special handstamping charge) to the Head Postmaster, The Philatelic Office, Head Post Office, 25-31 Tontine Street, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent ST1 1AA not later than 27 March 1981.

For customers requiring the special handstamp only, who are unable to call at the Office, normal

reposting facilities will apply. Covers should be sent to the Operations Division at the address above marking the outer cover 'Special Handstamp'.

Mint cards may be ordered from:- The Manager (Postcards), Philatelic Bureau, Lothian House, 124 Lothian Road, EDINBURGH EH3 9BB at 11p each, plus the normal handling charge.

Postcards

A new series of four picture postcards featuring Victoria Square and the Head Post Office, Birmingham, through various stages of their history, will be on sale, price 11p each, at all philatelic sales counters from Wednesday 18 March 1981. The cards show the old Corbett Hotel - the proposed site for the new post office in 1875; again in 1895, 1953 and 1980 depicting the post office and subsequent alterations to Victoria Square.

A first day of sale handstamp will be provided at the Head Post Office, Birmingham on 18 March 1981. Serviced cards with this handstamp will be available, set of four at £1.12 and single cards at 37p

each, charges include cost of the postcard, first class postage, handstamping and service charge. Orders should be sent to:- The Letter Branch, H.P.O. Royal Mail Street, BIRMINGHAM B1 1AA. For those customers who are unable to call at the Birmingham Head Post Office, normal reposting facilities will apply. Stamped, addressed cards should be sent under cover to The Letter Branch at the above address, marking the cover 'First Day of Sale' handstamp.

Mint cards in sets or singly may be ordered from the above address at 11p each. Orders to the value of £10 add 15p, over £10 add £1. Remittances should be made, if possible, by postal order or by Giro transfer to BIRMINGHAM H.P.O. B1 1AA, Giro account number 402 1002. Services other than the above will not be provided.

Mint cards in full sets only may be ordered from The Manager (Postcards) Philatelic Bureau, Lothian House, 124 Lothian Road, EDINBURGH EH3, where normal handling charges will apply.

New 'Country' Definitive Postage Stamps 8 April 1981

New 11½p, 14p, 18p, and 22p 'Country' definitive stamps for Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales, will be issued on 8 April 1981. The design will be similar to the current range of 'Country' stamps.

Each stamp will be available from post offices in the appropriate country, and all twelve stamps may be obtained from the British Post Office Philatelic Bureau, Lothian House, 124 Lothian Road, EDINBURGH, EH3 9BB, and philatelic sales counters. Separate first day covers, price 13p each, and pictorial handstamps will be provided by the Post Office for each of the countries. The three covers will be available from the Philatelic Bureau, and from all philatelic sales counters. Each country's covers will be available from head offices in the respective country.

The Philatelic Bureau will provide the following services for first day covers:

SERVICE 'A'

The official Post Office cover will be addressed to the correct postal address of the destination required, and given all four stamps, cancelled as requested with a Philatelic Bureau Edinburgh, Cardiff, Edinburgh, or Belfast pictorial handstamp and despatched.

SERVICE 'B'

Customers own pre-addressed covers will be given the four stamps, cancelled and despatched.

CHARGES

	Inland	Overseas
Service 'A'	£1.00½	87½p
Deposit account customers	95½p	83p
Service 'B'	87½p	76p

Application forms for these services are available from the Philatelic Bureau and all head post offices, and should be returned to the Philatelic

Bureau by 30 March 1981.

For customers who wish to post their own covers on the day of issue, first day of issue cancellations will be in use at all offices which normally provide them in each of the three countries, and at twenty three philatelic counter offices in England. Also on that day, the normal reposting facilities will apply for special cancellations in use at each of the three countries capitals. Covers bearing a set of 'Country' stamps may be sent under cover to the Head Postmasters of Belfast, Edinburgh, and Cardiff, marking the outer, 'First Day of Issue Cancellation'.

Technical Details

Denominations and colours:

11½p – mushroom (single phosphor bar)

14p steel blue

18p blue

22p deep blue

All values except the 11½p will be printed on phosphor coated paper.

Printers: The House of Questa – Wales and Northern Ireland

John Waddington of Kirkstall – Scotland

Process: Off-set litho

Perforation: 14 x 13½p

Sheet number: 200

Book Review

UK Machine Marks by Jack Peach – Supplement to First Edition

The format chosen for the first edition of this book was loose-leaf in style designed to facilitate amendments. The supplement is in keeping with this plan and will allow owners of the first edition to add easily a further 90 illustrations of dater or canceller dies.

Additional information on 115 recorded combinations of dater and canceller dies, and details of the dies associated with the Sylbe machine of 1907-8, and a lesser known trial of the Continuous Columbia machine of 1910 are included.

The supplement also contains major additions to the listings of the Continuous Krag; Pitney Bowes; Unified and Totometer machines.

It was decided, however, to publish the supplement so that the purchasers of the book could have the benefit of the additional information as quickly as possible. Three grades of amendment are included: a. those to be made in manuscript; b. those to be made by 'cutting and sticking'; c. those to be made by replacing or adding complete pages.

Ample instructions are included so that the alterations and additions can be speedily made. All 36 pages of the supplement are supplied loose-leaf slide bound – considered to be more convenient for most users.

Printed and published by: Vera Trinder Ltd, 38 Bedford Street, Strand, LONDON, WC2 9EU price £3.50 (plus 40p postage).

Posting Boxes

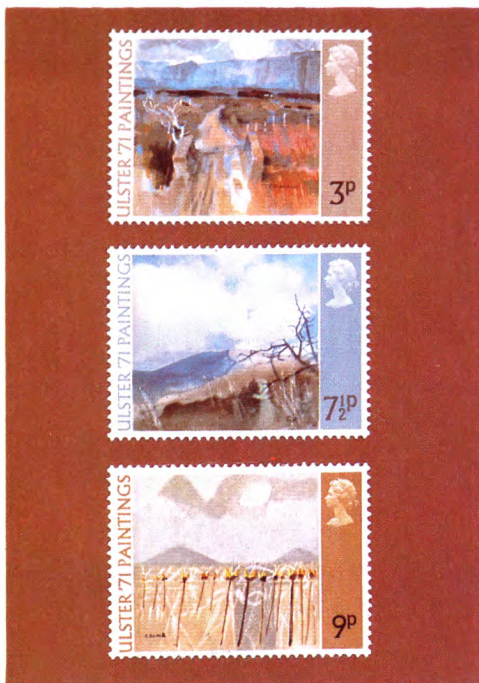


No. 24. The village of Lower Kineton in Warwickshire celebrated the Silver Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth by re-siting their old Victorian letter box in this commemorative stone pillar. With the permission of the Post Office they had the box refurbished before re-erection and it says a lot for the manufacturer of these boxes that after nearly 100 years, the detail is still so clear and complete.

'Ulster '71' Paintings, 1971

The year 1971 will be remembered for one of the most drastic changes in the British way of life – the introduction of decimal currency. 'Decimal Day' was February 15th, when the Post Office issued the low value 'new pence' definitives and we all had to get accustomed to revised postal rates. These were not entirely strange to us as decimal stamps which related straightforwardly to the existing £sd values – 10p (2s.), 20p (4s.) and 50p (10s.) – had been issued in the previous June. For more than six months, however, there were no special issues of stamps, and the first decimal commemoratives – three stamps for 'Ulster '71', Northern Ireland's biggest ever festival – were issued on June 16th 1971.

'Ulster '71' was aimed mainly at attracting tourists and industrialists to Northern Ireland, and the stamps depicted paintings by three Belfast artists. The 3p stamp showed one of a set of Irish bog landscapes, 'A Mountain Road', by T. P. Flanagan, who was born in Enniskillen and became principal lecturer in art at St. Mary's College of Education, Belfast. Tom Carr's 'Deer's Meadow' (7½p) showed a corner of the Mourne mountains 'on a bright March day' – born in Belfast in 1910, he trained at the Slade School and exhibited at the Royal Academy. Colin Middleton, whose painting 'Slieve na brock' (9p) was one of a series depicting the Tollymore Forest Park in County Down, was also born in Belfast and has contributed to numerous exhibitions in Ireland and Europe. He was awarded the MBE in 1969 and elected to the Royal Hibernian Academy in 1970. The uniform layouts of the stamps were created by Stuart Rose,



CBE, FSIA, formerly Design Adviser of the Post Office, now retired.

The stamps were photogravure-printed by Harrison and Sons in sheets of 100 (10 x 10) on unwatermarked paper with two phosphor bands. There were few major errors of printing – the pale olive-grey colour of the foreground boulder on the 7½p stamp was omitted on parts of the sheet, while the orange was omitted on certain 9p values. 'Missing phosphor' is recorded for all denominations.

Quantities sold were : 3p 63,214,628; 7½p 7,868,543; 9p 5,878,989; presentation packs, 100,257.

JAMES WATSON

New Scottish Pictorial Air Letter

A new Scottish Pictorial air letter will be issued on 29 April 1981, price 23p (20p of which is for postage). The air letter, illustrating flora and fauna, will be on sale from the Philatelic Bureau, all philatelic counters, and post offices throughout Scotland.

Designed by Ruari McLean Associates Ltd with drawings by Sheila A. Mackay, the air letter is printed by McCorquodale Printers Ltd.

Forthcoming Event

Woking & District Philatelic Society

The Woking & District P.S. will be the host society at 'WOPEX 1981' to be held in the Central Halls, Woking, Surrey on 4 April 1981, between 11 am and 5 pm.

Among the attractions will be a stamp fair, exhibition, Surrey Federation of Philatelic Societies Competition, dealers, stands and a Post Office stand.

Commemorative Covers

Welsh Rugby Union Centenary

Collectors may wish to know that the limited edition of signed covers produced for the Wales v All Blacks match is now fully subscribed. The order form for these covers distributed with the October 1980 Bulletin incorrectly indicated that signed copies of the Centenary Year cover were not available. For details of these and all other signed and unsigned covers in the series write to: Ray Williams, WRU, Admail 100, CARDIFF, CF1 1RU.

Centenary Day for the Welsh Rugby Union

Although the Welsh Rugby Union have been celebrating their Centenary throughout the 1980/81 season, the anniversary itself falls on 12 March 1981 (See October 1980 Philatelic Bulletin). A Centenary Dinner for 1000 guests will be held at the National Sports Centre, Cardiff, and there will also be a smaller celebration two days later at the Castle Hotel, Neath, where it all began in 1881.

The WRU has issued a series of commemorative covers to mark the special events and fixtures of the season, but by far the most important of these is that issued for Centenary Day itself. The cover depicts the 'Three Feather' emblem of the WRU, surrounded by the badges of the eleven founder-member clubs. A distinctive 'rugby ball' handstamp will be used at Cardiff Arms Park on the day and Cliff Jones, President of the WRU, will sign 250 covers to support the Charitable Trust appeal for injured and disabled players.

Signed and unsigned covers (price £10 and 75p including VAT and p&p) are available from: Ray Williams, Welsh Rugby Union, Admail 100, CARDIFF, CF1 1RU.

The Multiple Sclerosis Society

The Multiple Sclerosis Society are producing a special philatelic cover, available from 25 March 1981. All four 'International Year of Disabled Persons' stamps will be affixed, cancelled with a pictorial handstamp. The cost is £1.50. A limited number of covers will be signed by the Lord Mayor of London, Vice-President of IYDP. The price will be £2.50. Orders should be sent to: FDC, MSS, London & Manchester Assurance Co Ltd, PO Box 44, EXETER, EX1 1HZ. Remittances

made payable to: 'The Exeter and District Multiple Sclerosis Society' should include an additional 20p postage and packing. A very limited number of these covers will be signed by Lord Snowden at £10 each. Orders will be dealt with on a first come first served basis.

The Leonard Cheshire Foundation

To raise funds for the Cheshire Homes, The Leonard Cheshire Foundation are producing a philatelic cover bearing all four 'IYDP' stamps; it will cost £2.50. The stamps will be cancelled with a pictorial handstamp on 25 March 1981. In addition a limited number of covers will be signed by Group Captain Cheshire OM VC DSO DFC at £7.50 each. Orders with remittances made payable to: Cotswold Covers Clients Account, should be sent to: Cotswold Covers Ltd (Cheshire Foundation), Marshfield, CHIPPENHAM, Wiltshire, SN14 8LZ.

Cambridge and District Hard of Hearing Association

To commemorate the twenty first anniversary of the Cambridge and District Hard-of-Hearing Association, a philatelic cover will be available to coincide with the issue of the four International Year of Disabled People stamps on 25 March 1981. The front of the cover will depict, Old Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge, as it appeared in the nineteenth century.

The following services are offered. The cover bearing all four IYDP stamps, cancelled with a special pictorial handstamp will be available price £1.75. Alternatively, the cover with the Deaf and Dumb Alphabet stamp affixed and cancelled, the price is 65p. Blank covers are 25p. Orders should be sent to: Mrs Avril Dring, 99 Tavistock Road, CAMBRIDGE, CB4 3ND. Remittance to be made payable to: 'Cambridge Hard-of-Hearing Association'.

Guide Dogs for the Blind Golden Jubilee

1981 marks the Golden Jubilee of Guide Dogs for the Blind and a commemorative cover will be available from 25 March 1981. The cover depicts a guide dog surrounded by the words 'Guide Dogs for the Blind Golden Jubilee 1931-1981'. The cost of the cover bearing the 'Guide Dog' stamp is £1, with all four 'IYDP' stamps affixed the cost is £2. In addition a limited number of covers bearing all four stamps signed by the Earl of Lanesborough, President of the Guide Dog Association, are £4 each. All covers will be cancelled with a pictorial handstamp applied at Wallasey, the birthplace of the first guide dog. Orders should be sent to: The

Guide Dogs for the Blind, 22-28 High Street, HYTHE, Kent, CT21 5AT. Remittances made payable to 'Guide Dogs for the Blind' should include 25p extra for postage and packing.

Arthritis Care

'Arthritis Care' has produced a special philatelic cover in an effort to raise funds for rheumatism and arthritis welfare. The cover, designed by 'Butch' of the 'Daily Mirror' and 'Sunday People', will bear a 22p 'International Year of Disabled People' commemorative stamp cancelled with a pictorial handstamp dated 25 March 1981. A limited number of the covers will be signed by Terry Wogan and other well known 'Showbiz' personalities. The cost, £5.00 each. Unsigned covers are £1.20 each. These prices include return postage and VAT. Orders, and remittances made payable to: 'Arthritis Care', should be sent to Arthritis Care, Dept FD1, 6 Grosvenor Crescent, LONDON, SW1X 7ER.

Stoke Mandeville Hospital

To coincide with the 'International Year of Disabled People' stamps issue on 25 March 1981, a commemorative cover will be available for the Jimmy Savile Appeal on behalf of Stoke Mandeville Hospital. The cover bearing all four stamps will cost £2.50 plus 15p postage and packing and can be obtained from: Hawkwood Stamps, 60 Hawkwood Crescent, Chingford, LONDON, E4 7PJ. Part of the proceeds will be donated to the hospital.

Royal British Legion Scotland Diamond Jubilee

The Royal British Legion (Scotland) was formed by the late Field Marshal Earl Haig in June 1921, and among the many celebrations of the Diamond Jubilee, The (now) Royal British Legion Scotland is producing a Commemorative Cover which will be available on 11 July 1981, the day when its patron, HM The Queen, reviews the Legion in Holyrood Park, Edinburgh.

The Cover shows The Royal British Legion Scotland badge superimposed on a background symbolizing the famous lines by Binyon 'At the going down of the sun and in the morning, We will remember them'. The design also includes, as well as the Legion's motto 'Service Not Self', three intertwined Flanders Poppies, symbolizing Remembrance.

The design is by Major Simon Campbell MBE OStJ, Manager of The Lady Haig's Poppy Factory in Edinburgh.

The cost per cover will be £1 each, or £1.50 each for copies signed by the President of the Royal

British Legion Scotland, Major The Earl Haig of Bemersyde, son of the founder of the Legion. Remittances to be made payable to 'The Royal British Legion Scotland'. Orders with remittances should be sent to: Major T. Little MC, The Royal British Legion Scotland, New Haig House, Logie Green Road, EDINBURGH, EH7 4HR.

Gloucester Gang Show – 21st Anniversary

To mark their 21st Gang Show, Gloucester Scouts and Guides are to issue a commemorative cover on 2nd May 1981.

The cover has been designed by a local artist, and has an insert which gives a brief history of 21 years of Gang Shows in Gloucester. Each cover will bear an 18p 'Morris Dancers' stamp issued on 6th February and this will be cancelled with a pictorial hand stamp.

A limited number of covers signed by Robin Stayt, Chief Scout Commissioner for England, will be available price £1.75 each. Unsigned covers are 75p each. Covers will be returned through the normal post unless orders are accompanied by a prepaid, self addressed 9" x 5" envelope. Orders with remittances made payable to: 'Gloucester Gang Show', should be sent to Mr E J Large, 7 The Hedgerow, GLOUCESTER, GL2 9JE.

Royal Academy

In an effort to raise funds for the Royal Academy a special cover is currently available bearing a £1 definitive stamp, signed by Arnold Machin, the designer. The cost of the cover is £4 plus 20p postage and packing. Orders should be sent to: Arnold Machin, The Royal Academy of Arts, Burlington House, Piccadilly, LONDON, W1.

New Stamp Rolls

Two new stamp rolls will be available from 11 March 1981.

The EL roll, price £57.50, contains 500 11½p definitive stamps reeled for endways delivery. They are printed on ordinary coated paper bearing a single central phosphor bar: the adhesive is PVA dextrin.

The FL roll, price £70, containing 500 14p definitive stamps is also reeled for endways delivery. The stamps are printed on phosphor coated paper and the adhesive is PVA dextrin.

Both rolls, printed by Harrison & Sons (High Wycombe) Ltd, will be available from the Philatelic Bureau, Edinburgh, philatelic sales counters, and post offices where there is a known demand.

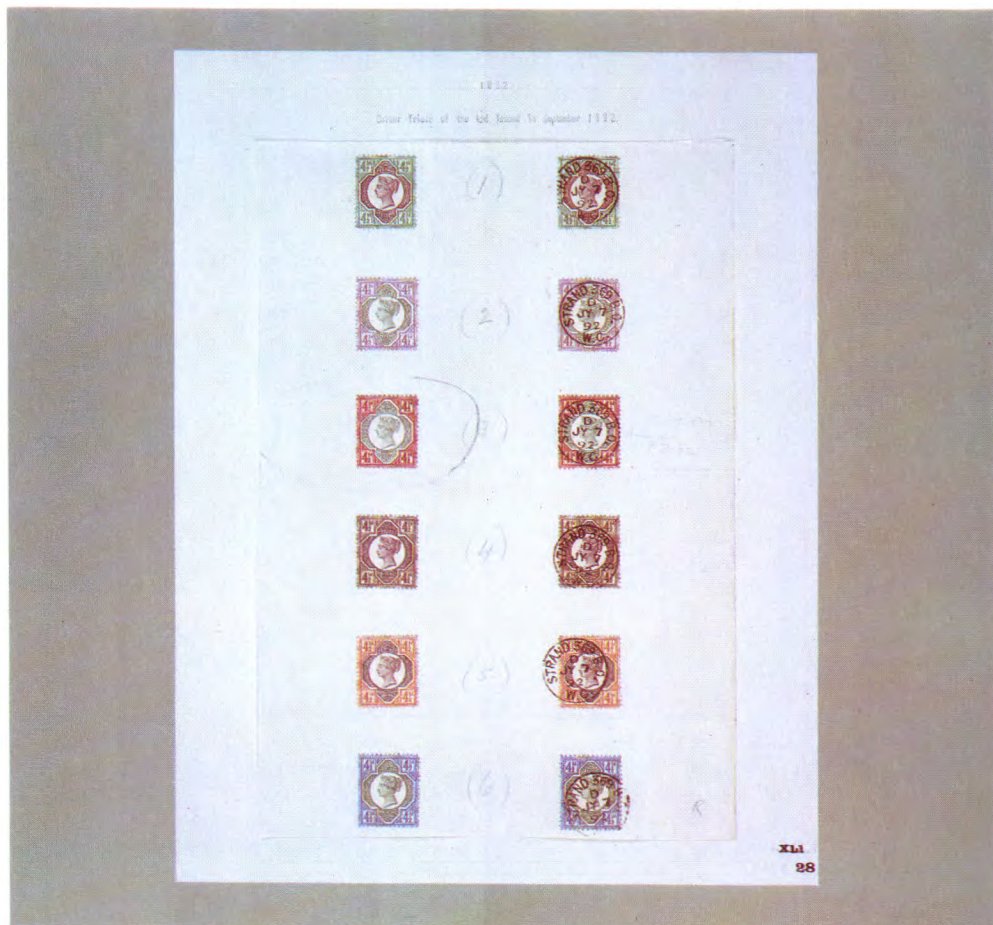
Jubilee Colour Trials

This month's 'Gem' from the Reginald M Phillips Collection deals with the colour trials of the 4½d two-colour Queen Victoria Stamp issued on 15 September 1892. The 'Jubilee' issues as they are called, which first appeared on 1 January 1887 (the year of the 50th Anniversary of Queen Victoria's accession to the throne), included the first two-colour stamps issued by the British Post Office.

The illustration, which shows a complete album page, shows 6 of the pairs of the pre-issue colour trials mounted on a single sheet. The trial cancella-

tions neatly illustrate the process of elimination in selecting a two-colour combination which could be acceptably cancelled (The trial cancellation used was 'STRAND JULY 7 92'). The colour trials are fully listed in the specialised stamp catalogues and were produced as usual by De la Rue, being printed on Crown Watermark paper, perforation 14.

These items can be seen by visitors to the National Postal Museum in volume XL1/28 of the Phillips Collection.



Forces Covers

Royal Air Force Museum

To coincide with the issue of the 'Folklore' stamps on 6th February the Royal Air Force Museum has produced a commemorative cover linking the issue with aviation folklore.

The cover, bearing all four stamps, is designed by Tony Theobald depicting the Hendon ghost. It is cancelled with a commemorative handstamp '70 Years of Aviation History at Hendon' (BFPS 1725) and has been flown from Headquarters, British Forces Postal Services, to Hendon, then overprinted with the flight details and signed by the crew. Fully serviced covers are £2.15 each including postage and packing, and those not overprinted and signed, are £1.50 each including postage and packing. The covers are available from Flt.-Lt. D. Eastwood, RAF Museum Cosford, Albrighton, WOLVERHAMPTON, West Midlands, WV7 3EX. All proceeds will be devoted to Service Charities.

Royal Air Force Medical Rehabilitation Unit Headley Court

The Royal Air Force Hospital at Headley Court, Epsom, Surrey, the founding point of the famous Guinea Pig Club, has produced a commemorative cover to mark the International Year of Disabled People.

The cover bearing all four stamps will be cancelled with a commemorative handstamp (BFPS 1726), and flown from Headquarters, British Forces Postal Services to RAF Headley Court. Designed by Tony Theobald the covers show the hospital with a medical VC10 flying overhead, and will be signed by the aircrew.

The covers are available from Sgt. J. Clements, RAF Hospital, Headley Court, EPSOM, Surrey, KT18 6JN, at £2.15 including postage and packing, fully serviced with flight overprints, and crew signatures, or, unsigned and not overprinted at £1.50 including postage and packing. All proceeds will be devoted to Service Charities.

Royal Navy

To mark the 40th Anniversary of the Sinking of U-boat 99 by H.M.S. 'Walker', a commemorative cover depicting the action and illustrating the badges of both ships will be available from 17

March 1981. A 14p 'Folklore' stamp will be affixed, cancelled with a pictorial handstamp BFPS No. 1729: the cost is 70p. In addition, the cover signed by Cdr. P. D. Sturdee OBE RN, who was a Sub-Lieut. on H.M.S. 'Walker' during the action, and Lieut. G. Osborne RN, Engineer Officer aboard the ship at the time, is also available, bearing a 22p 'Folklore' stamp, price £1.95. Alternatively the cover with an 18p 'Folklore' stamp affixed, signed by Lieut. Osborne only is £1.15.

Orders with remittances made payable to the FAA Museum, should be accompanied by a 7" x 5" s.a.e. and sent to: RN Philatelic Officer, Fleet Air Arm Museum, RNAS, Yeovilton, YEOVIL, Somerset, BA22 8HL.

RAF Flown Covers

A number of special covers, previously advertised, produced by RAF FINNINGLEY commemorating the 40th Anniversary of the Battle of Britain are still available. Further information may be obtained from Flt.-Lt. Joyner, Dominie Squadron, RAF Finningley, DONCASTER, S. Yorkshire, DN9 3LG, enclosing a stamped addressed envelope, or by phoning Doncaster 770771 ext. 553 during working hours. All proceeds from sales are donated to Service Charities.

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