



Philatelic Bureau

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Philatelic Bulletin Vol. II No. 4

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1 New Issues

As many of our subscribers may know the policy on the selection of subjects for special postage stamps is to be changed. The Postmaster General, the Rt. Hon. Anthony Wedgwood Benn, M.P. told the House of Commons on 15th December 1964 that in future the criteria will be:-

- 1 to celebrate events of national and international importance;
- 2 to commemorate important anniversaries;
- 3 to reflect the British contribution to world affairs, including the arts and science;
- 4 to extend public patronage to the arts by encouraging the development of miniscule art.

In the general interest, the number of special issues, said Mr. Wedgwood Benn, must be kept within reasonable bounds, and he intends to limit the number to eight issues in the next twelve months, each consisting generally of two stamps.

The Postmaster General added that decisions for 1965 would have to be reached in January, and he invited M.P.'s and the public to submit suggestions to him as quickly as possible.

It would also be helpful, he said, to receive the views of those interested in stamp design generally.

In response to this invitation a large number of suggestions have been received by the Postmaster General. Readers will be informed as soon as possible after the choice of issues for 1965 has been made.

2 Withdrawal of Bureau Stock Items

2.1 Shakespeare Festival Stamps - "Our revels now are ended" - all denominations of these stamps will be withdrawn from sale by the Bureau after close of business on 31st March, 1965. The Shakespeare pictorial air letters will be withdrawn on the same date.

2.2 Phosphor experimental stamp Following the announcement in Vol. II no. 2, stocks of the 2d. phosphor experimental stamp printed on cream paper are now exhausted. We cannot therefore meet any further orders for this stamp.

2.3 Postage Due Labels The 1½d. label will cease to be issued from 31st January, 1965 but Post Offices will continue to use their existing stocks until they have been exhausted. This label will be withdrawn from sale by the Bureau on 26th April, 1965.

Note Readers are reminded that Postage Due Labels are produced for internal use and are not on sale at Post Offices.

2.4 Back numbers of the Bulletin We have had such an overwhelming response to our earlier announcement about the availability of back numbers of the Bulletin that our stocks of these numbers have been exhausted. We cannot therefore meet any further orders for Volume 1.

3 Persian Gulf Stamps - Purchase Price

We should like to remind customers that the purchase price of the Muscat stamps is their local currency value, i.e. naye paise or rupee, and not the value of the British stamp on which they are overprinted. When ordering Persian Gulf stamps, customers should calculate the total naye paise or rupee value and convert it to Sterling at the rate of 100 naye paise = 1 rupee = 1s.6d.

4 Postal Agencies in the Persian Gulf - Ras al Khaima

4.1 A Post Office has been opened in Ras al Khaima, one of the Trucial States in the Persian Gulf. This office is entirely independent, and is not under the control of the British Post Office., nor of the British Postal Superintendent in Bahrain. However, following a request from the Ruler, the British Philatelic Bureau has undertaken the philatelic sale of his stamps for the time being. These stamps have been on sale in Ras al Khaima since 21st December, 1964.

4.2 There is a range of eight stamps printed by Messrs Harrison & Sons Ltd. in photogravure and consisting of, low value, 5, 15, 30, 40 and 75 naye paise, and high value, 1, 2 and 5 rupees. The 5 and 15 Np stamps feature a portrait of the Ruler. The 30, 40 and 75 NP bear the seven palm trees design and the 1, 2 and 5 R, show the Dhow, both of which designs were featured on the former Trucial States stamps. The values 5, 15, 30, 40 and 75 NP are perforated in sheets of 50 stamps and the values 1, 2 and 5 R are perforated in sheets of 25 stamps.

4.3 Those customers who have placed a standing order for new issues of Persian Gulf stamps do not need to apply for the Ras al Khaima issues. These order are being met automatically.

4.4 We shall of course be pleased to deal with all new orders for these stamps. The rate of exchange is the same as for existing Persian Gulf issues, i.e. 100 naye paise = 1 Rupee - 1s.6d. A full set of the 8 stamps 14s.6d. Payment should be made with the order and should include the usual handling charge of 6d, for orders of less than 10s.0d and 2s.6d. for orders of 10s.0d. or more in value.

4.5 A first day cover service was not provided by the Ruler.

5 Father Christmas

5.1 For the second year running Father Christmas had an arrangement with the Post Office for replies to be sent to children who had spontaneously written to him at places such as Toyland, Up in the Sky, Never never land and so on.

5.2 This year's card, drawn in the modern style and designed by Bernard Brett, R.B.A., A.R.E., A.T.D., M.S.L.A., was sent to about 10,000 children. The envelopes containing the cards had once again a special Reindeerland post-paid franking, a print of which is being sent out with this Bulletin on one of our compliment cards. These are for the benefit of postmark enthusiasts and those of our readers who have become subscribers since last January's Bulletin with which was included a card bearing the 1963 postmark.

6 Postage Due Labels - A little of their history.

6.1 The introduction of "postage due" labels for denoting surcharges on letters and letter mail was first recommended in the British Post Office in 1912. The use of the labels for parcel post was also suggested except for the collection of customs dues.

It was not until April, 1914, however, that the scheme was finally introduced, after the Postmaster General had satisfied himself, following consultations with other postal administrations, that substantial savings would result from the adoption of the scheme.

6.2 On 20th April, 1914 notice was given that "no surcharges should be paid on delivery of any letter, parcel, or other postal packet, unless it bears a "Postage Due" label or labels of the face value of the amount demanded". Four denominations were brought into use initially, valued at ½d., 1d., 2d. and 5d. The original design of the label exists today. They have the same dimensions as the low value permanent issue postage stamps, but the short edge of the label is from top to bottom instead of from left to right. The paper, ink, method of printing and perforation are just the same as the postage stamps and the labels are printed in sheets of 240. Mr. G. W. Eve was the designer, and the colours selected for the first four denominations were ½d. - Green, 1d. - 1 Carmine, 2d. - Agate and 5d. - Fawn. The colour Agate was chosen for the 2d. label because it was considered that this label would be the most used and the colour would be distinct from any British postage stamps in use at that time.

Each label bore at the top the words "Postage Due", in the middle its face value in figures, and at the bottom its face value in words.

6.3 It soon became clear that a higher value label was necessary for the collection of charges on parcels returned from abroad, and in 1915 the 1s. Label was introduced, in Royal Blue, because it was "pleasing and distinctive in appearance". Later in the same year the introduction of a 3d. label was considered as a result of a change in the postal rates, but, it was not until 1918 that this value was brought into use and for the first time the colour chosen was the same as the equivalent postage stamp, violet. Another change in postal rates in 1920 saw the introduction of a 4d. Label, grey-green in colour, which was again the same as its postage stamp counterpart. As a result of the steady increase in the number of underpaid items arriving from abroad, on which a surcharge of 1½d. Was due, a 1½d. Label, dark brown in colour, was brought into use in 1922. This label was subsequently withdrawn in 1925, when the minimum charge was reduced to 1d. However, it re-appeared 1952 when the minimum postage for Inland Printed Papers was increased to 1½d. The former plate was still available, but a change in colour to green was necessary to fit in with the alterations which had already been made to the colours of the other labels, brought about by a revision of the colours of the ½d. and 2½d. Postage stamps in 1951. The colours of the ½d., 1d., 4d. and 1s. labels were now orange, dark blue, light blue and amber respectively. The 5d. label was unchanged. To date, the only low value label to be used is the 6d. Value which was not introduced until 1962 although the need for its use was first

realised in 1955 when a further revision of inland postal rates was made. This label is purple in colour.

6.4 The first of the high value labels were introduced in 1924 when the 2s.6d. value was brought into use for dues on unclaimed and undercharged parcels. It was not until 1955 that the 5s. variety became necessary for use in the collection of Customs charges, while 1963 saw the introduction of the 10s. And £1 denominations, similarly for use in connection with Customs dues. The design of these four labels was the same as the lower denominations except that the words "Postage Due" were replaced, by "To Pay". The only other departure from the lesser values was the use of lemon tinted paper instead of white.

6.5 The first of the postage due labels were printed by Messrs. Harrison and Sons. In 1924 Waterlow and Sons took over the printing until 1936 when Harrison regained the contract. After the death of King George V in 1936, there was a change in watermark, the now E8R watermark paper being first used in December, 1936 for the 1s. label and soon after for the whole series. A further change to GVIR was made in 1937/8.

6.6 In 1950 overprinted British Post Office postage due labels were supplied to Southern Rhodesia. The denominations supplied were ½d., 1d., 2d., 3d., 4d and 1s., the 1d. and 4d. stamps being supplied in the new colours and the reminder in the old. In 1953 however, the Rhodesian Government became suspicious when some of the original grey-green stamps came to light overprinted "Southern Rhodesia". It was discovered later however, that in fact 457 sheets in the old colour had been overprinted and sent with 7,889 sheets of the new.

6.7 Mint "Postage Due" labels have been available for purchase by philatelists since 1935. The current range of labels, which are available from the Bureau, are as follows:-

Cream paper 1d., 1½d.* , 2d., 3d., 5d., 1s.0d.

White paper ½d., 4d., 6d.

Lemon-tinted paper 2s.6d.; 5s.0d.; 10s.0d.; £1

* see para. 2.3 about the withdrawal of this denomination

<u>Where used</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Slogan</u>
Pitlochry	1st Nov. 1965 - 30th Nov. 1965	"Pitlochry Centre for Skiing" (Transposed)

Extensions of Present Slogans

<u>Slogan</u>	<u>Extended to</u>
"New Brighton Wallasey for Holidays & Day Outings"	31st Dec. 1965
"Buckhaven and Methil for Industrial Expansion"	11th Feb. 1966

Amendments

Bournemouth	"Bournemouth the Resort for Sun, Sea Sands and Glorious Gardens", was temporarily replaced from 1st to 24th December 1964 by the Bournemouth Christmas slogan as indicated under the section "New Slogans"
Cheltenham	"Send to Town Hall for Guide - Cheltenham the Centre for the Cotswold's" in use from 14th May 1964 terminated on the 31st December 1964.
Pitlochry	"Pitlochry Centre for Skiing" was temporarily

<u>Where used</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Slogan</u>
Coventry	1st Feb. 1965 - 14th March 1965	"Send to Coventry, details from City Treasurer, Room 306, Council House" (2 Dies)
Stranraer	1st Feb. 1965 - 30th June 1965 and 1st Jan. 1966 - 31st Jan. 1966	"Stranraer in Bonnie Galloway" (Transposed)
	1st July 1965 - 31st Dec. 1965	"Stranraer Welcomes New Industry" (Transposed)
Herne Bay	4th Feb. 1965 - 3rd Feb. 1966	"Herne Bay, Kent, the Happy Healthy Family Resort" (Transposed)
30 Machines in London	4th Feb. 1965 - 17th Feb. 1965	"Gibbons Centenary Stamp Show, Royal Festival Hall Feb. 17-20"
Liverpool	21st Feb. 1965 -	"Roval Liverpool

Postmark Slogans

New Slogans

<u>Where used</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Slogan</u>
Bournemouth	1st Dec. 1964 - 24th Dec. 1964	"Bournemouth Wishes You a Merry Xmas. A welcome always awaits you" (transposed)
Isle of Man (Douglas & Ramsey)	28th Dec. 1864 - 4th April 1965	"For Happy Holidays, the isle of Man" (Transposed)
	5th April 1965 - 16th May 1965	"International T.T. Races, Isle of Man" (Transposed)
	17th May 1965 - 13th June 1965	"Isle of Man International Cycle Races" (Transposed)
	14th June 1965 - 30th June 1965	"Manx Grand Prix Races, Isle of Man" (Transposed)
Cheltenham	1st Jan. 1965 - 13th May 1965	"Send to Town Hall for Guide - Cheltenham the

Greenock	2nd Jan. 1965 - 31st March 1965	"Greenock, the Gateway to Industrial Clydeside" (Transposed)
Llandudno	4th Jan. 1965 - 11th Dec. 1965 and 27th Dec. 1965 - 3rd Jan. 1966	"Lively, Lovely, Llandudno" (Transposed)
Basingstoke (1 Die) and Newbury (1 Die)	11th Jan. 1965 - 26th June 1965	Royal Counties Show June 24. 25. 26 1965 Kingsclere, Hampshire" (Transposed)
Christchurch	18th Jan. 1965 - 17th Jan. 1966	"Christchurch the Priory Town - Sands - Sailing - Fishing - Forestry" (Transposed)
Liverpool	27th Jan. 1965 - 20th Feb. 1965	"PANTO. 65 FEB 15-20" (2 Dies)

Anniversary March 12th
1965" (2 Dies)

Bristol

18th March 1965 - "Ulster Week in Bristol
27th March 1965 March 22nd-27th" (4 Dies)

Scarborough

1st April 1965 - "Scarborough's Dutch
3rd June 1965 Festival May 31st to June
4th is Britains Brightest
Holiday Week" (Transposed)

4th June 1965 - "Scarborough's Tops for
31st Aug. 1965 Summer Shows" (2 Dies)
(Transposed)

1st Sept. 1965 - "Scarborough Big Sport in
30th Sept. 1965 September" (2 Dies)
(Transposed)

1st Oct. 1965 - For Work and Play
7th Dec. 1965 Scarborough Sites and
Labour available for light
Industry" (Transposed)

Bath "Bath Winner of the "Britain in Bloom" Trophy, The gayest Floral City", was in use in the transposed position in a second machine at Bath from 2nd to 30th December 1964.

2 NEW dies bearing the slogan "Bath Winner of the "Britain in Bloom" Trophy, The Gayest Floral City" were brought into use at Bath in the transposed position on 16th December 1964 to replace the original two bearing this text.

Special Handstamps

<u>Where used</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Slogan</u>
Royal Festival Hall London, S.E.1.	17th Feb. 1965 - 20th Feb. 1965	"Gibbons Catalogue Centenary, Royal Festival Hall London S.E.1."
Brentwood, Essex	24th April 1965	"Philatelic Convention - Brentwood, Essex, 24th April 1965"

7 Historical Records of the British Post Office

7.1 The historical records of the Post Office cover the period from the last quarter of the seventeenth century down to the present day, and some categories form unbroken series.

7.2 It should, perhaps, be explained that these records, or more correctly, archives, consist of documents that were prepared for the conduct of Post Office affairs of which they subsequently formed a part. They were preserved by the persons originating them, or their successors, in their own custody for reference purposes. They were not retained because it was thought they would be of use or interest to students of history, but were accumulated naturally for the practical business of administration.

7.3 Post Office records are quite voluminous and all of them cannot be preserved. Some printed and written matter must be destroyed. The process of reducing the number of papers in any file, or case, is known as "weeding". Destruction of complete official documents is the concern of Her Majesty's Master of the Rolls. An Act of 1838 puts many records in his custody and provides for Orders in Council to include others. Such an Order of 1852 places all Public Records under his charge. An amendment to the Act, in 1877, gives him power to make rules for the disposal of valueless documents. This practice is still in operation.

7.4 The modern constitution of the Post Office dates from its reorganisation in 1837, but the records in the custody of the Department are much older. The accounts form an unbroken series from 1677 to the present time. In the accounts for 1685 it is recorded that the Duke of York was paying an annual pension of £4,700 to the Duchess of Cleveland. In the early days of the Post Office payments for alien purposes were made from postal revenue. This practice was not completely eradicated until 1865 but, on the accession of George III, the postal revenues were surrendered to the State, and Parliament granted a Civil List in lieu for the Royal Household.

7.5 The Royal Commission, appointed in 1910 to enquire into the state of the public records, described Post Office records as very technical. Not all its official papers have stayed in the Post Office. The earlier Postmasters General took a more active part in the running of the Department. They regarded their letter books as their personal property and took them away on vacating office.

7.6 One of our most important series of records are the copies of Post Office correspondence with H.M. Treasury. Unlike the comparative independence it enjoys today, Authority had originally to be sought from "My Lords of the Treasury" for every item of expenditure. These Letter Books date from 1686 and vary considerably in their style. Through easy stages the change from hand-made untrimmed paper bearing various examples of manuscript to present day flimsy carbon copies of typescript missives.

7.7 Other series of Letter Books include those of the inland Office between 1797 and 1836. (The inland Office was the first main Sorting Office in London. Prior to that all the duties of the Post Office were conducted under one roof). Further series include correspondence with the Railway Companies from 1842, and with other Government departments from 1862. There is in existence a separate series for correspondence with Admiralty agents and shipping companies from 1855. This includes part of the period during which the Admiral controlled packet services. Correspondence with packet agents abroad is also preserved, as is that with Colonial Postmasters and Overseas administrations. The packet agent at Falmouth also qualified for a separate series. These series generally cover the period 1778 to 1920.

7.8 The account books, referred to earlier, include daily cash books and annual general accounts. These large volumes, commencing in 1677, are entirely in manuscript.

7.9 There are, of course, many records about the numerous services introduced from time to time. A glance at some of the entries in the catalogue reveals references to the following postal subjects, some going back to mid-eighteenth century.

Contracts for Road, Railway, Ship and Aircraft conveyance of mails

Travelling Post Offices

Post Office (London) Railway

Letter Post Services.;

Parcel Post Services

Newspaper Post Services

Registered Post Services

Money Order Post Services

7.10 Postal services constitute the earliest records which, in certain aspects, go back to 1690. One item of great interest is volumes of hand date-stamp impressions. These volumes contain impressions of hand stamps issued from time to time to newly appointed offices, also replacements for hand stamps no longer serviceable. This record commenced in 1825.

7.11 Telecommunications and the Savings Bank came much later. In the sphere of telecommunications telegraphy ranks senior. Whilst the Post Offices own records only date from when it took over the private telegraph companies in early 1870, some of their existing records were taken over. One or two of these companies had been operating since the introduction of electric telegraphs in about 1846. Savings Bank records date back to the formation of the Post Office scheme, introduced in 1861.

7.12 The telephone came later. It was first introduced into England in 1879, when "The Telephone Company" opened an exchange at 36 Coleman Street, in the City of London, in August of that year with fewer than 10 subscribers. The GPO holds a copy of that Company's Telephone Directory, second edition, 1880, when the list of subscribers had risen to approximately 300.

Wireless Telegraphy dates only from about the turn of the century, while Wireless Telephony and Wireless Broadcasting are even younger.

7.13 Private collections of papers bequeathed to the Post Office are few. The Post Office does, however, possess the collections formerly belonging to:-

Col. Roger Whitley, Deputy Postmaster General to Lord Arlington, 1672 to 1677. Papers date from 1667 to 1677.

Sir Thomas Frankland, Postmaster General jointly with Sir Robert Cotton and later Sir John Evelyn, 1691 to 1715. Papers date from 1694 to 1697.

Lord Walsingham, Postmaster General jointly with the Earls of Clarendon, Westmorland and Chesterfield, 1784 to 1794. Papers date from 1762 to 1792.

John Palmer, Surveyor and Comptroller General of the Mails. (Appointed 1786, in recognition of his scheme for the introduction of Mail Coaches). Papers date from 1775 to 1845.

Marquess of Salisbury, Postmaster General, jointly with the Earls of Chichester, 1816 to 1823. Papers date from 1820 to 1823.

Sir Rowland Hill, Secretary to the Postmaster General 1846 to 1854. Papers date from 1846 to 1851.

Sir John Tilley, Secretary to the Post Office, 1864 to 1880. Papers date from 1853 to 1874.

7.14 As can well be imagined records about staff are fairly voluminous. There are papers on all aspects, including Nominations, Appointments, Establishments, Training, Welfare, Recruitment, Pay, Superannuation, Uniforms, Medical Services and, of course, the trade union aspect.

In addition to the foregoing, there are other records dealing with Engineering, Factories, Supplies and Contracts Departments. Departmental annual reports, general reviews and committee reports on a host of related subjects also occupy considerable space.

7.15 Post Office Official Stamp Collection The Post Office has an official record of British postage stamps sold in this country and abroad in the form of a stamp collection. It contains examples of nearly all stamps printed from 1840 to the present day. By far the larger part of the collection consists of unperforated sheets of stamps which is unique; we do not attempt to put a value on it but if catalogue values are used, the sums run into millions of pounds!

7.16 In addition to the collection of British stamps there are specimens of stamps dating back to 1875 which have been issued by member countries of the Universal Postal Union. The exact number of single stamps as the collection is too vast to count, but an estimate would place the number at approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ million single items. In addition to stamps the collection includes specimens of all stamped stationery and registered envelopes issued by the British Post Office.

7.17 Among many of the numerous famed philatelic items that are held in the collection are:-

The proof sheets of the 1d. black

King Edward VII sheets of 2d. Tyrian Plum, never issued due to the Monarch's death.

10s.0d, "IR OFFICIAL" overprint with the misplaced full stop
Sheet of Queen Victoria 1d. red which includes the BA error
The original "Mulready" envelope
Original dies for the 1d. black

Many of these unique items have been occasionally sent out to international stamp exhibitions throughout the world; it is hoped to do more exhibiting in the future since the interest in these is world wide.

7.18 The whole collection is housed in a strong room at Post Office Headquarters. Temperature and humidity are automatically controlled and strict security precautions are in force night and day. The phrase "as safe as the the Bank of England" is a commonly used one: "as safe as the GPO stamp collection" would be an appropriate alternative.