

Philatelic Bulletin

Volume 7 Number 7 March 1970



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A further two covers in this series will be issued on 1 April, using the 9d Florence Nightingale postage stamp, issued by the Post Office to commemorate the 150th anniversary of her birth.

These covers are:

Group 5. No. 1 Medals

This cover will show a contemporary portrait of Miss Nightingale together with the unique medal – in brooch form – presented to her by Queen Victoria.

The portrait, brooch and her other medals, which include the Order of Merit, together with the famous lamp, are preserved in the Museum. A pictorial British Forces Postal Service handstamp will illustrate the lamp which the 'Angel of Light' used in the wards at Scutari.

This cover, posted under separate cover, costs 5s.

Group 2. No. 1 Historical Uniforms

This cover shows, in full colour, the uniform of the 93rd Foot, The Sutherland Highlanders, as worn at the time of the Crimean War.

A pictorial British Forces Postal Service Handstamp will illustrate the 'Chequered Band' of the Sutherland Highlanders, with the number '93'. Incorporated in the handstamp is a facsimile of the Army Post Office cancellation used on Military mail from the Crimean Campaign.

This cover, posted under separate cover, costs 5s.

Orders, should be sent, with the correct remittance, by crossed cheques or PO to:

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

Particulars of the rest of the Series, with order form, may be had by sending a self-addressed stamped envelope to the same address.

Introduction

It is an undisputed fact that philatelists are among the most knowledgeable of folk with their specialist appreciation of their subject and their interest in the events commemorated by the issue of special stamps. Our General Anniversaries issue of 1 April covers a range of events so wide that an even more catholic knowledge will result from their study. Full details of the stamps are given in this issue.

The coming of spring brings the start of the Exhibition and Festival season. The Post Office will be well represented at many of the events especially during the Dickens and *Mayflower* celebrations which are taking place all over the country.

Stamp Printing and Public Taste

Since the implementation in 1840 of Rowland Hill's far-reaching reforms of the postal system, the role of the postage stamp has been subtly changing. The history of stamp printing has to a certain extent reflected these changes. Nevertheless the vigorous search for techniques specifically tailored to meet the requirements of designers and postal authorities is a relatively recent development.

The new-style postal service of 1840 was based on two key principles – prepayment and standard charges. To operate it, two methods of revenue collecting were considered – the sale of separate adhesive stamps and 'Mulreadys'. By making these alternatives available to the public, the authorities were engaging in what the twentieth century would call 'test marketing'. The Mulreadys were remarkable for the emblem they bore – a complex representation of an eccentrically gesturing Britannia. The undoubted allegorical significance of the motif could not prevent it from becoming the subject of irreverent parody. The new adhesive stamps, on the other hand, were eye-catching, novel, flexible of use, neat and functional – and, somewhat to the surprise of the authorities, public taste soon decided in their favour.

Surprised at first the authorities may have been, but they were quick to see that the new stamps had a potential for an appeal based on far wider considerations than their functional excellence. This was, of course, no answer to the question – 'why should not stamps be attractive as well as efficient?' When the Germanic kingdoms adopted Hill's system, their issues were simple indications of the value of the prepayment but generally the trend was towards the pictorial approach and the inclusion of decorative portraits into the design. The favourite portrait subject was of course the Head of State. The postage stamp became a prestige document, expressive of the character of the issuing nation. In its way, it was a dignified advertisement. Certainly all the stateliness and authority we associate with Queen Victoria was embodied in the portrait of her which was carried by letter to all parts of a vast and

scattered Empire. The kind of contact it established between monarch and subject was perhaps personal in a way that could never be achieved by portraits hanging in Embassies or High Commissions – and at a time when communications generally were poor, its influence must have been considerable.

The system spread first to Brazil and then, after overcoming opposition from vested interests, to Europe. By 1860 most of the countries of continental Europe were issuing their own stamps. That these early specimens are so valuable to us is a measure not only of their antiquity but also of their artistry. From the early beginnings, as we have seen, there has been an aesthetic character to the demand stamp printers undertake to satisfy. It was natural that the early printers should have made use of an innately artistic process – the engraved method. The work of engraving an original plate is done by hand. It is truly graphic art – conducted in conditions of physical constraint, yet calling for the most meticulous and sensitive craftsmanship. Its productions in this initial period reflected perfectly the contemporary vogue for miniatures.

As well as giving the most faithful reproduction of high quality design work, the fine lines of recess engraving with their subtle modulations of tone and depth introduced a security feature to postage stamps. Indeed, the precision of the art still gives currency printers their chief protection against the forger.

For a long time, the main alternative to recess engraving was the typographed process; the best examples of this work were obtained from relief-engraved plates. Soon, however, the rapid increases in the volume of postal traffic caused a radical re-organization on the part of the printers. What had begun as a specialized gummed label, then became an art form, now began to respond to the pressures of mass public demand. In these conditions the hand-engraved method often seemed a luxury for the low value stamps and gradually it lost ground to the quicker and less expensive

techniques of surface or near-surface printing.

Lithography had always been regarded as very much the poor relation of stamp printing – even if it did yeoman service on the more simple designs. The advent of camera-based offset-lithography, however, gave it a clarity and definition that raised its status considerably and recent developments in this area have been most encouraging.

With the camera, too, came photogravure. It was in 1914 that the first 'gravure stamp appeared – issued by the Kingdom of Bavaria. Design subjects for 'gravure printing must be suitable for reproduction in the same way as a photograph – with gradations of light and shade achieved by breaking the image down to a complex of dots. Photogravure is a form of recess printing but of course the etching of the dots is very shallow compared to hand engraving and something of the texture of the latter's print is lost. For issues where the quality of a camera reproduction was adequate, the time saved at both the plate-making and production stages cut costs considerably.

Many of the established stamp printers were insufficiently flexible to survive this upheaval – but progress and compliance to the changing patterns of demand are as essential to stamp printing as to any other technology.

The speed and expansion of the postage stamp system was a natural incentive to the collector. Philatelists of course tend to be specialists – some collecting country series, others concentrating internationally on themes, and so on. The growth and diversity of this interest gradually encouraged postal authorities to widen the range of designs they were prepared to consider as acceptable subjects for stamps. Also the twentieth century was like any other age in pledging itself to a 'return to nature'. In printing this meant redoubled efforts to reproduce the full range of colours of the natural world. And the prevalence of multi-colour in magazines and general print accelerated the move away from monotone engraved workings towards more elaborate and more colourful stamps. Photogravure after all

was initially developed for textile printing and established its reputation for its reproductions of colour illustrations.

Stamps now are incorporating ever more detail and colour. The proportion of commemorative issues has risen steeply and the relative shortness of the printing runs for these jobs has again put pressure on the printers. To be asked to reproduce a Rembrandt or the 'Mona Lisa' in miniature, in the full colour of the original – and to do it quickly and economically for a limited volume – is a severe test of a printer's resource and proficiency.

To meet this sort of demand, the ideal process would unite the most beneficial features of all the historically familiar processes – engraving's precise definition and depth of tone, photogravure's ability to handle multi-colour, lithography's simplicity of operation and cheapness. Ideally colour should be a support to detail – not an alternative to it. The more enlightened printers are, of course, undertaking research to try to improve their methods and achieve this optimum blend. New developments are infrequent – but then they are the product of perseverance and determination rather than sudden inspiration. The United States have achieved some admirable results with multi-coloured engravings and on a visit to Thomas De La Rue & Company I found them enthusiastic about the capabilities and achievements of their new process Delacryl. Research is also proceeding in other quarters.

The critical re-examination by printers of their venerable art is essential – history should provide a platform from which to plan the future rather than an excuse for resting on past achievements. According to temperament, the prospect of progress appears as either a threat or a challenge.

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Philatelic Posting Boxes

From 1 April 1970 philatelic posting box facilities will be available at Crawley, Sussex, and Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire.

New Decimal Stamps

In last month's *Bulletin* we managed to include a brief note about the first of the new decimal stamps and we can now amplify the information.

The basic designs are unchanged from the sterling equivalents, the only change being newly designed decimal figures.

To avoid confusion with the current 2s 6d and 5s stamps, which will continue to be valid for prepayment of postage after 17 June the 10p and 20p will be printed in cerise and in olive green respectively. Both the 50p and 10s stamp (which also remains valid after 17 June) will be blue.

All the new stamps will be recess printed by Bradbury Wilkinson & Company in sheets of 100 instead of the usual 40 and the £1 which remains unchanged will be produced in the same format.

In addition to new postage stamps we are also introducing some decimal 'To Pay' labels, the high value equivalent of postage due labels, on the same day.

The new labels will be 10p, 20p, 50p and £1 denominations in a completely new design by Jeffery Matthews the well-known stamp designer whose most recent stamps were the 4d and 1s British Bridges of April 1968.

The labels will be printed by photogravure by Harrison & Sons.

Thematics

This may be a strange word to some stamp collectors, but at the same time it is quite familiar to others who indulge in this modern, rapidly expanding branch of philately.

'Thematics' speaks for itself. Rather than collecting one particular country, classics, postal history or aerophilately a thematic collection portrays a theme – a story that could show football, locomotives, botany, medicine, spaceflights or thousands of other interesting subjects that can be made out of stamps, covers or other philatelic items.

Under close examination you will realize that British postage stamps can produce even more exciting interest as the organizers of 'U.K. Thematics' discovered in their purely thematic competition last year. Two of the outstanding entries entitled 'Battle of Hastings' and 'The Heritage' were composed entirely of British stamps, the latter being awarded a silver medal.

If you are interested in the above why not learn more about it from our Secretary. The Luton and District P.S. will be staging the United Kingdom's First International Thematic Exhibition in Luton next May, and here we offer a chance for you to participate and show your collection to the public. Write for a free prospectus enclosing 5d stamp for return postage to the Secretary, Colin Fountain, 66 Newark Road, Luton, Beds.

The prospectus will offer you all the basic information that you will need to expand your hobby into an entirely new field which will make you new friends and will broaden your philatelic knowledge.

New Embossed Envelope

A new 'B' series envelope is now available from the Bureau and the philatelic sales counters and will be on sale at other offices when their existing stocks run out.

The envelopes, $9\frac{1}{4} \times 4\frac{1}{4}$ in. in size, bear a red embossed 4d stamp and cost 6d each.

High-Value Definitive – Old-Style

We have mentioned the introduction of the new decimal high-value stamps which is to take place on 17 June 1970. Stocks of the old-style 'Castles' series are running down and this, together with the wish not to have three high-value series current at the same time, causes us to withdraw the Castle 2s 6d, 5s, 10s and £1 stamps on 15 May 1970.

National Postal Museum Notes

Elihu Burritt – The Learned Blacksmith

The commemorative and propaganda envelopes which, around 1850, were privately printed in this country were plainly influenced by the Mulready Postal Stationery of 1840 which had been a fiasco. Among the more interesting are those produced under the aegis of Elihu Burritt who had been appointed by Abraham Lincoln to a consular position in Birmingham. Burritt was a friend of Mr and Mrs Valentine of Dundee and Valentines printed and published many of these envelopes a number of which are in the collection made by Reginald M. Phillips of Brighton which is in the National Postal Museum.

Elihu Burritt was born at New Britain, Connecticut, in 1810. His father scraped a living as a shoe-repairer and small-holder. His mother, a dedicated Calvinist, influenced him greatly. Having served an apprenticeship as a blacksmith Burritt determined to become a linguist. Working at his trade by day he spent his evenings studying and in two years taught himself the rudiments of fifty languages: hence his nickname 'The Learned Blacksmith'.

Throughout his life Elihu Burritt was seized with a passion for reform. Not content with his efforts to change society in the United States he came to England in 1846 and spent his time trying to organize an international peace movement.

Following his return home in the mid-fifties Abraham Lincoln sent him back to England as consul in Birmingham from 1863 to 1869. As a writer and propagandist for Peace, Universal Brotherhood, Ocean Penny Postage, Temperance and the Emancipation of Slaves, he became a popular speaker on the self-improvement lecture circuits of the day. On taking up his appointment in Birmingham Burritt was welcomed by English Quakers and other reformers of like mind. He organized the league of Universal Brotherhood and began to plan for an international peace congress.

The intention behind his scheme for 'Ocean Penny Postage' was to encourage international goodwill by facilitating exchanges of correspondence between the peoples of the world. The proposal was debated both in Parliament

and Congress but had no immediate tangible effect.

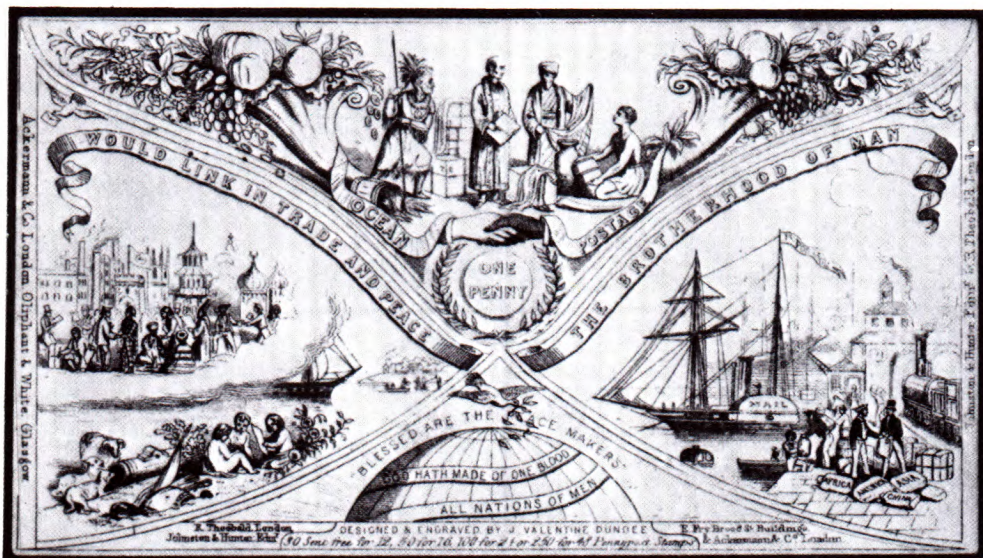
The propaganda envelopes produced by Burritt and printed by Valentines of Dundee, by Charles Gilpin of London and by Bradshaw and Blacklock vary a good deal in quality. Some were splendidly engraved well-designed items. Others typographically overcrowded with biblical texts germane to the propaganda motif were less pleasing.

Exceptionally interesting as a fine example of engraving and design is the envelope designed and printed by Valentines in 1850. These covers, thirty copies of which were supplied in return for twelve 'penny post stamps' and 250 for 48 penny post stamps, appear to have been marketed in London by Ackerman's, the famous print sellers, Fry's of Broad Street and R. Theobald. Oliphant & White of Glasgow and Johnston and Hunter of Edinburgh were also agents. The motif of this cover is plainly expressed in the slogan 'Ocean Penny Postage would link in trade and Peace the Brotherhood of Man', and the pictorial devices employed emphasize the same idea. Splendid cornucopia, overflowing with the fruits of the earth, are supported by market scenes and a mail-carrying sailing packet-boat disembarking emigrants to the new world. Curiously the bottom left-hand corner of the design shows *Le Dejeuner sur l'Herbe* a similar composition to that of Manet's famous painting made in 1862-3 a version of which is in the Courtauld Institute Galleries. The theme of a nude artist's model picnicking with students on the grass was of course not new. It seems to have been taken from a Raphael drawing 'The Judgement of Paris', and is akin to some works by Giorgioni. Its appearance on this propaganda cover of 1850 is interesting although it is difficult to see its relevance to ocean penny post. Burritt seems to have anticipated the 'peace and flower people' idea of our time.

Another ocean penny postage cover again printed by Valentines was addressed by Elihu Burritt in his own hand to Ellen Colgate, Brockley Farm, Lewisham. The absence of any



TEMPERANCE COVER WITH PENNY-RED
The drawing is based on 'Gin Lane', a moral engraving by William Hogarth, 1697-1764



ANTI-SLAVERY
Elihu Burritt propaganda envelopes to bring about the Brotherhood of Man

title prefix to Ellen Colgate's name is in accordance with Quaker practice and she is known to have been a friend. Burritt, although interested in the Society of Friends, was never a member.

In advocacy of the cause of Temperance Valentines' splendid cover incorporating much of the Gin Lane series of prints which William Hogarth engraved illustrating the evils of nineteenth-century gin palaces conveys his

message in unmistakable terms. We have a splendid example of these covers – again from the Philllips collection.

Postal reform, itself a 'good cause' in the early days of the nineteenth century was in the fifties a vehicle for promoting other good causes. Human nature being what it is crusaders for peace and the brotherhood of man are still with us – and the post helps them in their endeavours.

First UK Aerial Post

In February 1968 we told the story of the first flight on 9 September 1911 which carried special pictorial postcards and envelopes by air between Hendon and Windsor and illustrated the story with a picture of one of the covers.

Many thousands of the cards and envelopes were carried on the first flight and they are not particularly rare. We have, however, been fortunate enough to see a unique pair of covers, one from the first flight in 1911 and another from the 50th Anniversary flight of 1961, both

sent to the same addressee.

Obviously when the first was sent, the recipient was very young, and it was perceptive of the sender to urge him to keep it until he was a big boy! He can now be said to have reached maturity and we are grateful to Mr Geoffrey Vieler, the new Managing Director (Posts) of the Post Office, for permission to reproduce his covers and to welcome him as a stamp collector. (He insists he is not a philatelist!)

AD Coronation 1911
FIRST U.K. AERIAL POST
By Sanction of H.M. Postmaster General



G. H. Vieler Esq.
Addington House,
14, Addington Rd,
Reading
Berks.



(Address only to be written here.)
 Master
 Geoffrey Victor
 Clydesdale
 Belle Hill
 Boxhill on the
 river.

INSTRUCTIONS.

Cost of Postcards, Stamped :
 Inland, 6d.

Envelopes, Stamped (containing special note paper):
 Inland, 1/1.

Adhesive Stamps must be affixed to make up the fee required for postage abroad.

Where to Purchase and

Where to Post :

Army & Navy Stores,
 Arding & Hobbs,
 John Barker, John Barnes,
 Benetfinks, D. H. Evans,
 Gamages, Harrods',
 London Aerodrome,
 Selfridges, Whiteley's, and
 General Buildings, Aldwych

CAUTION.—Unless posted in the SPECIAL BOXES at the above establishments missives will not be conveyed by Aerial Post.

For Date of Termination of Aerial Post and further information see General notice on the Special Post Boxes at the above establishments, also Daily Press.

Sole Wholesale Agents :
 P. C. Burton & Co., Ltd.,
 GENERAL BUILDINGS,
 ALDWYCH, W.C.

Net Profits of Aerial Post devoted to Public Charity

(This space for written or printed matter.)

Dear Geoffrey,
 I am so sorry I
 forgot all about your
 birthday & in our hurry
 you a special present
 to make up for it. What
 you must see this for
 me a big try. I have
 got had a present for you
 but cannot get the time
 to get it.
 Love from all to
 you all your affectionate
 father

General Anniversaries Stamps

Declaration of Arbroath 1320



Florence Nightingale 1820-1910



International Co-operative Alliance 1895



Mayflower 1620



Royal Astronomical Society 1820



Each day of the year is the anniversary of some event large or small and it is no easy task to select the most worthy of commemorating by a special stamp. We have chosen widely differing events for our issue on 1 April when five stamps 5d, 9d, 1s, 1s 6d and 1s 9d will be released, all of

which are united by a common theme – groups of people.

The 5d stamp celebrates the 650th Anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Arbroath and shows nobles and gentlemen around a table preparing the Declaration.

Special Handstamps

The 150th Anniversary of the birth of Florence Nightingale is marked by a 9d stamp which shows the famous nurse tending two wounded soldiers.

The International Co-operative Alliance's 75th Anniversary is the subject of the 1s stamp which shows Earl Grey (Great Britain), Charles Robert (France), Professor Victor Böhmert (Germany) and M. de Keussier (Russia) around a table.

The sailing of the *Mayflower* in 1620 is depicted on the 1s 6d stamp which shows the ship and men, women and children in the typical seventeenth-century dress.

Another founding, that of the Royal Astronomical Society whose 150th birthday is this year, is shown on the 1s 9d stamp. Three figures, Sir William Herschel, his son Sir John and Francis Baily, who were present at the founding are featured together with Sir William's telescope.

The 5d, 9d and 1s 6d stamps were designed by Fritz Wegner who will be remembered for his magnificent Christmas 1969 set while the 1s and 1s 9d are the work of Marjorie Saynor of Saxon Artists.

Presentation packs price 6s 5d each are on sale at all Head Post Offices or from the Philatelic Bureau.

Printing details

Printer : Harrison & Sons

Size : 41 × 24 mm (all landscape)

Perforation : 15 × 14

No. to sheet : 120

Paper : Coated, unwatermarked, phosphor lined

Colours : 5d Orange, black, yellow, gold, red, emerald, olive, blue

9d Buff, dark blue, red, black, green, olive, gold, blue

1s Blue, black, yellow, gold, light green, brown, red

1s 6d Dark green, black, light green, brown, yellow, gold, red, blue

1s 9d Yellow, black, red, gold, grey

'UK Thematics 70 – First International Stamp Exhibition Luton Beds' will be used on 15 May at Luton. It is circular. A special posting box will be available at the exhibition, Luton Industrial Mission, Chapel Street, Luton.

'Bushey Baptist Church Centenary Watford Herts' will be used at Watford on 14 March. It is square. The centre design is circular and the church is shown as a motif. A posting box will be available at Bushey Baptist Church, Watford, on the day.

'Dathliad 75 Ain Hoci Rhwngwladol – Cymru IWERDDON 1895–1970 – Llandudno Caernarvonshire' will be used at Llandudno and Colwyn Bay Head Office on 14 March where a posting box will be available. The handstamp is circular showing crossed hockey sticks as a central motif.

'Lions 105 District Convention 17–18 April 1970' will be used on 17 April at Manchester. It is rectangular and shows the Lions motif as an emblem. A posting box will be available at the Midland Hotel, Peter Street, Manchester, M60 2DS, on the day.

Fully stamped addressed items for re-posting must be sent to the Head Postmaster, Manchester. Outer covers must be clearly endorsed SPECIAL HANDSTAMP.

'Angus Arbroath Scotland' will be used on 6 April at Arbroath where a posting box will be available. The handstamp is circular and shows the centre of the Arbroath Borough Coat of Arms as a motif.

Fully stamped addressed items for re-posting to Head Postmaster, Dundee, outer covers clearly marked SPECIAL HANDSTAMP.

'National Florence Nightingale Memorial Committee 150th Birthday Exhibition 1820–1910 London SE1' will be held on 1 April at South Eastern District Office. It is rectangular and depicts Florence Nightingale in silhouette as a motif. A posting box will be available at the exhibition at St Thomas's Hospital.

Fully stamped and addressed items for re-posting to the District Postmaster, South Eastern District Office, outer covers must be clearly marked SPECIAL HANDSTAMP.

General Anniversaries Stamps – Some Background Notes



Arbroath Abbey

Crown copyright by permission Ministry of Public Building and Works

The Declaration of Arbroath

The Declaration of Arbroath was signed at Arbroath Abbey on 6 April 1320 and is an uncompromising statement of intent to preserve national self determination and liberty.

Written in the form of a letter to Pope John XXII, then spiritual ruler of the Christian world, it speaks of Scotland's desire to live in peace and freedom in terms which anticipate the fervour of Wilkes on Liberty and the dignity of Lincoln at Gettysburg.

Perhaps its most striking attribute is to reveal the essentially modern approach of

Robert Bruce's subjects to the constitutional responsibilities of monarchy. As long as the King of Scotland remains the voice of his people, he will rule, but let him once cease to play his full part in their continuing struggle for independence, and, say the signatories, 'we will drive him out and choose some other man for our King'. Advanced thinking indeed for fourteenth-century Europe!

The best known and most frequently quoted passage in this historic document is well worth repeating:

‘It is not for glory, nor riches, nor honour that we are fighting but for freedom – for that alone which no honest man gives up, but with life itself.’

The Scots have just cause for pride in their heritage. At Arbroath, they affirmed their faith in national freedom and personal liberty and did so in words which, six and a half centuries later, still have the power to warm the hearts of ‘honest men’.

Florence Nightingale

Florence Nightingale was born in Florence on 12 May 1820, and was educated at home in mathematics and classics under her father’s guidance. She began visiting hospitals in 1844 as she was not content to lead the normal social life of a girl of her class. During a tour of Egypt in 1849 she visited the hospitals and first learnt the importance of formal discipline in hospital nursing. She took a regular course of training as a nurse at Kaiserswerth then studied at the London and Edinburgh hospitals and later in Paris. In 1853 she became superintendent of the Hospital for Invalid Gentlewomen in London.

Florence went to the Crimea with thirty-eight nurses in 1854 after hearing reports of the suffering of the sick and wounded there. The story of her labours in the huge insanitary barrack hospital at Scutari became a legend in her lifetime. Soon she had 10,000 men under her charge and the general superintendence of all hospitals in the Bosphorus. The death rate in hospitals was 42 per cent in February 1855 but by superhuman effort and the force of a dominating personality Florence Nightingale had secured a measure of sanitation and decent conditions which reduced the death rate to 2 per cent. She usually worked a 20-hour day and would often walk round the wards – lamp in hand – soothing and talking to the wounded men.

She returned to England in 1856 and was presented to Queen Victoria whom she pressed strongly for reforms in military hospitals. Her

experiences in the Crimea permanently affected her health but the quiet life she led was a busy one. With £50,000 raised in recognition of her services she founded the Nightingale Home at St Thomas’s Hospital for training nurses.

In 1907 at the age of 87 she was awarded the Order of Merit. She died three years later on 13 August and is buried at East Wellow, Hampshire.

The International Co-operative Alliance

The International Co-operative Alliance was founded in 1895 when there was much unemployment and working conditions were poor, and is based on the principles of the Rochdale Pioneers for a Co-operative Union.

The Alliance is the central organization for the World Co-operative Movement covering features of daily life such as banking, insurance, consumer, agriculture and housing.

It is a minor league of nations, is supported by representatives in the UN, UNESCO, International Labour Movement and the Italian FEO, and does much work in the under-developed countries of Africa and SE Asia.

The ICA is governed by a congress which meets every three years. There is a central committee with an executive of sixteen and each member country has a Co-operative Union. At present the membership stands at 30,000,000. The emblem of the ICA is the rainbow flag.

The Sailing of the ‘Mayflower’

The *Mayflower* – 180 tons burden – sailed from Southampton on 5 August 1620, in company with the *Speedwell*. The two ships carried a total of 120 pilgrims bound for the New World – America.

On arrival at Plymouth the *Speedwell* was found to be unseaworthy, and so on 6 September the *Mayflower* set off alone, carrying 100 passengers, 41 of whom were later to sign the famous ‘Mayflower Compact’ in Provincetown.

When the *Mayflower* reached America a small party were sent out to choose a place for settlement and a landing was finally made on 11 December, at what is now called Plymouth in Massachusetts. The landing is now celebrated in America on 22 December 'Forefathers Day'.

The General Society of *Mayflower* descendants was formed in 1894 to preserve the records, plans, etc, of the original pilgrims. Any direct lineal descendant over 18 years of age may become a member and triennial meetings are held at Plymouth, England.

The Royal Astronomical Society

The Society was founded in 1820 as the Astronomical Society of London and was incorporated on 7 March 1831.

It has done much to encourage and promote astronomy by publishing observations of the heavens; circulating notices of phenomena and discoveries and by bestowing rewards for successful research.

In addition the Society has collected and published many astronomical papers which may otherwise be less accessible to students.

The motto of the Society is:

'Quicquid nitet notandum.'

'Whatever shines is to be noted.'

Philypia Stamp Booklet

A special Philypia edition of the 5s stamp book will go on sale from 1 April at the Philatelic Bureau and all Philatelic counters. It will become available at local post offices as previously held stocks are exhausted. In line with usual editions the book will contain two sheets of six 5d definitive stamps.

Peter Gauld – the successful stamp designer – has prepared a special cover for the book which will be in the normal buff colour used for 5s stamp books. The advertisements will be directed towards stamp collectors.

Although the book will be introduced and sold from the beginning of April a reserve stock of some 100,000 books will be held for sale at Philypia from 18 to 26 September.



Paul Davey deafens the Curator Marcus Arman while blowing a blast on a posthorn.

Paul, who is Marcus Arman's grandson, was attending one of the Museum's talks for children.

Postmark Slogans

Remember to use the Postcode will be used transposed at Chatteris, Guisborough, March, Middlesbrough, Redcar, Saltburn-on-Sea, Stockton-on-Tees and Wisbech until further notice, and Crewe from 22 June until further notice.

Save as You Earn – Through National Savings will be used transposed where possible at Newcastle upon Tyne, Sheffield, Exeter, Swansea, Newport, Port Talbot from 4–30 March 1970.

Come to Malton Show 23 July will be used transposed at Malton from 18 June until 22 July 1970.

Pontypool for New Factories and Drum Taps will be used at Pontypool as soon as possible. Actual dates not yet finalized.

Isle of Man for Holidays Free Colour Brochure from PM Department Tourist Board Douglas is being re-used at Douglas until 15 March 1970.

Isle of Man in Bloom Support your Local Committee will be re-used at Douglas from 16 March until 12 April and introduced at Ramsey from 16 March until 12 April.

International TT Races June Isle of Man will be re-used at Douglas and Ramsey from 13 April until 17 May.

International Cycle Races June Isle of Man will be re-used at Douglas and Ramsey from 18 May until 7 June.

Manx and Grand Prix Races September Isle of Man will be re-used at Douglas and Ramsey from 8 June until further notice.

Have you Taken Out Your Radio/TV Licence will be used transposed where possible at Birmingham until 8 March. Armagh, Banbridge, Dungannon, Lurgan, Portadown, Portsmouth and Southampton until 9 March. Cardiff until 8 March. Manchester from 9–29 March. Arbroath from 16 March until 12 April.

Gloucester O&DS. "Oliver" 16–21 March for booking phone 22363 will be used transposed at Gloucester until 15 March.

Brighton and Hove All Set for the Seventies will be used transposed at Brighton as soon as possible. Dates not yet finalized.

Scouting is Adventure is being used transposed at Aberdeen, Dundee and Edinburgh until 28 March, from 1 July until 31 August and from 1–31 December 1970. Glasgow until 28 March, from 1 July until 31 August and from 1–31 December 1970.

Keep Britain Green 1970 European Conservation Year will be used transposed where possible at 10 London District Offices from 1–30 November. Offices include Eastern, Central District Office, Paddington, Eastern District Office, South Eastern District Office, Western District Office and Northern District Office. Portadown and Ballymena from 1–30 November. Birmingham, Manchester, Liverpool and Derby from 1–30 November 1970.

Remember to use the Postcode will be used transposed at Ipswich from 17 March until further notice.

Thomas Becket Anniversary Canterbury 1970 July–September will be used transposed at Canterbury as soon as possible, actual date not yet finalized, until 5 September 1970.

Canterbury 1970 Son et Lumière July 20 to September 9 will be used transposed at Canterbury from as soon as possible, actual date not yet finalized, until 5 September 1970.

Visit Shakespeare's Town will be used transposed at Stratford on Avon from as soon as possible and until further notice, actual dates not yet finalized.

Stranraer in Bonnie Galloway will continue in use at Stranraer until 31 July 1970.

Stranraer Welcomes New Industry will be re-used at Stranraer from 1 August 1970 until 31 January 1971.

Care for Scotland's Countryside ECY 1970 will be used transposed where possible at 22 offices including: Dumfries until 28 March. Edinburgh (Dell, Portebello, North Berwick and Musselburgh) until 28 March and 4 June until 1 July. Edinburgh (SDO, WDO, ECDO Leith) 1–30 November. Glasgow (HO, NDO, NWDO, Waterloo Street) until 28 March and 4 June until 1 July. Glasgow (HO, EDO, SDO, WDO, SEDO) 1–30 November. Perth, Kirkcaldy, Paisley, Stirling until 28 March and 4 June until 1 July.

Amendment

Great Yarmouth and Gorleston on Sea The Resorts that have Everything is being re-used at Great Yarmouth and not 'Great Yarmouth & Gorleston on Sea for fine Holidays' as previously published.

Amendment

Relax at Sunny Weymouth is the slogan in use at Weymouth and not 'Relax at Sunny Weymouth on the Sunny South Coast' as previously advertised.

Amendment

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