The magazine for collectors of UK stamps

JUNE 2022 | £2.45

Royal Mail

Philatelic Bulletin

VOLUME 59 NO.10

Parcel Post Labels



the genesis and evolution

COMMONWEALTH GAMES 1958 • EMERGENCY TELEGRAM • FELINE THEMATIC

UPA VIP Series: **'Because' …**

Philatelic Feelings…

Sometimes Collectors get a raw deal, don't they? For example, whilst on holiday, I remember my wife (a keen plant collector), once spent an extraordinary amount in the sum of £200 for some plants. She paid the bill and was just about to leave when she spotted the company's catalogue (price/stock list) which she hadn't seen. Being 200 miles away from home she asked if she might have one so that she could use their mail-order next time? Incredibly she was told the price of the company's pricelist was £5.

Naturally, she didn't buy one, nor did she ever do business with that company again – ALL for the sake of just £5 – that company lost the goodwill of a client who spent £200 on just one *first* visit …

Similarly, some stamp companies are *extraordinarily* mean. Sometimes auction catalogues are not supplied free, or buyer's premiums run at 20%+ levels ***even upon company's own stock***, postage, packing and insurance may be added, scans/photocopies cost, moreover … not all auctions guarantee their lots – which is hard to understand when these days, so few collectors physically attend auctions in person.

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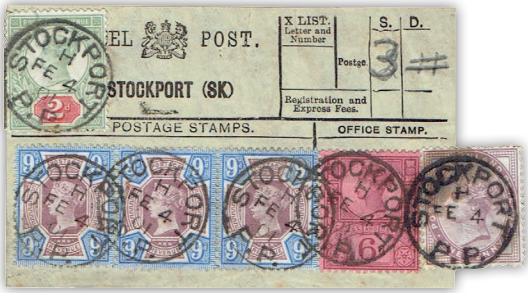
or (UK collectors) telephone: 01451 861111

UPA VIP | **Putting Collectors Like You First**

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Signed, sealed and delivered

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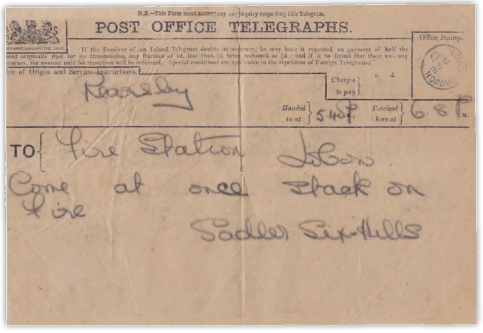


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Editor Chloe Tuck, Royal Mail, 185 Farringdon Road, Floor MP-03, London EC1A 1AA ● **Design and content creation** Ian Boardman, Adesso Creative Ltd ● Price £2.45 from Post Office Ltd philatelic outlets or by order from Post Office branches ● **12 months' subscriptions** £22.95 UK and Europe; £29.50 rest of the world. Send subscriptions to Royal Mail Stamps and Collectibles, PO Box 1373, Sunderland SR5 9PG, UK or subscribe online at royalmail.com/bulletin ● **Binders** (to hold 24 issues) are priced at £4.99 and are available by post or online ● Copyright and editorial rights are reserved by Royal Mail Group Ltd ● All rights reserved ● Reproduction in whole or part is prohibited without prior permission of Royal Mail Group Ltd ● **Printed** in Great Britain by Zenith Print & Packaging Ltd ● **ISSN** 2633 2310 ● Royal Mail is a trading name and registered trade mark of Royal Mail Group Ltd. Registered in England and Wales, number 4138203. Registered office: 185 Farringdon Road, London EC1A 1AA ● Stamp images © Royal Mail Group Ltd.

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The Parcel Post Labels of the United Kingdom and Crown Dependencies

1883 – 1919

The earlier article, 'The Origins of the Parcel Post', in the May issue of the *Bulletin* gave an insight into the difficulties and subsequent achievements of setting up a parcel service in the face of opposition from many in the Establishment and in particular the Railway Companies. One consequence of the new parcel service was the introduction of the parcel post label.

The distribution of the labels to individual Post Offices (there were over 15,000 Postal Districts in operation in 1883) was announced in a Post Office Circular dated 1 May 1883 which stated '…a distribution is now about to be commenced of Paper Labels made up in parcels. When received by Postmasters, Sub-Postmasters and others, these bundles of Labels must be carefully stored until the general instructions for their guidance under the operations of the Post Office (Parcels) Act, 1882, shall be issued.' This may seem a little premature when considering the commencement date of 1 August 1883, but in fact S A Blackwood, Secretary to the Postmaster General had issued a Circular Letter to Surveyors on 1 February 1883 reiterating his Circular of 1 December 1882 which stated '…the 1st June has been conditionally fixed upon, or failing the completion of preparations by that time, the 2nd July (1883) next, as the date for commencing the Inland Parcels Post.'

Labels were provided at the Post Office counter for the general use of the public. The ideal (and hoped for) process was the sender of the parcel came to the Post Office, presented the parcel to the Counter Clerk who would weigh the parcel, take the appropriate amount of money in exchange for postage stamps which would be then stuck on to the parcel post label by the customer. The customer would then pass the stamped label to the Clerk who would cancel the postage stamps and then stick the label to the parcel. That was the ideal but of course the parcel could be pre stamped, with or without a parcel post label when it was passed across the counter

The guidance for use of the labels was published in the Rules for Head Postmasters, distributed 3 July 1883 and also in the Rules for Sub-Postmasters or Rules for Town Receivers issued a week later on 10 July 1883. The instructions were short and to the point. The following is an extract from the Rules to Sub-Postmasters: 7. Every Sub-Postmaster is supplied with adhesive labels (specimen below) bearing the name of his office. The Sub- Postmaster who takes in a parcel for despatch must affix to it one of these labels, and if he have a date stamp he must stamp the label before he affixes it to the parcel. 8. The postage stamps on a parcel must be obliterated. If the Sub-Postmaster affixes them to the label he must obliterate them with the date stamp, the one impression serving for both dating and obliterating. If the postage stamps are not on the label, or if



First day of use – 1 August 1883, HIGHBURY PARK, (London, N.) with mis-cut at the left and paid 3d for a parcel not exceeding 1lb



One of the blue labels which were used at the start of the Parcel Post. 8 October 1883, Charles Street, Haymarket, (LONDON, S.W.)

there be no date stamp, they must be obliterated with the defacing stamp, which is supplied to every office for the purpose of defacing postage stamps that are affixed to the parcels and not to the label. If there is no date stamp, the date of posting must be written on the label. Great care must be taken that the covers or contents of parcels are not damaged in the process of obliterating.

The defacing stamp was a five barred oval wooden hand stamp issued to every office. This was instead of a steel date stamp to every office, due to the great expense this would have caused. The other point to make here is the contradiction in the statement 'If the Sub-Postmaster affixes them to the label'. In fact staff were specifically forbidden from affixing the postage stamps to the label or the parcel; this had to be done by the sender of the parcel to avoid possible fraudulent activity by the Post Office staff. (The Circular to Surveyors dated 17 March 1885 reiterates this instruction).

The first parcels labels, printed on both white and blue paper, were simple in their design with PARCELS (Coat of Arms) POST above the place name, then two horizontal parallel lines across the width of the label, with underneath either (For Postage Stamps and — where used — for the Date Stamp) or (For Postage Stamps and Date Stamp). All the first issue of the labels to England, Wales, Ireland, Scotland and the Crown Dependencies were printed by W.P. Griffith and Sons of Old Bailey London. The labels, approximate size 85mm x 55mm, were printed from composite plates of selected offices. The size of the plates has not been determined but was probably either 12 or 24 labels per plate. Different Post Office place names were set side by side and the sheets were then guillotined so that a stack of same named labels was produced. The guillotining was not always accurate and sometimes produced labels with part of the next label attached; see the illustration of the first day of use, Highbury Park (London, N.) which has the letter 'D' at the left hand edge.

The blue paper labels of the same design and size, were issued alongside the white labels, to the London Postal District offices. These blue labels were specifically for use within the London Postal District on parcels that were to be delivered by road, thus avoiding the 55% 'share' taken by the Railway Companies for parcels transported, for part or all of the journey, by rail. This emphasises the forethought and planning of the Post Office in introducing, from the outset, easily recognisable 'Road Borne' labels for use where high uptake of the parcel service was expected.

On 4 August 1883 the Post Office Circular gave details of how to order more Parcel Post labels. It instructed Postmasters and Town Receivers to order labels one month in advance through the Stores Requisition Forms and 'a pattern being furnished for the guidance of the Printer.' Presumably this 'pattern' would have been in the form of a previously printed label. In the event of Postmasters being late in ordering replacement labels the Post Office printed unappropriated labels, i.e. labels without a place name. These unappropriated ►

labels were also used at small post offices which did not have their own named labels. The unappropriated labels were available for issue from the outset of the parcel service. After the initial printing by W.P. Griffith the majority of the subsequent Scottish labels were printed by Morrison & Gibb of Edinburgh and the Irish labels were printed by Alexander Thom of Dublin. See later for further details about both the Scottish and Irish labels.

Not everyone in authority at the Post Office was convinced of the need for parcel post labels and certainly not labels printed for the majority of Post Offices. In July 1884 the Simplification of Arrangements Committee agreed on two important points for the label, firstly the removal of the 'S' in 'PARCELS' and secondly to conduct an experiment with anonymous labels. The 'S' in 'Parcels' had come about at the insistence of Henry Fawcett, the famous blind Postmaster General. Soon after the commencement of the parcel service the public (and a national newspaper) began to question the reason for the plural 'parcels post' as it was pointed out that it was not called the 'letters post'. The Post Office Circular of 12 August 1884 announced 'The Postmaster General directs that in future the Post for Parcels shall be designated the Parcel Post instead of, as hitherto, the Parcels Post.'

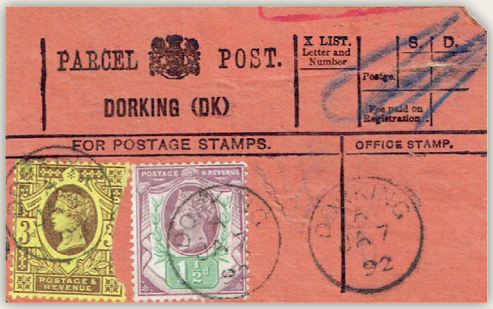
The experimental anonymous labels which were smaller than the standard type measured approximately 70mm x 44mm, were printed with PARCEL (Coat of Arms) POST above two horizontal parallel lines with (For Postage Stamps and Date Stamp,) below the line. The aim of the experiment, which commenced in late November 1884, was to assess the legibility of the name applied by the date stamp, so that the place of origin could be recorded and used for any subsequent investigation. Additionally these smaller labels without the office name would, if successful, reduce costs as all Post Offices would be supplied with a generic parcel post label. At least 50 offices took part in the experiment but it was not a success as many of the named datestamps applied proved to be illegible.

England, Wales and Crown Dependencies Labels

All the white (and blue where issued) English, Welsh and Crown Dependencies labels were printed by W.P. Griffith. During the period covered by this article there were five distinct Coats of Arms used, with changes in 1888, 1899, 1911 and 1912. The labels went through many design iterations including Registration for inland parcels on 1 June 1891 which was added to the label in late 1891; the Express service introduced on 25 March 1891 but not added to the parcel labels until about August 1900 and Insurance added to the label about March 1909. All these changes result in 23 distinct different types of the label on white paper. Seventeen of these different types have been recorded on blue paper for the London District post offices.



Experimental anonymous label paid 9d for a parcel not exceeding 5lb. Postmark dated 5 November 1885 with the location Junction St. Hull



Orange label for night post between London and Brighton. DORKING (DK), dated 7 January 1892 with 4½d paid – the rate for a parcel not exceeding 2lb

On 1 June 1887 the Post Office, to circumvent payments to the railway companies, introduced a daily horse drawn Parcel Post night coach between London and Brighton. To distinguish the parcels carried on this service, orange coloured labels were issued to offices in London, Brighton and intermediate places, such as Dorking (see illustration). The orange labels are amongst the most difficult to find.

Scottish Labels

After the initial issue of labels the contract for the printing of Scottish labels was given to Morrison & Gibb. The earliest recorded use of a Morrison & Gibb printed label is 12 October 1883 and this follows the same design as the first English and Welsh label with the plural 'PARCELS' but as can be seen from the illustration, with a different style Coat of Arms. In fact the Scottish labels used two additional, different Coats of Arms, to those used on the English and Welsh labels. Twenty distinct types of Scottish label have been recorded. Scotland produced a unique design of parcel label issued to the Glasgow Post Office only. The label incorporates a 'sideways on' section at the right hand side of the label with shilling and penny boxes for Express Fee, Registration Fee and Postage. They are recorded used between mid 1901 to late 1908.

Irish labels

After the initial issue it is assumed as with the Scottish labels, the contract for the Irish labels was passed to a Dublin printer Alexander Thom. However the earliest dated example of a label printed by Thom is dated 10 October 1884. Once again the printer diverged from the English Coat of Arms using three additional types including one where the Unicorn is turned away from the Lion, facing to the right. There are 18 different basic types of the Irish label recorded. Unlike their English, Welsh and Scottish labels the Irish labels usually have a mixture of serif and sans-serif letters, differing font size and sometimes italic script for the office name. The quality of paper and the cutting is variable. Difficult to find, all the variables of the Irish labels make for an interesting collection.

Channel Islands

The post offices of the Channel Islands were issued with standard white labels. On 1 November 1895 it was agreed that Customs Dues could be paid in advance by the use of postage stamps and to facilitate this a combined green label was produced (see illustration p296). Different printers were used throughout the life of these labels and sometimes the printers imprint can be found at the foot of the label. The design of the parcel portion of the label generally followed the pattern of the white labels with the words 'Registration' and 'Express' being included as and when necessary, but the use of 'Insurance' is not recorded. Four of the Coats of Arms used on the white labels have been recorded. The later printings during the reigns of KGVI and QEII have a crown between 'PARCEL' and 'POST'. ►



An early usage of a Morrison and Gibb printing for EDINBURGH (Lynedoch Place B.O.) dated 12 October 1883



The Glasgow sideways printed label dated 12 December 1902. There are only 11 recorded examples of this label

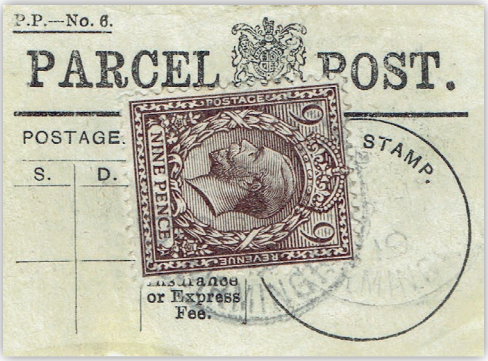
The Customs Dues paid by postage stamps on Channel Island green labels make them highly collectable because invariably high value QV, KEVII and KGV postage stamps were used. The green labels were in use until Independence on 1 October 1969.

The end of the named label

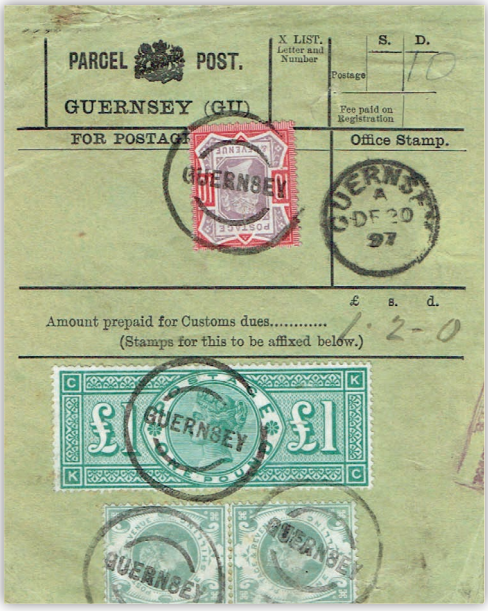
The First World War saw the nationalisation of the railways which stopped the 55% payment by the Post Office to the Railway Companies. The Post Office saw an opportunity to both anonymise and reduce the size of the parcel label thus reducing costs. Additionally during the war the use of the facsimile rubber parcel date stamp had significantly increased, thus reducing the usage of the named paper labels. On 5 November 1918 the Post Office Circular announced: 'An Inland Parcel Post label of new pattern, P.P. No. 6. has been introduced



6 December 1886, Donegal Square Belfast, printed by Alexander Thom with unicorn facing right, paid 7½d for a parcel up to 4lb



May 1919, P.P. —No. 6. label used at Birmingham. The 9d paid for a parcel not exceeding 7lb



20 December 1897, Guernsey green combined parcel and Customs Dues label. Paid 10d postage for a parcel not exceeding 8lb. plus £1.2.0d Customs Dues



1934, Kenchester (under Hereford), 6d paid for a parcel not exceeding 2lb – late and proper usage

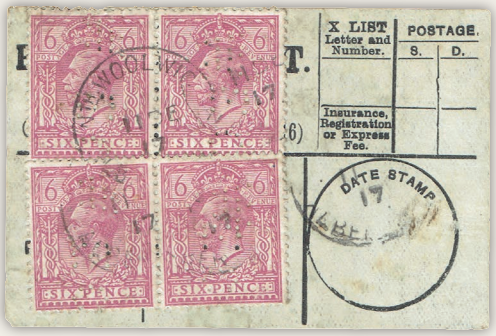
and supplies will be sent to all Post Offices in due course. The name of the Office of Origin is not printed on the new label, but a space is provided for a date-stamp impression. Stocks of the present labels should be used up.' Post Offices followed the guidance in the last sentence and parcel labels continued to be used well into the 1920s and occasionally into the 1930s especially at the smaller offices. The later use of the labels was probably philatelically inspired.

For those who would like to seek further insight and details about the parcel post, including detailed analysis of the parcel label, two recent publications are recommended and available; *The Parcel Post Labels of the Midland Counties* by the Midland (GB) PHS – from which sample illustrations are shown overleaf, and *The Parcel Post of the United Kingdom including Crown Dependencies* by Dr Melrose & N Wraith ●

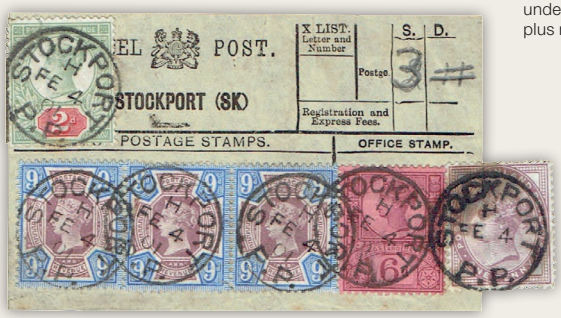
Postage stamps usage for overseas rates



13 March 1900 label, Westbourne Grove London W. Paid 3/6d – the tariff for various destinations including Australia, Cayenne, Dutch Guiana, West Indies, Guadeloupe and Madagascar



11 December 1917 label from Albert Road, North Woolwich and paid 2/- with a block of the KGV 6d. Numerous destinations under the 'Triple System' for the majority of Imperial Countries plus many foreign destinations – a common rate



4 February 1901 label Stockport Paid 3/- with unusual combination of stamps inc. 3 x 9d. Destinations at this rate inc. Australia, Bechuanaland, Bulgaria, Cape Colony, India, Aden etc



21 October 1896 label is on a bag tag from the PO at 100, City Road, London EC and paid 2/2d with a very odd combination of 10 x 2½d + pair of ½d. This rate would be good for Austria, Denmark and Switzerland via Belgium

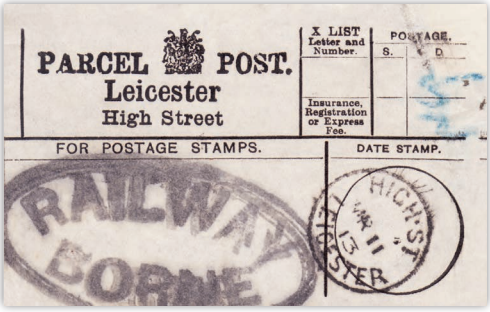
A selection of English labels from the Midland Counties



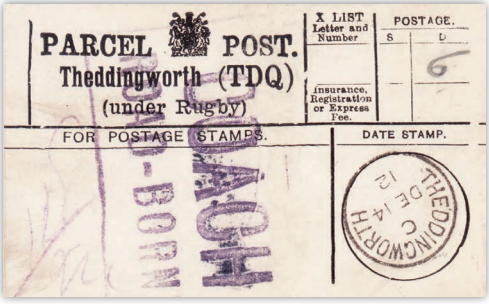
SPARKBROOK (SOL) (Under Birmingham), 29 March 1886. The '6d' in the postage paid box appears to have been applied with a handstamp



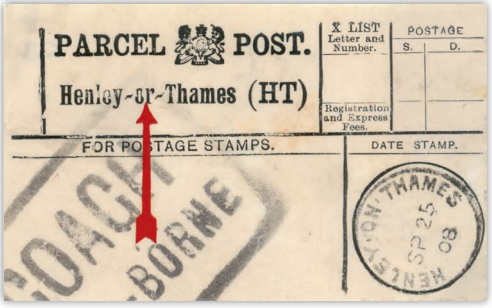
SWITHLAND (UNDER LOUGHBOROUGH), 31 January 1884. 'This was the 1st to be Posted at Swithland' in manuscript



Leicester High Street, dated 11 March 1913, with 'RAILWAY BORNE' cachet



Theddingworth (TDQ) (under Rugby), 14 December 1912, with 'COACH ROAD-BORNE' cachet struck with mauve ink



Henley-or-Thames, 25 September 1908, with mis-spelt office name and 'COACH BORNE' cachet



Wolverhampton WCA (Chapel Ash), with five Edward VII, 1d, bright scarlet adhesives

Images from *The Parcel Post Labels of the Midland Counties* by the Midland (GB) PHS

THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS

REGISTERED AT THE GENERAL POST-OFFICE FOR TRANSMISSION ABROAD.

No. 2312.—VOL. LXXXIII. SATURDAY, AUGUST 11, 1883. WITH TWO SUPPLEMENTS SIXPENCE. By Post, 6½d.



THE PARCELS POST: SKETCHES ON THE FIRST DAY.

Cats ‘let the memory live again’

Elaine Paige immortalised those emotive lyrics in Andrew Lloyd Webber’s hit musical, and they could be applied, perhaps in a less profound way, to philatelists reflecting on their collections. This focus then will hopefully evoke happy memories for cat thematic collectors and rekindle the joys of past stamp issues whilst contemplating the prospect of new additions to this area of interest. And so for those with a penchant for the feline, a ‘new day’ is eagerly anticipated on 9 June with the issue of Royal Mail’s new Cats Special Stamps.

The stamps shown here are probably not exhaustive of those that feature our furry friends on British stamps, and after all, it’s you that set the boundaries to your thematic collections, depending on your criteria, you may have also added ‘rampant lions’ and those similarly stylised heraldically. The designs have varied enormously with a plethora of illustrative styles

11 July 1979



13p. Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland

5 October 1983



20½p. Big Wheel, Helter-skelter and Performing Animals



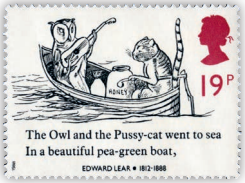
31p. Early Produce Fair

20 May 1986



31p. Wild Cat

6 September 1988



19p. The Owl and the Pussy-cat



32p. Cat

23 January 1990



20p. Kitten

6 February 1990



20p. Cheshire Cat

5 February 1991



1st Class. Black Cat

1 February 1994



1st Class. Orlando Marmalade Cat



including the sublime pencil drawings of Leonardo Da Vinci's *Studies of Cats* from the 2019 stamp set, and Elizabeth Blackadder's (who sadly passed away last year) colourful depiction of cats, with the 19p value showing hints of oriental art – no doubt an influence from her time spent visiting Japan in the 80s. There's captivating photography too with Tony Evans's delightful image of a kitten in the January 1990 RSPCA 150th anniversary stamp – looking decidedly more friendly than the closely cropped image of an Amur Leopard's face – with menacing glare in the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) 50th anniversary stamp of 2011.

The stimuli for the subject matter are eclectic – there's input from literature with Lewis Carroll's *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* making a show on stamps in 1979, 1990 and 2015. Edward Lear's poetry is illuminated with *The* ►

17 January 1995



19p. Sophie



35p. Kikko and Rosie



25p. Puskas and Tigger



41p. Fred



30p. Chloe

13 February 2001



1st Class. Cat in Handbag



1st Class. Cat watching Bird



1st Class. Cat on Gate



1st Class. Cat in Washbasin



1st Class. Cat at Window

Owl and the Pussy-cat stamp from 1988, and C S Lewis's handsome lion Aslan from *The Chronicles of Narnia* graced the 97p value in the Magical Realms issue of March 2011.

The welfare of cats has also been a regular focus, not only by way of the aforementioned RSPCA and WWF anniversary issues but also in March 2010's Battersea Dogs & Cats Home issue. The Home's virtuous deeds were highlighted in the *Daily Mail* on the stamps' release – including the story of Tigger who featured on one of the ten first class stamps. Following the death of his owner, and after a temporary two month stay in Battersea, a new loving home was found for Tigger where he enjoyed 'tucking into any ham that might come his way', which was seemingly reflected by his cheeky wink of approval! The 1986 Nature Conservation 31p value highlighted that the Wild Cat was a 'species at risk', helping to ensure it doesn't go the

13 March 2001



19p. RAIN

15 January 2002



1st Class. How the Leopard got his Spots



1st Class. The Beginning of the Armadillos



1st Class. The Cat that walked by Himself

10 April 2002



1st Class. Lion Tamer

16 September 2004



1st Class. Wild Cat

10 January 2006



42p. Comic Adventures of Boots

21 March 2006



1st Class. Sabre-tooth Cat

11 March 2010



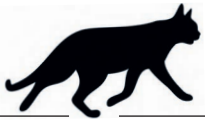
1st Class. Button



1st Class. Mr Tumnus



1st Class. Tigger



THE AD-DRESSING OF CATS

You've read of several kinds of Cat,
And my opinion now is that
You should need no interpreter
To understand their character.
You now have learned enough to see
That Cats are much like you and me
And other people whom we find
Possessed of various types of mind.
For some are sane and some are mad
And some are good and some are bad
And some are better, some are worse
may be described in verse.
You've seen them both at work and games,
And learnt about their proper names,
Their habits and their habitat:
But
How would you ad-dress a Cat?

T S Eliot (1888-1965)

way of the extinct Sabre-tooth Cat making a postmortal appearance on the 21 March 2006 stamp from the Ice Age Animals set. Cats are not always the dominant visual focus when appearing on stamps, sometimes they make little more than a cameo appearance such as in the March 2001 19p RAIN stamp which was one of four in The Weather issue set. Low key was the presence of a cat in October 83's Early Produce Fair 31p value, with the moggy little more than an 'extra' – with horses and geese hogging the limelight. The Tiger depicted in the 20½p value from the same set similarly keeps a low profile.

The upcoming Royal Mail stamps are sure to make worthy additions to this area of thematic collecting, adding to the already rich variety of stamps produced and they may perhaps be the inspiration for new collections ●

Article by Ian Boardman

13 April 2010



1st Class. Wildcat

6 November 2012



£1.90. Cat and Mouse decorating Christmas Tree

7 January 2014



1st Class. Bagpuss



1st Class. Postman Pat

13 February 2019



1st Class. Studies of Cats

8 March 2011



97p. Aslan

6 January 2015



81p. The Cheshire-Cat

22 March 2011



1st Class. Siberian Tiger



1st Class. Amur Leopard



1st Class. Iberian Lynx



THAT CAT

The cat that comes to my window sill
When the moon looks cold and the night is still
He comes in a frenzied state alone
With a tail that stands like a pine tree cone,
And says: 'I have finished my evening lark,
And I think I can hear a hound dog bark.
My whiskers are froze 'nd stuck to my chin.
I do wish you'd git up and let me in.'
That cat gits in.

But if in the solitude of the night
He doesn't appear to be feeling right,
And rises and stretches and seeks the floor,
And some remote corner he would explore,
And doesn't feel satisfied just because
There's no good spot for to sharpen his claws,
And meows and canters uneasy about
Beyond the least shadow of any doubt
That cat gits out.

Ben King (1857-1894)

Sixth British Empire and Commonwealth Games, Cardiff

The Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games open on 28 July, Royal Mail's celebratory stamps will be issued the same day, here Dane Garrod reflects on the very first stamps on the theme

Following the accession of HM Queen Elizabeth II in 1952, the coronation the following year and a commemorative stamp issue, it was not until 1957 before consideration progressed to realisation of another special stamp issue. This was successful, and in 1958 on 18 July the Sixth British Empire and Commonwealth Games that were being held in Cardiff were celebrated and acknowledged with a special issue of three stamps. However, the suggestion for this and the resultant discussions began some years before.

On 4 November 1955 a letter was sent to Post Office Headquarters from the Director for Wales and Border Counties passing on the idea that the Games in nearly three years' time be celebrated by stamps. In the following February the MP for Cardiff, David Llewellyn, took forward the suggestion with a Parliamentary Question, but the idea was rejected with the answer that it would be beyond the policy of strictly limiting commemorative issues. But all was not lost, as discussion continued together with a formal application from the organ-



The issued 3d stamp in deep lilac with the Welsh Dragon holding the banner with the full name of the sporting event



The issued 6d stamp in reddish purple with the flag showing the emblem of the Games and the Wilding portrait of The Queen



Design from Reynolds Stone where 'Sixth' added to the scroll and the value changed to 1/3 was not accepted



Original design submitted by William Henry Brown that became sixth choice of eight in order of preference at the first meeting

ising body of the Games. By the end of May, before the World Scout Jubilee stamp issue set for September of the following year of 1957, the decision was reversed and an announcement to the House of Commons in early June confirmed that the Games would be celebrated and recognised by an issue of stamps.

Time as ever was of the essence, and artists had to be chosen to design suggestions. Five names were put forward and letters of invitation sent to Enid Marx, Mary Adshead, Pat Keely, John Brinkley and Reynolds Stone, as well as the four main stamp printing firms. In all, 35 designs were received, and the selection of themes or symbols were left to the artists, but with the suggestion that some symbol of the association of the Games should be included such as the Welsh Dragon. Size was to be double that of the current definitive stamps, similar to those commemorative stamps already issued, and planned, in the current reign. Additionally, copies of an approved photograph of the Queen's head to be used on the completed stamps was sent to each artist, who by the submission deadline of 7 October 1957 had sent 32 designs including those from the four printers, De La Rue, Harrison & Sons, Waterlows and Bradbury, Wilkinson. Two days later, Pat Keely sent his three so as to not completely miss the opportunity to compete. It was a good thing he did as the final result would show.



The issued 1s 3d stamp in green with a large symbol of the Welsh Dragon holding a wreath of laurel leaves



Design submitted by Pat Keely after removal of Southern Cross and Pole Stars, and became the design approved by The Queen

The Sixth Commonwealth Games marked the largest sporting event ever held in Wales and it was the smallest country to ever host this event. Cardiff had to wait 12 years longer than originally scheduled to become the host nation due to the 1946 event being cancelled because of World War II. This 1958 event also introduced the Queen's Baton Relay where England's famed middle distance runners, Roger Bannister and Chris Chattaway, were handed the honour of taking the Queen's Baton from Buckingham Palace on the first stage of its journey to Wales. Thirty-five nations sent a total of 1,122 athletes and 228 officials, and 23 countries and dependencies won medals, including Ghana, Kenya, the Isle of Man and Singapore, all for the first time. Nine sports were featured – Athletics, Boxing, Cycling, Fencing, Lawn Bowls, Rowing, Swimming and Diving, Weightlifting and Wrestling.

The designs submitted were in rough form – as originals and stamp-sized photographs – for consideration by the Stamp Advisory Panel at a meeting on 24 October 1957. Notes of the meeting show that there was confusion as to the correct title of the Games, and a request brought the explanation that the full title 'Sixth British Empire ►



Three improved colour essays produced by Harrison and Sons incorporating modifications to the first essays

and Commonwealth Games' should be used, but if '1958' was to appear elsewhere then 'Sixth' could be omitted. All bar eight of the 35 submitted designs were rejected, and of the eight, three were by Pat Keely who had been late in submitting but was now well in the running. The Panel produced a list of suggested modifications, some of which were in design but also changes to the wording on over half of the eight selected designs. The instructions to the artists included that designs were to be only in horizontal format, but one of De La Rue's original submission of seven designs included one that was vertical, and when it became one of the eight at the first review and the only submission from the company to progress forward, they were asked to advise the artist to have it redrawn in horizontal format. Other modifications were requested from the submissions made, which by the time that the Stamp Advisory Panel met again on 17 December, variations produced took the total to twelve designs. All but four were then eliminated.

The final four brought one design for each of the 3d and 1s 3d denominations plus a choice of two for the 6d. These were from Reynolds Stone (3d), William Henry Brown of Harrison & Sons (6d) and Pat Keely (1s 3d and a 6d). Pat Keely's



Part of the photogravure first print imperforate registration sheet of 120 3d stamps, registered four weeks before issue date

design that was being considered for the 6d was accepted despite some discussion as to whether the lions were recognisable as characteristically Welsh. For the 6d design by William Henry Brown, the Panel discussed among other things which way the tail of the dragon should point to make it realistic. Difficult indeed, as a dragon is not known to be real. The tail was requested to be strengthened and the ears corrected!

With time bringing the date of the Games ever closer, on 3 January 1958 the Postal Services Department asked Supplies to arrange with Harrisons for the supply of essays of each of the four designs in violet, purple and green, as soon as the modified artwork was completed, these essays being delivered to the GPO on 6 March. On that same date the Postal Services Department gave their immediate reaction to the essays, requiring definition and modelling improvements to the Queen's head on the 6d by William Henry Brown and the 1s 3d by Pat Keely. The second 6d by Pat Keely became the reserve choice for that value. However, the angle of the dragon's tail on Reynolds Stone's 3d essay was now being queried with a request for the angle to be improved to correspond with the original drawing. The issue date had been fixed for 18 July, so it was agreed that improved essays should reach the Postal Services Department no later than 14 April with The Queen's approval being secured if possible by 28 April. As it happened, the essays were only a day late with delivery on 15 April and these three designs plus one reserve were submitted for Royal approval. The reply from The Queen came from Windsor Castle on 24 April expressing her agreement with the first three choices which were by Reynolds Stone (3d), William Henry Brown (6d) and Pat Keely (1s 3d).

Five days later Post Office Supplies wrote to Harrisons enclosing the three essays together with details of the stamps required and asking for their supply as soon as possible. No major problems arose in production against the request for 336 million 3d, 30 million 6d and 12 million 1s 3d stamps. At least half were to reach Post Office Supplies by 27 June at the latest, bearing in mind the issue date of 18 July coming ever nearer. The GPO issued a press release just over a fortnight before that, on 3 July, announcing the issue date and the details. The 3d in violet (described as deep lilac in the SG catalogue) showing a large Welsh Dragon linked to a portrait of The Queen by a ribbon bearing the words 'VIth British Empire & Commonwealth Games'. The 6d in purple ►



Part of the photogravure first print imperforate registration sheet of 120 6d stamps, registered four weeks before issue date



Part of the photogravure first print imperforate registration sheet of 120 1s 3d stamps, registered four weeks before issue date



One of two designs submitted by Mary Adshead and rejected at the first meeting on 24 October 1957



The third design from John Brinkley that also made it no further than the first Stamp Advisory Panel meeting



Bradbury Wilkinson staff artist E J Jackman's design with a chain for strength and a dragon for Wales, inside a stadium



The alternative design submitted by Mary Adshead which was also rejected on 24 October 1957



A design submitted by Harrison and Sons that also found no continuing favour to be taken forward to the second meeting



Design from Pat Keely to the second meeting of the Panel which it supported as an alternative, but rejected by The Queen



Design by W S Matthews of Bradbury Wilkinson and rejected at the first meeting on 24 October 1957



An unusual essay portraying two athletes, and one of many submitted by artists of Harrison and Sons that were rejected



A revised design from Pat Keely with the Welsh leek replacing the crest of Cardiff and value changed with relocation



The globe design from John Brinkley that did not make it into the final choice listings for development



An essay with all the date and information details clearly drawn, and submitted by a staff artist of Harrison and Sons



Design submitted to the second meeting of the panel by Pat Keely after amendment to wording and background shading



The second of three submissions by John Brinkley, all of which were variances on a similar theme, but not taken forward



Harrison's staff artist Harold J Sheild produced this inspired design with Commonwealth flags, chain link border and prancing dragon



A striking image of movement from artist Enid Marx that did not progress beyond the first meeting of the Stamp Advisory Panel



A second design submitted by Enid Marx to the first meeting, but it did not progress for further consideration



Harrison's staff artist Harold J Sheild's essay with discus thrower. Perhaps towards the dragon with claw raised to catch?



Harold J Sheild's third design of three that was submitted to the 24 October 1957 first meeting and rejected



Reynolds Stone designed this view of a runner in a mountain scene, as well as value tablets for the three stamps to be issued



A design submitted by Reynolds Stone in early October 1957. Seen at the first Stamp Advisory Panel Meeting on 24 October and rejected



A portrait submission by De La Rue, even though artists were instructed to produce landscape images, and later re-drawn in three alternative versions

(described as reddish purple in the catalogue) showing a flag bearing the Queen's portrait and the British Empire and Commonwealth Games emblem surmounted by the Welsh Dragon, and the 1s 3d in green (catalogued as such) showing the Welsh Dragon holding a wreath of laurel leaves as a background to the portrait of The Queen. It was not until the following year that a costing exercise was undertaken to assess the possibilities of adding a top value stamp at 1s 6d to special issues. However, no subsequent special issue included more than three values until 1964.

Final deliveries were made to post offices in October, and after some redistribution to areas of less use, all had been sold by February 1959. British stamps had been overprinted in recent years for use by British Post Offices in the Persian Gulf, but this did not happen for this stamp issue. A question arose as to whether they could be issued in book form, but the idea was thought to be impractical and rejected. Around the country stamp cancelling machines at larger offices used slogan postmarks with the words 'VIth British Empire & Commonwealth Games. Wales 18-26 July 1958'. From 18 July a special cancellation was available only at Cardiff, Llanberis – the site of the rowing events – and at the specially constructed post office in the Games Village near Barry. For this, Universal Postal Frankers machines were used, the postmark showing the Games' symbol of the Crown enclosed by the endless chain alongside the legend of the event. This special postmark was only used for the nine days' duration of the Games.

The opening and closing ceremonies of these British Empire and Commonwealth Games were held at the Cardiff Arms Park in the centre of the city where most of the different sports took place. The boxing and wrestling events were at the Sophia Gardens Pavilion, the Maindy Stadium for track cycling, and rowing on Llyn Padarn in Llanberis. Support for this major sporting event was good, with 178,000 tickets during the Games. All memories now, for those who went, but three commemorative stamps are still here with us to tell the story. A written note exists dated 5 August 1958 concerning the disposal of the essays indicating that some had gone to the Royal Philatelic Collection, the personal property of the reigning monarch at any time, while for record purposes Post Office Supplies retained others. Unfortunately, we would now say, the remainder were destroyed. However, for you, the reader of this article, are images of different designs and reworkings, some of which you may feel are well representative of the event ●

All images in this article are reproduced with the kind permission of The Postal Museum.



A successful design in the making from Reynolds Stone, although changes to the lettering on the scroll was requested



From Harrison & Sons came this design clearly featuring a running track. No. 9 of their 10 submissions, but taken no further



No. 3 of 7 from De La Rue with the globe and eight runners, and considered at the first meeting of the Stamp Advisory Panel



A relay racing baton exchange features in a Waterlows submission to be symbolical of Commonwealth team spirit



Harrison & Sons essay which passed the first Panel meeting as 4th choice out of 8, but rejected at the second meeting



From De La Rue, an unusual design that has the meeting of motifs of globe, daffodil and laurel leaf, but not taken forward



'The Commonwealth and Empire depicted by the map is brought together on the games track' – from Waterlow & Sons



A revised design from the first submission by De La Rue with amended flags and doves, and now landscape



A further De La Rue submission with the Queen's head within a stadium shape and three athletes on the rostrum to the left



Another design from Waterlow & Sons with laurel leaves, daffodils, dragon and running track, but did not progress to success



Another version from De La Rue with flags reversed and doves re-aligned, but rejected along with the other two versions



Relay racers symbolising unity with typographical stadium encircling the hands, submitted by De La Rue



No. 8 of 10 design submissions from Harrison & Sons that brought no continuing favour to carry it forward to the next review meeting



Passing the baton within this De La Rue design overshadowing the Welsh Dragon, but not taken forward to the next meeting



No. 7 of 7 from De La Rue with an athletic stadium view, seen at the first meeting of the Stamp Advisory Panel and rejected



Commonwealth Games Quiz

1 The 2006 Games (opening ceremony above) were held in..?
a) Melbourne
b) Edmonton
c) Christchurch

2 How many different countries have hosted the Games...?
a) Five
b) Seven
c) Nine

3 The 1/9 value from the 1970 stamp issue (below) featured...?
a) Hockey
b) Cycling
c) Gymnastics



4 The five stamps (below) issued in 2002 were designed by...?
a) Kate Stephens
b) Madeleine Bennett
c) Catell Ronca



5 Who won gold rowing single scull in Edinburgh, 1986?
a) Stuart Bensaden
b) Patrick Armstrong
c) Steve Redgrave



6 Who won the most gold medals at the Glasgow games in 2014?
a) England
b) Australia
c) Canada



How to enter
Please send your answers, with your contact address or phone number, marked 'Commonwealth Games Quiz', to: Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB. Or by email to chloe.tuck@royalmail.com.

Prizes The first five correct entries drawn after the closing date win the The Stamp Designs of David Gentleman Presentation Pack.

Closing Date 15 July 2022.

March solutions FA Cup Quiz 1) c 2) a 3) b 4) c 5) b

Winners Alan Sidaway, New Galloway; Peter Constantine, Beaconsfield; Jim Mackin, Castlederg; Dave Dorgan, Bolton; J Cooke, Northwood.

Terms and conditions Promotions are open to any reader aged 18 or over, except employees of Royal Mail Group Ltd, their business associates and immediate families. Responsibility cannot be accepted for entries which are incomplete, damaged or not received. Proof of posting is not proof of receipt. Prizes must be accepted as offered; they are not transferable and there are no cash alternatives. Winners are notified within 28 days of closing date stated. For prize draws where readers must answer a question, winners will be the senders of the first correct entries drawn at random by an independent person after the closing date. Royal Mail's decision is final. No correspondence will be entered into. Entry implies acceptance of these rules. Prizes are subject to availability. The promoter reserves the right to a) substitute a prize of equal or greater value if circumstances so demand and b) to suspend or cancel or hold void any of the competitions or prize draws at any time without notice. The winners' names are available 28 days after closing date. To receive this please send an SAE to The Editor.

70 years of loyal service



Following on from the Royal Mail's Special Stamp issue of 4 February celebrating Her Majesty The Queen's Platinum Jubilee, there are four more Coin Covers now available – in addition to the four £5 Coin Covers issued with February's stamp set. The new 50p Coin Cover is fittingly available in Platinum as well as Gold, Silver and Brilliant Uncirculated. On the eve of The Queen's 70th Anniversary of Accession she humbly wrote a message thanking the public and her family for their support, whilst looking forward to the upcoming celebrations ●

'As we mark this anniversary, it gives me pleasure to renew to you the pledge I gave in 1947 that my life will always be devoted to your service.'

SANDRINGHAM HOUSE

5th February, 2022.

Tomorrow, 6th February, marks the 70th anniversary of my Accession in 1952. It is a day that, even after 70 years, I still remember as much for the death of my father, King George VI, as for the start of my reign.

As we mark this anniversary, it gives me pleasure to renew to you the pledge I gave in 1947 that my life will always be devoted to your service.

As I look ahead with a sense of hope and optimism to the year of my Platinum Jubilee, I am reminded of how much we can be thankful for. These last seven decades have seen extraordinary progress socially, technologically and culturally that have benefitted us all; and I am confident that the future will offer similar opportunities to us and especially to the younger generations in the United Kingdom and throughout the Commonwealth.

I am fortunate to have had the steadfast and loving support of my family. I was blessed that in Prince Philip I had a partner willing to carry out the role of consort and unselfishly make the sacrifices that go with it. It is a role I saw my own mother perform during my father's reign.

This anniversary also affords me a time to reflect on the goodwill shown to me by people of all nationalities, faiths and ages in this country and around the world over these years. I would like to express my thanks to you all for your support. I remain eternally grateful for, and humbled by, the loyalty and affection that you continue to give me. And when, in the fullness of time, my son Charles becomes King, I know you will give him and his wife Camilla the same support that you have given me; and it is my sincere wish that, when that time comes, Camilla will be known as Queen Consort as she continues her own loyal service.

And so as I look forward to continuing to serve you with all my heart, I hope this Jubilee will bring together families and friends, neighbours and communities – after some difficult times for so many of us – in order to enjoy the celebrations and to reflect on the positive developments in our day-to-day lives that have so happily coincided with my reign.

Your Servant

Elizabeth R

HM The Queen's Platinum Jubilee



Her Majesty The Queen's Platinum Jubilee 50p Coin Cover featuring the 2022 coin released by The Royal Mint. Available in Brilliant Uncirculated, Silver, Gold and Platinum. Affixed to the Coin Cover envelope is the definitive pane which was issued in the Prestige Stamp book. The envelope and insert (below) celebrate Her Majesty's famous life-long love of horses







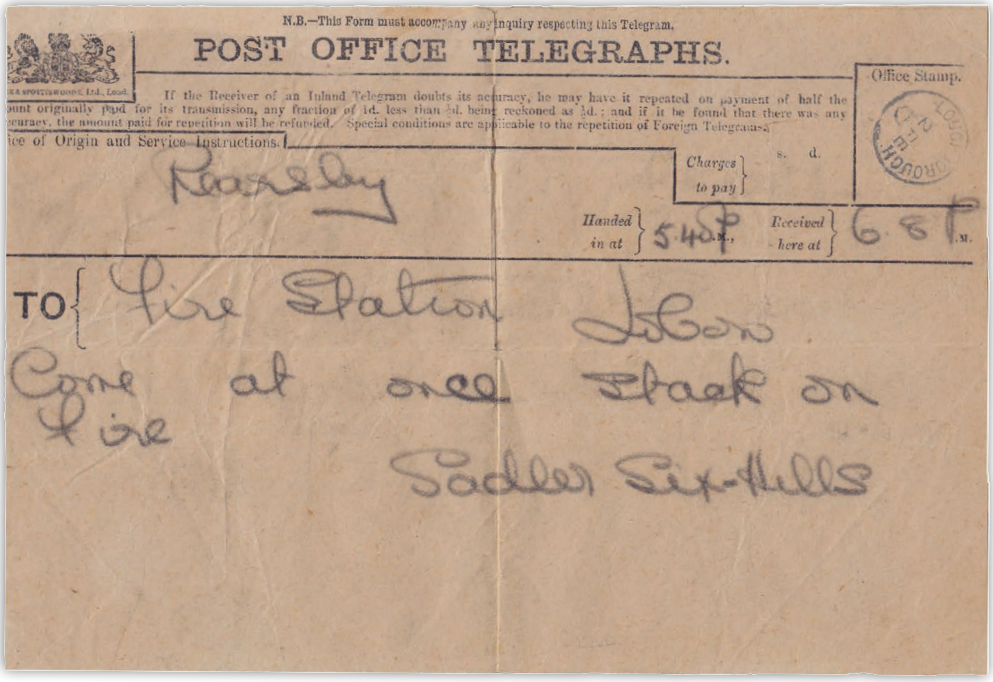
HM The Queen's Platinum Jubilee	Prices
BU 50p Coin Cover	£17.50
Silver 50p Coin Cover	£57.50
Gold 50p Coin Cover	£1,095
Platinum 50p Coin Cover	£1,395

Calling the Fire Brigade by Telegram

In these days of ubiquitous telecommunications, the majority of people carry their own personal phone, and the emergency services are just a call to 999 away. It can be easy to overlook how things were a century or more ago, when for most people telephone services were an expensive luxury (if they were available at all), and fire services were somewhat ad hoc. Up until the early 19th century, fire-fighting in the UK was done by voluntary bodies, parish authorities or insurance companies. Local government bodies often took over responsibility in the late 19th century, but it wasn't until the Fire Brigades Act 1938 that responsibility to provide a fire brigade was placed squarely onto local authorities rather than insurance companies. At the time, there were some 1,600 local fire brigades in operation.

What then would someone in the late 19th or early 20th century do if they were out in the country, and had a fire that was beyond their capacity to deal with? The (slightly cut down) form below suggests that the best available solution was to get to the nearest post office with telegraph facilities as quickly as possible, and then send a telegram to the closest fire service.

It was sent by somebody called Sadler in the Leicestershire hamlet of Six Hills – probably a farmer as the problem was a '(hay) stack on fire' – to the fire station in Loughborough, about eight miles to the west. Sending it however meant a trip to the rural office of Rearsby, some five miles to the south. It was handed in at twenty to six in the evening on a day in early February, and received at Loughborough post office 28 minutes later, after which the telegram would have been delivered to the fire station (probably by messenger). A fire engine would then have had to reach Six Hills, so all in all it seems likely that it would have taken at least an hour after the fire was noticed before it arrived!


N.B.—This Form must accompany any inquiry respecting this Telegram.

POST OFFICE TELEGRAPHS.

Office Stamp.

If the Receiver of an Inland Telegram doubts its accuracy, he may have it repeated on payment of half the sum originally paid for its transmission, any fraction of 1d. less than 5d. being reckoned as 1d.; and if it be found that there was any inaccuracy, the amount paid for repetition will be refunded. Special conditions are applicable to the repetition of Foreign Telegrams.

Service of Origin and Service Instructions.

Rearsby

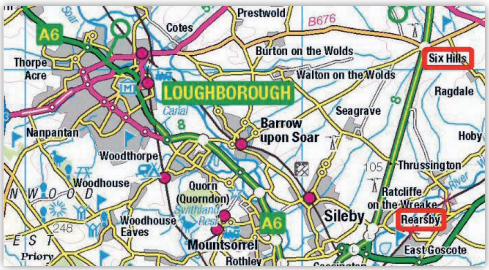
Charges to pay — s. d.

Handed in at 5.40 P.M. — Received here at 6.8 P.M.

TO { Fire Station Loboro

Come at once Stack on fire

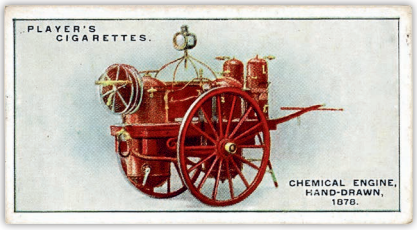
Sadler Six-Hills



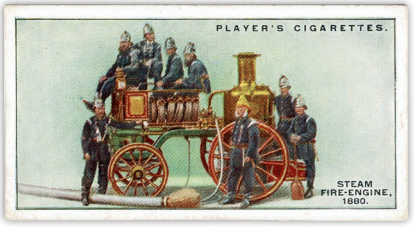
Modern Ordnance Survey map

Unfortunately, the Loughborough post office omitted to insert the year slug in their datestamp on this day, so it's not clear when all this took place. A check of various Leicestershire directories for the period 1876 to 1908 failed to turn up a mention of any notable citizen called Sadler in the vicinity of Six Hills, although it's possible that the telegram was sent by an employee rather than the landholder themselves. Still, it's a reminder that although such a telegram may seem quaint nowadays, 'The past is a foreign country; they do things differently there.' – *L. P. Hartley, The Go-Between (1953).*

Article by Maurice Buxton FRPSL

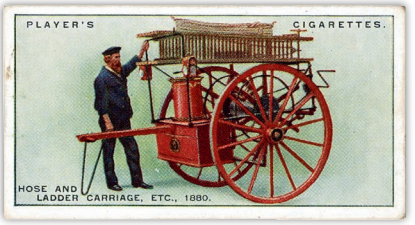


No. 17 – Chemical Engine, Hand-Drawn, 1878.
Our illustration shows a hand-drawn chemical engine employed for fire extinction about the year 1878. It comprises copper cylinders, to contain chemical liquids for quenching fire, a hose-reel, etc., the whole being mounted on a two-wheeled carriage arranged for hand-draught. In more recent years chemical fire-extinguishing appliances have been developed with great success, especially in fighting oil and petrol fires when water would be worse than useless. The modern chemical extinguisher projects foam or froth upon the flames, and so by cutting off the air-supply, quickly quenches the blaze.

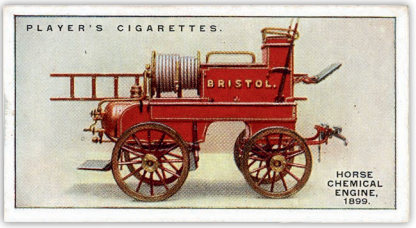


No. 20 – Steam Fire-Engine for Canterbury, 1880.
The steam fire-engine shown in this illustration was constructed in the year 1880 by the well-known fire of fire engineers, Messrs. Merryweather & Sons of Greenwich, for the fire protection of the town and cathedral of Canterbury. It was a powerful direct-acting steam fire-engine, and beneath the seat which afforded accommodation for fireman, a number of lengths of leather fire-hose were carried.

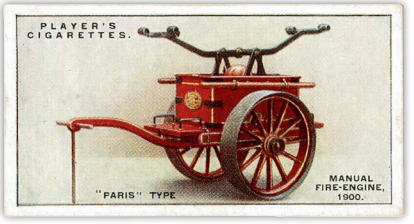
Six in the set of 50 John Player & Sons cards from 1930 that pertain to this era



No. 22 – Hose and Ladder Carriage, etc., 1880.
The apparatus illustrated was constructed by Merryweathers about 1880, and comprised a two-wheeled carriage on which was mounted a hose-reel provided with a hand-wheel for winding, a capacious box for branch-pipes, nozzles and other implements, a Merryweather *Tozer* pattern hand-pump, together with scaling ladders. Each ladder was provided with sockets so that they could all be fitted together to form one long fire-escape. One ladder was fitted with a pair of wheels to clear projections of walls, also a pulley-block with safety-belt and length of patent rope for lowering a person to the ground.



No. 29 – Horse Chemical Engine, 1899.
Early in 1899, Merryweathers designed chemical fire-engines to meet the special requirements of British fire-brigades. Similar in appearance to a manual fire-engine, this model was provided with copper cylinders to contain the chemical liquids, and a hose-reel with rubber hose, branch-pipe, etc., was mounted above. Engines of this type were made in various sizes to deliver from 50 to 100 gallons respectively, and were arranged for use by horse draught. The illustration shows one of these engines supplied to the City of Bristol.



No. 30 – 'Paris' Type Manual Fire-Engine, 1900.
Another pattern manual fire-engine in use about 1900, is shown in the illustration. The pumps were contained in the water cistern, the whole being mounted on a base plate of oak. At the sides of the cistern were carried pumping handles when the engine was not in use. When pumped by 12 men the engine was capable of delivering 70 gallons of water per min. to a height of 100ft. The engine could be lifted on to the carriage for hand-draught, the wheels being specially fitted with broad tyres for negotiating soft ground.



No. 32 – Motor 'Combination' 'First-Aid' Appliance, 1903.
Among the horse-drawn appliances in use about twenty-five years ago was one carrying a chemical fire-extinguishing apparatus and fire-escape. Following upon their introduction of motor steam fire-engines, Merryweathers also constructed the first petrol motor fire-engine in the world. This machine which is illustrated, combined a chemical apparatus, hosetender, and fire-escape on the same chassis. The motor-engine was of 20 b.h.p capable of propelling the machine up to 25 m.p.h, the fire-escape being of Merryweather's *sliding carriage* pattern designed to reach a height of 50ft.



Due to the recent pandemic and occasional cancellations, you may wish to check that a particular stamp fair is going to take place, and so details of contacts and telephone numbers are given.

Stamp Scene Dane Garrod keeps you posted on events and activities in the philatelic world

The Great Britain Philatelic Society has a meeting at SWINPEX at 2.15pm on Saturday 11 June when at the venue of St. Joseph's College, Ocotal Way, Swindon SN3 3LR, there will be Members' Displays covering many subjects within British philately. A week later on Saturday 18 June and at 15 Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 7BW, at 11am, Graham Winters FRPSL will encourage us all with guidance under the title of 'Some Help with Exhibiting'. From 2.15pm there will be the Annual General Meeting followed by Members' Displays. You are welcome to attend these display events, and to contact Phil Waud at secretary@gbps.org.uk for further details concerning the society. In June, **The Royal Philatelic Society London** has two meetings at their premises at 15 Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 7BW. On Thursday 16 June at 1pm there will be a Regional Display given by the members of the Wessex Region of the society. You are welcome to attend this meeting, but should you wish to attend as a non-member, then please make a telephone call during weekday office hours prior to the meeting day to the Administration Manager, Jason Webber, on 020 7486 1044. A fortnight later on Thursday 30 June at 4.30pm, the society will hold its Annual General Meeting followed by an RPSL Collections Display.

2 June Aylesbury Stamp Fair, Church of the Good Shepherd, Churchill Avenue, Southcourt, Aylesbury HP21 8ER, 10am to 3pm. Enquiries: Simon Shaw, 07534 496845.

North Cornelly Stamp Fair, Green Acre Motel, Heol Fach, North Cornelly CF33 4LH, 9am to 1pm. Enquiries: Trevor King, 01522 857343.

3 June Cardiff Canton Stamp Fair, St. Catherine's Church Hall, 169 Kings Road, Cardiff CF11 9DE, 9am to 1pm. Enquiries: Trevor King, 01522 857343.

Felbridge Stamp & Postcard Fair, Felbridge Village Hall, Crawley Down Road, Felbridge, East Grinstead RH19 2NT, 9.30am to 3pm. Enquiries: Chris Rapley, 01795 478175.

4 June Bilsborrow Stamp Fair, Village Hall, Bilsborrow (6 mls N of Preston) PR3 0RE, 10am to 4pm. Enquiries: Fred O'Reilly, 01226 765069.

Charing Cross Market, 1 Embankment Place, Villiers Street, London WC2N 6RH, 7am to 3pm. Enquiries: Bridget Petticrew, 07540 144433.

Croydon Stamp Fair, Shirley Methodist Church Hall, Eldon Avenue, Croydon CR0 8SD, 9am to 3pm. Enquiries: Ray McQuade, 020 8395 9285.

Leicester Stamp Fair, The Holiday Inn, 129 St. Nicholas Circle, Leicester LE1 5LX, 9.30am to 3.30pm. Enquiries: John Suschitzky, 01162 350441.

Lichfield Stamp Fair, Boley Park Community Hall, Ryknild Street, Lichfield WS14 9XU, 9.30am to 3.30pm. Enquiries: John Rice, 01785 259350.

Rawreth Stamp Fair, Parish Hall, Church Road, Rawreth SS11 8SH, 9am to 3pm. Enquiries: Sarah Brooks, 07786 302722.

Swindon Stamp Fair, Lawn Community Centre, Guildford Avenue, Swindon SN3 1LA, 10am to 3pm. Enquiries: John Puttock, 01793 542767.

5 June Braintree Stamp Fair, Bocking Arts Centre, 15 Bocking Road, Braintree CM7 9AE, 9am to 2.30pm. Enquiries: Lorne Webb, 01424 751518.

Lincoln Stamp Fair, Village Hall, Hawthorn Road, Reepham LN3 4DU, 9.30am to 3.30pm. Enquiries: Tony Limb, 07562 570562.

Oxford Stamp Fair, Botley W.I. Hall, North Hinksey Lane, off Botley Road, Oxford OX2 0LT, 10am to 1.30pm. Enquiries: Tristan Brittain, 07957 158299.

Sandy Stamp Fair, Scout Headquarters, Sunderland Road, Sandy SG19 1QY, 10am to 3pm. Enquiries: Simon Shaw, 07534 496845.

9 June East Horsley Stamp Club Fair, Kingston Avenue, East Horsley KT24 6QT, 12pm to 3pm. Enquiries: Martin Mathewson, 01932 565814.

11 June Canterbury Postcard & Collectors Fair, Westgate Hall, Westgate Hall Road, Canterbury CT1 2BT, 10am to 3.30pm, 50+ tables. Enquiries: Clive Baker, 07802 402873.

Charing Cross Market (as entry for 4 June).

Derby Stamp Fair, Nunsfield House Community Hall, 33 Boulton Road, Alveston DE24 0FD, 9.30am to 4pm. Enquiries: Kevin Johnson, 07808 665472.

Middlewich Stamp Fair, Middlewich Community Centre, Civic Way, Middlewich CW10 9BX, 10am to 4pm. Enquiries: Fred O'Reilly, 01226 765069.

Norton (Teesside) Stamp Fair, Methodist Church Hall, High Street, Norton TS20 2QQ, 9.30am to 1.30pm. Enquiries: Mike Lewis, 07742 153669.

SWINPEX at St. Joseph's Catholic College, Ocotal Way, Swindon SN3 3LR, 9am to 4pm, 50 dealers. Enquiries: John Puttock, 01793 542767.

12 June Wokingham Stamp Fair, St. Crispin's Centre, Wokingham RG40 1SS, 10am to 2pm. Enquiries: Tristan Brittain, 07957 158299.

17 & 18 June Stafford Stamp Show, Ingestre Suite, Staffordshire County Showground, Weston Road, Stafford ST18 0BD, Friday 10am to 5pm, Saturday 10am to 3.30pm, 50 dealers. Enquiries: John & Jane Rice, 01785 259350.

18 June Brighton Stamp Fair, Church of the Good Shepherd Hall, 272 Dyke Road, Brighton BN1 5AE, 10am to 4pm. Enquiries: John Perriman, 01903 244875.

Charing Cross Market (as entry for 4 June).

Hull Stamp Fair, St. James's Centre, 169 First Lane, Hessle, HU13 9EY, 9.30am to 3.30pm. Enquiries: Kevin Johnson, 07808 665472.

Preston Stamp Fair, Barton Village Hall, Garstang Road, Barton PR3 5HE, 9.30am to 4pm. Enquiries: Martin Crowson, 07521 282383.

Sittingbourne Stamp & Postcard Fair, Carmel Hall, Ufton Lane, Sittingbourne ME10 1JB, 9.30am to 3pm. Enquiries: Chris Rapley, 01795 478175.

19 June Dover Stamp Fair, Biggin Hall, Biggin Street, Dover CT16 1BD, 9.30am to 2pm. Enquiries: Keith Shepherd, 07718 157826.

Dronfield Stamp Fair, Village Hall, Coal Aston, Dronfield S18 3AX, 9.30am to 3.30pm. Enquiries: Kevin Johnson, 07808 665472.

Knowle Stamp Fair, Village Hall, St. John's Close, Knowle, Solihull B93 0NH, 9.30am to 2.30pm, up to 15 dealers. Enquiries: Andrew Vaughan, 07824 775979.

Sevenoaks Stamp Fair, Stag Plaza, London Road, Sevenoaks TN13 1ZZ, 10am to 4pm. Enquiries: Robert Uden, 01303 238807.



As we look forward this month it's also fitting that we reflect on one of philately's greatest contributors of the modern era, and pay tribute to Frank Walton who sadly passed away on 1 April. Frank had written several insightful articles for the *Bulletin* including an in depth study of the Dorothy Wilding portraits on stamps from the 1952 – 1967 era. Shortly before his death Frank served as president of the organizing committee of London 2022, overcoming unprecedented challenges brought about by the pandemic to stage the exhibition. A passionate collector, Frank signed the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists in 2015 – his contribution to philately will never be forgotten and he will be sadly missed.

RIP Frank Walton
1955 – 2022

25 June Charing Cross Market (as entry for 4 June).

Colchester Stamp Fair, Parish Hall, Old London Road, Marks Tey CO6 1EN, 9.30am to 3.30pm. Enquiries: Lorne Webb, 01424 751518.

Coventry Stamp Fair, Shilton Village Hall, Wood Lane, Coventry CV7 9JZ, 10am to 1pm. Enquiries: Dave Mann, 07976 797975.

Ealing Stamp Fair, Kingsdown Baptist Church Hall, Northfields Avenue, Ealing W13 9PR, 9am to 1pm. Enquiries: Tristan Brittain, 07957 158299.

Morley Stamp Fair, St. Mary's Hall, Commercial Street, Morley, near Leeds LS27 8HZ, 9.30am to 3.30pm. Enquiries: Kevin Johnson, 07808 665472.

26 June Amersham Philatelic Fair, Jubilee Scout Hall, Rectory Hill, Amersham HP7 0BT, 8.30am to 12.45pm. Enquiries: Mike Consden, 07503 228375.

Maidstone Stamp Fair, Royal British Legion Hall, Hall Road, Aylesford, ME20 7NX, 10am to 4pm. Enquiries: John Perriman, 01903 244875.

Portsmouth (Cosham) Stamp Fair, Cosham Community Centre, Wootton Street, Cosham PO6 3AP, 10am to 4pm. Enquiries: Peter Jones, 01489 582673.

Slip End Stamp Fair, Village Hall, Markyate Road & Grove Road (B4540), Slip End, LU1 4BU. Enquiries: Simon Shaw, 07534 496845.

2 July Bilsborrow Stamp Fair, Village Hall, Bilsborrow (6 mls N of Preston) PR3 0RE, 10am to 4pm. Enquiries: Fred O'Reilly, 01226 765069.

Bournemouth Stamp Fair, Pelhams Park, Millhams Road, Kinson, Bournemouth BH10 7LH, 10am to 4pm. Enquiries: Peter Jones, 01489 582673.

Charing Cross Market (as entry for 4 June).

Croydon Stamp Fair, Shirley Methodist Church Hall, Eldon Avenue, Croydon CR0 8SD, 9am to 3pm. Enquiries: Ray McQuade, 020 8395 9285.

Eastbourne Stamp Fair, St. Mary's Church Hall, Decoy Drive, Hampden Park, Eastbourne BN22 9PP, 9.30am to 3pm. Enquiries: Chris Rapley, 01795 478175.

Leicester Stamp Fair, The Holiday Inn, 129 St. Nicholas Circle, Leicester LE1 5LX, 9.30am to 3.30pm. Enquiries: John Suschitzky, 01162 350441.

PHILANGLIA 2022 at Burgess Hall, Westwood Drive, St. Ives (Cambs.) PE27 6WU, 10am to 3.30pm. Enquiries: Tony Hender, 01328 829318.

Sutton Coldfield Stamp Fair, Methodist Church Hall, South Parade, Sutton Coldfield B72 1QY, 9.30am to 3.30pm, up to 8 dealers. Enquiries: John Rice, 01785 259350.

Swindon Stamp Fair, Lawn Community Centre, Guildford Avenue, Swindon SN3 1LA, 10am to 3pm. Enquiries: John Puttock, 01793 542767.

Wigginton Stamp Fair, Recreation Hall, Wigginton, York YO32 2PL, 9am to 2pm. Enquiries: Mike Lewis, 07742 153669.

3 July Lincoln Stamp Fair, Village Hall, Hawthorn Road, Reepham LN3 4DU, 9.30am to 3.30pm. Enquiries: Tony Limb, 07562 570562.

Milton Keynes Stamp Fair, Irish Centre, Manor Fields, Watling Street, Fenny Stratford MK2 2HX, 10am to 3pm. Enquiries: Simon Shaw, 07534 496845.

Newcastle-under-Lyme Stamp Fair, Community Centre, Wye Road, Newcastle-under-Lyme ST5 4AZ, 10am to 4pm. Enquiries: Simon Collyer, 07966 565151.

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PTS

New Issues and Withdrawals

Information correct at the time of going to press

1 June — **Issue** Her Majesty The Queen's Platinum Jubilee: 50p Coin Cover (BU, Silver, Gold, Platinum).



8 June — **Withdrawal** The FA Cup: Stamp Souvenir. Stamp Sheet Souvenir.



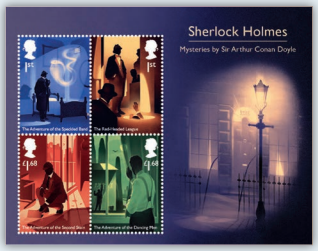
9 June — **Issue** Cats: Stamps (2 x 2nd Class, 2 x 1st Class, 2 x £1.85, 2 x £2.55). Presentation Pack. Stamp Souvenir. First Day Envelope. First Day Cover. Postcards (8 in set). Stamp Sheets. Collector's Sheet. Framed Stamps. Framed Collector's Sheet.

23 June — **Withdrawal** Heroes of the Covid Pandemic: Stamp Souvenir.

29 June — **Withdrawal** All products from the following issues can be purchased at **royalmail.com/lastchance**: D-Day. End of the Second World War. Sherlock. Rupert Bear. Brilliant Bugs. National Parks. United Kingdom: A Celebration. The Legend of King Arthur. Classic Science Fiction. The Wars of the Roses. Dennis and Gnasher. Wild Coasts. Industrial Revolutions. British Army Vehicles.







7 July — **Withdrawal** Migratory Birds: Stamp Souvenir.

You can order any of the Royal Mail stamp products listed above, by visiting **www.royalmail.com/shop** or from Royal Mail Stamps and Collectibles, PO Box 1373, Sunderland SR5 9PG, UK. (Overseas subscribers will need to use a stamp.) Or use the Royal Mail telephone order service on 03457 641 641 (08.30 – 17.00 Monday to Friday). For overseas customers: +44 3457 641 641. Minimum handling charge UK £1.45, Europe £1.55, rest of world (airmail) £2.15.

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