



Philatelic Bureau

Philatelic Bureau

GPO Headquarters, St. Martin's-le-Grand, London EC1 HQ 4583

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Bulletin may be published
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Forth Road Bridge Special Issue

1 September 4th sees the release of the last of this year's programme of special issues, 3d. and 6d. denominations to mark the opening of the Forth Road Bridge by Her Majesty the Queen.

2 The Designs

The stamp designs are unusual and highly individual impressions of the bridge by a newcomer to stamp design, Mr. Arthur Restall. For the 3d value he has taken a view from water level and shows on the left hand half of the stamp a skeletal bridge rising into the early morning sky with the moon hanging over the snow-capped Lothian Hills to the South, with a tanker making its way to Grangemouth. The stamp is in three colours, blue, violet and black. The left hand half of the stamp shows the bridge printed in black against a pale violet sky. A blue panel is struck boldly down the right hand side of the design panel. The right hand half of the stamp shows the Dorothy Wilding portrait of the Queen's head, printed in black, with a narrow panel on the extreme right of the design of deep violet with the value, 3d., and date 1964 picked out in white.

3 The water, ship and lettering are all in black.

4 The 6d. stamp shows a view taken from the south bank. The left hand half of the stamp shows the colossal main-span of the new bridge framing, in the background, the main span of the railway bridge. Like the 3d., the stamp is also printed in three colours - terra-cotta, marine blue and black. The bridge and lettering and the Queen's head are printed in black, with a tiptled black cleverly used for the water. A marine blue panel is over-printed on the right hand side of the design panel. The Queen's head, again the Dorothy Wilding portrait, appears in the right hand half of the stamp together with a panel of terra-cotta colour at the extreme right hand end of the stamp, bearing the value, 6d., and date, 1964, in white. The railway bridge is also printed in terra-cotta.

5 Printing

Both stamps will be double the size of the low value permanent series issues and will be printed in photogravure by Messrs. Harrison and Sons Ltd. Of High Wycombe. They will be printed on coated paper, 250 line screen and will also be produced with phosphor lines.

Selecting the designs

6 In choosing the designs the Postmaster General had the assistance of the Advisory Committee set up by the Council of Industrial Design at the invitation of the Post Office. The members of the Committee are:-

Sir Kenneth Clark, K.C.B., C.H., F.B.A., the Lady Sempell, A.R.C.A., James Fitton, R.A., F.S.I.A., Milner Gray, R.D.I., F.S.I.A., Professor R. Guyatt A.R.C.A., Abram Games, O.B.E., F.S.I.A., and Sir John Wilson, Bart., K.C.V.O.

The Artist

7 Andrew Restall was born at Headington, Oxfordshire, in 1931, and was educated at George Watson's College, Edinburgh. He studied drawing and painting at Edinburgh College of Art. Since then he has worked in Scotland as a designer in printing and as an advertising visualiser and art director. He is shortly to take up a post as Senior Lecturer in advertising Design at Coventry College of Art. Earlier this year he won a competition for a painting of the Forth Road Bridge, sponsored by the Daily Mail in conjunction with the Arts Council of Scotland.

Technical details of the bridge

8 The new road bridge is the largest suspension bridge in Europe and the fourth largest in the world. Its total length is a little over $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles.

9 The main features are the twin towers, each over 500 feet high, and the two cables from which the deck is suspended. These cables are 7,000 feet long from anchorage to anchorage and are made up of some 12,000 galvanised high tensile steel wires compacted into a circular shape two feet in diameter.

10 The deck provides two roadways each 24 feet wide, two cycle tracks nine feet wide, and two footpaths six feet wide. At its lowest point it is 150 feet above river level.

11 The cost of the scheme is estimated at £19 to £20 million.

Postmark Slogans

<u>Where used</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Slogan</u>
Greenock	1st Aug. 1964 - 30th Oct. 1964	"Greenock, the Town whose Products Span the World" (Transposed)
Southend-on-Sea	6th Aug. 1964 - 17th Oct. 1964	"Southend Illuminations August 15th-October 18th" (Transposed)
York	10th Aug. 1964 - 20th Aug. 1964	"York Races Aug. 18,19,20" (Transposed)
Skegness	11th Aug. 1964 - 30th Sept. 1964	"Skegness Illuminations nightly from August 22 Lincolnshire's Holiday Playground" (2 Dies) (Transposed)
	1st Oct. 1964 - 30th Nov. 1964	"Bring your Factory to Bracing Skegness, Lincs" (Transposed)

Hartlepool	12th Aug. 1964 - "Hartlepool for Factory 11th Aug. 1965 Sites and Success" (Transposed)
Aylesbury	13th Aug. 1964 - "Bucks., County Show, 2nd Sept. 1964 Hartwell Park, Aylesbury, 3rd September" (Transposed)
Carlisle	7th Sept. 1964 - "Carlisle for Industrial 1st Nov. 1964 Sites, Apply Town Clerk." (2 Designs) (Transposed) and 3rd May 1965 - 29th June 1965

<u>Amendments</u>	None
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<u>Special handstamps</u>	None
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First Day Cover Service

12 The Bureau will again provide its full first day cover service on specially designed envelopes for the Forth Road Bridge issue on September 4th. The inclusive charge will be 1s.9d. per cover. Subscribers will have already received their application forms.

13 To meet the wishes of those who prefer to prepare and post their own covers, the official first day envelope will be available for this issue in advance from the Bureau and from the 49 offices shown below where philatelic posting boxes are being provided. The price of the envelope will be 6d. for single copies. For bulk orders the prices are:-

250	:	£ 4 3s.4d.
500	:	£ 8
1,000	:	£ 15
2,500	:	£ 33
5,000	:	£ 60
10,000	:	£104

Aberdeen	Hull	Preston
Belfast	Leeds	Reading
Birmingham	Leicester	Sheffield
Blackpool	Lincoln	Shrewsbury
Bournemouth	Liverpool	Southend-on-Sea
Bradford	Llandudno and	Stoke
Brighton	Colwyn Bay	York
Bristol	Londonderry	South Western D.O.
Cambridge	Maidstone	East Central D.O.
Cardiff	Manchester	Trafalgar Sq. B.O.
Chelmsford	Newcastle	Croydon
Derby	Northampton	Harrow
Dundee	Norwich	Kingston-upon-
Edinburgh	Nottingham	Thames
Exeter	Oxford	Romford
Glasgow	Plymouth	West Central D.O.
Gloucester	Portsmouth	Ipswich

The Design

14 The cover will be the usual size i.e.
7¼" x 4½" with the design on the left hand half of the
envelope.

15 The design is in blue and black and shows the view used in
the 3d stamp. Looking at it, one can almost feel the night air
playing across one's face, with the bridge, so delicate in its
overall design, rearing a massive pillar into the night sky.
One can imagine the evocative silence of the design broken only
by the distant throb of the engines of a tanker sliding under
the far span.

17 Index

This issue concludes Vol 1 of the Bulletin September 1963 to
August 1964 and we shall be publishing an index in the
September 1964 issue for the benefit of those readers who
retain their copies.