

Philatelic Bulletin

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Introduction

As long ago as May 1968 we started a series on the major philatelic societies. Pressure on space has prevented until now a further feature but this month we give prominence to the Postal History Society in an article which defines its aims and shows something of its history.

We at the Post Office have been involved with stamps and their design since 1840 and

have been criticized on and off ever since for not choosing designs to suit everyone! Our note on page 14 outlines the manner in which the choices are made and, we hope, shows a little of the considerable thought and study which the expert committee give to each subject.

Stamp design as a topic seldom lacks controversy but of all our special issues during the last years none has been more widely acclaimed than Fritz Wegner’s 1969 Christmas issue.

In his exclusive December *Bulletin* article Mr Wegner ended by saying that he was terrified by the thought of them not being liked. He need have no fears following the universal popularity of his designs.

50th Anniversary Royal Air Force Cranwell

A special souvenir cover was issued on 5 February 1970 to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the RAF College Cranwell.

The covers portray the Avro 504 K, first used at the college in 1920, are stamped with the 1s RAF 50th Anniversary stamp and are cancelled by a special British Forces Postal Service handstamp used at the college on the day.

The covers were flown on a special anniversary flight overseas and received appropriate flown cover cachets. They are available, at a cost of 5s each, from:

The Philatelic Officer,
RAF College Cranwell,
Sleaford,
Lincs.

All proceeds from the sale of these covers will be devoted to the Royal Air Force Museum Appeal Fund.

Time did not allow advance notice in the *Bulletin* of this cover service.

The Postal History Society

The Society was formed in 1936, and still retains five of the original founder members. The aims of the Society at that time were clearly laid down and remain the same today: '... the many students of Postal History should have the opportunity of co-ordinating their activities, of meeting others with similar interests, have common ground for the exchange of their views, and a link between Postal Historians the world over.'

Before continuing the background of the Postal History Society, it is as well to define Postal History itself. Especially in these days of growing specialization and study, a clear understanding of the meaning of the expression is desirable. Much has been written over the past few years to try to describe the limits of this branch of our hobby, but in the Aims, Objects and Rules of the Society the only comment is: 'Unused postage stamps have no part in a Postal History display, and exhibits dealing with postage stamp design and similar such subjects shall be excluded. Obviously this does not give a real description or definition of what Postal History is.

Perhaps the most widely published definition is that written by Mr P. C. Pearson in his paper read before the 1968 Congress of Great Britain at Buxton. In this he described Postal History as '... the history of the transmission of mails through the ages'. This would include the history of pre-adhesive as well as post-adhesive markings, of local as well as international posts, of the issue of adhesives as a method of pre-paying postal rates but not the study of the printing and perforating processes by which they were produced (which belongs properly to Philately); of the methods and markings by which the adhesives were cancelled to avoid illegal re-use and of the various instructional markings which relate to pre-payment or postage due, to the route travelled or the method of carriage; in other words, of everything to do with the working of the Post Office except the study of the flaws and other details to be found on the printed adhesive. For the purpose of this article we have taken

this to be an acceptable definition.

With a Society based on world-wide membership and interests, the full story of development over the past 33 years would take many pages. However mention must be made of that pioneer, founder and first President, the late F. J. Melville and of the work undertaken by Foster W. Bond and the late Major Adrian Hopkins, who held the Society together during the war years. Thanks to them the Society emerged in 1945 as a strong unit ready to move forward into the future. By 1951, the membership had reached 200 and now stands in excess of 400. The interests of the members are many and varied, but common ground can be found at all meetings – held ten times each year at the Shaftesbury Hotel in London. The main link of the Society with its members, both at home and overseas is the *Bulletin of the Postal History Society* – recently re-styled as *Postal History*. This publication is issued free to all members and appears five to six times each year. A high standard of research articles and news has been maintained for many years and a list of those who have held the editorship indicates the high quality of the publications. Although the articles cover the entire spectrum of world-wide Postal History, there are always articles of interest to students of GB Postal History.

In 1945, the first Annual Conference of the Society was held at Nottingham and 25 Conferences have been held since then. Apart from a study of the Postal History of the area of the Conference, there is a strong Social side to these meetings and as early as 1961 it was decided to venture abroad. A pattern of alternate years at home and abroad followed between 1961 (Paris) and 1965 (The Hague) but the introduction of financial restrictions on travel in 1966 have kept the Conferences within the British Isles since then.

In 1957, it was decided to publish a series of publications. These were to be supplementary to the *Bulletin* which was published on a regular basis. Approximately two booklets per year have appeared since then, dealing with subjects as diverse as the 'Posts of Essex' and

National Army Museum Series – Military Covers

'Wembley and Olympic Issues'. This latter was published in conjunction with the Great Britain Philatelic Society. Many of these books are still available from the Society and those interested should contact Colonel D. M. Eley, Church Farm House, Stanningfield, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk.

In 1967, the Postal History Society was asked to sponsor an International Award for Postal History research. The basic idea had been started by our late President, Nugent Clougher, and the request was made by his widow. This award, presented annually, is open to all postal historians, whether a member of the Society or not, for work published on Postal History. The first two awards have both been made to overseas students.

In 1968, together with its sister society, the Society of Postal Historians, the Postal History Society sponsored the introduction of the Federation. Initially this Federation was intended as a link between the local and national GB Societies which had an interest in Postal History. There were 14 affiliated Societies. Inevitably the demand grew for individual membership, and with 16 Societies and 70 members the Federation is flourishing. There is a quarterly News Letter which contains details of Postal History projects, new publications and articles relating to GB Postal History.

As an additional service to members, the Society also operates an Exchange Packet and a Library. The Library itself is housed at the Shaftesbury Hotel and contains several hundred books on the various aspects of Postal History.

With its international membership, meetings, publications, awards, etc, the Postal History Society is moving forward to fulfil the requirements of the ever changing Philatelic and Postal Historic scene. For details of membership of either the Postal History Society or the Federation, please apply to the Secretary of both bodies, W. R. Wellsted, Colesgrove Manor, Goff's Oak, Waltham Cross, Herts.

The next two covers in this series will be issued on 3 March 1970.

Group 4 Cover No. 2 will commemorate the 200th Anniversary of the skirmish in Boston, Mass, which became known as 'The Boston Massacre'. The cover will show a picture of it in the Museum's collection, and will be cancelled with a one-day British Forces Postal Service handstamp (No. 1203).

Group 2 Cover No. 1 will illustrate a uniform of the period of the American War of Independence. This cover will be cancelled by a one-day British Forces Postal Service pictorial handstamp depicting a tricorne hat worn by soldiers of that time.

Each cover will cost 5s.

Collectors are reminded that the Series is comprised of 5 groups each of 12 covers.

Group 1 British Regiments

Group 2 Historical Uniforms of the British Army

Group 3 Famous Generals

Group 4 Campaigns and Battles

Group 5 Medals

Orders may be received for individual covers at 5s each.

Orders may also be received for a complete group of 12 covers at £2 10s.

Orders may also be received for the complete series of 60 covers at £12.

A special presentation album which will hold the complete series of 60 covers is also available at £3.

All orders should be sent, together with a crossed cheque or postal order to:

The Philatelic Officer,
The National Army Museum Building
Appeal,
HM Tower of London,
LONDON EC3.

A stamped self-addressed envelope should be enclosed if acknowledgement is required.

The following covers have already been prepared:

Group 4 Cover No. 1 14 January 1970

Group 1 Cover No. 1 14 February 1970

First-Flight Covers

Last year's anniversaries of two first-flights has revived interest in first-flight covers and we have reproduced one or two examples.

Thanks to the generosity of a reader we are

able to show this month a fine specimen of an 'Empire Air Service' cover flown from New Zealand to Great Britain in August 1938.



New Stamp Reproduction Authorities

Because of the Post Office's new corporation status, which came into effect on 1 October 1969, the procedure for giving permission to reproduce British and foreign postage stamps has changed.

Before the Post Office became a corporation the Postmaster-General granted all authorities for the reproduction of British and foreign postage stamps. The office of Postmaster-General ended on 30 September 1969, and the Post Office now has power to grant these authorities.

The Post Office has written to publishers, printers and blockmakers who held stamp reproduction authorities before 1 October, in cases where it has a record of them, and granted them new authorities. But any auth-

ority holders who have not heard from the Post Office are advised to write immediately to Postal Headquarters, OOD/CSD (Stamps Section), St Martin's-le-Grand, London EC1.

The conditions under which reproduction was authorized before 1 October, namely for philatelic purposes, non-philatelic advertisements, educational or decorative purposes, remain unaltered apart from an addition – that reproduction of material from the National Postal Museum or from the Reginald M. Phillips collection must carry a suitable acknowledgement.

'Bulletin' Back Numbers

The demand for back numbers of the *Bulletin* has been so great that we have now exhausted our stocks of Volume 3 and regret that it is not possible to supply further copies.

Postmark Slogans

Clacton on Sea Free Holiday Guide from Dept PS Town Hall Clacton on Sea is in use transposed at Birmingham until 28 February 1970.

Clacton on Sea Free Holiday Guide from Dept PS Town Hall Clacton on Sea is in use transposed at Luton until 20 March 1970.

Cheshire and Northwich Building Society 1870-1970 100 Years of Progress will be used transposed at Macclesfield as soon as possible. Actual dates of use not yet finalized.

Visit the 1970 Furniture Show Earls Court February 4-14 is in use transposed where possible at 10 London District Offices, Battersea, Eastern Central District Office, North Western District Office, South Eastern District Office, South Western District Office, Western Central District Office, Mount Pleasant, Paddington, Northern District Office and Eastern District Office, until 14 February 1970.

Eisteddfod Genedlaethol Rhydaman Awst 3-9 1970 will be used transposed where possible at Cardiff, Carmarthen, Swansea, Neath, Port Talbot, Llanelli, Ammanford and Llandeil from 20-28 July 1970.

Basildon Industry Serves the World 'Export' is in use transposed at Basildon until further notice.

Holiday at Bridlington free Colour Guide from Dept 100 Information Centre will continue in use at Bridlington until further notice.

Bristol Hippodrome 7-14 April Camelot Bristol musical Comedy Club Production will be used transposed at Bristol from 8 March until 4 April 1970.

Colwyn Bay Winning Resort Wales in Bloom Contest will be used transposed at Colwyn Bay as soon as possible. Actual dates of use not yet finalized.

See the Highlands from Fort William Write Tourist Information Bureau is in use transposed at Fort William until 26 December 1970.

Harlow Festival July 4-25 will be used transposed at Harlow from 8-28 June 1970.

You dig Harlow Why not an Allotment will be re-used at Harlow from 2 February until 1 March 1970.

Find a Bin put it in - Keep Harlow Tidy will be re-used at Harlow from 1 April until 10 May 1970.

Play all year round in Harlows Play-scheme will be re-used at Harlow from 2-31 March 1970.

Free Public Entertainment in Harlow every week-end May-August will be re-used at Harlow from 11 May until 7 June 1970.

1945-1970 Remploy Silver Jubilee will be used transposed where possible at Bristol from 2-29 March, Birmingham from 4-31 May, Pontypridd from 8 June until 5 July, Leeds from 20 July until 16 August, Newcastle upon Tyne from 7 September until 4 October, and 2 London District Offices: Western District Office until 4 January 1971, North Western District Office until 4 January 1971.

Save As You Earn National Savings will be used transposed where possible at Coatbridge and Airdrie, Motherwell, Rutherglen, Hamilton, Larkhall, Lanark, Dumbarton, Stirling, Falkirk and Grangemouth until 27 March 1970.

The Premier Provincial Antiques Fair April 21-25 Solihull Civic Hall will be used transposed where possible at Birmingham and Solihull from 15 March until 25 April 1970.

New Homes Show 9-14 February 1970 New Horticultural Hall Westminster will be used transposed where possible at South Western District Office and Western Central District Office from 2-14 February 1970.

Unaccepted Stamp Designs

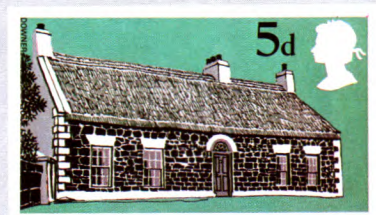
Some of the designs we were unable to accept for the British Architecture stamps of 11 February 1970



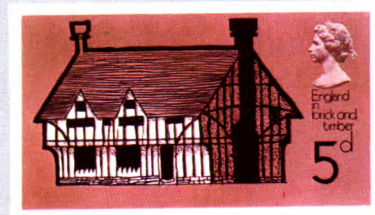
R. Maddox



R. Maddox



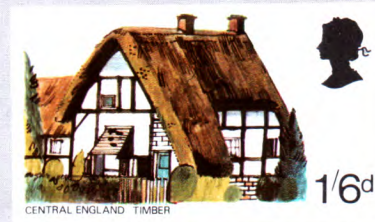
R. Downer



Bradbury Wilkinson & Co.



P. Gauld



P. Gauld

National Postal Museum Notes

Two Good Causes – Literacy and Postal Reform

The campaign for literacy among all classes of society in Britain culminated in the Compulsory Education Act of 1870 the centenary of which will be commemorated this year. Many customers of the Post Office only three decades ago signed for their old age pensions John Smith – X – his mark: today ‘signature by mark’ is virtually unknown as is the admission ‘I’m no scholar – never had no schooling Mister’.

The need for a literate society became acute in the early days of the nineteenth century and the campaigns for literacy and cheap postage ran hand in hand. In the manner of the time men of goodwill established Educational foundations of many kinds – including working men’s institutes or Colleges, the forerunners of the Colleges of Further Education and Technology of today.

On a more humble level Sunday Schools manned by volunteer tutors did much to teach the three R’s to adults. The whole of this educational endeavour was financed by private subscriptions, gifts and legacies. For the reform of the Postal System and a cheap Postal service – essential to make literacy worthwhile particularly among working-men – these advocates of literacy expected the State to make provision. Hence the agitation for Postal Reform which led to the reforms of 1840. The same people who were agitating for Postal reform were also campaigning for a literate society and their endeavours often overlapped.

Among the protagonists for literacy was Charles Knight, a London publisher, and it was he who suggested that the postage on newspapers might be collected by selling stamped wrappers at one penny per wrapper. This idea was developed by Rowland Hill as follows:

‘Let stamped covers and sheets of paper be supplied to the public from the Stamp Office or Post Office, as may be most convenient, and sold at such a price as to include the postage.’ In this sentence is the germ of the idea for prepaid postal stationery, a device employed today almost universally.

Rowland Hill, himself a schoolmaster, thought highly of Charles Knight’s prowess as a publisher of cheap popular literature and in particular his work for ‘The Society for the Diffusion of Useful Knowledge’ on the council of which society Hill sat. Little has been written about Charles Knight’s contribution towards a literate society and it seems appropriate in this centenary year of compulsory education to recall his achievements.

Knight’s father, another Charles, was a bookseller, publisher and printer at Windsor. He was a natural son of Frederick Louis, Prince of Wales, eldest son of George II and father of George III, and a Miss Knight. George III, his half-brother, was a frequent visitor to the bookshop in Castle Street. Young Charles was born in 1791, educated at Dr Nicholson’s Academy at Ealing and at the age of nineteen became editor of the *Eton and Windsor Express* a post he held for fourteen years (the paper is still running as the *Windsor, Slough and Eton Express*). Through his father’s connections and his own efforts he soon influenced progressive leaders of thought and politics. Appalled by the misery and squalor of the people around him he was convinced that the panacea for their ills lay in education and enlightenment. With singular vision he realized that the education of the children of ignorant and bigoted parents was a waste of energy. Accordingly he sought to educate the whole nation – a formidable task indeed.

Around 1819 much of the cheap popular literature available was issued by religious bodies as an aid to literacy. Their tone was mawkish and sentimental and often both fanatical and childish. As a counterblast, in 1820, Knight started a periodical called ‘The Plain Englishman’, which he described as ‘a grand benevolent design to supplement the instruction of the poor to diffuse the blessing of instruction on every portion of the land and to call up a timely English spirit whenever it penetrates.’ The Quarterly Magazine followed, a rather less austere publication which William Clowes printed – the same Clowes who in 1840

was to print the Mulready Postal stationery.

By 1823 Knight had moved to London and was invited by Mr (later Lord) Brougham to become Superintendent of The Society for the Diffusion of Useful Knowledge the great Whig educational organization with which Rowland Hill was associated. Despite a tax on paper of 3d per pound, which made cheap publications difficult to produce, the British Almanac had a circulation of 42,000 copies a year. An astounding figure when the population (largely illiterate) for England, Scotland and Wales was less than 10 millions. With 'The Penny Magazine' (1832-45) circulation rose to 200,000 copies a week. The first number contains a review of Rowland Hill's scheme for Education of pauper children that they might become self reliant.

Alas! Charles Knight over-reached himself with the Penny Encyclopaedia, a many tomed work with numerous wood engraved illustrations issued in weekly parts. He became bankrupt in 1841 and Clowes, the printer, lost over £40,000. Somehow Knight weathered the storm and was again to become a profitable customer of William Clowes.

By his work as an Educational Publisher to an emergently literate nation and for his contribution towards the reform of the posts which Rowland Hill exploited Charles Knight deserves to be remembered.

How true it is that the story of postage stamps is linked to that of the age which saw their birth.

F. MARCUS ARMAN

The Post Office at Philympia 1970

The most important event for philatelists in 1970 will undoubtedly be Philympia 1970 which is to be held in London from 18 to 26 September.

Both the Post Office and the trade have been busy with preparatory work for a long time to ensure the success of what is expected to be the

largest international philatelic exhibition ever held.

In addition to the stands occupied by dealers, publishers and postal authorities from all over the world there will be over 3,000 frames of competitive entries. The Court of Honour will include a selection of stamps from the Queen's collection and from those of many other world famous collectors.

As host nation a special British Philympia stamp issue is to be made and the Post Office with its stand and postal services it will provide will be a major factor of the exhibition.

New Federation Formed

A federation of South Wales Philatelic Societies was recently formed at a meeting presided over by the Head Postmaster of Swansea, Mr R. C. Wall. Nine founder societies were represented: Swansea and West Wales, Cardiff and South Wales, Bargoed, British Rail, Llanelli and District, Newport (Mon), Port Talbot, St Athan RAF, and BOAC Speedbird Treforest.

Its first President is Mrs E. L. Morgan of Swansea, Vice-President Commander S. Barrow of Cardiff.

It was decided to hold an annual meeting and convention in the spring of 1970.

NATIONAL POSTAL MUSEUM Wednesday Lunch Hour Lectures and Film Shows 1 pm

11 February
Film Post Office Counter Services

18 February
Lecture The Story of Postal Stationery

25 February
Film One Jump Ahead

4 March
Lecture Some Aspects of Stamp Design

Travelling Post Offices of Great Britain

Manchester and Crewe SC

The Manchester and Birmingham Railway was opened to Stockport on 4 June 1840 and to Crewe on 10 August 1842. It was incorporated into the LNWR on 12 July 1846.

A staffed Bag Tender began running on 1 September 1859, leaving Manchester at 11 pm and returning from Crewe at 1.35 am. Apparatus was in use at Chelford, Holmes Chapel and Sandbach on the trip from Manchester. It is interesting to note that at Holmes Chapel the height of a retaining wall had to be reduced 6 in. in order to clear apparatus on the coach. In December 1861 apparatus was used at Sandbach on the trip from Crewe.

A Time Bill for November 1863 gives the timings as: Manchester 11 pm, Stockport 11.12 pm, Alderley 11.26 pm, Crewe arrive 11.54 pm, depart 1.35 am, Holmes Chapel 1.53 am, Chelford 2.07 am, Stockport 2.30 am, Manchester 2.45 am, with apparatus working as before.

The Bag Tender was replaced by the Sorting Tender on 14 March 1864 under the control of the Postmaster at Manchester. It was staffed by two sorting clerks each receiving 2s per night and one stamper receiving 1s 6d per night. With the start of sorting duties it was decided that the 'Up Night' from Manchester should stop at Chelford instead of Alderley but on 3 May stops at Alderley and Chorley were added.

A letter of 12 September 1866 to the Railway Company contains the intriguing statement that the Night Mail should be made permanent. From this it would seem that it had been running for two years on a temporary basis only.

The first vehicle used in the sorting duty was a 20 ft, six-wheeled vehicle built in 1846. By 1867 an extra vehicle was required to deal with the increased traffic and a 22 ft 6 in., six-wheeled vehicle was built. On 21 February 1870 the PO asked that gangways be provided between the two vehicles and suggested that as the newer vehicle already had gangways, the most economical solution was to replace the older vehicle by one of the smaller tenders thrown out of use on the main line by the

cessation of the DSCs.

The service did not normally operate on Sundays, but on 13 February 1881 an additional Sunday trip was required to deal with the Valentine traffic and this probably happened on other occasions.

The 1895 Roster shows the service running daily and using the same vehicles as the Birmingham and Crewe duty. The 1899–1915 Lists of Duties show that on Sundays the SC ran as a Bag Tender only, with apparatus. The SC at present designated the Manchester POC for 5 October 1915 stated: 'In future Manchester and Crewe SC will in the direction from Manchester to Crewe be known as the "Manchester–Crewe RSC" and in the direction from Crewe to Manchester as the "Crewe–Manchester RSC No. 1"'. A new RSC under the control of the Postmaster of Manchester has been established. This carriage runs in one direction only, from Crewe to Manchester, and is attached to the 4.35 am train from Crewe daily, Mondays excepted. It is designated the "Crewe–Manchester RSC No. 2".' This new service used a single letter and apparatus carriage.

Because of war-time restrictions, sorting duties were withdrawn, from 29 October 1916 in the 2 am ex Crewe and the 10.45 pm ex Manchester. The apparatus carriage and stowage van continued to run as a Bag Tender until 7 November 1921, when it was withdrawn.

The 1922 list showed the designation once more as SC and it was running daily except Mondays. The 1924 list showed it 'ex Sun. Mon. & Bank Holidays, etc.' The carriage ceased on 23 September 1939 because of the war.

Reprinted from 'Railway Philately' with acknowledgements to the Editor.



Photograph by courtesy of ICI taken from the ICI calendar for 1970

Two budding philatelists studying a display of line engraved stamps at the National Postal Museum.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Sir,

The Post Office is to be congratulated on the Christmas 1969 stamps and Air Letter.

So too, is Fritz Wegner, whose designs were such a refreshing change for the better and were obviously so good, they couldn't possibly be split – leaving us a part set – as with some issues.

They are, without doubt, the very best Commemoratives we have had in a long time and I am only sorry he was not asked to do the last issue, Post Office History, which somewhere along the line changed itself into Post Office Technology. What a feast of Postal History he would have produced.

Away with 'Poster' designs and wishy-washy efforts, let's have more and more, and more Wegner, please.

Yours faithfully,

R. HUDSON

Woodley, Stockport

Dear Sir,

Since the majority of your letters are subjects for stamps in one person's minority interests, surely the ideal subject for stamps, and a subject which would, I am sure, appeal to all collectors would be, a set of old British stamps.

There could be a Penny Black, a ha'penny red of 1858–70, the embossed stamps of 1847–54 the 1867–83 high values and many others. These would of course be in reduced size, with a perforated frame round it.

I personally think that many stamps could be improved, by removing the Queen's head, although the definitive stamps, I think, still need the Queen's head. If identification of a stamp is needed, surely it would be simple enough to have UK POSTAGE written in the border.

Many thanks for the excellent material in the *Philatelic Bulletin* with which even back numbers makes very good reading matter.

Yours faithfully,

KENNETH W. TURNER

Edinburgh

Dear Sir,

As much as many of the stamp issues are very pleasing, I never cease to feel sympathy for the Post Office counter clerk who now no longer has the advantage of set colours for particular face values on stamps. It was with particular interest that I noticed the conformity of colour present in the 4d and 5d Christmas stamps. Clearly those particular colours did not detract from the designs themselves, while still giving a clear guide to my friends the counter clerks.

Although I do not collect foreign stamps, I have noticed that if various values of various special issues of the Federal German post office are grouped together, they still have a prominent colour-to-face value theme throughout (i.e. mainly brown for 10 pfennig values, mainly green for 20 pf, red for 30 pf and blue for 50 pf).

Could we not do this without too much difficulty, to the advantage of efficiency in the stamps' main purpose? Think of the easy days when mauve meant '3d', red meant '1d', or yellow meant '2d'. (I *am* thinking of the many delightful new stamps, too, so please do not misunderstand me!)

Yours faithfully,

J. H. WITHEROW
Squadron-Leader

BFPO 53

Dear Sir,

Your American correspondent, in *Bulletin* for December 1969, would perhaps be interested to learn a method of removing stamps – which I have proved effective and simple.

Just place the cover, card, or piece, face down on a large china plate, cover entirely with hot water, and in a short time the deed is done! Remove stamp(s) and place flat (face down) on clean blotting paper with (say) tweezers laid on top till dry.

Here is *my* problem – when will the Post Office issue ALBUMS? If NOT – why NOT?

Yours sincerely,

PERCY F. GRACE

Salisbury, Wilts.

Dear Sir,

I have read the letter from Mr Lindner in the December *Bulletin* about the difficulty in removing our new stamps from paper. He may be interested in my method which I have been using successfully for some time. I combine stamp removing with cooking.

My method is to carefully moisten the back of the paper under the kitchen cold-water tap, then place it on top of the hot lid of my pressure cooker, stamp uppermost. Some stamps start to peel off by themselves within a second or two, others need repeated wetting and heating. If the stamp does not start to curl off by itself within a few seconds a corner can be carefully tried with a fingernail. When the stamp is ready it will lift off easily. Force must not be used at any time as the stamp can tear if the adhesive is still sticking and it is best not to let the paper dry out completely. It seems to be the combination of heat and moisture which does the trick. The process does not appear to harm the stamp nor affect the colour. The stamp is never wet although the adhesive may be a little sticky.

I have used the lids of boiling kettles and pans but the pressure cooker works fastest perhaps because of the higher surface temperature.

It is kinder to the fingers to leave as much paper as possible round the stamp. I expect Mr Lindner will have to adapt the method to suit his own circumstances – unless, of course, he takes up cooking!

Yours faithfully,

LILIAS E. MACDONALD

Aberdeen

‘Philatelic Bulletin’ Subscription Rates

Many of our readers will know that since its inception in 1963 there has been only one increase in the annual subscription. That was over four years ago and although we have constantly improved the *Bulletin*, especially

by the introduction of colour, we have been able to maintain the modest 7s 6d subscription.

Rising costs have now overtaken us and we are reluctantly compelled to raise the subscription to 10s a year from the start of Volume 8 in September 1970. We hope that even at 10d a copy post free the *Bulletin* will still be thought worth the price. On our part we will continue to do all we can to provide the type of material which has proved so popular and which puts the *Bulletin* circulation figures in the forefront of the world’s philatelic press.

General Anniversaries Stamps First-Day Cover Services

Five completely different types of anniversary are to be commemorated on 1 April 1970 by a General Anniversaries stamp issue. The stamps are:

- 5d 650th Anniversary of the Declaration of Arbroath.
- 9d 150th Anniversary of the birth of Florence Nightingale.
- 1s 75th Anniversary of the International Co-operative Alliance.
- 1s 6d 350th Anniversary of the sailing of the *Mayflower*.
- 1s 9d 150th Anniversary of the Royal Astronomical Society.

We shall offer the usual first-day cover services at the following prices:

Service A: The official specially designed cover with typed address, full set of stamps and Philatelic Bureau cancellation – 8s 5d.

Service B: The full set of stamps affixed to customer’s own pre-addressed envelopes and Bureau cancellation – 6s 5d.

Service C: As Service A except that a minimum of 50 covers to the same address is required – envelopes addressed by machine plate – 7s 5d.

The philatelic posting boxes will be opened where customers may have their own covers serviced free of charge.

Further Benefactions by Mr Reginald M. Phillips

Reginald M. Phillips of Brighton will ever be remembered in philatelic circles as the founder of the National Postal Museum and for the gift of his unique collection of Nineteenth-Century British Postage Stamps – valued at the time the gift was made at over a quarter of a million pounds and now worth at least twice as much.

In addition to this gift Mr Phillips gave £182,000 to Sussex University for research into the education of blind and deaf children. For good measure he has now given Sussex University a further £150,000 to establish a Professorship in Science Policy to direct research on the application of scientific and technical knowledge to economic and social development.

Apart from his princely gift to the National Postal Museum Mr Phillips has given away over half a million pounds over the past four years.

Postage Stamps – Their Design and Choice

For several years one of the most popular features of the *Bulletin* has been the reproductions of unaccepted designs. Honesty compels us to admit that some readers find them more attractive than the accepted versions and many of our correspondents suggest ways of reversing this trend. Some exhort us to use the services of experts to arrive at a better choice; others propose that the ‘man in the street’ be consulted while a different school suggests that those responsible for the present choice suffer from astigmatism!

What, in fact, really happens? When the subject of a new issue is known a panel of artists is commissioned to submit designs four times larger than stamp size. These designs are then studied by a committee formed of: Mr G. R. Downes, CB, of the Post Office; Mr Brian Batsford, MP; Mr Kenneth Chapman, Editor of *Stamp Collecting*; Professor Richard Guyatt, CBE, FSIA, HonARCA, Professor of Graphic Design at the Royal College of Art; Mr R. A. G.

Lee, Fellow and Council Member of the Royal Philatelic Society; Mr Anthony Lousada, Vice-Chairman of the Council of the Royal College of Art, Chairman of the Trustees of the Tate Gallery; Mrs Louise Pearce, past organizer of the National Association of Women’s Clubs; Sir Paul Reilly, Director of the Council for Industrial Design; Mr George Rogers, CBE, MP; Mr Herbert Spencer, RDI, FSIA, Member of the Faculty of Royal Designers for Industry and Mr Stuart Rose, FSIA, the Director of Design for the Post Office.

These individuals reflect many shades of opinion and bring their own especial expertise to bear upon the difficult task of selecting one set from the many excellent designs they have before them. When their final choice is made their recommendation is passed to the Minister who, if he agrees, submits the designs to HM The Queen for her final approval.

It will readily be seen that by drawing upon such a wide range of experience we achieve an unbiased and objective selection of designs, and while they may not be universally popular they have the merit of having been chosen with a critical eye.

Philatelic Sales Counters

A special philatelic sales counter is now available at Birmingham Head Office where the full range of philatelic items are on sale.

There are now fifteen such counters situated at: London Chief Office, Belfast, Birmingham, Blackpool, Bournemouth, Bristol, Cardiff, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Leeds, Liverpool, Manchester, Newcastle upon Tyne, Sheffield and Southampton.

Special Handstamps

'The Queen's Regiment – Canterbury BFPO 1202' will be used on 14 February 1970 at The Queen's Regiment Depot at Canterbury, Kent, where a posting box will be provided. It is rectangular showing the Regimental badge as a motif. Fully stamped and addressed items for reposting to:

The Philatelic Officer,
National Army Museum Building Fund,
HM Tower of London,
LONDON EC3.

'On 6 September 1620 the MAYFLOWER sailed from Plymouth' will be used at Plymouth, Devon, on 6 September 1970. It is rectangular. A posting box will be available at Plymouth. Outer covers must be clearly marked SPECIAL HANDSTAMP.

'British Army 5 Company-Squadron ASC RASC RCT 100 Years BFPO 1104' will be used on 15 February 1970 at BFPO 17 where a posting box will be available. It is rectangular. Pre-addressed pre-stamped envelopes for reposting should be sent to:

The Philatelic Officer,
5 Sp. Sqn,
18 Regt RCT,
BFPO 17.

'45th International Conference: Rotary International CB and I Blackpool' will be used from 16–19 April 1970 at the Conference. It is circular with the Rotary International badge as a motif. A posting box will be available at the Conference – Winter Gardens, Blackpool.

Fully stamped and addressed envelopes should be sent to the Head Postmasters concerned. Outer covers should be clearly endorsed SPECIAL HANDSTAMP.

'Baden-Powell House Founders Day' will be used on 22 February at South Western District Office. It is rectangular showing the Scout Stamps Collectors Club badge as a motif. A posting box will be available at Baden-Powell House, Queens Gate, Kensington, *on Saturday 21 February*.

Fully stamped and addressed items for reposting should be sent to The District Postmaster SWDO, London SW1.

New Decimal Stamps

Britain's first decimal stamps will be seen on 17 June when 10 new pence, 20 new pence and 50 new pence denominations will be issued as the initial stage of the change to decimal currency.

They are being issued early to ease some of the pressure on printing and distribution which the switch to decimals will bring.

The low-value stamps will be issued on D-Day – 15 February 1971.

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Subscriptions should be sent to the Philatelic Bureau, 2-4 Waterloo Place, EDINBURGH EH1 1AB

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