



Philatelic Bureau

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Philatelic Bulletin No. 3 - November, 1963

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THE COMPAC SPECIAL ISSUE



1. The stamp will be put on sale on December 3rd, and we thought that our mailing list subscribers would like to have a preview in colour. **Technical problems** and costs of colour reproduction have led us to use a "cancelled" copy of the stamp itself. Even in this form we hope that people will agree that this attractive and colourful stamp is well up to the standards of this year's other issues.
2. All subscribers to our new issues service should get their mint specimens by post on the morning of December 3rd or, if they have asked for the new stamp to be used for postage, on the 4th.

3. The design of the stamp At the press conference last month when details of the design were released, there was lively discussion about the **symbolism** of the four white dots on the cable where it spans the globe. The cable runs from Vancouver (Canada), via Honolulu (Hawaii), and Suva (Fiji) to Auckland (New Zealand) and Sydney (Australia). Five places, but only four white dots? Ah, but this is a symbolic design and the symbols are capable of various interpretations. From one point of view we can say that, on this scale, Sydney and Auckland are so close together that although each is represented by a white dot, the two dots are superimposed one on the other and appear as one dot: in other words, there are really five dots! Alternatively, since the cable is a Commonwealth one, it is appropriate that only the Commonwealth relay points are shown - Vancouver, Suva, Auckland and Sydney. Alternatively again, and to avoid distressing our American colleagues we can take a much wider interpretation and say that the globe is a truly symbolic one with the white spots representing the four Commonwealth countries who are jointly responsible for this transworld link: the spots then become Great Britain, Canada, New Zealand and Australia. It would perhaps be unfair to expect the artist who prepared the design to give a firm ruling on this aspect since he was asked to adapt the design which will be used jointly by Australia and New Zealand who are also issuing stamps to mark the opening of the cable. This design was prepared by an artist-engraver of the Note Printing Branch of the Reserve Bank of Australia.

4. The Artist, Mr. Peter Gauld, is 38 years old and was born at Coalville, Leicestershire. He trained at the Leicester College of Art as a painter and graphic designer. Before the war he worked at the Leicester Museum and Art Gallery. From 1951 to March this year he was art editor for Unilever Information Division. He is now Art Director for Curwen Press and has his own practice. He designed the 2¹/₂d. Post Office Savings Bank Centenary stamp which was issued in 1961.

5. Ceremonial opening of Cable

The inaugural ceremony will be held at Fleet Building in London at 11 p.m. (BST) on 2nd December. It will start with a fanfare and the playing of the National Anthem by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Band in Ottawa. This will be followed by a recorded speech by Her Majesty the Queen formally opening the cable. The Prime Ministers of Great Britain, Canada, Australia and New Zealand will then speak in that order. Subsequently they will partake in a joint conference. The band of the RCMP will play for 5 minutes to mark the end of the main ceremony.

Technical details about the cable

6. The cable is the first telephone cable to be laid across the Pacific ocean. It links Canada with Australia and New Zealand by way of Hawaii and Fiji, and forms the second link in the Commonwealth telephone cable system agreed at the Commonwealth Telecommunications Conference in 1958. Together with the first link, CANTAT, which was laid between Britain and Canada in 1961, and trans-Canadian circuits, it provides for the first time in history high quality telephone circuits to the other side of the world which are not dependent on H.F. radio and the vagaries of the ionosphere. As well as telephone circuits, the cable provides facilities for telegraph, telex and photo telegraph services and also a high quality "music" circuit capable of transmitting broadcast programmes.

7. Telephone and telegraph circuits in the cable will be available at switching centres in Sydney, Auckland, Suva and Vancouver. In addition, circuits will be extended by radio from Sydney to Hong Kong and Singapore and from Vancouver, by trans-Atlantic microwave link, to Montreal and thence via CANTAT to London. Some circuits will also be available at Hawaii whence they

will be extended to Oakland on the USA mainland via an American cable which was laid about the same time as the first trans-Atlantic cable. A cable from Japan will land at Hawaii in 1964 and will enable connections to be made with the Commonwealth cable. Through all these points access will be available to the whole of the world's telephone and telegraph systems.

8. Two sections of the cable, between Sydney and Auckland and between Auckland and Suva, are already working and very considerable increases in telephone traffic amounting to more than twice the previous amounts have resulted from the introduction of these high quality facilities. It is confidently expected that both telephone and telex traffic over the new sections of the cable will increase in like manner.

9. Differences in clock time and hence differences in peak traffic periods between places along the route enable efficient use to be made of the circuit capacity. For example, trans-Atlantic circuits can be used during Britain's morning for traffic to Australia, during Britain's afternoon, when Australia is asleep, for calls to Canada, and in the evening for calls to New Zealand for whom the next day has just begun. Flexibility to enable the switching of traffic streams to be effected easily and efficiently is being built into the system and will be increasingly exploited as the traffic in the system grows, and as the system is extended, for instance when the South East Asia Commonwealth cable (SEACOM) is laid, connecting the Pacific cable with Hong Kong and Malaysia and when the Japan-USA cable makes connection with the Commonwealth cable at Hawaii. The latter is scheduled for 1964 and should lead to greatly improved facilities being available to Japan in time for the 1964 Olympic Games.

10. The terminals of the system are being provided with the most modern types of switching and signalling devices. From the outset operators in Sydney will be able to dial direct into the inland telephone and telex systems in Britain

and vice versa. Similar facilities are being provided at Montreal, Vancouver and Auckland. These operating aids, together with the improved quality and increased number of circuits available, will do much to improve the service and stimulate traffic.

11. COMPAC cost over £23m to construct. It extends for a distance of about 8,000 nautical miles and includes over 300 modern deep-sea repeaters laid in waters up to 3,000 fathoms deep. Its route is from Vancouver (Canada) via Honolulu (Hawaii) and Suva (Fiji) to Auckland (New Zealand) and Sydney (Australia). The Tasman section, between Sydney and Auckland, was laid first, by the Post Office cable-ship H.M.T.S. "Monarch" along a course which had been buoyed by the ship "Retriever", belonging to Cable and Wireless Ltd. This section was opened for service in July, 1962. Since that date, the remaining sections have been laid jointly by "Monarch" and the Cable and Wireless Company's new cable layer "Mercury". The shore ends were laid by "Retriever" which also co-operated by surveying the route. The final splice of COMPAC was made on October 8th by cable technicians aboard "Mercury" lying off Keawaula in the Hawaiian Islands. Following this began a period of extensive testing which is necessary prior to the commercial operation of the cable.

12. It is interesting to note how the planning and development of this new enterprise, which has scored many "firsts" in the field of trans-oceanic telephony, parallels in many ways that earlier historic 'first' - the trans-Pacific telegraph cable. By the 1880s several trans-Atlantic telegraph cables had been laid and an inland telegraph line had been completed across Canada. This led the Colonial Conference of 1887 to decide to lay a trans-Pacific telegraph cable and to provide an "all red route" from Britain to Australia via Canada and New Zealand. This very great enterprise was undertaken jointly by a partnership of the same four governments that has now laid COMPAC and

resulted in the completion of the trans-Pacific telegraph link in 1902. It speaks well of the skill and care with which this telegraph cable system was planned, laid and maintained that it continued to give efficient telegraphic communication throughout its sixty years life and is now to be abandoned only because it will no longer be economical to retain it in service. In saluting the new cable we pay tribute to the old.

13. £1 PERMANENT SERIES

The £1 Bradbury Wilkinson printing will be on sale from the Bureau on 1st December. It will be put on sale at Post Offices as their existing stocks of the De La Rue printing run out, and the date will **thus** vary from office to office.

STAMPED STATIONERY. The printing of air letter forms

14. The recent introduction of pictorial Air Letter forms has aroused interest in the printing processes used, particularly in so far as these affect the printed 6d stamp on the form.

15. The standard (non-pictorial form) These are produced by Messrs. McCorquodale Ltd. of Wolverton, Bucks, using two methods of printing. The 6d stamp is printed in photogravure from a cylinder made by Messrs. Harrison & Sons, Ltd., at High Wycombe and the rest of the printing - the air mail motif,

the address lines, etc. -- is printed in letterpress from a rubber faced cylinder made by McCorquodales. The forms are printed on a continuous reel of blue paper on one machine, the stamp being printed first followed by the letterpress. The cylinders print two forms at a time, one below the other, and the completed prints are then cut and gummed.

16. Pictorial forms

These forms are printed on blue paper in one operation, stamp, lettering, and other design details together, by the litho process by Messrs. Skipper and East in London under contract to Messrs. McCorquodale & Co. Ltd. The picture space is first overprinted in white followed by the colours in the sequence -- yellow,-- blue,-- red,-- black. The lettering etc. is printed at the same time as the blue of the picture, and the stamp is printed in with the red.

The forms are printed in sheets of eight in two vertical rows of four. Both designs appear on the sheet -- the Houses of Parliament on the left and the Tower of London on the right.

EXHIBITIONS

17. London. The official stamp collection of the Post Office contains a very comprehensive collection of British postage stamps. It consists of whole registration sheets of every stamp we have ever issued and, starting with the proof sheet of the 1840 1d. black, runs through with very few omissions to the present day issues. The collection is of course, immensely valuable and items from it (it is too big to exhibit as a whole) have in the past only been shown at international stamp exhibitions sponsored by the International Philatelic Federation or at Official exhibitions featuring a particular country's postage stamp centenary.

On 21st October Messrs. Stanley Gibbons. Ltd., launched Vol. 1 (Queen Victoria) of their Specialised Great Britain Catalogue at a Press reception in London. Because the early Queen Victoria issues were the first adhesive postage stamps in the world, we arranged, as a special measure to mark this occasion, the exhibition on Harmer Rooke's premises in Arundel Street, London, of

Imprimatur Sheet 1d. black Plate 1

Imprimatur Sheet 9d. Plate 3 1862 (with hair lines)

Five original dies

- (a) the original die of 1840 from which the 1d. plates were made
- (b) the reserve 1d. die
- (c) the modified 1840 die (retouched by Wm. Humphry)
- (d) the 2d. die adapted from the Humphry die
- (e) the 1870 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. die

Canberra (Australia)

18. The Canberra Philatelic Society staged an exhibition on November 21st to 24th at which a great many Government exhibits were shown and we were asked to take part. We have in our collection four early registration sheets of West Australian stamps and we lent these for the exhibition together with facsimiles of the 1d. black and the Mulready envelope of 1840 and mint specimen of all the special stamps Great Britain has ever issued.

19. All the registration sheets in the official collection are endorsed on the back by a responsible official to authorize the issue of the stamps and the West Australian sheets are no exception. The endorsement reads "The impression on the other side of this paper of the die or plate denoting the duty of d on the postage of letters in Western Australia was taken in my presence on the day of". It is signed by a senior Inland Revenue official.

20. As far as we know these sheets are unique and no others exist. We do not know how we came by them but we think it may have been in 1914. Before this date stamp production was under the control of the Inland Revenue authorities but in 1914 the Post Office took over responsibility for the work and with it, the records including the collection of registration sheets. It is likely that the Western Australian sheets were among these.

21. Although the stamps sold to the public were perforated, the registration sheets are imperforate as are all the sheets in the official collection other than overprints.

CHRISTMAS GIFTS

22. Some subscribers to the Bulletin have asked us about the possibility of giving a year's subscription to the Bulletin as a Christmas gift to friends in this country and abroad.

23. We shall be very happy to meet this request and other subscribers may like to use this novel form of greeting. Send us 5/- with the name and address of the person to whom you wish the Bulletin to be sent and we will do the rest.

24. We will despatch Bulletins 1, 2 and 3 during the week commencing 16th December. We expect to publish No. 4 just after Christmas. Let us know if you want us to mention your name, or if you prefer send us a card or letter to enclose with the first three Bulletins.

25. POSTMARKS

Our tourist slogan postmarks are proving very popular with collectors and local Head Postmasters receive upwards of 1,000 covers for cancellation from collectors when new slogans are brought into use.

26. Postmark Check List

We have published a complete check list in Bulletins 1 and 2 to get collectors started but from now on will publish regularly additions and corrections with an occasional complete list for checking.

Additions and corrections since the issue of Bulletin No. 2 are as follows:-

Postmark Slogans

Amendments

Bournemouth:- 'Bournemouth wishes you a merry Xmas. A welcome always awaits you' temporarily replaces the original slogan from December 17th-December 31st 1963.

(Transposed)

Shrewsbury:- 'Shrewsbury - Historical centre - brochure from Information, Shrewsbury, Salop' to continue until December 1st.

'Declaration of Human Rights' - Dates amended to December 3rd-17th 1963.

New Slogans

Isle of Man
(Ramsey)

November 1st 1963 - "For happy retirement,
April 1st 1964 Isle of Man"

Reading

December 2nd 1963 - "Mayor of Reading's
January 4th 1964 Housing Campaign for Old
Folk December 1963"

Taunton

December 9th 1963 - "Taunton, smiling Somerset's
December 8th 1963 touring and shopping centre".

Cardiff; Swansea;
Port Talbot; Neath;
Llanelli; Carmarthen.

January 1st-7th 1964 "Royal National
and
July 18th-31st 1964 Eisteddfod of Wales
3rd-8th August 1964.
Swansea, Glam."

Scarborough

March 8th-
June 6th 1964

"Scarborough's Dutch
Festival June 1st-6th
is Britain's brightest
holiday week".

June 7th-July 31st
1964

"Scarborough, Queen of
the Yorkshire Coast".

August 1st-
September 26th
1964

"Scarborough for big
Sport in September".

September 27th-
December 7th 1964

"Scarborough, Queen of
the Yorkshire Coast".

Handstamps

There are no alterations or additions to the list.

27. CORRECTIONS

In Bulletin No. 1 under Special hand stamps "The Swindon Philatelic Convention" should read "Wiltshire Philatelic Federation 3rd Convention".