

Philatelic Bulletin

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We have all been looking forward to Philympia for so long that it is not easy to realise that it is only a few weeks away. Our planners have been busy over the months in the preparation of our stand and display and in calculating how best to offer all the postal services which are necessary at a major international exhibition. We are to issue a special set of stamps for Philympia and details of them and our first-day cover services are given this month. To mark this unique occasion your Bulletin next month will be a special Philympia souvenir edition.

In our series on philatelic societies and organizations we feature this month two widely differing types. The first concerns the Philatelic Congress of Great Britain and the second gives some particulars about one of the specialist societies – the TPO and Seapost.

In his National Postal Museum notes Tony de Righi continues his story of the centenary of the Halfpenny and Three Halfpence stamps.

One of our correspondents suggests that philatelists are not over concerned about the quality of stamp design. Any view on this most controversial subject may be aired in our Letters to the Editor column.

Mayflower Commemorative Cover

Readers are reminded that there is still plenty of time in which to get their Mayflower covers handstamped at Plymouth or Southampton. Blank covers and the Mayflower stamps are available from the Bureau, the philatelic sales counters and from many holiday resorts in South Devon and Cornwall.

On 6 September – the anniversary of the sailing of the Mayflower – the Plymouth Philatelic Society are sponsoring a special handstamp and producing souvenir covers. All covers from Plymouth requiring a 6 September datestamp will be cancelled with their handstamp.

PHILATELIC CONGRESS OF GREAT BRITAIN

The Philatelic Congress of Great Britain is an affiliation of philatelic and kindred societies, associations, federations and individual members of Congress from throughout the world.

Created in 1909 and until 1965, although having an international membership, was a purely national organization. In 1965 Congress became affiliated to the *Fédération Internationale de Philatélie* and now takes its place in international philatelic discussions with a voice at F.I.P. Councils. It is represented at international symposiums dealing with a variety of philatelic matters. No other section of organized philately has such a far-reaching influence in the philatelic world.

Congress is headed by a permanent Congress executive committee and there are at the present time six sub-committees working on issues of general philatelic interest.

Membership of Congress comprises societies, associations, federations and individual members, with certain voting rights. An official Congress Year Book is published annually containing many features of interest to collectors. It is sent free to all members and delegates. This is an invaluable book of reference, and it has obtained high awards at international exhibitions.

Service to Societies and to Collectors

Congress neither possesses nor rents premises and does not employ paid staff, but it has the organization, ability and the facilities to provide a complete service to affiliated societies and members. This includes advice to societies on suggested programmes, putting them in touch with collectors willing to give displays, advice on society rules and for competitions, society organization and finance, bulletins, exchange packets, organization of conventions and exhibitions, insurance problems and many other aspects of organized philately.

Members can be put in touch with collectors with similar interests, advice given on entering of exhibits in national and international exhibitions, insurance of exhibits etc. Advice will be given to the Junior Collector whether they are

members or not.

Through its international links, Congress can make contacts with foreign collectors with similar interests. Many affiliated specialist societies can offer expert opinion on items relating to their respective areas of interest.

To encourage the young collector, Congress instituted the annual Melville Junior Awards. This competition provides for four classes in age groups ranging from under 12 to under 21. Silver cups, plaques and other awards are given.

The 'Roll of Distinguished Philatelists', this most coveted honour in philately, was instituted in 1921 by Congress. The 'Roll' is headed by the name of His Late Majesty King George V who personally signed the Roll. Each year two or three philatelists of great repute are chosen by a Board of Election. The Roll is international and 26 other countries besides Great Britain are represented on it.

The Philatelic Congress Medal, established by Congress in 1957, recognizes those connected with Congress who give unstintingly of their time to work in organized philately on behalf of their fellow collectors.

Collectors in Conference

An annual four-day Congress is held attended by some 350 collectors. It is usually sponsored by one of the affiliated societies acting as 'host'. The venue, therefore, changes each year. Representation and voting rights of delegates are proportional to the numerical size of the affiliated society. Members of Congress also have the right to speak and vote on subjects under discussion. At the business sessions of Congress, matters furthering the interests of the hobby are discussed and decisions taken which can have an influence on national and international philately.

Papers by well-known philatelists are read. Guest speakers are invited from outside organizations and individuals connected with philately, such as the Post Office; stamp designers and printers, etc.

Resolutions are tabled by affiliated societies

Display at Cardiff Post Office

or individual members. These may be domestic or of national or international importance.

Other meetings are held during Congress covering matters of philatelic interest. A wide variety of evening Study Circles is held.

The social side of Congress brings philatelists together and many firm friendships are made and renewed each year. In the afternoons outings are arranged. Congress usually receives a Civic Reception and there is a final Banquet and Ball.

What Does It All Add Up To?

Summarizing, Congress is unique, in that, apart from its all-year-round service to societies and the philatelist, once a year it brings together philatelists from all walks of life and the four quarters of the globe. Many are household names in philately, equally as many are simply the man in the street, the man next door, but all meet on an equal footing and share a common interest – philately; together with postal history. It provides the opportunity to talk to experts not normally readily available; to consider in open session the problems and difficulties which affect the hobby nationally and internationally. Not the least important, it enables philatelists to meet and talk together in pleasant social surroundings and families and friends are equally welcome.

The increasing membership of Congress and the attendance at the annual Congress show proof of its usefulness, its wide appeal and its strength.

Can you afford not to join Congress – run by collectors for collectors, by societies for societies?

All enquiries regarding membership or other matters should be addressed to:

E. F. Hugen,
Secretary General,
Philatelic Congress of Great Britain,
3 The Woodlands,
London Road,
Brighton BN1-8WA
Sussex



To coincide with the issue of the first ever decimal stamps in Britain Mrs E. L. Morgan F.R.P.S.L. (President of the newly formed Federation of South Wales Philatelic Societies) accepted an invitation to put up a display of the early Postal History of Cardiff at the philatelic counter at Cardiff Head Post Office. The exhibition was opened by the Lord Mayor of Cardiff, Alderman T. E. Merrells.



Postmark Slogans

Remember to use the Postcode has been used transposed at Newtown (Montgomeryshire) and Llanidloes from 22 June 1970; at Slough, Gerrards Cross, Iver, Maidenhead, Windsor, and Ascot from 13 July 1970; at Chelmsford, Braintree, Maldon, Witham and Ongar from 20 July 1970 and will be used until further notice.

See the Household Cavalry at United Counties Show Carmarthen 13 & 14 August 1970 has been used transposed at Carmarthen, Haverfordwest and Swansea from 29 June and will be used until 9 August 1970.

Swindon in the Seventies has been used transposed at Swindon from 12 July 1970 and will be used until 5 September 1970.

Aberystwyth for Sun-Sea Scenery, Haul Mor Golygfa - Guide 1s from Town Hall is continuing in use at Aberystwyth until 29 November 1970.

Isle of Man for Holidays free Colour Brochure from PM Dept Tourist Board, Douglas has been used at Port Erin and Port St Mary from 13 July 1970 and will be used until 30 September 1970.

For Happy Retirement Isle of Man will be re-used at Port Erin and Port St Mary from 21 September to 27 December 1970.

Llanelli for Industrial Expansion - Grants available is continuing in use at Llanelli until further notice.

Remember to use the Postcode has not been used at Crewe from 22 June 1970 as previously stated.

Remember to use the Postcode will be used transposed at Harrogate, Ilkley, Knaresborough and Ripon, from 3 August 1970 until further notice.

Chessington Zoo Surrey open every day has been used transposed at Kingston-upon-Thames from 23 July 1970 and will be used until 14 October 1970.

Colwyn Bay - Winning Resort - Wales in Bloom is continuing in use at Colwyn Bay until 26 April 1971.

Remember to use the Postcode has been used transposed at Mount Pleasant (Inland Section) and Swansea from 20 July 1970 and will be used until further notice.

Staunton Harold Home Ashby-de-la-Zouch Annual Garden Fete Saturday 5 September will be used transposed at Burton on Trent, Coalville, Derby, Hinckley, and Loughborough, on 16-22 August 1970 and at Leicester on 17-23 August 1970.

Bath Famed Centre of Attraction for the Tourist in the West has been used transposed at Bath from 20 July 1970 and will be used until 13 October 1970.

Lions Donkey Derby Kings Meadow Reading Saturday 29 August has been used transposed at Reading from 27 July 1970 and will be used until 16 August 1970.

Brighton International Trade Fair 5-12 September 1970 11.0 to 2.0 Trade only 2.0 to 9.30 Public will be used transposed at Brighton from 16 August to 12 September 1970.

Bristol Hippodrome 20-31 October The Sound of Music Bristol Light Opera Club will be used transposed at Bristol on 16-22 August, 6-19 September, and 4-17 October 1970.

Paisley Library and Museum Centenary will be used transposed at Paisley from 28 September 1970 to 30 May 1971.

Newbury Festival & Shopping Week August 24-29 has been used transposed at Newbury from 1 August 1970 and will be used until 28 August 1970.

Enfield Show 19-20 September 1970 The Red Devils are dropping in on 20 September has been used transposed at Enfield from 2 August and will be used until 19 September 1970.

Mayflower 1970 - Port of Harwich has been used transposed at Harwich from 27 July 1970 and will be used until 18 October 1970.

National Postal Museum Notes

The Three Halfpence

Like the Halfpenny, the Three Halfpence stamp of 1870 was the first stamp of that value to be issued. The extraordinary fact about it is that in October 1870 there was no real need at all for such a value and for the first twelve months the $1\frac{1}{2}d$ stamp was mainly used to make up rates on letters for overseas but occasionally singly on samples, printed papers, etc, weighing between 4 oz and 6 oz (the inland letter rate was then $1d$ per $\frac{1}{2}$ oz and $2d$ for 1 oz). In October 1871, however, the rate for inland letters over 1 oz but not exceeding 2 oz was reduced from $4d$ to $1\frac{1}{2}d$ and the stamp of that value was perhaps at last justified. Actually the $1\frac{1}{2}d$ value is suspiciously frequently found used from British Post Offices abroad (e.g. in South and Central America) and this must make one wonder if the value was so little used in England that quantities were sent overseas to be used up there.

In fact, the lack of any real postal need for a $1\frac{1}{2}d$ stamp suggests that it was mainly the fact that a plate for such a value already existed, and had been in store for ten years, which led to the issue of the Three Halfpenny in October 1870.

The already existent plate (No 1) had been prepared in 1860 to meet a change in the overseas newspaper rate which would have required such a value. In February 1860 Perkins Bacon & Co were informed by Ormonde Hill (nephew of Rowland and a senior GPO official) that a $1\frac{1}{2}d$ stamp was required (without delay) and that though of the same size as the $1d$ and $2d$ values it should be made quite distinct in appearance. Perkins Bacon accordingly prepared several essays consisting of adaptations from the $1d$ value (see fig 1), from which evolved by March 1860 in correspondence between the GPO and Perkins Bacon, the final agreed design (see fig 2).

The master die was then engraved within a few days by adapting the Retouched Die of the $1d$ value and a plate quickly made. It followed in almost all particulars the layout and marginal inscription of the Penny plate. The plate number, and Arabic numeral '1', was engraved at the four corners.

The only major error in this value occurred at this stage – the well known mistake of the striking of a letter 'O' instead of a letter 'C' in the cliché with 'PC' as the corner letters so that these read 'OP-PC'. The proof lies in the fact that the error is present in the relevant position on the imprimatur sheet in the Museum (see fig 3). This sheet was registered on 22 March 1860. In all, 10,000 sheets were printed in March 1860 on large crown watermarked paper. The colour used was a mauve pink colour (catalogued as 'Rosy-mauve') identical with that used by Perkins Bacon & Co for the 1851 1s stamp of New Brunswick. This colour blued the paper somewhat unevenly so that the background of individual stamps varies from blued to almost white.

The expected change of postal rates failed to receive Parliamentary approval later in 1860 and in May 1867 the 'remainder' of 8,962 sheets are said to have been destroyed. Apart from the imprimatur sheet and an Exhibition sheet (for the 1867 Paris exhibition), the balance of the sheets were mostly overprinted 'Specimen' and distributed to Postmasters. The few copies in collectors' hands came from these sheets.

The Issued Stamps

The plate of 1860 was used to produce all the $1\frac{1}{2}d$ stamps issued between October 1870 and the spring of 1874 when Plate 3 was registered; and the OP-PC error therefore exists on the stamps issued during this period. The error was not corrected (presumably it was not noticed at the time) and it was only in 1894 that an American collector drew attention to it. The Museum has (in the R. M. Phillips' Collection) the error in a mint block of nine stamps and a very clever forgery in a strip of 3.

The colour of the issued stamp is usually described as rose-red or lake-red and was presumably chosen by the printers because on 17 February 1872 Ormonde Hill wrote to Perkins Bacon & Co to enquire why the Three Halfpence stamps were 'printed in a colour so different from the mauve tint originally selec-



fig. 1



fig. 2



fig. 3



fig. 4

ted . . . and added that 'The present colour seems too near to that of the 1d stamps'.

There are no listed varieties on Plate 3 (i.e. the sheets issued 1874–80) but copies are known from both plates imperforate and with watermark inverted. Total printing in the rose-red shades were Plate 1, 66,134 sheets (of 240 stamps), and 123,500 sheets of Plate 3.

In addition to the issued stamps, the R. M. Phillips' Collection in the Museum contains a number of proof and trial impressions of the Three Halfpence taken after 1870. There is, for instance, a very handsome series of die proofs produced in February 1871 on the instructions of Ormonde Hill, primarily for the Postmaster General, but of which Hill had examples struck in black and other colours

'for me to keep'. In 1872 a proof sheet in the issued colour was taken from Plate 3 for display at the South Kensington Exhibition; eighteen years later, as part of the Jubilee of Penny Postage, die proofs were taken in black from the 1½d die marked below with '35' in reverse (see fig 4).

To test a fugitive blued paper (which it was claimed would prevent cancellations being removed), Dr Perkins, a chemist, arranged for some (unperf) sheets to be printed on his experimental paper. Finally, in 1878, the Inland Revenue Department had some colour trials struck from the die in violet, orange and yellow. Examples of all of these are included in the R. M. Phillips' Collection.

A. G. RIGO DE RIGHI

Literary Anniversary Stamp Exhibition



This attractive display of the new stamps was recently on show at the Bureau's Edinburgh gallery. Only the main panel is illustrated here, but visitors also saw a complete range of 30 years'

The Royal Society of Arts Encourages Post Office Enterprise

The Royal Society for the Encouragement of Arts Manufactures and Commerce was founded in 1754 and has, since the early days of the 19th Century, honoured many men who have made their mark in the service of the Post. As a memorial to the Prince Consort the Society instituted in 1863 the annual award of the Albert Medal 'for distinguished merit in promoting Arts, Manufactures and Commerce'. The first recipient was Sir Rowland Hill whose former assistant at the Treasury from 1839-41, Henry Cole, who made his name over the Great Exhibition of 1851, also gained the award in 1871.

In an endeavour to focus public attention on the importance of collaboration between Artists and Industrialists, the R.S.A. in 1953 in association with the Royal Academy, sponsored a very successful Exhibition of British Art in Industry at Burlington House. The following year the Society established a new and high distinction to be conferred on

designers in Industry and with Royal approval holders of the distinction were granted the use of the abbreviated title Royal Designer for Industry. Among the first eleven appointments to the distinction R.D.I. was the late Eric Gill, the eminent typographer, whose work as a stamp designer has been specially commemorated this summer in the Gill/Dulac exhibition in the National Postal Museum.

There are never more than sixty living artists entitled to the letters R.D.I. after their names. David Gentleman, the first artist to be awarded the distinction for Postage stamp designs is now of that company, and we offer him our warmest congratulations. Mr Gentleman already holds the first Reginald M. Phillips Gold Medal to be awarded to the artist making the greatest contribution to stamp design in Britain. It is pleasing that the Royal Society of Arts award to David underlines the more domestic Phillips Medal assessment of his worth.



commemorative stamps and eye-catching examples of unaccepted artwork for some of the more recent issues.

TPO and Seapost Society

It is over 30 years since the Society was founded under the title TPO Society, later extended to the present title TPO and Seapost Society.

The date of establishment, 6 January 1938, was specially chosen in honour of the Centenary of the British Travelling Post Office service on the same date. The Society steamed off on its journey with the blessing of the then TPO Chief, that kindly soul the late Mr J. J. C. Rowden, MBE.

Of the 16 original members, less than half that number still remain, such is the toll of time. At the end of the first year the membership had risen to 45; this was followed by a steady yearly increase until the necessity arose of introducing a membership limit. The present membership is world-wide, and is just over 250.

The Second World War brought the activities of the Society to a halt, with the exception of the Exchange Section which, happily, continued during the entire war period.

January 1942 was a landmark in the history

of the Society when 'TPO', the first issue of an illustrated bi-monthly magazine, was published with Editor Norman Hill taking up the job which he still holds.

At various times certain members and groups of members provide displays, by request, to different philatelic societies in Britain.

The Society has admirably achieved the purpose for which it was intended by bringing together, by personal contact and by correspondence, those interested in the various forms of travelling Post Offices throughout the world; it has certainly been responsible for the establishment of firm friendships between collectors in Britain and overseas.

Displays in Coventry and Boston

A philatelic exhibit, with full sales facilities, will be featured at the Ideal Homes and Trades Exhibition at Coventry on 19-29 August, and at the Trades Fair at Boston on 23-30 September. We should be delighted to welcome our readers.

Philypia Stamps



Three famous classical stamps are featured on the special stamps to be issued on 18 September 1970 to mark Philypia, the international philatelic exhibition in London. The 5d, 9d and 1s 6d, were designed by David Gentleman, the leading British stamp designer, whose work is too well known to need listing.

The 5d features the 1d black, the world's first adhesive postage stamp, and incorporates in the design the corner letters P and L for Philypia London. The 1s green of 1847, the first embossed stamp issued in Britain, is shown on the 9d stamp, while the 4d carmine of 1855 which is reproduced on the 1s 6d was the first British surface printed issue.

The original Penny Black, it will be remembered, was recess printed by Perkins Bacon and Co; the 1s green was engraved at the Royal Mint by William Wyon and produced at Somerset House; and the 4d carmine was origi-

nally printed by Thomas de la Rue and Company.

Mr Gentleman has captured the spirit of these famous classical stamps and brought them into the 20th century in a unique setting which spans the years. We are confident that all collectors will wish to own these fine stamps for they are certain to be regarded as magnificent examples of both stamp design and photogravure printing.

Printing details

Printer : Harrison and Sons

Paper : Coated unwatermarked phosphor lined

Size : 41 × 27 mm – all portrait

Perforation : 15 × 14

Number to Sheet : 120

Colours : 5d black, grey, brown

9d black, grey, green, yellow tint

1s 6d black, grey, carmine, blue tint

Philympia Stamps – First-Day Cover Services

The most important event in British philately in 1970 is undoubtedly Philympia and everyone will want at least one first-day cover with David Gentleman's unique stamps to be issued on 18 September. The denominations are 5d, 9d, and 1s 6d.

The Bureau is offering its normal services as follows:

Service A: The full set of stamps affixed to the official cover, typed address and Philatelic Bureau cancellation – 4s 10d (4s 4d for deposit account holders).

Service B: The full set of stamps affixed to customers' own pre-addressed covers and Bureau cancellation 3s 8d.

Service C: As Service A. A minimum of 50 covers to the same address is required – the covers will be addressed by machine plate – 4s 4d.

The philatelic posting boxes in all major towns and cities will be opened on 18 September for collectors who prefer to prepare their own covers.

Special Handstamps

Three Choirs Festival 1970 Hereford will be used on 23–28 August 1970 to cancel items posted in the special posting boxes at Hereford Cathedral and at Hereford Head Post Office.

S Thos Becket 1170–1970 Canterbury Kent has been used from 31 July for items posted in the special posting box at the Gift shop in the cathedral precincts. The stamp has been designed to commemorate the 800th Anniversary of Thomas Becket, Archbishop of Canterbury, in conjunction with a festival marking the event.

Diamond Jubilee Girl Guides Association SE Lancs Camp Hulton Park Bolton Lancs has been used from 31 July and will be used until 8 August for items posted in the special box at the camp.

Mayflower 1620–1970 2nd September 1970 Dartmouth, Devon will be used for items posted in the special box at Dartmouth Post Office.

Mayflower 1620–1970 15 Aug 1970 Southampton will be used for items posted in the special posting box at the Local Authority Building Civic Centre Southampton. The round handstamp has the Mayflower as motif.

25th Anniversary VJ Day 15 August 1970 Stevenage Herts will be used for items posted in the special posting box at Stevenage Head Post Office.

1st Duke of Marlborough Blenheim Palace 1650–1722 13 Aug 70 British Forces 1212 Postal Service in the Army Museum Series will be used to cancel items posted in a special collecting box at Inglis Barracks. The rectangular handstamp incorporates a design of Blenheim Palace. Items for reposting should be sent to The Philatelic Officer, Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill, London NW7.

Battle of Blenheim 1704 13 Aug 70 British Forces 1213 Postal Service also in the Army Museum Series will be used to cancel items posted in a special collecting box at Inglis Barracks. The circular handstamp incorporates the crest of John Churchill, the first Duke of Marlborough. Items for reposting should be sent to The Philatelic Officer, Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill, London NW7.

Cambridge Philatelic Society Golden Jubilee 22 October 1970 Cambridge will be used to cancel items posted in a special collecting box at The Guildhall Cambridge.

British Jostedals Glacier Expedition Departure August 10 1970 Newcastle on Tyne will be used for items posted in the special posting box at Newcastle Head Post Office.

Special Handstamps – Reposting from Overseas

The notice on page 12 of the May 1970 *Bulletin* does not apply in cases where foreign reply paid postcards are submitted for special handstamp cancellations.

In these cases the relative stamp will be cancelled.

The Philatelic Unit at University of Sussex

Many of our readers will remember that the Reginald M. Phillips' Collection was awarded the Grand Prix at the 1960 London International Stamp Exhibition and in next month's special Philypia *Bulletin* we pay tribute to the man and to his collection which he generously donated to found the National Postal Museum.

Mr Phillips' contribution to philately has not ended. Although he has inspired and provided by his benefactions numerous projects for the benefit of his fellow men he has always maintained his great interest in philately and his most recent benefaction provides particular evidence of this. The Chair of Science Policy endowed by Mr Phillips at Sussex University for the purpose of carrying out research into the effect of technological developments on the economic and social life of the country has as one particular aspect the effects on cultural and leisure patterns. One particular element among these is the activity of individuals in the field of hobbies such as philately. Mr Phillips' interest in this field is demonstrated by the way in which he has inspired the University to set up a philatelic research centre – and as usual has backed up inspiration with practical encouragement by donating to the centre the 45 volumes of colour prints of his National Postal Museum collection together with colour transparencies of all the sheets in the collection.

Hitherto universities have played no direct part in the development of a subject which is of international interest. The work of the new Unit, of which Mr Phillips will be Honorary Curator, will be directed by Professor John West, Pro-Vice Chancellor of the University and himself a keen philatelist.

The Unit will be housed in a Phillips Room in the next stage of the Library extension, and it is hoped that it will attract students and scholars from all countries. This will be an ideal place for the holding of small seminars on philately. It will also link up universities and schools in pursuit of common educational interests. There will be scope for advanced study of the history of stamp design and of

stamps as symbols of international communication within an appropriate academic setting. Victorian studies flourish at Sussex and the stamp will now be given its place in this context. Finally, in the light of the changing patterns of work and leisure, there will be scope for research in association with the Phillips Unit of Science Policy, for a study of the role of philately in the pattern of future leisure activities.

On 15 July 1970 the University of Sussex showed the esteem in which it holds Mr Phillips by conferring on him the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws.

Navy Days

Navy Days will be held on 29–31 August 1970 at both Portsmouth and Plymouth. Souvenir covers will be available for both events and they will be cancelled with pictorial British Forces Postal Service handstamps 1131 and 1132 respectively.

Fully serviced covers at a cost of 5s each are available from:

The Philatelic Officer,
Portsmouth Navy Days Committee,
Royal Naval Barracks,
Portsmouth,
PO1 3HH

The Philatelic Officer,
Navy Days Office,
H.M.S. Drake,
Devonport,
Plymouth,
PL2 2BG

Orders for covers with remittances, and items for reposting, should be sent separately to the above addresses stating clearly the date of cancellation required.

All proceeds will be donated to Naval charities.

Unaccepted Stamp Designs

These are a selection from the designs we were unable to accept for the Commonwealth Games issue of 15 July 1970.



Julian Gibb



Julian Gibb



G. Huntley



G. Huntley



De La Rue & Co.



Bradbury Wilkinson & Co.

High Value Decimal Stamps Presentation Pack



The new decimal stamps 10p, 20p and 50p which were issued on 17 June 1970 are available in presentation packs, price 17s each.

We are confident that the pack will be one of the most successful we have ever issued as it contains full-colour reproductions of the various high value stamps issued since 1867

and full details of them. No collector will wish to miss this unique opportunity of having such a compact record.

Arnold Machin's design which has been used for the decimal stamps is a worthy successor to the many fine stamps issued in the high value range.

Special Philypia Bulletin

The September *Bulletin* which will be despatched as usual to subscribers will be a special Philypia edition full of articles, features and illustrations of this long awaited exhibition. It will contain details of various services offered by the Post Office at Philypia and much to interest everyone.

The Post Office has played a major part in Philypia from the outset and its stand and selling area will be the largest and best equipped we have ever produced. We hope to wel-

come friends both old and new who will be fascinated by the magnificent displays on the stand and in the Court of Honour.

For the benefit of non-subscribers the souvenir *Philypia Bulletin* will be on sale at the exhibition price 1s.

Regional Jersey and Guernsey Stamps

The Regional Jersey and Guernsey stamps will be withdrawn from sale from the Bureau and philatelic sales counters on 30 September 1970.

25th Anniversary of VJ Day

A special cover, No. S.C 31 in the series, will be issued by the RAF Museum on 15 August to commemorate the 25th Anniversary of Victory in Japan.

The cover which depicts the Catalina flying-boat of World War II fame, will be stamped with the 5d Alcock and Brown stamp and cancelled with the pictorial British Forces Postal Service handstamp 1128. All covers will be delivered to Greenland where they will be backstamped. They will then be flown by the Royal Danish Air Force from Søndre, via Mestervig, to the base near Copenhagen in one of the few surviving Catalinas still flying. A cachet to commemorate this event will be applied to all covers, as well as an appropriate backstamp.

Covers will be available towards the end of September and cost 6s each. This extra cost is due to the additional work and expense involved with the cover. Orders, with remittances should be sent to:

The Philatelic Officer,
RAF St Mawgan,
Newquay

where a posting box will be provided on the day.

The next cover in the series (No. 1) will be issued by the Philatelic Officer, RAF Upavon, Pewsey, Wiltshire on 7 September to commemorate the Farnborough Air Display. Further details of this cover will appear in the next issue.

Catalogue of British Postage Stamps

We are often asked for a catalogue of our stamps. The only one available on the market in full colour is the Netto Catalogue which is to be brought right up to date and re-issued in September at the very reasonable price of 3s 6d. To meet the wishes of our customers we have arranged with the publishers to sell the revised Netto from the Bureau, price 4s including post and packing. Orders will be accepted now to be met in September.

Revised First-Day Cover Charges

The costs of producing first-day cover envelopes have been rising steadily since we issued our first cover in 1964, and we can no longer offer them at their present price. For future covers the price will be increased to 8d. Bulk orders for 250 covers will cost £5 (4.8d each) and 1,000 will cost £18 (4.32d each).

We can, however, offer some really worthwhile compensation for readers who have their covers serviced at the Bureau. Service A, in which the Bureau provides a PO cover, addresses it, affixes and cancels the stamps with their special handstamp and despatches by post, will cost a non-deposit account holder 2s 2d in addition to the face value of the stamps, but for a deposit account holder the cost will be only 1s 8d.

For customers who order 50 or more covers bearing the same address, Service C, the price will be 1s 8d per cover. This includes 8d for the envelope but the further discounts set out above will also apply to orders for 250 or 1,000 covers.

For customers who wish to send their own covers to the Bureau for the stamps to be affixed, cancelled, and the covers returned by post (Service B) the charge will remain at 1s per cover.

These changes will take effect immediately. Readers may be interested to know that we are able to make these reductions because the increasing popularity of the services has led to improvements in our methods of handling orders at the Bureau, including the use of a computer for deposit account customers.

When the new charges are introduced the Bureau will no longer acknowledge orders for small amounts, though statements of account will continue to be sent to deposit account customers.

New Philatelic Sales Counter

A Philatelic Sales Counter will be opened on 1 September 1970 at Trafalgar Square BO London WC2.

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