

Philatelic Bulletin



Volume 4: Number 7 March 1967



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Introduction

The most exciting news this month is the first details about the new definitive stamps. We also give full particulars of the very attractive British Flora issue of 24th April.

We are pleased with the way in which the binder has been received and have sold more than we anticipated. To those who have not purchased one we can quite happily recommend them — send 15s to the Bureau and your copy will be sent by return.

The Postal Museum notes and other regular features complete this month's edition.

Some of our correspondents are sending their letters about *contents* of the Bulletin to the Bureau. Letters should be sent to the Editor, Philatelic Bulletin PSD/OMB, Post Office Headquarters, London EC1.

British Flora Stamps

For the special issue of stamps on 24th April 1967, wild flowers will be featured. Some of the most familiar from the wealth of species have been chosen to appear on the stamps.

The block of four different 4d stamps depicts the hawthorn and the bramble; the morning glory and viper's bugloss; the ox eye daisy, coltsfoot and buttercup; and the bluebell, red campion and wood anemone. The 9d stamp illustrates the dog violet and the 1s 9d stamp the primrose.

The colours of the stamps are:

4d — yellow, green, light red, brown, blue, grey and black.

9d — green, grey, violet and orange.

1s 9d — green, grey, yellow and orange.

Printing details are:

Printer; Harrison and Sons Ltd.

Paper; Royal Cipher ordinary coated. Phosphor and non-phosphor.

Watermark; Crown all over.

Machine; 4d Rembrandt sheet fed rotary. 9d Thrissell reel fed rotary. 1s 9d Thrissell reel fed rotary.

Perforation; Size .95" down $\times$ 1.6" across. Number of holes; Corner plus 17 $\times$ Corner plus 30.

Diameter of holes; 35 thousandths of an inch.

Number of stamps to sheet; 120.

The Reverend W. Keble Martin, MA, FLS, D.SC, who designed the block of four stamps, was born in 1877 and during his schooldays at Marlborough was an enthusiastic lepidopterist and botanist, taking botany as a degree subject when he went to Oxford. He was an active member of the two Botanical Exchange Clubs and of the International Botanical Congress 1930 and was elected a Fellow of the Linnean Society in 1928. His book, *The Concise British Flora in Colour*, is the triumphant outcome of 60 years of meticulous and devoted study, research, note-taking and draughtsmanship.

Mary Grierson, who has been the official artist at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, for six years, designed the 9d and 1s 9d stamps.

Miss Grierson was born in Bangor, North Wales, and after her early education at Bangor County School, entered a Domestic Science Training College. She was engaged in the confectionery business until 1941, when she joined the WAAF, in which she served as a flight officer until 1946. During her service she was employed on aerial survey work and she continued in this type of work when she joined Hunting Services Limited in 1947. Drawing has always been her spare time interest and she worked for two periods under John Nash. She has the Diploma of the Royal Drawing Society. Recently she exhibited a magnificent range of her botanical drawings at the Royal Horticultural Society and received the very rare award of the Gold Medal.

The designs were chosen with the help of the Council of Industrial Design's Stamp Advisory Committee: Mr James Fitton, RA, FSIA, (Chairman); Cecilia Lady Sempill, ARCA; Mr Milner Gray, OBE, RDI, FSIA; Professor R. Guyatt, FSIA, ARCA; Mr Abram Games, OBE, RDI, FSIA; Sir John Wilson, Bt, KCVO; Mr F. H. K. Henrion, MBE, RDI.

Details of first-day cover services are shown on page seven.

New Definitive Stamps

The long awaited new definitive stamps will start to be issued on 5th June 1967, when the 4d, 1s 0d and 1s 9d will be on sale.

These magnificent new stamps which are confidently expected to be one of the classics of stamp history have been designed by Mr Arnold Machin using a completely new portrait of the Queen's head. They are printed by Harrison and Sons by photogravure on *phosphor lined, non-watermarked, coated paper*. On 8th August 1967, the 3d, 9d and 1s 6d stamps will be issued and the ½d, 1d, 2d, 5d, 6d, 7d, 8d and 10d stamps will be issued later. Full particulars of the stamps, the designer and the printing processes will be given in the next edition of the Bulletin.

National Postal Museum Notes

In the February Bulletin we mentioned the part played by an American, Jacob Perkins of Philadelphia, who introduced in this country his security printing processes which made it possible to produce every year millions of postage stamps which were identifiable as a replica of the original die proofs.

Rowland Hill and his associates at the Treasury, having considered the 2,600 suggestions made in response to the Treasury's Open Competition of 1839 as to the best way to effect the pre-payment of postage, cast aside all the competitors' ideas in favour of Perkins's processes and the contract for printing the world's first adhesive postage stamps went to Perkins of Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Petch.

As to the design of the stamps it was decided to make the main feature an engraved vignette portrait against an engine-turned background for added security. Benjamin Cheverton, who had received one of the one-hundred-pound premiums awarded for his Treasury Competition entry, had suggested the use of a portrait on the basis that 'the eye being educated to the perception of differences in the features of a face, the detection of any deviation in the forgery would be more easy'. This was not a new idea for, during the restriction of currency to conserve gold reserves towards the end of and soon after the Napoleonic wars, (there is no new thing under the sun!), Jeremy Bentham, in 1798, and the Society of Arts, in 1819, had both recommended the use of a portrait on Bank notes the forging of which was then extensively practised by 'back room' engravers.

For the new stamps what better portrait could be chosen than that of the young Queen Victoria, with whose features all her subjects were familiar?



Henry Corbould

The selected portrait of the Queen, engraved by William Wyon, Chief Engraver at the Royal Mint, had already appeared on a medal struck to commemorate Queen Victoria's accession visit to the City of London. From this medal line drawings had to be made to guide the engraver of the die from which the stamps were to be made.

One of Corbould's drawings



Goodbye Central Telegraph Office

Jacob Perkins commissioned Henry Corbould, F.S.A. to make a number of profile drawings of the young Queen from the Wyon Medal. No less than four of these drawings, all from the Reginald M. Phillips collection, are on display in the current exhibition in the Museum. They demonstrate how splendid a miniaturist Henry Corbould was. Indeed it is doubtful whether Perkins could have found a more competent artist to make these line drawings. Corbould had worked for thirty years, with Flaxman, for the Trustees of the British Museum, making line drawings of the Elgin and other Marbles in the Museum Collections.

Despite his connections with the British Museum neither the Museum nor the National Portrait Gallery had a portrait of Corbould.

We tracked down and had specially photographed for this National Postal Museum exhibition the only known portrait of Henry Corbould: a posthumous relief medallion on his monument at Etchingam Parish Church, Sussex. It seems a little unjust that, having spent so much of his life translating reliefs into line drawings, the only known portrait extant of this artist should be a relief.

We reproduce the photograph of this medallion portrait of Henry Corbould together with one of his drawings which greatly influenced the world's first adhesive postage stamps — the Penny Black and the Twopenny Blue.

The Museum is normally open Monday — Friday 10.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m.

It will be closed on 22nd March to change the display and will re-open to the public on Tuesday 28th March.

Many of our customers who climbed the stairs to the London Bureau counter will be interested to know that the building is to be demolished because it is unsafe.

It was built in 1874 at the junction of St. Martin's-le-Grand and Newgate Street with four floors; but another floor was added in 1884.

In its heyday between two world wars the C.T.O. was the centre of a gigantic copper web with telegraph circuits stretching out to all parts of the country and to all parts of the world.

Enemy action in 1917 caused a serious fire, but fire bombs on 29th and 30th December 1940 caused a fire which completely gutted the building with loss of its equipment. Partly restored in 1945 and 1947, its bomb-scarred walls have stood as a grim reminder of the war-time havoc and its demolition will aid the clearing up and rebuilding of the City.

Postmark Slogans

Because of increasing difficulty in obtaining specimens of impending slogans in time for publication in the Bulletin, we are reluctantly having to dispense with the illustrations in our regular postmark slogan feature.

We will, needless to say, continue to publish the texts and dates of slogan campaigns.

'Bath Festival 1967, June 7th-18th' in the transposed position will replace the slogan 'Visit Roman Bath 2,000 years of history' for the period 1st April 1967, until 16th June 1967 at Bath.

'Visit Cambridge' will be used in the standard and transposed positions at Cambridge from 20th February until 30th November 1967.

'Scottish opera, Glasgow May 6-20th' will be used in the standard position at Glasgow from 12th March until 20th May 1967.

At Douglas and Ramsey, Isle of Man, the slogan 'International TT Races Diamond Jubilee June 1967 Isle of Man' will be used in the transposed position from 3rd April until 14th May 1967.

'Nowhere else in the world will you find such fine wool knitted so skilfully, lovingly, patiently, as in the Shetland Isle' will be used in the transposed position at Lerwick from 20th March 1967, until 19th March 1968.

'Fly Liverpool Jetport' to be used at Liverpool in the standard position from 20th February until 14th July 1967.

'Mansfield Festival Week 4-11 March 67' will be used from 24th January until 11th March 1967 in the transposed position at Mansfield.

The slogan 'Tees-Side Means Business' will again be used for the period 25th February 1967 until 24th February 1968, in the transposed position at Middlesbrough and Stockton-on-Tees.

'Newark and Notts. Show May 5th-6th' will be used at Newark in the transposed position from 13th March until 6th May 1967.

'Ulster Week in Leeds April 24th-29th' will be used at Leeds from 17th April until 29th April 1967, in the standard position.

'Petersfield Music Festival April 11-12-13-14' will be used in the transposed position at Petersfield from 3rd March until 13th April 1967.

'Torquay for Sun' will be replaced by 'Torquay for Spring Splendour' during the period 1st February until 30th April 1967, in the transposed position at Torquay.

'BRITAIN'S FIRST SOUTH PACIFIC AIR ROUTE TO AUSTRALIA FROM 1st APRIL 1967' will be used in the transposed position at Glasgow SDO, Glasgow WDO, Stirling, Kirkcaldy, Manchester, Liverpool, Newport, Beverley, Keighley, Skipton, Goole, Northallerton, Sutton Coldfield, Nuneaton, Peterborough, Kettering and in the London Postal Region at: Western DO, South Western DO, Kensington, Walworth and Kennington, Deptford, Kentish Town, Stratford, EC Foreign Section, and Inland Section, from 15th March until 12th April 1967.

Covers for re-posting to the Head or District Postmaster concerned.

British Flora Stamps First Day Cover Services

For the first of this year's pictorial stamps — the block of four at 4d, 9d, and 1s 9d depicting British flora — the usual first-day cover services will be available on 24th April. The full service (A), under which full sets of stamps are affixed to specially designed envelopes bearing typewritten addresses and first-day cancellations, will be 6s 10d each. Customers, own pre-addressed envelopes will be serviced (B) for 4s 10d each. Both of these services are provided from the Bureau.

Philatelic posting boxes will be provided at the following offices where customers may post their own first day covers.

London:

Chief Office, King Edward Street, EC1. Battersea District Office, Lavender Hill, SW11.
Eastern District Office, Whitechapel Road, E1. Northern District Office, Upper Street, N1.
North Western District Office, Eversholt Street, NW1.
South Eastern District Office, Borough High Street, SE1.
South Western District Office, Howick Place, SW1.
Western Central District Office, 181 High Holborn, WC1.
Wimpole Street, W1. Remnant Street, (Kingsway) WC1. Southampton Street, Strand, WC2.
Spring Street, W2. Trafalgar Square BO, WC2. 110 Victoria Street, SW1.

Aberdeen	Glasgow	Nottingham
Aberystwyth	Gloucester	Oxford
Bath	Grimsby	Paisley
Belfast	Guernsey	Peterborough
Birmingham	Harrogate	Plymouth
Blackpool	Harrow	Portsmouth
Bournemouth	Hastings	Preston
Bradford	Hereford	Reading
Brighton	Hounslow	Romford
Bristol	Huddersfield	Rotherham
Bromley	Hull	Sheffield
Cambridge	Inverness	Shrewsbury
Cardiff	Ipswich	Skegness
Carlisle	Jersey	Southampton
Chelmsford	Kingston-upon-Thames	Southend-on-Sea
Chester	Leeds	South Shields
Colchester	Leicester	Stockport
Colwyn Bay	Lincoln	Stockton-on-Tees
Coventry	Liverpool	Stoke-on-Trent
Croydon	Llanely,	Sunderland
Derby	Llandudno	Swansea
Doncaster	Londonderry	Swindon
Dorchester	Luton	Taunton
Douglas, Isle of Man	Maidstone	Truro
Dumfries	Manchester	Tunbridge Wells
Dundee	Middlesbrough	Walsall
Eastbourne	Newcastle upon Tyne	Wolverhampton
Edinburgh	Newport, Isle of Wight	Worcester
Exeter	Newport, Mon.	Worthing
Fareham	Northampton	York
Folkestone	Norwich	

Special Issues Phosphor Line Stamps

In addition to the blank envelopes, presentation packs containing the six mint stamps will be on sale at the same offices and from the Bureau. As well as the stamps the packs include a folder giving artistic and technical details of the stamps, the printing processes and the designers.

Blank envelopes cost 6d each and presentation packs 4s 10d each. Prices for bulk orders of envelopes and presentation packs from the Bureau are:

Envelopes: 250 £4 3s 4d., 500 £8, 1,000 £15, 2,500 £33, 5,000 £60, 10,000 £104, plus handling charge.

Presentation packs: for orders of 100 or more 4s 4d each, plus handling charge.

We have made reference in recent issues of the Bulletin to the introduction of phosphor lined stamps throughout the country.

Our customers will be interested to learn that starting with the British Paintings issue on 10th July 1967, all future special stamps will be printed with phosphor lines. It means, of course, that first-day covers bearing plain stamps will be things of the past and our standing order customers who have asked for either plain FDCs or stamps will be asked to state their future requirements.

May we remind our readers, especially those in London and the Home Counties, that no plain stamps for the Flora issue on 24th April will be available in the London Postal Region except from the Philatelic Counter at London Chief Office ECI.

The London Postal Region comprises that area bounded roughly by Gravesend, Stanford-le-Hope, Markyate, Egham and Leatherhead.

To minimise delay at the London Chief Office sales counter we would like our customers to order in advance their plain stamps from the Bureau whenever possible.

STARTING WITH THE BRITISH PAINTINGS ISSUE ON 10TH JULY 1967 ALL SPECIAL STAMPS WILL BE ISSUED WITH PHOSPHOR LINES ONLY.

Acknowledgments

We apologise for our inadvertent omission to acknowledge that the article on Edinburgh Head Post Office in our December, 1966 issue was supplied by Mr A. Bruce Auckland of the Scottish Postmark Group.

The artist whose designs are shown on pages 10 and 11 of the September, 1966 issue is Peter Barrett and not as printed. We offer our apologies for this error.

Special Issues available From Philatelic Bureau

Pictorial Landscape	4d, 6d, 1s 3d, 1s 6d.
World Cup	4d, 6d, 1s 3d.
Pictorial Birds	4d (blocks of 4).
Pictorial Technology	4d, 6d, 1s 3d, 1s 6d.
Battle of Hastings	4d (blocks of 6) 6d, 1s 3d.
Christmas	3d, 1s 6d.

These stamps are available with or without phosphor lines, except 6d Landscape and 3d Christmas phosphor which are exhausted.

Thoughts on future Stamps Policy

Now the dust has settled on the 1966 stamp issues this is a good time to review what the future might hold.

Our immediate issue policy is dominated by the forthcoming new definitive range but when the opportunity comes we intend to consider whether or not we could issue our special stamps in booklet form. Our first thoughts are that there is too much involved in the special printings to produce booklets.

The Flowers series to be issued on 24th April contains a block of four and it seems certain that some future special issues will contain blocks or strips. The Battle of Britain, British Birds, and Hastings issues were, on the whole, well received.

Colour reproduction is a matter very close to our hearts and the forthcoming British Paintings issue will be reproduced in full colour to match the originals. The question of photo-gravure and engraved stamps is one which Mr J. Andrew Restall, the Fellow in Stamp Design at the Royal College of Art, is considering and it will be included in his report at the expiry of his Fellowship.

It has been suggested that our Regional series be extended. One idea is that each county should have its own stamps but due to many varied reasons any extension to the current range is not anticipated.

We have been asked whether we have any plans to issue stamps of higher denominations than the present £1. We are uncertain of the demand but will make enquiries when considering a new design for the high value range. Anybody for a £5 FDC!

One of our problems is whether we could safely dispense with watermarks. We have given much earnest thought to this question and the future may well see unwatermarked stamps. If that day comes what will the 'inverted watermark' collectors turn to we wonder.

We have been considering for some time whether we could add a surcharge to stamps which we could pass to charity. Many of our customers have urged us to do so but our advisers point out the legal difficulties and we should require legislation for such a scheme.

We have said enough to show that we have plenty to occupy us in our constant endeavours to maintain the high standard of British stamps and at the same time provide philatelists with what they want.

Many of the points we have mentioned were raised by the Editor of 'Stamp Collecting' in a recent interview with the Postmaster General. We are glad to take this opportunity of publicising them further.

Special Handstamps

Having an exhibition? Why not mark the occasion by the use of a special handstamp provided by the GPO? Send your design to your Head Postmaster for approval; let him know your exact requirements and he will do the rest.

A posting box will be sited at the exhibition and special collections arranged by the Head Postmaster. Collectors not directly able to obtain specimens of the postmark may do so by sending envelopes under cover to the Head Postmaster for re-posting.

Two types of handstamps are available: a circular stamp which when manufactured will not exceed $1\frac{3}{8}$ " diameter, and a rectangular

stamp measuring $1\frac{3}{8}$ " $\times$ $2\frac{1}{4}$ " (the larger measurement being the horizontal plane.)

A rubber handstamp used for one day costs £10. For any longer period, a metal handstamp is supplied costing £20; a time charge of 5s per week or part of a week is made.

At all times a special handstamp is the property of the Postmaster General.

Six weeks are required for the manufacture of a special handstamp. A simple pictorial motif may be included in the design; the postal district and date of use should be shown.

Many philatelic associations use our handstamps regularly — why not be one of them?

These are some of the designs we have authorised:



'GABRIEL CONVENTION 18th MARCH 1967 LONDON S.W.1' is to be used on 18th March 1967, at London S.W. District Office.

'STAMPEX 1967 CENTRAL HALL WESTMINSTER S.W.1' will be used at London S.W. District Office from 7th-15th April 1967.

'NORTH WEST FEDERATION 498 THE CONVENTION MANCHESTER 15th APRIL 1967' will be used on 15th April 1967, at Manchester.

'18 NOPA CONVENTION NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE 22nd APRIL 1967' will be used on 22nd April 1967, at Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

'CULTS ACADEMY 23rd MARCH 1967 ABERDEEN' will be used on 23rd March 1967, at Aberdeen.

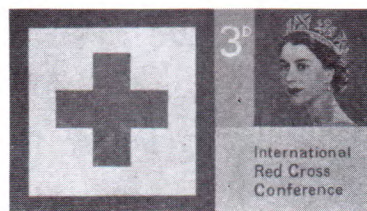
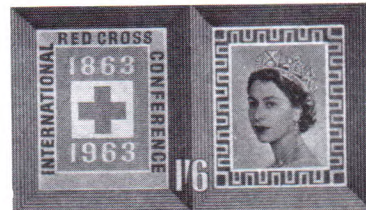
Covers for reposting to the Head or District Postmaster concerned.

Unaccepted Stamp Designs

We show this month the designs which we were not able to accept for the Red Cross issue of 15th August 1963.



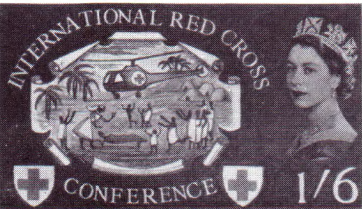
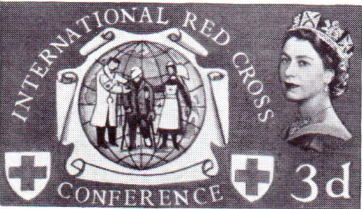
John
Brinkley



Harrison & Sons



Enid Marx



Mary
Adshead





A. S. B.
New



Peter Gauld



De La Rue



Bradbury Wilkinson



Conditions

The Philatelic Bureau will be pleased to supply any number of stamps shown on its current stock list, subject to stocks being available, in mint condition only. For stamps not shown on the list, enquiries should be made of a stamp dealer.

We do not guarantee to supply stamps from particular cylinders or plates, position or cylinder blocks, particular editions of books or books with selected watermark.

Stamps are NOT supplied cancelled to order. Remittances, which *must* be sent with orders should be made payable to 'GPO Philatelic Bureau' and should include a handling charge of 6d for orders under 10s, and 3s 9d for orders of 10s and over (9d and 4/- respectively for orders to Overseas Countries, other than the Commonwealth). For orders to be sent by Air Mail the cost of the airmail postage should be added. Stamps are not accepted as payment for orders.

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