

Philatelic Bulletin

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Royal Silver Wedding Souvenir Edition



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“Royal Stamps” for US Tour

On 11 October, Mr George Downes, CB, the man formerly in charge of Britain’s stamp programme, began a six-week tour of the USA and Canada.

Mr Downes, who was head of postal operations in Britain until he retired last year and also Chairman of the Stamp Advisory Committee for three-and-a-half years, will visit New York, Pittsburgh, Montreal, Chicago, Philadelphia, Boston, Toronto, Ottawa, Houston, Dallas, Washington, Los Angeles and San Francisco.

His lecture, entitled “The Royal Stamps of Great Britain” will trace the history of British stamps from the Penny Black of 1840 onwards; and in particular the Royal Silver Wedding stamps to be issued on 20 November.

Mr Downes will be guest lecturer in support of a “Britain Now” exhibition by Gimbel’s, a major departmental store. The Post Office will have a philatelic counter and display at this exhibition.

Post Office Schools Calendar and Work Cards

From time to time the Post Office publishes material for use in schools. This term a wall calendar and a set of twelve work cards are being issued. The calendar consists of twelve large cards, one for each month, with the major festivals marked. The work cards carry instructions for making Greetings cards which are, in effect structures. The material is suitable for junior and lower secondary children.

Applications are welcomed from teachers and youth leaders and should be sent to:

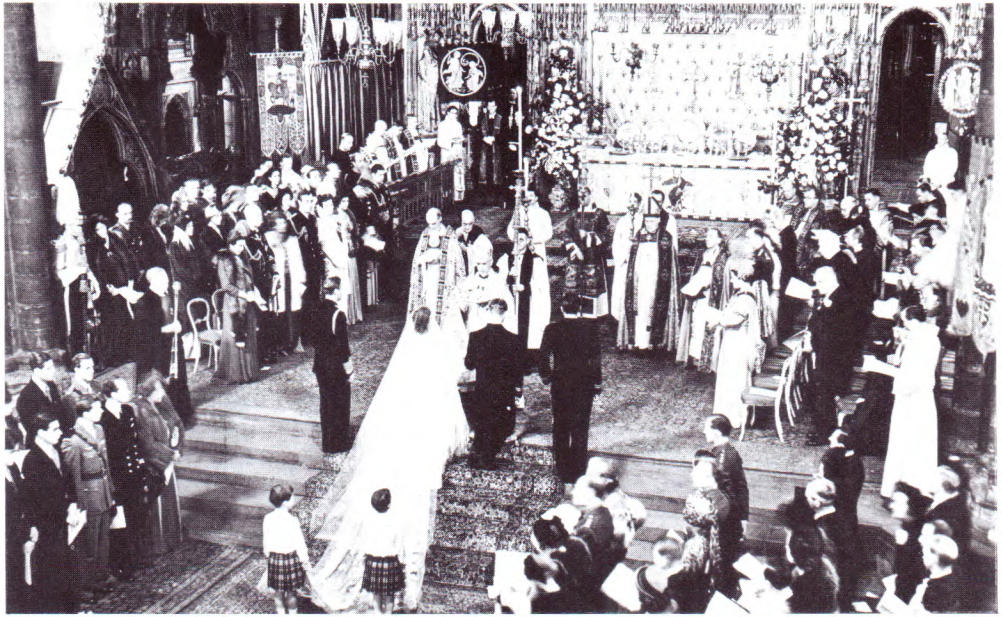
The Schools Officer
Postal Headquarters Publicity Branch
Postal Headquarters Building
St Martin’s-le-Grand
LONDON
EC1A 1HQ

Introduction

We hope that this special issue of the *Philatelic Bulletin* will be welcomed as an attractive souvenir of the Royal Silver Wedding. It carries with it our congratulations to Her Majesty and the Duke of Edinburgh on their anniversary.

The Royal Wedding, 1947





The Royal Couple receiving the Blessing of the Archbishop of Canterbury as they kneel on the steps of the Sanctuary in Westminster Abbey. Flanking the Royal Pair are H. M. The King and the Groomsman, The Marquess of Milford Haven.

Photograph by courtesy of Central Press Photos Ltd.



The Royal Family on the balcony of Buckingham Palace after the ceremony . . . left to right H. M. The King, Princess Margaret, Lady Mary Cambridge, Princess Elizabeth, Duke of Edinburgh, H. M. The Queen and H. M. Queen Mary.

Photograph by courtesy of Paul Popper Ltd.

The Royal Couple

Elizabeth II, Queen of the United Kingdom, of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and of her other realms and territories, head of the Commonwealth, was born on 21 April 1926.

Christened Elizabeth Alexandra Mary she was born in Bruton Street, London, where her maternal grandparents, the Earl and Countess of Strathmore, lived. She was the elder daughter of the Duke of York (later King George VI) the second son of King George V. Elizabeth was educated privately by a governess, Marion Crawford, thoroughly grounded in history by C. H. K. Marten and instructed in music and languages by visiting teachers.

On the outbreak of World War II Elizabeth was parted from her parents and she and her sister, Princess Margaret, stayed at Balmoral in the early years of the war moving later to Royal Lodge, Windsor. Her first broadcast, addressed to children evacuated from their homes, was from Windsor Castle on 13 October 1940 and her first public appearance without her family was in the summer of 1944 at a meeting of the governors of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital for Children. She contributed towards the war effort, in spite of opposition from her family, by training as a driver in the Auxiliary Territorial service.

In 1947 Elizabeth accompanied her parents to South Africa. On her return rumours that had been circulating before the tour were speedily confirmed, and in July her engagement was announced to Philip Mountbatten, Lieutenant in the Royal Navy who had recently been naturalised under that name after renouncing his foreign titles as a Prince of Greece and Denmark. In the interval before the marriage Princess Elizabeth was quietly taking over from the Duke of Gloucester the functions of the chief understudy to the King, both on ceremonial occasions and in maintaining personal contacts with the people.

Elizabeth's wedding took place on 20 November 1947. On this date the King

raised Philip Mountbatten to the peerage as His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh, dubbed him Knight in the Order of the Garter and attended his marriage to Princess Elizabeth in Westminster Abbey, the Archbishop of Canterbury solemnising the rite. Five Kings and Queens attended the wedding. The Procession had a Captain's Escort of Household Cavalry in full dress for the bride and bridegroom and a sovereign's Escort for the King and Queen. The occasion was widely taken as a symbolic emergence of the nation from the austerity of war. The return of the Household Cavalry to the full magnificence of their peacetime uniforms in order to escort the bride was the outward and visible sign of the mood of rejoicing and relaxation.

The honeymoon of the now Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh was divided between the New Forest and Scotland. After this break they took a short lease of a country house at Windlesham Moor, near Sunningdale and spent most of their leisure time in fitting out Clarence House, adjoining St James's Palace, which was to be their residence in London. By this time the Duke had returned to duty at the Admiralty and the Princess resigned herself to being a naval wife.

The first child of Princess Elizabeth, a son, Charles Philip Arthur George, was born on 14 November 1948 at Buckingham Palace. It had already been directed by the King that all children of the heiress presumptive should have from birth the title of Prince and the style of Royal Highness, which is normally only bestowed on the Sovereign's grandchildren in the male line. Two years later, on 15 August 1950, the anniversary of the end of the Second World War, their daughter, Anne Elizabeth Alice Louise, was born at Clarence House.

During the summer of 1951 the health of King George VI gave rise to concern and he was represented by the princess at the Trooping of the Colour and during the

official visits of the Kings of Denmark and Norway. On 7 October of that year Princess Elizabeth set out on an important and very successful tour of Canada.

With the Duke she visited the President of the United States, Harry S. Truman, in Washington DC and after Christmas in England they started on a tour of Australia and New Zealand. But whilst they were in Kenya the news reached them of the sudden death of King George on 6 February.

Elizabeth was twenty-five years old at her accession as was her predecessor of that name. On 8 February she made her speech to the accession privy council with a moving reference to "this heavy task that has been laid upon me so early in my life". The first few months of her reign, the period of full mourning for her father, were passed in comparative seclusion, but by that summer she was undertaking the routine duties of sovereign. She carried out her first state opening of Parliament on 4 November 1952. As a constitutional Monarch, the summoning of Parliament, the making of a speech from the throne outlining the Government's programme for the new session and the granting of the Royal Assent to Bills, are all part of her responsibilities. On 2 June 1953 Elizabeth was crowned in Westminster Abbey – the first person to do homage was her husband.

The Queen makes frequent visits to other countries, and since her accession she has made at least one State visit abroad every year. With Prince Philip she has been to all parts of the Commonwealth as well as to many other countries. In 1972 she made a six week tour of south-east Asia and the Indian Ocean.

And on his own account, Prince Philip has been all over the world attending Naval manoeuvres and visiting Army and RAF units, presiding at conferences and independence celebrations, talking to presidents and diplomats, business men and factory workers. On such tours the Prince has the opportunity

to meet and talk to many people very different from those usually associated with a royal court.

In recent years the Queen has invited people from all sorts of professions to dine at Buckingham Palace or on board the royal yacht *Britannia* when she and the Duke are making one of their visits abroad. Guests have included sportsmen, writers, comedians, lawyers, business men, trades union leaders, astronauts, journalists and engineers.

When at home, the Queen and Prince Philip have many engagements to fulfil; troops to review, buildings to open, factories to inspect, country towns to be visited. In addition, the Queen has often to give as many as four or five audiences in a single day, as well as attend to State papers and other matters. In addition to her state work, the Queen has to find time for her family especially her two younger sons Andrew Albert Christian Edward, born 19 February 1960 and Edward Antony Richard Louis, born on 10 March 1964.

Since her accession the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh's visits to many countries have made them more widely known than any other Royal Family. Their work at home has made them the most well-loved couple in Britain.

New £1 Design Definitive Stamp

A slightly amended issue of the £1 stamp is to be issued on 6 December 1972 when the lettering on the stamp will be brought into line with the rest of the definitive series. The type face used was designed in 1927 by the famous Eric Gill about whom Marcus Arman wrote in the April and June 1970 *Bulletins*.

A limited first day cover service will be offered by the Philatelic Bureau, which will consist of a specially designed cover, addressed and serviced for an inclusive charge of £1. The philatelic posting boxes will be available as usual.

The Silver Wedding Stamps

Jeffery Matthews

When first I was asked to tell something of the design story of the Silver Wedding Stamps, I felt that the task was almost impossible. As an artist I express myself best in visual terms, but I have grown to accept that there are many people who are genuinely interested in this type of work and wish to learn something of the background to the production of a design.

In May 1971, Stuart Rose, design adviser to the Post Office asked if I would be interested in preparing some stamp designs for the twenty-fifth wedding anniversary of Her Majesty The Queen and His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh.

A few days later at a briefing meeting at Postal Headquarters it was decided that several different approaches to the subject should be explored. I then set to, researching the subject and making preliminary sketches.

Some weeks and several designs later I submitted a number of stamp-sized visuals which included various treatments of the Royal portraits, Royal Family groups, formal calligraphic and inscriptional designs, interior and exterior views of Westminster Abbey and actual wedding-day scenes; shown in a variety of colours and including metallic treatments. From these, four visuals were chosen as having generally the right approach and the potential for further development. I was very pleased that my particular favourite was included amongst these chosen designs, being practically identical to the subsequently issued stamp.

I think it should be explained at this point that I was striving to produce a design which would have a classical dignity and simplicity such as is found in engraved gems and in many coins and medallions, yet at the same time capture something of the spirit of the real people whose wedding was being commemorated. It was this latter concern that decided me to use photographs for the portraits rather than other means such as drawing or sculpture. Whilst these methods, with their inevitable stylisation,



Jeffery Matthews

are admirable ways of producing an effigy which must survive without dating for many years as with coins or definitive stamps, photography had the distinct advantage, for my purpose, of capturing the present.

It was now the appropriate time for a photographer of the necessary calibre to be commissioned for the new portraits. Norman Parkinson, who had recently produced the memorable twenty-first birthday portraits of Princess Anne, was chosen and carefully briefed as to the requirements of myself and the technical considerations of the printer.

On a sunny October afternoon, the Mall decorated with the sunny symbols of Japan for it was the day of the arrival of the Japanese Emperor for a State visit, I met Norman Parkinson and a technician from the printers at Buckingham Palace. We were shown into the White Drawing Room and prepared the equipment and seating arrangements for taking the Royal portraits. These were to be taken separately, firstly Her Majesty and then His Royal Highness. About mid-afternoon The Queen entered, and after brief introductions the business of taking the pictures commenced. A range of

shots from absolute profile through to almost full-face were taken to allow for any variations of the portraits I might wish to make in my designs.

The Queen showed great interest in the project and after a brief discussion of my work Her Majesty left, and the photographic session continued with Prince Philip.

This was my first meeting with the Royal couple and I was particularly impressed by the naturalness of them both and this confirmed my original intention to emphasise this aspect in the stamps and evoke the sense of family occasion to be shared by their people.

When the prints of the new portraits were ready, those to be used were chosen and I prepared layouts showing precisely how they should be superimposed and positioned in the format of the stamps. At this stage in the preliminary development a number of variations were being considered, in both vertical and horizontal arrangements, which included profile portraits, three-quarter view portraits and in some cases additional symbolic motifs such as Westminster Abbey.

I now prepared hand-drawn lettering for the titling and denominations as I considered this to be such an important part of the design that, to be perfectly integrated, it should not be merely set in type or one of the many available transfer letter-forms that are "near enough".

Whilst working on the stamps I had also to consider the supporting material, and early on came to the conclusion that as the first day cover and presentation pack would of necessity have lengthy legends, the best design approach to these should be calligraphic. My research had revealed the "Lovers Knot" postmark which had been used by the Post Office to mark the wedding twenty-five years ago, and this inspired me to use true love knots as the theme for the two first day of issue postmark designs treated calligraphically. Thus, lettering has



throughout played a very important part in unifying the whole project.

To return to the stamps, everything was now ready for the printer to commence his part of the work and some weeks elapsed before the first proofs were ready showing a variety of colour schemes in each of the several designs. A few days later these essays were shown to the Stamp Advisory

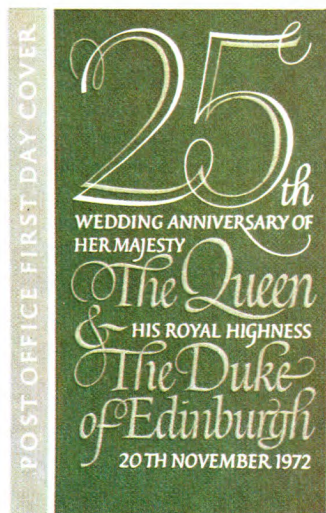
Committee and it was with their help and advice that the selection was narrowed down. After further discussion and consultation the selection was reduced to three; three-quarter view portraits and profile portraits in a horizontal format and profile portraits in a vertical format. At this stage it was possible to narrow the range of colour schemes and to ask the printer to produce a further set of proofs of the three selected designs in the chosen colours.

In order to assist everyone concerned to view the latest essays in the most realistic conditions I prepared some dummy first day covers and presentation packs and on

these, and also on ordinary addressed envelopes, the stamps were mounted to give them the proper isolation and setting. This proved to be a most helpful exercise and presented in this way the designs were seen by the Stamp Advisory Committee and unanimous approval was given to recommending to the Palace the designs which were subsequently approved by Her Majesty.

The whole exercise was sustained for over a year, and I should like to take this opportunity of thanking the many people whose special skills and collaboration made my job possible and contributed to the final realisation of this special issue.

Silver Wedding First Day Cover



Mrs J Robinson
200 Manorbier Road
ILKESTON
Derbyshire
DE7 4AB



Silver Wedding Presentation Pack



Silver Wedding Stamps

To celebrate the Silver Wedding of the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh we are issuing a 3p and a 20p stamp on 20 November 1972.

Norman Parkinson a leading fashion photographer was commissioned to take profile photographs and Jeffery Matthews has incorporated them into his stamp designs. Both stamps are identical in design but different in colour.

Printing Details:

<i>Printer :</i>	Harrison & Sons.
<i>Size :</i>	40 × 31 mm.
<i>Perforation :</i>	15 × 14.
<i>Number per sheet :</i>	100.
<i>Format :</i>	Portrait.
<i>Colours :</i>	3p steel-blue, black, silver. 20p purple, black, silver.

Silver Wedding Souvenir Pack



In addition to the standard presentation pack a special souvenir pack containing the Silver Wedding stamps and several pages of descriptive material of the Wedding and main events of the 25 years is to be issued on

20 November 1972. It will be on sale from the Philatelic Bureau, the philatelic sales counters and Windsor priced 40p each and not 50p as quoted in the October *Bulletin*.

Japanese "Silver Wedding" Presentation Pack

A Japanese language version of the Silver Wedding presentation pack is being produced in Tokyo for sale in Japan. This pack will be available on application from the Philatelic Bureau price 28p.

The Royal Family visits Harrison & Sons

Photographs reproduced from "Informe" the house magazine of the Harrison Eden Fisher Group.



An etched cylinder is ready for the press.



Her Majesty inspects the new "Gemini" press.



The Royal Family inspect the first sheet of Silver Wedding stamps.



Examination of finished sheets of stamps.

The Silver Wedding Issue of 1948

Some early unaccepted designs

Illustrated here are some early designs for the issue commemorating the Silver Wedding in 1948 of His Majesty the late King George VI and HM Queen Elizabeth, The Queen Mother.

Considerations of time did not allow for the usual commissioning of a number of artists for this issue. Designs were therefore prepared only by Miss Joan Hassall (who had been nominated by the Council of Industrial Design) and by staff artists of the printers, Harrison and Sons.

It had been suggested within the Post Office that landscape designs incorporating views of Windsor Castle and the Round Tower of the Castle – such as had been used for the colonial Silver Jubilee issues and for the projected “Coronation” essays of King Edward VIII (see *Philatelic Bulletin*, January 1972) might

be suitable for the $2\frac{1}{2}d$ value. Five designs – two by Miss Hassall, the other three by Messrs Knipe, Stobie and Palmer, of Harrison’s – were prepared as essays in blue. Three designs for the £1 stamp, two by Miss Hassall and one by Mr Palmer, were also printed as essays, each in alternative colours of deep blue and maroon. The £1 essays by Miss Hassall, and two $2\frac{1}{2}d$ essays (one by Miss Hassall and one by Mr Knipe) were shown to Their Majesties on 27 January 1948. None, however, were considered as “entirely satisfactory”. The later essays, including the accepted designs, were the result of a radically different approach based on the simple framed portrait style used in Belgium in the late 1930’s.

A. G. RIGO DE RIGHI



J. Hassall



J. Hassall



Stobie



Palmer



Palmer



J. Hassall

Brighton Sales Counter



*Mr. Reginald M. Phillips speaking at the Ceremony
(l) Mr. K. Hind, Senior Director of the Post Office
(r) Mr. Norman Davies, Head Postmaster, Brighton*

Mr. Reginald M. Phillips of Brighton has done much to extend interest in British Stamps as founder of the National Postal Museum and the Philatelic Unit at Sussex University.

On 12th September he cut the ribbon to open the new Philatelic Sales Counter at Brighton Head Post Office and rounded it off with a speech.

Revised Air Letter Form

Now that over 80% of all addresses have been postcoded, it was decided that the words "Please show your Postcode" should be added to the panel for the sender's name and address.

Production of the amended version of the 5p form was commenced by our manufacturers on 1 August 1972. The 6½p form will be similarly amended when the next reprint is required.

Dorchester & Weymouth Stamp Club Exhibition

The Director of the South Western Postal Region, Mr K. E. F. Gower MBE will open the 5th Annual Exhibition at the Congregational Hall, South Street, Dorchester, Dorset at 11 am on 11 November 1972 to which visitors are welcome.

BBC 50th Anniversary Exhibition

The BBC is mounting an Exhibition at the Langham Hotel (adjacent to Broadcasting House) London W1 between 1 November and 23 December 1972. The Post Office will provide a sales counter and a small display.

More Stamps with Gum Arabic

More stamps with gum arabic adhesive – ½p definitives and 2½p Scottish and Welsh definitives – are on sale at the Philatelic Bureau, Edinburgh, the London Chief Office and all Head Offices with philatelic counters. The ½p stamps will be sold at all other post offices, and the Scottish and Welsh stamps at other offices in the respective countries, as stocks of those with polyvinyl alcohol (PVA) adhesive run out.

Postmark Slogans

Unless otherwise stated, items for reposting should be sent to the Head Postmaster of the town where the slogan is to be used, marking the outer cover "Postmark Slogan".

1 October 1972 – 31 January 1973

Industrial Development Consett Co-Durham. This will replace the slogan **Consett Co-Durham Industrial Sites with all Services Available.**

16 October 1972 – Until further notice

Remember to Use the Postcode. To be used at Bury St Edmunds, Thetford, Diss.

30 October – 31 December 1972

Remember to Use the Postcode. To be used at Ely, Cambridgeshire; Haverhill, Suffolk; Newmarket; Saffron Walden, Essex.

1 November 1972 – 7 April 1973

Ship Through Newport (Mon) the Home of A Self-grip Wrench. To be used at Newport, Mon.

1 November – 30 December 1972

18 February – 7 April 1973

Send Every Letter with the Postcode on A Self-grip Wrench is from Newport Mon. To be used at Newport, Mon.

1 November – 30 December 1972

31 December 1972 – 17 February 1973

Postcodes Help to Speed the Mails – A Self-grip Wrench from Newport Hails. To be used at Newport, Mon.

20 November 1972 – 17 February 1973

Remember to Use the Postcode. To be used at Ilford, Woodford Green, Loughton, Dorking.

31 December 1972 – 17 February 1973

18 February – 7 April 1973

Use the Postcode to Speed Your Letter – Use A Self-grip Wrench There is None Better. To be used at Newport, Mon.

12 February 1973 – Until further notice

Remember to Use the Postcode. To be used at Ambleside, Westmorland; Barrow-in-Furness, Lancashire; Carnforth, Lancashire; Grange-over-Sands, Lancashire;

Kirkby Lonsdale, Lancashire; Lancaster; Millom, Cumberland; Kendal, Westmorland; Ulverston, Lancashire; Windermere, Westmorland.

24 September 1972 – 6 January 1973

See the New Wigan for Yourself. To be reused at Wigan.

1 October 1972 – 30 September 1973

Holiday at Dunoon. To be reused at Dunoon, Argyll.

As soon as possible – Until further notice

Remember to Use the Postcode. To be used at Chichester, Sussex.

Slogans for the Isle of Man have now been changed and dates are as follows:-

9 September – 3 December 1972

Isle of Man Railway Centenary 1 July 1973.

4 December 1972 – 4 March 1973

For Happy Holidays Isle of Man.

5 March – 1 April 1973

Isle of Man for Holidays in May. Free Colour Brochure from PM Dept Tourist Board Douglas.

2 April – 29 April 1973

International TT Races June Isle of Man.

30 April – 3 June 1973

1st Issue Manx Post Office Stamp July 1973.

4 June 1973 – Until further notice

Isle of Man Railway Centenary 1 July 1973.

Special Handstamps

15 November 1972

Opening of the Royal Air Force Museum Hendon 15 Nov 1972 British Forces 1305 Postal Services. Special posting box at Home Postal and Courier Communications Depot RE Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill, London, NW7 1PX. Items for reposting to the Philatelic Officer at the same address.

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