

Philatelic Bulletin



Volume 6: Number 1 September 1968



ARTIST UNKNOWN c.1575 HARRISON

Contents

INTRODUCTION	2
CONDITIONS	2
POSTAL CODING	3
PHILATELIC AGENTS IN GERMANY	4
SPECIAL HANDSTAMPS	4
DISPLAY AT NORTHALLERTON	5
POSTMARK SLOGANS	6
SPECIAL STAMPS IN 1969	7
FORTHCOMING CHANGES IN POSTAGE DUE LABELS	7
PACKS OF STAMPS	8
HANDSTAMPS AND POSTMARK SLOGANS	10
STANGIB BUREAU MOVES	10
ULSTER TATTOO 1968	10
INTRODUCTION OF NEW INLAND LETTER POST	11
STAMP ROLLS	12
NATIONAL POSTAL MUSEUM NOTES	12
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR	14
NEW STAMP BOOKS	15

Introduction

And so we begin another volume and another year. Looking back to the beginning of Volume 5, we have covered (we hope enjoyably) such varied subjects as Early Stamp Cancelling Machines, Anthony Trollope – Novelist and Post Office Surveyor and the Post Office Railway. Our circulation has risen to 50,000 – we wonder how many readers will be receiving each issue when Volume 7 starts to roll from the presses.

Overseas it has been a successful year for us – we exhibited at places as far apart as Montecatini and Prague, and of course, won the Grand Award at Interpex. In December 1967 we began our Letters to the Editor column, which has proved very popular, and which we now regard as a permanent feature. The National Postal Museum Notes series has continued, and to judge from the replies to our public opinion survey, the results of which were published in January, is greatly enjoyed. Top of the Poll was Information on new stamp issues, and we have since widened our scope to include forthcoming changes in gum and paper, new stamp books, rolls and stamped stationery, as well as our usual details of special issues.

This month we start by announcing the new issues for 1969, and include articles on the intricacies of postal coding and on the new inland letter post.

Conditions

The Philatelic Bureau, 2–4 Waterloo Place, Edinburgh 1, will be pleased to supply any number of stamps shown on its current order form, subject to stocks being available, in mint condition only. For stamps not shown on the form, enquiries should be made of a stamp dealer.

We do not guarantee to supply stamps from particular cylinders or plates, position or cylinder blocks, particular editions of books or books with selected watermark.

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

Postal Coding

Every one of the 30,000,000 or so letters posted in Britain each day must be sorted between the 18,000,000 or so addresses in the country. Many letters must be sorted three or four times during their journey from posting box to letter box, thus it is hardly surprising that approximately three-quarters of postal costs are labour costs. One way to reduce these labour costs is to mechanise, and the key to mechanised letter sorting is the use of postal codes.

The first public postal address code, or postcode, was introduced at Norwich in October 1959; it is planned to introduce them to all the larger cities of Britain by 1970, and eventually to every address in the country.

The postcode, which is in two parts, is a condensed form of the address information needed to sort the letter at each stage of its journey until it reaches the postman who will deliver it; thus a typical postcode for Sheffield would be S12 2AB. By encoding the address information in this way it is possible to convert the address information more readily into a pattern of dots which can be read by sorting machines.

The first part of the code, the outward part, is designed to identify the post town or part of the post town, and is derived from the name of the city being coded. The second part, the inward part, comprises a figure from 0-9 followed by two letters and describes a street, part of a street, or an address receiving more than 20 letters in the first post each day.

In order to collect all the information required before a postcode can be brought into use, the postman's walk is divided into a number of small portions. Each portion of a street between junctions over which the postman has no choice of route is called a link. The project team then obtain for each link the address of each delivery point, the average number of delivery points actually visited on the first delivery each day, the average amount of mail delivered each day to these addresses on this delivery, and any individual addresses receiving more than twenty items each day on the first

delivery, with the full names of the owners of these addresses. From this information, the postal code units are decided upon; the aim is to have code units which will allow flexibility in the rearranging of deliveries in the future.

Once the total number of code units in the whole area has been decided upon, the planning of the general arrangement of codes is begun. In many cases it is found necessary to divide the area into several units, each with separate outward codes *eg* Croydon is divided geographically into four areas - CRO, CR2 CR3 and CR4. Each of these districts could be regarded for mechanised sorting purposes as a separate post town; each is known as a machine town.

Each machine town is then divided geographically into ten sub-divisions, indicated by the first figure in the inward part of the code. Each postman's walk is coded in turn; the first code unit in the first walk is given the code AA, the second AB, and so on, until all the walks in the area have been coded.

When a letter bearing a postcode arrives at a sorting office, it passes through a segregator where the letters are separated from the larger, bulkier mail. It then passes through the automatic letter facer (ALF) which turns the letters round so that the stamps are all in the same position, separates fully paid from printed paper items, and cancels them ready for coded sorting. ALF can handle about 20,000 letters an hour.

The letter then passes to the coding desks. The operators read the code on each letter and copy it on a keyboard something like that on a typewriter, which prints two lines of phosphorescent dots on the envelope, one above and one below the address. These dots express the code in machine language.

Finally, the letter passes through the automatic letter sorting machines which read the first half of the code and sorts it accordingly. At the office of destination, the coded letter is again automatically sorted by machines which read the second half of the code and sort for the appropriate delivery postman.

It will be seen that because of the complexity of the operation, the way in which the postcode schemes are framed must be sufficiently flexible to meet the ultimate circulation pattern and at the same time cater for the changes which will take place in the interim period. It is interesting to note that although Britain is not alone in introducing postal coding and automatic sorting techniques, the British system is unique in that one coding operation enables letters to be sorted automatically throughout the whole of their journey to the postman who will deliver them.

Philatelic Agents in Germany

Proud Bailey Ltd., the well known dealers from Brighton, Sussex, have been appointed agents for philatelic sales of British stamps in Germany. Their name and address is:

British Brief Markenstelle,
Kirchnerstrasse 2,
Frankfurt am Main,
Germany

and it is hoped that they will be fully operational by the middle of September.

Special Handstamps

'Syntex Symposium Cambridge 14th September 1968' will be used at Cambridge on 14 September 1968. Circular design, no motif.

'Dedication of Memorial Chapel R.A.F. Whittering Peterborough' will be used on 28 September, 1968 at Peterborough. A rectangular design with a motif of a cross on the right of the handstamp and an outline sketch of the Victor II B on the left.

'New Methodist Church Stonelaying Kenilworth Warwickshire' will be used on 28 September at Coventry – an octagonal design with a central motif of a cross.

'Macy's Newhaven Conn. British Festival Newhaven Sussex' will be used from 5 to 21 September at Lewes Sussex – A circular design

with a motif showing the Union Jack in the form of an open umbrella.

'Macy's New York British Festival London E.C.' will be used at the East Central District Office from 5 to 21 September. A circular design again with a motif of the Union Jack in the form of an open umbrella.

'Philatelic Society 21st Year Wallasey Cheshire' will be used on 30 November 1968 at Liverpool. A rectangular design with a central motif of the T.S.M.V. *Royal Iris*.

'Sudan Church Association. Biennial Bazaar London W.1.' will be used on 19 October 1968 at Western District Office. A rectangular design with a motif of an angel copied from the fresco at Faras – a church in the Sudan – on the left side.

'Convention of Polish Veterans 1918–1968 London W.6.' will be used on 3 November 1968 at Paddington District Office. A circular design with a Maltese Cross as the central motif.

'R.A.F. Finningley – at home – Doncaster Yorkshire' will be used at Doncaster on 14 September 1968. A circular design with the outline of a vulcan bomber as the central motif.

'R.I.C.S. Centenary – Scottish Chartered Surveyors Aviemore Inverness-shire' will be used on 19 October 1968 at Grantown-on-Spey, Morayshire. A rectangular design with a motif in the top right corner showing the years 1868, 1968 beside a lion rampart.

'M.R.L.E. Centenary Celebrations Luton Beds' will be used on 11 to 13 October at Luton. A circular design with a central motif of a Midland Deeley Compound Locomotive.

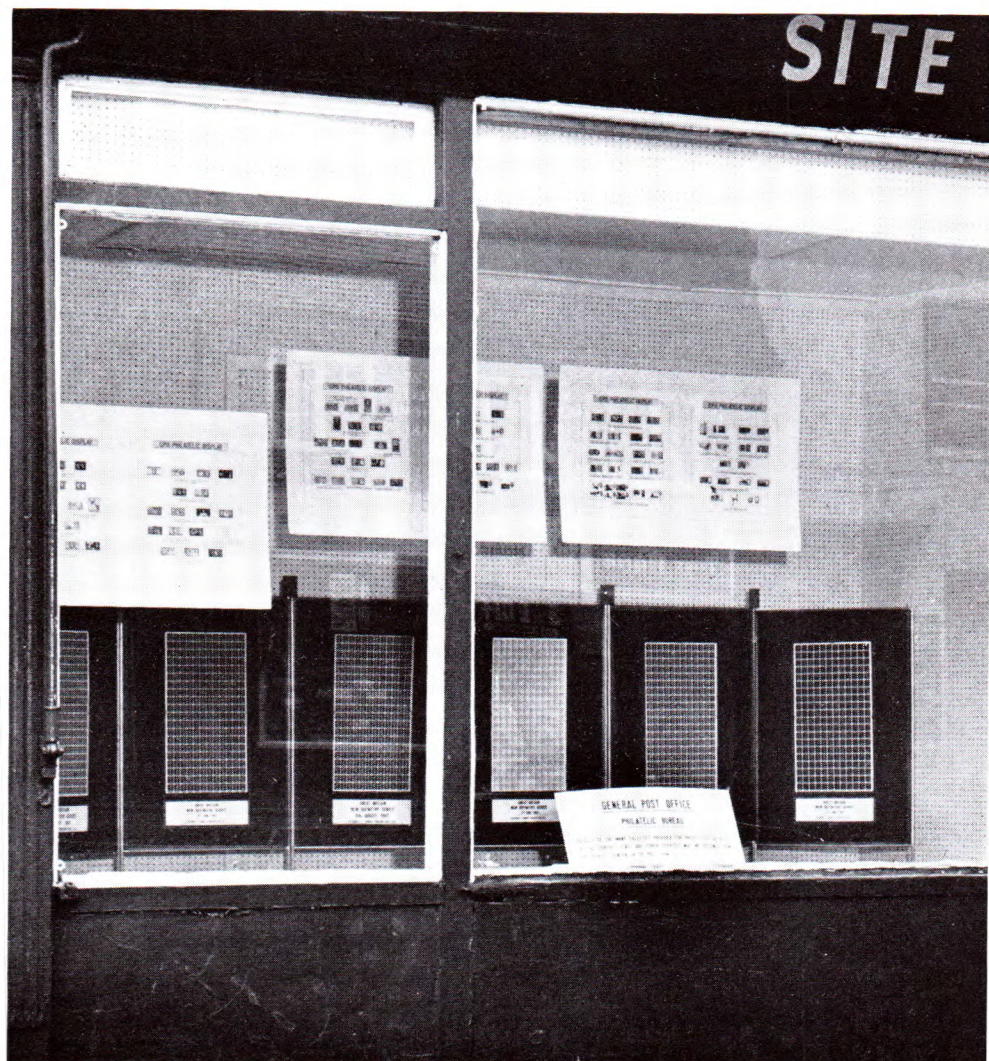
'M.R.L.E. Centenary Celebrations Bedford' will be used from 14 to 20 October 1968 at Bedford. A circular design with a Stanier 'Jubilee' locomotive introduced in 1934, as the central motif.

All items for reposting should be sent to the Head or District Postmasters concerned excepting those for the 'Macy's . . . London E.C.' postmark which should be sent to the Controller – EC/FS London Postal Region London E.C.1.

Display at Northallerton

A vacant window in a local development site inspired the Head Postmaster of Northallerton, Yorks. to think of a temporary philatelic display. The G.P.O. Philatelic Bureau gladly

obliged with material and part of the display is shown. The exhibit formed a novel publicity lead-in to the installation of a philatelic posting box at Northallerton's Head Post Office.



Postmark Slogans

'Blackburn Cathedral Flower Festival 12-15 Sept. 1968' will be used in the transposed position at Blackburn from 19 August until 14 September.

'Dudley And Zoo Brierley Hill Coseley Dudley, Sedgley for shopping and free car parks' is in re-use until 21 July 1969.

'Guernsey The British Holiday Abroad' is in continued use at Guernsey until 22 June 1969.

'Put your faith and factory in Hartlepool' will be re-used at Hartlepool from 12 August until further notice.

'Ulster Week in Leicester October 7-12' will be used in the standard position from 30 September until 12 October at Leicester, Ashby-de-la-Zouch, Coatville, Wigston Oakham.

'Motherwell and Wishaw Heart of Industrial Scotland' is in continued use until 2 July 1969 at Motherwell and Wishaw.

'Visit Historic Newark' is being re-used at Newark until 16 June 1969.

'St. Matthew's Church Northampton Flower Festival 3-6 October' will be used in the transposed position at Northampton from 7 September until 4 October.

'Muscular Dystrophy Week October 19-26' will be used in the standard position from 30 September until 27 October at 22 offices including Bristol, Derby, Stoke-on-Trent, Glasgow, London SEDO, Ipswich and Warrington.

The slogan 'Scarborough & Filey two lively resorts' will be used in the transposed position at Scarborough from 16 September until 21 April 1969.

The slogan 'Harlow the 21 Town 1947, 1968' will be re-used at Harlow from 1-30 November.

'Fly the Prestwick Way - The World o'er' will be re-used at Prestwick from 4 November until 31 March 1969.

'Pick An English Cox' will be used in the standard position from 30 September until 12 October at 48 offices including Aberdeen, London WCDO, Canterbury, Hereford, Chesterfield, Oxford, Walsall, Bristol and Carlisle.

'Have You Taken Out Your Licence For Radio/TV' will be re-used from 1-30 October at 124 offices including Halifax, Scunthorpe, Burton-on-Trent, Peterborough, Neath, Wrexham, Dumfries, Greenock, Chichester, Slough, Aylesbury, Bletchley, Truro, Swindon, Blackburn, Preston, Enfield, WDO, and St. Albans.

'International Order of Good Templars Centenary 1968' will be used in the standard position at Gloucester, Tewkesbury, 1-29 September, Birmingham, Lincoln, Hinckley, London SW7, Sutton, Mitcham, Manchester, Wallsend-on-Tyne, 2-30 September, and Leeds from 30 September until 28 October.

The slogan 'International Order of Good Templars Centenary 1968' will be used at Swindon from 1-29 September.

'Queens University Belfast Festival '68 14-30 Nov' will be used at Belfast in the transposed position from 1 September until 30 November.

'Keighley Festival '68 September October November' will be used in the transposed position at Keighley from 9 September until 4 November.

'Leeds Students Charity Rag '68 from October 26 until November 2' will be used in the standard position at Leeds from September 30 until 1 November.

'Europe's Finest Beaches Newquay - By Road Rail and Air' is in re-use at Newquay until 14 July 1969.

'Tenby Send For Guide 1/6 Dept. P.O. Guildhall' will be used in the transposed position at Tenby from 16 September until further notice.

'Truro Cornwall's Shopping Centre' is in continued use at Truro until 13 August 1969.

Special Stamps in 1969

'Are you on the Voters List - Check Now' will be re-used from 28 November until 12 December at 143 offices, including Aberdeen, Paisley, Galashiels, London NWDO, Stoke Newington, Acton, Chiswick, Forest Gate, Lewisham, Portadown, Enniskillen, Bridgend, Hereford, Aldershot, Maidenhead, Newbury, Reigate and Redhill, Cirencester, St. Austell, Bury, Macclesfield, Leigh, Kidderminster, Hinckley, Crewe, York, Lincoln, Hexham, Bedford, and Harwich.

The slogan 'Wallasey Arts Festival 26 Oct-9 Nov' will be used in the transposed position at Liverpool from 26 October until 9 November.

'Pick An English Conference' will be used in the standard position from 11-23 November at 46 offices including Watford, East Grinstead, Cardiff, Bradford, York, Chelmsford, Birmingham, Exeter, and Manchester.

'1968 Human Rights Year' will be used in the standard position from 2 September until 26 October at London ECDO, EDO, NDO, NWDO, PADD DO, WCDO, BATT DO, Mount Pleasant, SWDO and WDO.

The slogan 'Visit Cambridge' will be re-used at Cambridge from 30 November 1968 until 1 February 1969.

'Send to Town Hall for Guide Cheltenham The Centre For the Cotswolds' is being re-used at Cheltenham until 12 March 1969.

'Elgin Bids You Welcome' is being re-used at Elgin until 1 March 1969.

'Tees-Side Means Business' is being re-used at Middlesbrough and Stockton-on-Tees until 24 February 1969.

'Choose Ryde Isle of Wight For Happy Holidays' will be re-used at Ryde from 29 August until 28 August 1969.

The slogan 'Southport Flower Show August 28 29 30' will be discontinued from use at Southport on 16 September.

The Postmaster General recently gave the first news of the 1969 stamp programme when he announced to Parliament the following outline:

- | | |
|----------|--|
| January | A pictorial issue on British ships. |
| April | Stamps to mark notable anniversaries. |
| May | A pictorial issue on British architecture. This is the first of what is intended to be an annual series continuing for a number of years and illustrating architecture typical of various parts of Britain at various periods. |
| July | An issue to celebrate the investiture of the Prince of Wales. |
| October | Stamps showing Post Office history and activities. |
| November | Christmas stamps. |

The anniversaries to be commemorated are:

Fiftieth anniversary of Ross and Keith Smith's first flight from England to Australia.

Fiftieth anniversary of the first trans-Atlantic flight by Alcock and Brown.

Tenth anniversary of the founding of the Conference of European Postal and Telecommunications Administrations (CEPT).

Twentieth anniversary of the signing of the North Atlantic Treaty and the formation of NATO.

Full details of values and dates of issue will be announced later.

Forthcoming Changes in Postage Due Labels

We recently introduced PVA gum and our readers might like to know that the 2d, 3d 4d, 5d, 6d and 1s Postage Due labels will be changed to this. We are unable to give exact dates for the change as it depends on the date we sell out the current stocks, but the 6d label will be the first in September 1968, and the others will follow as stocks are exhausted.

Packs of Stamps

We have been producing presentation packs of our special stamps for several years; in 1967 we offered a Gift Pack which proved very popular.

In addition to the presentation packs we are producing this year two extra packs – a Gift Pack which contains the British Bridges, Anniversaries and Paintings stamps and a Collector's Pack which contains the British Discoveries, Christmas 1967, Bridges, Anniversaries and 1968 Paintings issues.

For the benefit of our readers who have not seen the types of packs we issue we reproduce in colour (for the first time in a normal issue of the *Bulletin*) the Gift Pack, the Collector's Pack and the British Paintings Presentation pack. All of these packs contain in addition to the

stamps technical details of the printing processes and details of the artists.

We expect a heavy demand for these packs and, with the coming of Christmas, recommend early application for these ideal presents.

The Paintings packs are available now at 5s 7d each and the Collector's and Gift Packs are to be issued on 16 September 1968. They will be available from philatelic posting box offices at 15s for the Gift Pack and £1 2s 0d for the Collector's pack and by post from the Bureau at the following prices:

For 1, 2 or 3 packs 16s and 23s inclusive of handling charge.

For 4 or more packs 15s and 22s respectively plus the normal handling charge.

1968 Postage
Stamps
Special Issues
January to August



ing, etc. Leonard
who designed the 1s. 6d.





Collectors Pack 1968

British Pictorial Stamps



BRITISH
PAINTINGS



Handstamps and Postmark Slogans

With the introduction of the new postage rates collectors of postmarks are reminded that items sent for re-posting on and after 16 September 1968 should not bear less than 4d in postage stamps. Items bearing less than 4d cannot be accepted for re-posting by the Head Postmasters concerned.

StanGib Bureau Moves

A Transplant to the Heart of Stampdom

StanGib, the British GPO North American Philatelic Bureau, is moving into a more central location at the beginning of September.

The new address will be 595 Fifth Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10017. Situated in the busiest part of the thoroughfare, just a few steps from the Rockefeller Center Complex and on the same side as the new Korvette store, the new StanGib Building is right in the heart of New York's stamp world.

Located on the fourth floor, a rapid elevator will whisk callers up to a spacious suite including the StanGib offices, showroom area, and the British GPO North American Philatelic Bureau. Regular clients should please note that the telephone number remains unchanged - (212) 758 2210.

The move comes as a fitting climax to an exciting year in the Gibbons organisation. StanGib Limited had its official opening by the British Postmaster General last September and then focussed international attention as the first officially appointed agent of the British Post Office.

The fascinating history of the Gibbons firm is a legend in the stamp world. Founded in 1856 by a young English pharmacist, the fortunes of the business stemmed from a kit-bag full of Cape Triangulars bought from a couple of sailors who had won them in a raffle. This £5 deal made £500 for the young Gibbons and from then on business boomed.

Eighteen years later he moved to London and after moving into several different addresses finally settled at 391 Strand which is still the headquarters of the world's oldest

stamp organisation.

NOTE. *The British GPO North American Philatelic Bureau does not service retail orders and is available only to bona fide dealers in North America.*

Ulster Tattoo 1968

A military pageant involving nearly 1,000 officers and men will take place in Northern Ireland this year.

To mark the occasion a commemorative cover has been designed and a special handstamp will be used for cancellation.

The Tattoo, which includes a Forces Postal Services Stand, will travel to three locations during its tour, and the same handstamp will be used each time.

The itinerary is as follows:

Londonderry	on 11 September 1968
Omagh	on 13 and 14 September 1968.
Belfast	on 19, 20, and 21 September 1968.

Reposting facilities will be available for pre-addressed, prestamped, envelopes received before the date required by:

Officer Commanding,
3 Div PCC Unit RE, Bulford Camp,
Salisbury, Wilts.



Introduction of new Inland Letter Post

A new letter post offering customers two alternative grades of service at different rates of postage will be introduced on 16 September 1968.

The Printed Paper, Sample post, Postcard and Newspaper services, as we know them, will be discontinued. There will be a choice for these and all other types of correspondence, of one or other of the new services, known as First and Second class letter services.

We hope that the new system, by spreading the load, will solve the difficult problem of moving vast quantities of mail. It will also abolish the complicated printed paper regulations. As well as making sure that important letters get away first the new system allows the Post Office to spread its work outside the peak posting periods. We hope that Post Office preferred size envelopes are used as our machines are designed to handle those envelopes and their use ensures the greatest speed in sorting.

Remember First or Second class – the choice is yours.

The Important changes

Services introduced

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. FIRST CLASS LETTERS | Mainly 'next day' delivery as now.
Charge: 5d for first 4oz. |
| SECOND CLASS LETTERS | Up to one day later than first class.
Charge: 4d for first 4oz.
Weight limit 1½lb. |
| 2. SERVICES ABOLISHED | These will be sent as first or second class letters. |
| Printed papers
Samples
Postcards
Newspapers | (Except for those posted by publishers or newsgents which may be given first class service for second class postage) |
| 3. SERVICES RESTRICTED | First class service only (Charges unchanged). |
| Registered letters
Special delivery
Railway and Airway letters
C.O.D. | |
| 4. OTHER SERVICES | |
| Recorded delivery
Business reply
Official paid
Express at Addressee's request | Available in both first and second class services
(Charges unchanged) |
| Articles for the blind | First class service
(Postage Free) |
| 5. INLAND PARCEL SERVICE | No change in facilities or charges. |
| Overseas services
(including Forces) | No change in facilities. Some changes in Parcel rates as from 1 July, 1968. |

Stamp rolls

Two new 5d rolls are being added to the current range and will be on sale on 9 September 1968.

The details are as follows:

<i>Roll</i>	<i>No. of stamps per roll</i>	<i>Value per roll</i>	<i>Core size inches</i>	<i>Delivery</i>
AE	960	£20	1 $\frac{1}{4}$	Lower end first
AF	480	£10	$\frac{1}{2}$	Left side first

Stocks of A and H rolls of 4d (2 line) stamps will be withdrawn from sale from those offices selling the new 4d (1 line) stamps on 14 September 1968.

At all other offices the 4d (2 line) stamps will be sold until supplies are exhausted.

National Postal Museum Notes

The Museum's Reference Library

A museum is far more than a building in which collections of antiquities are stored and exhibited. Properly conceived, it is a centre for scholarly research: a place where, in congenial surroundings, information can be obtained and enlightenment sought by both specialists and novices. The quality, comprehensiveness and arrangement of displays in the Galleries is therefore of the utmost importance: when the National Postal Museum proper opens, we hope later this year, we have no fears that the collections shown will be in many respects beyond comparison and that the physical arrangements being made for displaying them will be as near perfect as can be humanly contrived.

A great deal of thought and experiment is going on about the final arrangement of the stamps and related material in the showcases and when all is done we trust that the end product will be generally acceptable to experts and laymen alike.

Apart from the exhibits themselves an adequate reference library available to students is an essential part of a museum service. Part of the pleasure of seeing the real thing in a museum gallery is the assurance that one can check facts from literary sources available on the spot and it is pleasant therefore to report that the Museum's library has now been indexed and is ready to perform its important function.

As with the Museum's basic collection of 19th Century Postage stamps, the gift of Mr Reginald M. Phillips of Brighton, the Museum's library has been immensely enriched by

Mr Phillips' recent gift of his philatelic library much of which consists of books long since out of print and extremely difficult to obtain even after diligent searching in the second-hand book market. These of course were the books Mr Phillips studied assiduously when writing up his collection and the fruits of his labour plainly show on the Album pages and greatly add to their interest. All serious students of postage stamps are once again indebted to Mr Phillips for his munificence. Each of the books he gave to the Museum contains a commemorative book plate incorporating an embossed portrait of Mr Phillips taken from a die prepared by Mr Michael Rizzello who is well known for his work in this specialist field.

To the Phillips volumes in the library have been added the collection of books on philately and kindred subjects formerly housed in the record room at P.O. Headquarters and additional volumes given to the Museum by publishers, firms and private donors. In supplementation of this material a series of Museum scrapbooks containing articles, photographs and other ephemera relating to philately have been built up and are constantly being added to.

In the belief that information one cannot put one's hand on is useless, every endeavour has been made to catalogue and arrange the library for ease of reference. Judging from our experience during the first stage of the Museum's life it is believed that the library in its extended form and as now arranged will help many collectors to sort out their problems.

F. MARCUS ARMAN

NATIONAL POSTAL MUSEUM

In addition to his singular generosity in presenting to the Postmaster General in trust for the nation his unique collection of 19th century British postage stamps together with a capital sum for its maintenance, Mr Phillips gave to the Post Office his philatelic library which includes the volume in which this commemorative book plate is affixed.

12 September, 1966



Letters to the Editor

Dear Sir,

Since the publication of my letter regarding the loss of Julie's stamp collection the response from your readers has been so wonderful that she is once more absorbed in her hobby.

We are very touched by the generosity of these good people and the many nice letters received.

Julie and I are answering all these letters from many parts of the world – but may we through the medium of the *Bulletin* thank those who sent stamps anonymously.

I would like to quote from a letter from a lady in Eastbourne who said 'I hope you get lots of answers to your letter, I expect you will because it seems to me that people who collect are basically very nice people'.

What more can I add other than many, many thanks.

Yours faithfully,

MRS D. L. ADAMS

London, SE26

Dear Sir,

Firstly, my compliments on your excellent *Bulletin* – phenomenal value for money at 7½d. I would like to make a few points regarding the new British Paintings issue, detailed in the July *Bulletin*.

My criticisms apply to the two lowest values, the 4d and 1s. To have to use (a) a painting by an *unknown* artist and (b) a painting by an artist already thus honoured, is a poor advertisement for British Art and would indicate that the works of Turner, Gainsborough, Reynolds, Hogarth etc. were not good enough to be used for a postage stamp design. How magnificent Turner's *The Fighting Temeraire* would have looked on a stamp. Most probably, *Queen Elizabeth I* and *Pinkie* will look excellent on stamps, but in my opinion another opportunity will have been missed to show the work of two other outstanding painters.

I am also disappointed that the high value definitives are to be printed in only one colour.

The 1s 9d value showed how impressive two colours appeared.

Still on the high value issue, may I add weight to the suggestion for an envelope, large enough to take all the definitive issue stamps, for use on September 9? An FDC of rare colour and value would certainly result.

Finally, in the same way that children's designs were used for the 1966 Christmas issue, could not another stamp issue be based on the designs of 'amateurs'. I do not say that a competition need be organised, but an open invitation be issued to whoever felt like it to submit a design or designs *eg* as in the Concorde competition.

Yours faithfully,

J. A. HASSALL

Chesterfield, Derbyshire.

Dear Sir,

I have noted with interest the many comments voiced in the *Bulletin* recently, and agree with Mr Preben Ott in his remarks about the *Bulletin* cover. Why not have a stamp reproduction in colour which could be used as a frontispiece to a section of a collection?

Now that most of the new definitive range have been issued, I must express my disappointment at the set as a whole. Whilst colourwise they are superb, I feel that the shift of value on the 7d, 8d and 9d values has spoilt the overall effect.

Very shortly, with decimalisation, there will be another stamp change. This change should of course be commemorated and I should like to see this incorporated in stamps that would recall those regiments that have been so prominent in our history, but which have been disbanded. If the title were printed in the margin, above the picture, it will leave a pleasant, uncluttered stamp.

Yours faithfully,

D. F. ELLIS

Rossendale, Lancs.

Dear Sir,

Your correspondent Commander Fearnside-Lunn appeals for more off-beat humour in Philately. By choosing the Women's Suffrage Commemoration for the 9d value of the recent issue the GPO seem to have unwittingly complied. As this is the European letter rate I have recently received many of these stamps here in Switzerland, a country where in many parts women still do not have full voting rights.

I wonder if this could be construed as unwarranted interference in the internal affairs of another country and a contravention of U.P.U. regulations. So far however none of these stamps has been defaced by the Swiss postal authorities. Perhaps they are thinking of a new design for the 50c value in retaliation!

Yours faithfully,

DR D. LEIVERS

Basle, Switzerland.

Dear Sir,

With reference to Mr Selwyn Ward's idea for a 'Suggestion Box' for special issues, I have often thought that a series of low value stamps giving the 'Coats of Arms' of every county in the British Isles would be well received. The stamps could be issued in alphabetical order (over a period) so that there could be no complaint regarding precedence!

Yours faithfully,

MRS S. BARLOW

Wilmslow, Cheshire.

Dear Sir,

Mr W. T. Parker in his letter in your June issue asked for a simple way of identifying phosphor lines on the definitive issues. I find no difficulty in seeing the lines, when I put the stamps, with and without lines in quantity on a green blotting paper and look at them towards the daylight from different angles, especially nearly parallel with the stamps.

Yours faithfully,

AGNES THORBURN

Uddevalla, Sweden.

For the New Inland Letter Service

To meet the needs of the new inland letter service, the current range of stamp books has been revised. The 4s 6d (12 at 4d; 6 at 1d) and the 6s (18 at 4d) books will retain their present format, but the contents of the 2s and 10s books will change. The new 2s book, which will be on sale from machines only, will contain 6 at 4d, and the new 10s book, 12 at 5d; 14 at 4d and 4 at 1d. These books will be available from 16 September. In addition a 5s book, containing 12 at 5d, will go on sale on the 27 November 1968.

The cover design themes and colours of the 4s 6d and 6s books will remain unchanged, but the colours of the 2s and 10s books are being changed to indicate their new content. The new 2s book will be grey, the new 10s book moss green. The 5s book will be brown, and the theme of cover design 'Stately Homes' – the first in the series being Ightham Mote, Kent.

The new range will therefore be as follows:

<i>Book</i>	<i>Content</i>	<i>Colour</i>	<i>Design Theme</i>
2s	6 at 4d	Grey	None
4s 6d	12 at 4d 6 at 1d	Blue	Ships
6s	18 at 4d	Orange	Birds
10s	12 at 5d 14 at 4d 4 at 1d	Moss Green	Explorers
<i>and from 27 November</i>			
5s	12 at 5d	Brown	Stately Homes

In addition to sale from vending machines, the new 2s stamp book to be introduced on 16 September will be available from the Philatelic Bureau Edinburgh and from the five Philatelic Counters. It will not however be on sale from other office counters.

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