

Philatelic Bulletin

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Contents

- 2 Editorial
 - Maximum Cards
 - Forces Covers
- 3 Gems from the R M Phillips Collection
 - LIX The Shakespeare Envelope
 - New Scottish Air Letter
- 4 Datapost and Other Post Office Services
- 6 Book Reviews
- 7 The Country Definitive Issues of 1958
- 10 Stamps for Pleasure
 - 15. The Sports Theme
- 12 British Special Stamps
 - 45. British Birds, 1966
- 13 New Philatelic Sales Counter
 - New Stamp Book Covers
 - GB Decimal Stamp Book Study Circle
 - Special Covers
- 14 Posting Boxes
 - Letters to the Editor
- 15 Special Handstamps
 - Postmark Slogans

It is most certainly unseasonal to mention Christmas at a time when most people are taking their summer holidays but we are able to announce that this year's Christmas stamps will feature carol singing. More details later.

Maximum Cards

In future maximum cards will be accepted for postmarking on the first day of issue of the relative postage stamp at the Philatelic Bureau, Edinburgh; all offices authorised to use 'first day of issue' postmarks and at any office at which a privately sponsored handstamp is in use of a first day of issue.

Forces Covers

RAF Cover C57 commemorates the 25th Anniversary of the Coronation of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and depicts the flight made by 16 Phantoms of RAF Wattisham over Buckingham Palace during the Queen's Birthday Parade on 3 June 1978. The cover bears the 9p Coronation stamp, cancelled on the first day of issue with a BFPS 1953 handstamp. The cover was flown in one of the Phantoms taking part in the Birthday Parade and will be available on or about 1 August 1978 from the Philatelic Project Officer, RAF Wattisham, Ipswich, Suffolk, at 50p, plus 7p postage.

Plymouth Navy Days Golden Jubilee — 1978

To mark the Golden Jubilee of Plymouth Navy Days 1978, to be held on 26, 27 and 28 August, a special commemorative cover will be available. A 9p Coronation stamp will be affixed and cancelled with a BFPS handstamp, number 2878 (1928-1978) dated 26 August 1978.

The cost is 50p, plus 10p if returned under separate cover. Orders should be sent to: The Philatelic Officer, HMS Drake, HM Naval Base, Devonport, PLYMOUTH PL2 2BG, and cheques and postal orders made payable to: 'The Treasurer, Plymouth Navy Days'.

Editorial

We mentioned recently that we are occasionally able to ask some of our own experts to contribute to the Bulletin. We are delighted to introduce this month the first in a new series by Jean Farrugia, on the Country stamps (which will be remembered by most readers as our Regional issues). Mrs Farrugia, well known as the author of 'The Letter Box' and who gave a paper at this year's Philatelic Congress starts with the Scotland stamps and will continue the series in future Bulletins by discussing the other countries' issues.

LIX The Shakespeare Envelope



Here is one of the most attractive, and rarest, of the many envelopes issued by various societies and publishers during the 1850s for propaganda or commemorative purposes.

This example, one of several rather similar

Shakespeare designs, was used from Saxmundham on 3 April 1852. The names of the designer (possibly 'CWS') whose initials are printed at the foot of the illustration) and publisher are not known.

AG RIGODERIGHI

New Scottish Air Letter

A new air letter, the first of a series of three, commemorating *Scottish Regimental Centenaries*, will be on sale from Wednesday 23 August 1978 at post offices in Scotland, and all philatelic counters in the remainder of the United Kingdom. The cost of the air letter form is 12p of which 10½p is for postage. Designed by Ruari

McLean Associates Ltd with drawings by Ron Stenberg, it depicts the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards, The Royal Highland Fusiliers and The Queen's Own Highlanders, and is printed by McCorquodale Printers Ltd.

Details of the second air letter form in the series will be announced later.

Datapost and Other Post Office Services

P.2733 B Small)

DATAPOST TRANSFER LIST

Transfer At _____	Office Station. _____	Despatching Office Date Stamp 	Receiving Office Date Stamp _____
Actual time of transfer _____ Hrs. _____			
ORIGIN OF BAG(S)	DESTINATION OF BAG(S)	NUMBER OF BAGS	TICKING

Fig 1

While the 1st Class letter service offers an efficient and economical service to the average Post Office customer, the Post Office offers a wide variety of services which are probably unknown to the philatelist but should be recorded for the modern Postal Historian.

Datapost

Started in 1970 this service aims to deliver items the morning after they have been sent throughout the United Kingdom, irrespective of distance. It also operates to and from 11 overseas countries and by using pre-scheduled air flights delivery is made to pre-determined times. The service, run by the Post Office, is aimed at commercial companies who require a speedy and highly reliable service. It is run on a commercial basis and the price of the service is based on a contract arranged with the company concerned.

The main internal network of the system is the TPO, and special Datapost carriages run nightly from Preston-Euston, and Dover-Victoria. Figure 1 shows a Datapost Transfer list cancelled 'NETPO-NIGHT UP'. Other cancellations used:—

GREAT WESTERN TPO-UP
GREAT WESTERN TPO DOWN-2
NORTH WESTERN TPO NT DOWN
MIDLAND TPO-GG SOUTH

UP SPECIAL TPO

EAST ANGLIAN TPO UP

SOUTH WESTERN TPO NIGHT UP

Many Datapost items are carried in special reusable pouches bearing a distinctive Datapost label, but no stamps are used, the service is charged to the customer's Datapost account.

Datapost is linked with similar services in 11 other countries at present, more countries will be joining this year. The inauguration of the Concorde linked Datapost service on 16 January 1978 aids the speed at which items can be sent to New York. A selection of the various labels used for the Concorde flights and other international flights as well as internal labels are shown in figure 2.

The services in other countries linked with Datapost are:—

Argentina	—	Puerta a Puerta
Australia	—	Priority Paid
Belgium	—	Datapost
Brazil	—	Serca
France	—	Postadex
Hong Kong	—	Speedpost
Japan	—	Business Mail
Kuwait	—	Mumtazpost
Netherlands	—	Express Mail
Singapore	—	Speedpost
USA	—	Express Mail



Fig 2



Fig 3

The service will be further extended to other countries with services to West Germany, Switzerland, New Zealand and Canada probably starting this year.

Datapost D

Unlike the Regular Datapost service which is contracted for both collection and delivery of packages there is also an 'On Demand' service for companies requiring intermittent use of Datapost. In this Datapost D service the customer, having previously registered for a once-off initial fee of £10, can hand in items at nominated Post Offices to be sent by the Datapost D system.

A new 'Datapak' — an envelope which will bear a £5 surface printed stamp — will be available to Datapost D users later this year. Details will be announced as soon as they are known.

Nightrider Service

This is an overnight contractual parcel service for next day delivery throughout the Greater London area. The service broadly covers an area between St Albans, Croydon, Egham and Gravesend. Parcels up to 20kg of any size may be posted provided they will fit into a large post office bag.

The service is ideally suited for wholesale to retail distribution where speedy delivery is required. Each company using the system, which is centred on Mount Pleasant, is allocated a contract number which appears on the Nightrider label. Fig 3.

Expresspost

'Fast and Sure Door to Door' that is the new Expresspost service operating in London, Birmingham, Manchester, Liverpool and Leeds. Designed to meet the needs of both the domestic and business user, anyone by simply making a telephone call can quickly and cheaply have a letter or packet collected from their premises and delivered to another part of the town — what is more if it is convenient they just pay the messenger. Arrangements can be made so that people wanting the service on a regular basis can pay by account and do not even have to make the phone call. Expresspost telephone numbers are regularly advertised and can be obtained at any Post Office within the areas of service. Expresspost items are normally collected and delivered within 2-4 hours, depending on distance, and the minimum fee is £1.

Although Expresspost is essentially a local service the centres are linked and offer a wonderful opportunity for urgent items to be collected by midday and delivered in any of the other towns that afternoon. The fee for this service is £6.

Exchange Post

Exchange Post is a document exchange service. At the centres in London, Glasgow, Cardiff and Newcastle there are sets of locked boxes. Local clients can deposit mail in boxes rented by their correspondents and, of course, collect mail deposited in their own private boxes.

A package too large for the bureau box can be handed to the attendant. He places a card in the addressee's box to notify him that an oversize item is being held, and keeps it in complete safety for collection. All for a 2p fee.

The Exchange Post system is totally reliable and secure. During working hours Monday to Friday the bureaux are manned by a responsible member of the Post Office staff who checks the identity of all callers. Everyone using the bureau — messengers and representatives of companies within the scheme — carries a key and a special identity card. Copies of the Exchange Post directory, showing all participating organisations are regularly updated, and given to members.

Book Reviews

'All-up Air Mail'

To commemorate the 40th Anniversary of the Empire Air Mail Scheme, John Field has produced a pamphlet. He has drawn heavily on D O Lumley's lecture on the Development of Air Mail to the Institute of Transport in 1938.

Mr Field traces the development of air mails between 1919-35 when they were subject to a surcharge and continues into 1936-38, the start of the 'All-up' period.

There are many black and white illustrations together with maps and graphs.

'All-up Air Mail' by John C W Field is available from Francis J Field Ltd, Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands B73 6BJ, price £2 inclusive of postage and packing.

Postage Prepaid Military Datestamps 1941-7

The National Philatelic Society has published a comprehensive listing of datestamps used by British and Dominion Forces in Egypt during and just after the Second World War.

The book is an important reference work and will be welcomed by students of 20th century postal history.

'Egypt Postage Prepaid Military Datestamps 1941-7' by F W Benians is available from the National Philatelic Society, 1 Whitehall Place, London SW1A 2HE, price £5 plus 40p postage.

The Country Definitive Issues of 1958

The Scottish Country Definitives of 1958

Formation of Scottish Advisory Committee

Following HM The Queen's approval in July 1956 of the issue, in three values, of a new special definitive series of stamps for Scotland, an *ad hoc* advisory committee for Scotland was formed in October.

Represented on the new committee, under the chairmanship of the Lord Lyon King of Arms, were bodies such as the Royal Scottish Academy, the Royal Fine Art Commission for Scotland, the Edinburgh College of Art, and the Historiographer Royal for Scotland.

At its first meeting, on 24 October, the committee agreed that about twelve artists should be invited to submit 'rough', or preliminary designs for the new issue.

When it met on 5 November, the committee drew up a list of the artists whom they felt should be invited to submit designs. They also agreed a list of Scottish symbols for the guidance of the artists. Heraldic symbols suggested by the committee included a Crowned Thistle, HM The Queen's Royal Badge for Scotland (featuring the Scottish Crown); a Saltire; a Lion Rampant (ie in a climbing position) in a tressured shield, HM The Queen's Scottish ensign of public authority; a Sejant (ie sitting) Lion on or off crown, or part of him holding both sword and sceptre; a Unicorn crowned, who might be collared and chained; and any or all of the Honours of Scotland (eg the Crown, sword and sceptre, and cushion if desired). Also included in the list were a flower symbol in the form of the Thistle, the Scottish national emblem; and any Pictish or Celtic symbols or design — perhaps to form a border, or background design. In their instructions the artists were to be reminded, too, that the foregoing heraldic symbols had, for centuries, identified Scotland at home and abroad, and were the only means by which the Scottish character of stamps could be officially and legally adopted; and that since the symbols in the borders of the stamps were to be the sole features indicating their Scottish connection their choice and treatment were of paramount importance. To emphasise the Scottish character of the

stamps, however, all figures and lettering might be drawn in 16th to 18th century lettering.

The artists invited to submit preliminary designs were all from Scotland, and the invitations were sent out on 12 December. Each artist was invited to submit three or even more designs but these had to be submitted by 31 January 1957, the closing date for the competition.

By the close of the competition forty-seven designs had been submitted and at its third meeting, on 25 February, the committee selected seven for bringing to completion; but with several modifications suggested by the committee.

This first shortlist included preliminary versions of the three designs which were eventually adopted: designs by Gordon F Huntley (fig 1) and J B Fleming (fig 2), both of the Glasgow School of Art, and by A B Imrie of the Edinburgh College of Art (fig 3). The other four were another design by J B Fleming (fig 4) and designs by William McLaren (fig 5), George Mackie of Gray's School of Art, Aberdeen (fig 6) and Mrs Elizabeth Odling (fig 7). At this stage the designs in figs 2, 1 and 7 were considered possible choices for the 2½d (later 3d), 4d (later 6d) and 1/3d values, respectively.

Essaying of shortlisted designs

On 7 October the Committee studied the seven completed designs and proposed that colour essays should be produced for four of them. These were William McLaren's design (fig 5), now considered suitable for the 3d value; Gordon F Huntley's design (fig 1), still considered suitable — but with some modification — for the 6d value, A B Imrie's design (fig 3) for the 1/3d value, and J B Fleming's design (fig 2) to serve as the reserve choice. As a further reserve the committee also selected the design by George Mackie (fig 6), but it felt that, at that stage, this need not be essayed.

The final selection

The essays subsequently produced were considered by the committee on 10 December, and on seeing these it modified its earlier selection



Fig 1



Fig 2



Fig 3



Fig 4



Fig 5



Fig 6



Fig 7



Fig 8

for the 3d and 6d values. It now favoured Gordon F Huntley's design (fig 1) for the 3d stamp and the former reserve design, J B Fleming's design (fig 2) for the 6d stamp. But its earlier choice of A B Imrie's design (fig 3) for the 1/3d stamp remained unaltered — the committee declaring that it still considered this to be 'the most demonstrably Scottish design, particularly for overseas, and the most important and effective Scottish stamp in the series'. William McLaren's design (fig 5), considered earlier for the 3d value, was now recommended as the reserve choice.

By early January 1958 further essays, reflecting the committee's final selection, had been produced and these were considered by the committee on 7 February, at what was to prove their final meeting. At this it confirmed its unanimous approval of the selected designs and suggested, too, that when these were laid before the Queen, the Postmaster General might wish to make the point that the committee felt that all three, and particularly those for the 3d and 1/3d values, were immediately and strikingly recognisable as Scottish; and that it felt, too, that from the nature of their detail, they would be sure to appeal to Scottish people, both at home and overseas.

The committee's final selection for each of the three values was submitted to the Queen on 17 April and, in putting them forward for the Queen's approval, the Postmaster General, acting upon the committee's wishes, stressed the 'Scottishness' of the committee's choice. Confirmation of Her Majesty's approval of the committee's choice was sent from Windsor Castle on 19 April.

And so this new definitive series of stamps — the first to be specially produced for Scotland — was issued on 18 August 1958 (the 3d values) and 29 September 1958 (the 6d and 1/3d values).

The portrait of the Queen used in all three values was that by Dorothy Wilding.

Featured in the design of the 3d value were two versions of Scottish national badges. One, the Saltire (St Andrew's Cross) encircled by a Crown (Her Majesty's Saltire Badge). This, the statutory (1385) identity badge of Scotland, was shown in the special form 'environed of an open Crown' used prior to the reign of James V; in this form the Saltire is found as a Royal Badge and connected with the Order of the Thistle. The other national badge featured in the design of this stamp was the Crowned Thistle (Her Majesty's Royal Badge for Scotland). The Crown



Fig 9



Fig 10

depicted was a version of the Crown of Scotland, showing the slightly dipped top seen in this Crown at certain periods in the 17th century. The designer of this value, Gordon F Huntley had studied at the Glasgow School of Art. He later became a Newbery Medalist, a Bellahouston Scholar and an elected member of the Society of Industrial Arts. At the time of designing this stamp he was on the teaching staff of the Glasgow School of Art.

The 6d value featured in its design strongly conventionalised Thistles of Scotland — Scotland's national plant symbol. The designer of the stamp, John B Fleming, had been awarded the Diploma in Mural Painting at the Glasgow School of Art, later becoming engaged on design

work for interior decoration. At the time of designing the stamp he was a free-lance illustrator and cartoonist for the Glasgow Herald and Scottish Field, a member of the Society of Industrial Artists and the Society of Scottish Artists and was also on the staff of the Glasgow School of Art, teaching design.

Featured in the design of the 1/3d value were two crowned and collared Unicorns. One supported a flag showing a Lion Rampant (Her Majesty's Scottish Ensign) and the other supported a flag showing St Andrew's Cross. The flag tassels were in the form of thistles. The stamp's designer, A B Imrie, had studied at the Edinburgh College of Art and had won the Royal Scottish Academy Travelling Scholarship for Drawing and Painting, studying in France, Italy and Spain. He later became a free lance designer specialising in printed design — his designs including symbols and publicity for the Scottish Council of Industrial Design, publicity and souvenir booklets for the Edinburgh International Festival and decorative maps and exhibition design. At the time of designing the stamp he was specialising in portrait painting and was on the teaching staff of the Edinburgh College of Art.

JEAN FARRUGIA



Fig 11

Illustrations

Fig 1 Gordon F Huntley's adopted design for the 3d value

Fig 2 J B Fleming's adopted design for the 6d value

Fig 3 A B Imrie's adopted design for the 1/3d value

Fig 4 Another (shortlisted) design by J B Fleming

Fig 5 A design by William McLaren, considered at one stage for the 3d value

Fig 6 A shortlisted design by George Mackie

Fig 7 A shortlisted design by Elizabeth Odling, considered at an early stage for the 1/3d value

Fig 8 Essay of William McLaren's design

Fig 9 An unaccepted design by Stuart Barne

Fig 10 An unaccepted design by G T McKenna

Fig 11 The issued stamps

Stamps for Pleasure

15. The Sports Theme

Here is a subject with universal appeal and with enough British stamps to form the nucleus of a small collection, bearing in mind that, once completed, it can be augmented to any desirable extent by appropriate stamps from other countries. Athletics, which include running, jumping and 'field events', are adequately represented by the stamps issued for the Olympic Games and the British (Empire and) Commonwealth Games, while the important ball games of football, rugby football, cricket and the racket sports are also featured. We can include sailing and swimming, and hopefully anticipate future stamps for boxing, fencing, golf, hockey, rowing, wrestling and other pastimes such as horse-racing and the winter sports.

The stamps can be suitably arranged in order of issue, and I am again quoting Gibbons Catalogue numbers (in brackets) for easy reference. And, as previously stated, your own personal contribution of photographs or sketches of events and emblems can do nothing but enhance the album page.

The Olympic Games of 1948 now have almost historic interest — it was 30 years ago! They were held at Wembley in north-west London, and the four GB commemoratives were issued on the opening day — 29 July. The designs (495/8) were symbolic, two of them — 2½d laurel wreath encircling the globe, and 1s winged victory — harking back to the classic Games. All featured the head of King George VI and the Olympic 'rings' emblem, representing the five continents.

This 14th Olympiad was noteworthy for the presence of several Olympic 'stars' — the Dutch runner, Fanny Blankers-Koen, who 'walked away' with four gold medals, Emil Zatopek of Czechoslovakia, and Jesse Owens, the American Negro runner whose supremacy in the Berlin Games of 1936 so infuriated Hitler. All these athletes are depicted or represented on the stamps of other countries — a little detective work will track them down!

The Sixth British Empire and Commonwealth Games took place at Cardiff during the summer of 1958, and the three stamps for the event (567/9) appeared on 18 July. They all featured a

rather large and athletic Welsh dragon, together with the 'stock' portrait of the Queen — symbolic designs which, like the foregoing Olympics, convey little of the sporting and competitive nature of the event. The first British Empire Games were held at Hamilton, Ontario, in 1930.

The stamps for the Ninth British Commonwealth Games (832/4), which took place in Edinburgh, were issued on 15 July 1970, and the designs, based on a succession of cine-film images (and thus seemingly blurred), featured running, swimming and cycling with the small contemporary profile of the Queen looking on at these events. A point worth mentioning in your writing-up is that the stamps were lithograph-printed by De La Rue — the 'Delacryl' process — for a second time: the first was the Post Office Technology issue of 1969. First day covers and pictorial postmarks will enhance your collection, also the presentation pack for the Ninth Games. Unfortunately (for your pocket) the FDC for the Sixth Games has become a very expensive item!

With suitable adornment and writing-up, we can now devote a page each to football (and rugger), cricket, sailing and the racket games. Following the three soccer stamps (693/5) issued on 1 June 1966 for the World Cup Football Competition, there was a bonus in the form of a special 4d stamp to celebrate England's victory over West Germany at Wembley. The stamp (700) was a modified version of the 4d previously issued in the World Cup series, and was simply inscribed 'ENGLAND WINNERS'.

The Rugby Football Union 9p centenary stamp (889) showed players in action — with a round ball — and was based on a famous painting by W B Wollen. The red rose, inset, is the symbol of the English international team, and the stamp was one of the three 'Anniversaries' stamps issued on 25 August 1971. The game is said to have originated in a soccer match at Rugby School in 1823, when William Webb Ellis, 'with fine disregard for the rules', picked up the ball and ran with it. The Rugby Union was formed in 1871. South Africa issued two rugger stamps in 1964, one depicting the 'Springbok' badge of the SA Rugby Board.

The portly, bearded figure of Dr William Gilbert Grace, England's renowned cricketer, filled the three stamps (928/30) issued on 16 May for the centenary of County Cricket. The designs were taken from a series of 100 sketches of W G Grace drawn by Harry Furniss, and published by Arrowsmith in the book *How's That!* 'W G' was born near Bristol in 1848, played first-class cricket for 36 years, mainly for Gloucestershire and England, scored over 54,000 runs and took more than 2,800 wickets. He died in 1915.

The colourful 'Sailing' stamps, issued on 11 June 1975 (980/3), featured sailing dinghies, racing keel boats, cruising yachts and multihull craft, the second of these being almost swamped by an enormous, striped spinnaker. Sailing — a sport encouraged by Charles II — occasioned a number of anniversaries in 1975, including the Royal Thames Yacht Club's 200th and the Royal

Yachting Association's centenary. Other clubs celebrated centenaries, and 75th, 50th and 25th anniversaries. The stamps were unusually printed — by combined recess and photogravure on the 'Jumelle' press.

Lawn tennis, table tennis, squash and badminton were shown on the four stamps (1022/5) issued on 12 January 1977. 'Modern' tennis dates from 1874, and the new stamp marked the centenary of the Wimbledon Championships, first held in 1877, the British Lawn Tennis Association being formed in 1888. Table tennis (or 'ping-pong') originated around 1885, while squash was first played by the boys of Harrow School in the 1850s. Badminton was originally played at Badminton House, seat of the Duke of Beaufort in Gloucestershire in the 1870s. The Badminton Association was formed in 1893.

JAMES WATSON

Princess Anne at the Tate Gallery



HRH Princess Anne receiving from Mr Denis Roberts, Managing Director, Posts, a Welsh Pony for the Riding for the Disabled Association of which she is Patron.

The Princess had just opened an Exhibition of the Horses stamps at London's Tate Gallery.

British Special Stamps

45. British Birds, 1966

These attractive stamps represented the Post Office's second venture into the 'pictorial' field — like the previous 'Landscapes' issued earlier in the year, the 'Birds' had no especial links with any particular event or anniversary.

The four stamps, each in the 4d denomination, showed four indigenous and familiar birds — black-headed gull, blue tit, robin and blackbird — and they were designed by John Norris Wood, a well-known wildlife conservationist, artist and illustrator. For the first time on British stamps, these were printed in eight colours in two printing runs through the press, and they were produced and issued in *se-tenant* blocks of four within the sheet, following the precedent created by the 'Battle of Britain' issue of 1965. They were issued on 8 August 1966.

Only two of the birds, the blue tit (*Parus caeruleus*), seen hanging on a branch in its typical inverted position, and the robin (*Erithacus rubecula*), wings akimbo, were accorded the full multicolour treatment — the black-headed gull (*Larus ridibundus*), a small, lively creature frequently seen inland, and the 'common or garden' blackbird (*Turdus merula*), hardly merited the luxury of eight printing cylinders! They were printed on stark white backgrounds, with the familiar cameo portrait of the Queen placed on right-hand panels of a neutral grey colour, with the face values in large clear type below. The artist's and printers' imprints appeared at the foot of the stamps.

John Norris Wood was educated at Bryanston School, Blandford, Dorset, and studied art under Clive Gardiner at Goldsmiths' College. A silver medallist of the Royal College of Art, he teaches drawing and illustration, is passionately interested in wildlife conservation and lectures on the subject, having drawn and filmed wildlife in the United States as well as in this country. He has illustrated numerous natural history books and maintains a varied collection of animals. Essays for the stamps were also contributed by Michael Goaman, Harrison and Sons, and Peter Barrett.

The stamps were photogravure-printed by Harrison and Sons in sheets of 120 (6 × 20) on



ordinary and phosphor-banded paper, watermark multiple crowns. There were numerous 'colours omitted' varieties on all four stamps (recorded in detail in Gibbons' *Specialised Catalogue*, Vol 3), perhaps the most startling being the black-headed gull with black, including the value, blue and bistre missing (neatly decapitating the gull), or black (only) omitted in another instance, and the blackbird minus the black! These occurred on the normal-paper stamps, and there were fewer missing colours on the phosphor-banded issues. All the stamps, ordinary and phosphor, are known with inverted watermarks.

Quantities sold (phosphor in brackets) were: 88,047,742 (14,613,120), presentation packs, 42,888. Some of the stamps were released prematurely in Cheshire and elsewhere during July 1966.

JAMES WATSON

Special Handstamps

Offices at which special handstamps are applied to collectors covers during normal operational times but not on first days of issue.

The handstamps depict a subject peculiar to each locality

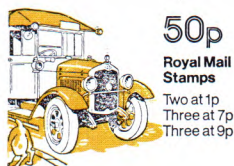
Windsor, Berks
National Postal Museum
London Chief Office
Trafalgar Square
Cardiff
Belfast
Edinburgh
London (Heathrow) Airport

The Castle
Maltese Cross
Rowland Hill
Nelson
Dragon
Mobile Crane
Castle
An Aircraft

New Stamp Book Covers



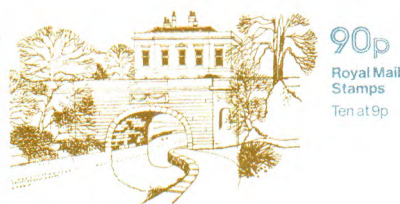
10p
Royal Mail
Stamps
Two at 5p
Two at 1p
One at 7p



50p
Royal Mail
Stamps
Two at 1p
Three at 7p
Three at 9p



70p
Royal Mail
Stamps
Ten at 7p



90p
Royal Mail
Stamps
Ten at 9p

Our illustrations show the four new stamp books, values 10p, 50p, 70p, 90p, issued on 9 August 1978

New Philatelic Sales Counter

Two new philatelic sales counters are being introduced on a trial basis at: Cambridge, 9-11 St Andrews Street, CB1 1AA, and Norwich, Bank Plain, NR2 4AA.

The York philatelic sales counter at 22 Lendal, YO1 1AA, is now a permanent philatelic counter.

Special Covers

Salvation Army Congress

To commemorate the recent Salvation Army International Congress held at Wembley, a specially designed philatelic cover was produced. It features the Congress trumpeter and the SA crest together with the slogan, 'Meeting a need in 82 countries'. The cover bears the 9p Coronation stamp cancelled with a special handstamp inscribed, 'The Salvation Army — International Congress Wembley', and is dated 30 June 1978 — the first day of the Congress. The cost is 40p which includes return postage and packing. Orders with remittance should be sent to Major K Daws, The Salvation Army, International Headquarters, 101 Queen Victoria Street, LONDON EC4P 4EP.

Sister Dora Fund

On 16 September 1978, the Sister Dora Fund, Manor Hospital, Walsall, is issuing an Embossed Blue and White Envelope and a Special Handstamp commemorating the 100th year of the death of Sister Dora. The envelope will carry a philatelic card with information about her work. The cover holds a full set of Coronation Commemorative Stamps and will be posted from a special posting box at the Hospital. The cost of each cover is £1. Any profits will go to the Sister Dora Fund for work in hospitals.

Remittance should be sent to: Mr A Highfield, Sister Dora Fund, Manor Hospital, Moat Road, Walsall, West Midlands WS2 9PS.

GB Decimal Stamp Book Study Circle

The AGM of The Great Britain Decimal Stamp Book Study Circle will be held on Saturday 14 October 1978 at: The Victory Services Club, 63-79 Seymour Street, LONDON W2 (Near Marble Arch).

The meeting will start at 10.00 am. For further information of the Circle's activities please contact: Mr J F A Spiteri, 18 Henlow Close, TIPTON, West Midlands DY4 8BE.

Posting Boxes



No. 2: *The introduction of roadside letter boxes into the Channel Islands in 1852 was immediately regarded as a great success and in 1853 similar boxes began to appear on the mainland. One of the first of these was the box shown here which is still in use at Barnes Cross, near Bishops Caundle, Dorset. It was made by John M Butt & Company of Gloucester and bears his name in the panels each side of the posting aperture. Butt's boxes differed from the Channel Islands experimental ones in that they were octagonal instead of hexagonal and had a vertical instead of horizontal posting aperture.*

Letters to the Editor

Sir,
Some of your correspondents have queried my description of the 1953 Coronation Air Letter (see Philatelic Bulletin Vol 15 No 10 June 1978

p4) as 'Britain's first commemorative Air Letter', and have referred to the air letter bearing a 6d Olympic Games stamp issued on 28 July 1948 (Huggins A P9).

Well, I suppose that that air letter — which except for the special stamp was identical with the ordinary 6d Air Letter in use since 1943 — *could* be considered as a utility attempt at a 'commemorative' air letter but I still feel that it was the specially designed 1953 cover which really started the long series of official commemorative Air Letters.

A G RIGO DE RIGHI

Dear Sir,
Re Mr William Hill's letter in the January 1978 Issue Volume 15 Number 5.

He can know nothing of cycles or cycling, for they are of national and international importance and they are largely and particularly a British contribution to our modern way of travel and life in general.

These stamps not only commemorate the 'CTC' and 'BCF' Centenaries, but also that of the first chain driven bicycle by James Starley — 'The Father of the Bicycle'.

Among other things that the bicycle has handed down to us are:—

- 1 The pneumatic tyre
- 2 Ball bearings
- 3 Wire wheels
- 4 The differential drive, gear, and free wheeling mechanisms
- 5 Chain drive
- 6 Shaft drive
- 7 Variable speed gears
- 8 Cable brakes and controls
- 9 Steel tube construction

Many early motor car manufacturers started out as cycle engineers, including the Wright Brothers, who turned their skills to aircraft.

Without their forerunner — the bicycle — modern cars and planes would have had a much harder struggle to be born.

This 'flimsy' contraption of tubes, wire and rubber, can carry a fit man over 500 miles in 24 hours, and an unfit one for a gentle ride for an afternoon in the country.

Yours faithfully
 Hillman Leslie C Chapman
 Western Australia Life Member of the CTC

The postcard illustrated indicates how very well-known General Booth had become – for it is incorrectly addressed to 101 Victoria Street (it should have been 101 Queen Victoria Street), there is no mention of the Salvation Army; and yet the postal authorities did not evidently find it necessary to correct the address before delivery. What is more, it did not even suffer any delay, for it is postmarked 10.30 pm 5 March and stamped on receipt by the Army at 9 am 6 March.

Hallelujah!

Yours faithfully

Ealing, London Marjorie O Kimberley

Unless otherwise stated, items for reposting should bear $\frac{1}{2}p$ in excess of the normal postage and should be sent to the Head Postmaster of the town where the special posting box is located or the relevant District Postmaster in London marking the outer cover 'Special Handstamp'.

11 August 1978 (P/C)
**Ampleforth 78 S.A. Scout and Guide
 Jamboree 11 Aug 78 York.** Special posting
 box at Redcar House, Gilling, East York
 YO6 4JA.

17 August 1978 (P/R)
**75th Anniversary Helston — The Lizard
 Bus Service 17 August 1978 Helston
 Cornwall.** Special posting box at Helston
 Post Office, Helston, Cornwall.

17 August-9 September 1978 (P/R)
Military Tattoo Edinburgh. Special
 posting boxes sited at Tattoo Office, 1 Cock-
 burn Street, Edinburgh EH1 1BP, and 9
 Cockburn Street, Edinburgh EH1 1BP.

21-25 August 1978 (P/R)
UISPTT International Tennis Championships Bournemouth. Special
 posting box at West Hands Lawn Tennis
 Club, Roslin Road South, Bournemouth
 BH3 7EF.

Unless otherwise stated, items for reposting bearing the appropriate postage rate should be forwarded to the Head Postmaster of the town where the slogan is to be used marking the outer cover 'Postmark Slogan'.

14 June 1978 UFN
London WC District has a Mechanised Letter Office Please Use Postcodes. To be used at WCDO.

10 July-5 August 1978
Travelcard Big Value Worthing. To be
 used at Worthing. 1st and 2nd class.

10 July 1978 UFN
**Cambridge has a Mechanised Letter Of-
 fice Please Use the Postcode.** To be used
 at Cambridge. 1st and 2nd class.

31 July 1978-15 February 1979 (P)
Be Wise Litterwise. To be used at Leeds.
 2nd class.

P denotes Pictorial
R denotes Rectangular
C denotes Circular

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