

Philatelic Bulletin



Volume 6: Number 5 January 1969

5d



RMS Queen Elizabeth 2

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Introduction

Our thanks for all the kind things you have said about the new coloured issue of the *Bulletin*. We are now able to show coloured reproductions of our stamps so that our readers can see what to expect before the day of issue and hope that by printing illustrations of such things as presentation packs we can encourage more people to buy them!

This month sees the first transatlantic voyage of the *Queen Elizabeth 2* and to mark this historic event our cover shows the stamp on which she appears and our ‘background information’ article gives details of the two famous Cunarders. In addition we are providing a display of David Gentleman’s original designs on the *Queen Elizabeth 2* and passengers will be able to purchase presentation packs of the stamps.

The new high value definitive stamps which were due to have been issued on 9 September 1968 will now be put on sale on 5 March 1969.

The first day cover services will operate under the following conditions.

For this issue the complete range of stamps 2s 6d, 5s, 10s and £1 any single or combination of stamps may be used or requested on the covers which will be cancelled by the Bureau or Windsor handstamps.

The charges are:

Service A Stamps to the total value of 10s or more – cost of stamps + 6d envelope charge.

Stamps to the total value of under 10s – cost of stamps + 3s service and envelope charge.

Service B Stamps to the total value of 10s or more – cost of stamps only.

Stamps to the total value of under 10s – cost of stamps + 1s service charge.

Service C Stamps to the total value of 10s or more – cost of stamps + 6d (or discount rate for envelopes).

Stamps to the total value of under 10s – cost of stamps + 6d (or discount rate) + 1s service charge.

The usual philatelic posting boxes will be opened for the use of collectors who wish to arrange for their own covers.

Regional 4d Stamps – Change of Colour

Following the recent change in the colour of the 4d definitive stamps we are bringing the 4d regional stamps into line by issuing them in the new scarlet colour on 19 February 1969.

There will be no first day cover services for these stamps.

British Ships

Mauretania

Perhaps one of the most famous and best loved North Atlantic liners of the early half of this century was the Cunard Royal Mail Steamship *Mauretania*. She was built by Swan Hunter and Wigham Richardson at Wallsend-on-Tyne, setting off on her maiden voyage from Liverpool to New York on 16 November 1907 and was one of the largest steamships to be built at this time with a gross tonnage of 31,938, a length of 790 ft and a beam of 88 ft. She carried 560 first class passengers in what was luxurious accommodation for that period, 475 second class and 1,300 third class. Her crew numbered 812.

On her outward journey to New York she accomplished the voyage in 5 days, 5 hours, 10 minutes at an average speed of 22 knots, and on her return to Liverpool, on which she set out on 3 November 1907, completed the trip to Queenstown in 4 days, 22 hours, 29 minutes at an even higher average to break all existing records. For over twenty-two years the *Mauretania* reigned undisputed speed queen of the North Atlantic and each time she crossed her speed seemed to improve until she made her best pre-Great War average in September 1910 at 26.06 knots.

During the 1914–18 war the *Mauretania* served alternatively as a troopship and a hospital ship carrying in all nearly 70,000 troops and 8,655 wounded and medical staff until she was released by the Admiralty in 1919 to take her place once again on the Cunard North Atlantic service. During this post-war period she achieved further speed records, culminating in 1929 when in reply to the German liner *Bremen*'s record trip made the homeward voyage from the Ambrose Channel Lightvessel (New York) to the Eddystone Light (Plymouth) in 4 days, 17 hours, 50 minutes at an average speed of 27.22 knots which was a wonderful performance for a vessel twenty-two years old. In all she made 350 crossings of the Atlantic, her final being on 26 September 1934 – by a curious coincidence the date her successor, the *Queen Mary*, was launched on Clydebank.

On 1 July 1935, hundreds of onlookers at Southampton sadly sang Auld Lang Syne as she slowly departed on her last voyage to be broken up at Rosyth. The measure of what people felt about her is shown by the fact that a fifteen-foot model of the *Mauretania* was later unveiled in Winchester Cathedral.

Queen Elizabeth 2

In October 1961, the Cunard Steamship Company realised that the highly successful Queen liners that were coming to the end of their useful life could not be repeated on the North Atlantic run as the need for an all-the-year-round weekly Atlantic service had gone. They therefore decided on a new ship that would be dual-purpose in the fullest sense and later placed a contract with the famous shipbuilding yard of John Brown.

The result is the 65,000 ton *Queen Elizabeth 2* which is literally the first ship of her kind and size the world has seen, conceived from the start to capture the cream of the North Atlantic traffic from both sides of the ocean in the season and the international cruise market in the winter. Her length is 963 ft and her beam 105 ft which makes her the largest passenger liner able to sail round the world via the Panama and Suez Canals.

This new Cunarder, that was launched by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth on 20 September 1967, is also the most carefully planned ship ever built and is entirely without gimmicks. Nothing about her is stereotyped yet no feature has been incorporated into her design for which there is not a sound practical reason. One of the most attractive features of the public room layout is that her restaurants are high up in the ship's superstructure and not, as is usual, buried well down in the hull.

Basically the *Queen Elizabeth 2* is a ship without classes. Passengers are able to walk from one end of the ship to the other irrespective of the fare they have paid for their cabin except for one deck of public rooms reserved for those who pay a premium fare. No other liner afloat gives her passengers anything like

1969 Stamp Programme

the amount of daylight in their quarters. The majority are accommodated in outside rooms that each have a private toilet plus a shower or bath.

The boilers are the largest power units of any passenger ship each producing 310,000 lb of steam per hour at maximum output to feed her two main turbines that develop 55,000 horsepower.

Announcing the Opening of the National Postal Museum

We are pleased to announce that the opening ceremony of the much enlarged National Postal Museum will take place on 19 February 1969. Full details including the date when the public will be admitted will appear in the February issue of the *Bulletin*.

The work of arranging the Museum's inaugural exhibitions is well in hand and we are confident that the displays will afford pleasure and interest to stamp enthusiasts of all ages and that the Museum will become a unique centre for scholarship.

The new galleries have been contrived so as to afford an intimate environment in which the Museum's treasures can be enjoyed as in a private study. We may, or may not, be showing more stamps than anywhere else in the world but we do believe that the accessibility of the collections, their arrangement and setting is unequalled.

Details of the 1969 special stamps were recently announced by the Postmaster General, the Rt. Hon. John Stonehouse, M.P. The programme which includes 'strips' and 'blocks' will be popular with many philatelists.

The dates of issue, number and values are:

British Ships 15 January

One stamp at 5d (*Queen Elizabeth 2*)

Strip of 3 different 9d stamps (*Elizabethan Galleon, East Indiaman, Cutty Sark*)

Strip of 2 different 1s stamps (*Great Britain, Mauretania*)

Notable Anniversaries 2 April

50th Anniversary of the first non-stop transatlantic flight by Alcock and Brown, 5d

10th Anniversary of the Conference of European Postal and Telecommunications Administrations (CEPT) 9d

50th Anniversary of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) 1s

20th Anniversary of the Signing of the North Atlantic Treaty (NATO), 1s 6d

50th Anniversary of the first flight to Australia (Ross and Keith Smith) 1s 9d

British Architecture 28 May

Illustrating old and modern British Cathedrals

Block of 4 different stamps at 5d

One stamp at 9d

One stamp at 1s 6d

Prince of Wales Investiture 1 July

Strip of 3 different stamps at 5d

One stamp at 9d

One stamp at 1s

Post Office History and Activities

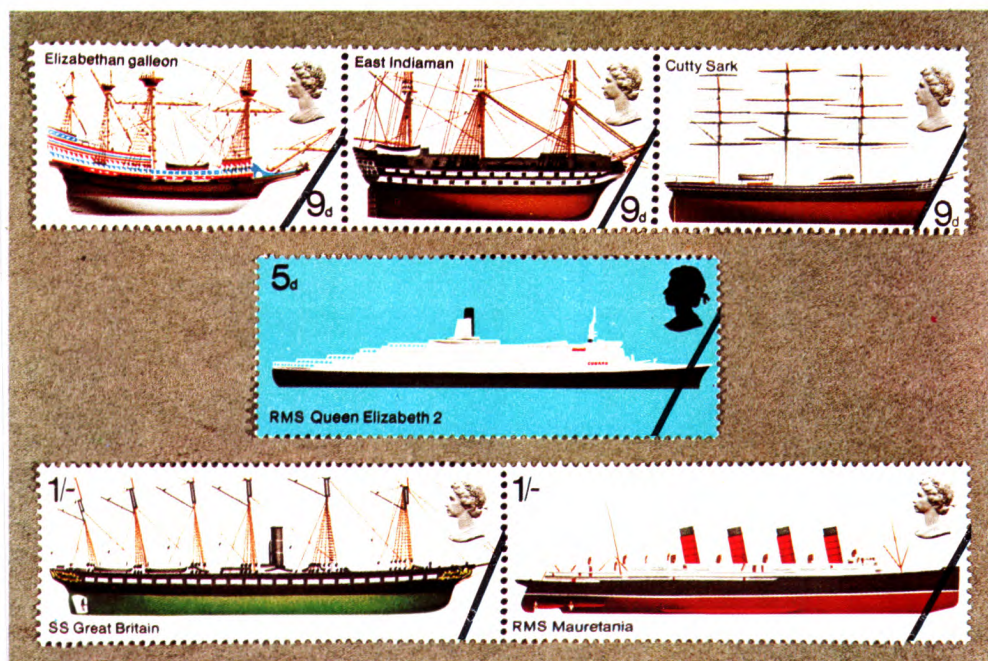
1 October

5d, 9d, 1s and 1s 6d

Christmas Stamps issue date to be announced later

5d, 9d and 1s 6d

British Ships Stamps



This very attractive set of six stamps is to be issued on 15 January 1969. The 5d shown here is the *Queen Elizabeth 2*, the three 9d represents an Elizabethan galleon, an East Indiaman and the *Cutty Sark* while the two 1s stamps show the *Mauretania* and the *Great Britain*.

The phosphor lines on the stamps appear as follows :

5d One horizontal bar

9d Two vertical phosphor bars – one on each side of the stamp

1s Two vertical bars on the right half of the stamp.

The normal rule that first day covers posted in philatelic boxes should bear the full range of new stamps will not be applied on this occasion. An additional box will be available from this issue at Caernarvon.

National Postal Museum Notes

Some Stamp Consequentials

The social, industrial and commercial needs of Victorian England demanded a cheap and reliable postal service and the introduction of the postal reforms of 1840 enabled the Post Office to meet that need. The prepayment of postage by means of 'the adhesive label' we know as a postage stamp and the sale of prepaid postal stationery were means to this end. Important as these prepayment of postage devices were one should not lose sight of the fact that the Postal Reforms of 1840 embodied for the first time a tariff based on the weight of letters – a letter weighing $\frac{1}{2}$ oz went for a penny, 1 oz cost 2d and so on. This tariff based on the weight of

a letter was in itself revolutionary. Until then charges based on the distance a letter was carried were levied on the basis of a single sheet of paper – a two-page letter being charged at double rate. You wrote your letter on one side of the sheet, folded it in half, secured it with a wafer or wax seal, and put the address on the exposed face of the folded letter sheet. There were no envelopes as we know them and there was no incentive to stationers and paper makers to produce them for if they had been made available double postage charges would have been raised on letters enclosed in them.

The new postal tariff based not on the



Stamp boxes from the collection of Mr and Mrs Frank Godden.

number of sheets but on the weight of a communication cleared the way for the invention of envelopes. The first 'envelopes' were a crude device: they were sold flat and had to be folded and gummed by the retailer or purchaser. The Mulready 'envelopes' were of this type. Nevertheless the convenience of this device and the privacy of communication it afforded had obvious advantages. The invention of envelope-making machines led to a greater demand for paper than ever before – on the fringe of the Postal Reforms of 1840 the increased trade envelopes brought to the paper makers involved far greater paper productivity and substantially increased profits to firms willing and able to meet the new market for envelopes. It is interesting to record that Rowland Hill's mechanically minded brother, Edwin Hill, who was employed as Controller of Stamps at Somerset House, was working on a prototype envelope-making machine as early as 1840. His machine, which he subsequently developed in association with the House of Thomas De La Rue the printer, who was to print the first surface printed British Postage stamps of 1855, was patented in 1845. It was shown at the Great Exhibition of 1851, by which time De La Rue's had eleven machines in use. John Dickinson, the paper manufacturer, was at that time De La Rue's chief competitor for the new envelope market. He introduced at Haley Mills, an envelope-making machine based on an invention by Monsieur Rémond, a French Engineer Designer.

By the middle of the 19th century almost everyone was buying stamps, writing paper and envelopes. Stationers promptly began to offer their customers writing table impedimenta to accommodate these everyday necessities. The trade developed into stationery racks and writing compendiums of all kinds made in leather or fine woods. The office equipment trade of today owes its origin, in part, to the Victorian vogue for seemly apportionments on a desk top.

The assessment of postal charges by weight also provided a stimulus to the scale makers.



*Detail of Tunbridge Ware Mosaic stamp box.
Mr and Mrs Frank Godden's collection.*

Many diverse and often attractive letter balances found their way into the shops. Some of them can now be found in antique shops.

Even the souvenir trade benefited from the introduction of postage stamps. Numerous stamp boxes, either of single stamp size, or compartmented to hold stamps of differing denominations, were sold as 'a present from Montreux, Margate or Tunbridge Wells', some of these boxes were made in silver or pinchbeck, but the majority were of wood. Those made in the so-called Tunbridge Ware Mosaic are especially beautiful and today are much sought after. Early examples show the 'penny black' stamp size, in wood mosaic and good ones are almost indistinguishable from the real thing. The modern equivalent is the small leather stamp book cover emblazoned with the Municipal coat of arms.

In many apparently quite unrelated fields of commerce and productivity, trade followed the Postage Stamp – and so it does today!

F. MARCUS ARMAN

Concorde Stamps

In last month's stop press we gave first particulars of the Concorde stamps and promised to give full details this month.

The printing details:

Printer : Harrison and Sons

Paper : Coated unwatermarked phosphor lined

Process : Photogravure

Machines : 4d Sheet fed rotary

9d Sheet fed

1s 6d Sheet fed rotary

Size : 1.6" x .95"

Perforation : 15 x 14

No. to sheet : 120

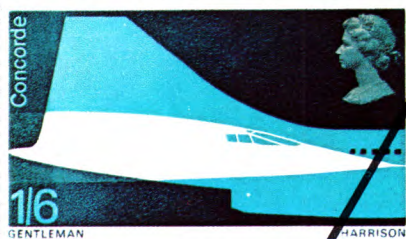
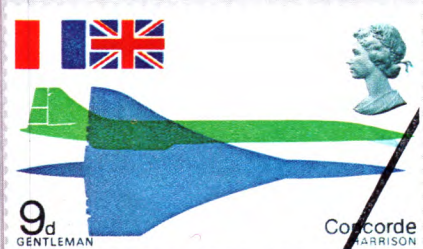
Colours : 4d Blue/green, orange, violet, blue and lime green

9d Red, blue, green, blue/black

1s 6d Light blue.

The presentation pack which is illustrated is available priced 3s 7d each from the Bureau or any of the philatelic posting box offices.





Symbolic Postmark Slogans

One of the more interesting aspects of postmark slogans is the range of symbolism, which they represent. Designs for slogans range from the simple drawings or sketches of scenery to elaborate emblems, with their subtle meanings. It is fascinating to look at the wide range of slogans which have been used and to try and judge their impact as symbolic forms.

There are approximately 2,000 stamp cancelling machines in the United Kingdom, the majority of which can take slogan dies. These machines were first used about 1913. If you consider these points, you will soon realise that there is tremendous scope for the use of symbolic designs on slogan obliterators. In practice, of course, pictorial motifs have only become popular since the second world war. In fact there are some isolated instances of pictorial slogans, which were used between the two world wars. Between 1922 and 1924, a pictorial cancellation advertising the British Empire Exhibition was used throughout London. Despite this, the full potential of postmark slogans, as a means of visual communication, has only been realised in recent years.

It is convenient to adopt a design classification. I think the first design classification can best be described as the 'word symbol'. The cancellation used for the National Productivity Year in 1962 is a good illustration of this. The abbreviated arrangement of the slogan message forms the emblem. To this is added an ingenious upward pointing arrow, no doubt representing the need for increased productivity. The only other design which the writer has seen in a similar vein, is a slogan being used at Beaconsfield, Buckinghamshire, 'Beaconsfield, Beautiful, Bucks'. The letter B would seem to be the crux of the design.

In recent years many local authorities have sponsored their own slogans. This has led to a tremendous growth in the number of different dies which are in use at the same time. Many of their designs which exist directly represent the towns where they are being used. Normally there is a sketch of some part of the town or its

locality. One particularly attractive cancellation was used at Buxton in 1965. The drawing is of the beautiful Crescent, which is one of Buxton's great landmarks. Another example is being used at Tunbridge Wells this year. The illustration is the Pantiles, which as a tourist attraction symbolises the message of the slogan.

A variation on this theme is the design in which the historical aspect is used as a means of communication. The aim is normally to encourage industry or tourists to come to the area. A sketch of an early Stephenson steam engine appeared on a die first used on 24 February 1964. The inference is obviously the link between the Stockton and Darlington railway, opened in 1825, and the industrial nature of the area. The slogan reads 'Stockton-upon-Tees, Sites for Industry, Apply Town Clerk'. A fascinating and possibly rare postmark used at Kelso in 1964 may have historical significance for many philatelists. The design contains a sketch of a fisherman standing by the River Tweed with Kelso Bridge to his left. The most interesting point however is the outline of a Maltese Cross. The Maltese Cross was of course the earliest device known to have cancelled the first adhesive postage stamps of 1840. This particular version of the Maltese Cross was used at Kelso in the years 1842-4, and it is quite distinctive. On a point of interest, the origin of the Maltese Cross postmark is obscure and we are not sure why it was used at all. Because Kelso is only a small office and because the slogan was only in use from 9 March 1964 to 30 April 1964, this postmark is probably one of the more rare machine cancellations in existence. About 25,000 letters got the impression, of which 2,000 were sent in by collectors.

Symbolism on postmark slogans becomes more abstract in the next types of design. There is an important reason for this. The designer of the symbol may want to incorporate various elements of the idea which he is working to. For instance, the idea behind the slogan

for Radio Brighton had two aspects. The theme was the radio station broadcasting out to the closely-knit community. Hence the cyclic pattern of the wave motif.

Many emblems of course are part of our everyday experience. Most people who work in the centre of London will know the motif used by London Transport. Few will know its origin though. When the London General Omnibus Co. was in operation its 'trade mark' was very similar to the one in use today. In fact, the London Transport Board has adopted and modified the symbol used by the company. The slogan die incorporating the symbol was put in the cancelling machines during the anniversary celebrations of the centenary of London Underground between 20 May and 16 June 1963. The Boy Scout Emblem is, of course, world famous. During the Golden Jubilee Jamboree held at Sutton Coldfield in 1957, this emblem was used in fifty machines throughout the country. Letters posted at Sutton Coldfield between 1-12 August also bore a similar postmark. The emblem is represented by the Fleur-de-lis which is of course the northern point of the compass rose. The stars on either side represent the ten laws upon which the Scout Movement is based.

The Post Office itself has sponsored an ingenious design to publicise the use of Postal Coding. This has since appeared in several areas where the system is being introduced. Although at first glance this form may appear to be purely abstract, in effect its meaning is simple; one figure representing the four letters of the word CODE.

Some symbols, although they are well known, are only drawn for a specific event or only represent events which occur once in a while. The Festival of Britain emblem of 1951 is a case in mind. Forty cancelling machines throughout the country were fitted with a slogan for the festival between 2 and 30 April. The probable interpretation of this symbol is the universality of the sovereign United Kingdom and of her links throughout the world.

This comes from the juxtaposition of Britannia's head at the north point of the compass with the flags which link the east, south and west point of the compass. In 1959 and 1960 two international events were the subject of special cancellations. The World Refugee Year had the clutching hand as its symbol of a plea for assistance. Another slogan was used for the World Mental Health Year in the same year. The design although abstract is simple and powerful in its message; 'through the maze of ill health leading upwards to the flower of mental health'.

Some abstract symbols are specially designed as cancellations, although they may portray a national event. Perhaps the most famous slogan ever used on a British cancelling machine was VE day slogan of 8 May 1945. We would add also that it was the most welcome cancellation ever put on a British letter. The sketch was simple, two bells with the victory sign above. From 10 May 1945 to 9 June 1945 it was used at 400 offices. Two and a half years later a postmark nicknamed the 'Lovers Knot' was designed to celebrate the wedding of the then Princess Elizabeth to Philip Mountbatten. Every machine in the country had this postmark. The Post Office ordered 750 dies to be engraved. The dies were in the machines from 20 to 30 November. Moving to more recent times, we have had many specially drawn symbolic slogans in use during the last five years. This is because local authorities are now able to sponsor slogans. To give an example, there is an interesting slogan, which had been used at Middlesbrough in 1963 - Teesside for Industrial Expansion. This slogan is an example of dual symbolism. An outline of Britain is shown within a circle and is so placed as to show Middlesbrough symbolically at the centre of the circle. From the central point radiate three lines, so as to show expansion.

Looking at the different types of design which are now available, it seems that the slogan postmark fan has tremendous scope for his collection.

Postmark Slogans

'Aber '69 Rag Aberystwyth ION CHWEF 26 Jan-2 Feb' will be used at Aberystwyth in the transposed position from 12 January until 2 February.

'Make a Date with Eastbourne Sun Trap of the South' is in use at Eastbourne until 23 February.

'Holiday in Edinburgh' will be used at Edinburgh in the transposed position from 30 December until further notice.

'London Borough of Lewisham Music and Drama Festival Get your Syllabus now' will be re-used at Lewisham from 1 January until 14 March.

'Park at Leisure - Shop in Ripon - Shop with Pleasure' will be re-used at Ripon from 1 December until 30 November 1969.

'Take a Break Head for Whitby Guide Book 1/- PO please' will be used at Whitby in the transposed position from 23 December until further notice.

'Select Sunny Worthing for Homes or Holidays on the warm Sussex Coast' will be in use at Worthing until 2 July 1969.

'Lorna Doone Centenary 1969' will be used at Lynton, Minehead, in the standard position and at Tiverton, Taunton, and Ilfracombe in the transposed position from 1 January until 30 April.

'Southport the all Year Round Resort' will be re-used at Southport from 1 January until further notice.

'Sheppey for Holidays, Homes & Industry - 50 miles from London - Kent's own Sunny Island' previously used at Sheerness will be used transposed at Ilford and Barking from 1 January until 31 December 1969.

'Exmouth Devon Sea Sands Scenery Colour Guide PO 1s Room 16 Information Bureau' will be in continued use at Exmouth until 30 November 1969.

'La Vie Parisienne Shrewsbury Amateur Operatic Society Shrewsbury 17-22 Feb 1969' will be used at Shrewsbury in the transposed position from 28 December until 21 February.

'Bridport West Bay A Holiday with A Difference' will be in continued use at Bridport until 10 November 1969.

'Garrick Jubilee Celebrations 1769-1969 Stratford upon Avon' will be used at Stratford upon Avon in the transposed position from 1 January until further notice.

'York Festival and Mystery Plays June 20th-July 13th 1969' will be used at York in the transposed position from 20 December until 12 January, 26 January until 20 April, 12 to 21 May and 12 to 18 June.

'Chester Cathedral Appeal £300,000 urgently needed' will be used in the transposed position at Chester from 13 January until further notice.

'Brighton and Hove for Brighter Holidays' will be re-used at Brighton from 15 December until further notice.

'Dial Carefully - All figure Telephone Numbers - Dial Correctly' will be used in the transposed position at Glasgow from 1 January 1969 until 17 May 1969.

'Glasgow Students, Charities Appeal MON 3rd-SAT 8th February 1969' will be used at Glasgow SDO in the transposed position from 12 January until 1 February.

'Isle of Man for Holidays FREE Colour Brochure from P.M. Department Tourist Board, Douglas' will be used at Douglas IOM in the transposed position from 30 December until further notice.

'Malton and Pickering Ideal Holiday Centres for the North Yorkshire Moors, Dales and Coast' will be re-used at Malton from 1 February until 31 January 1970.

'Skegness is so Bracing - Lincolnshire's Holiday Playground Guide 1s. Room P.S. Town Hall' will be in use at Skegness from 14 December until July 1969.

'Pick an English Bramley' will be in use from 13 January until 25 January at 49 offices including, Aberdeen, Watford, Windsor, Swansea, Halifax, Chelmsford, Leicester, Bristol and Bolton.

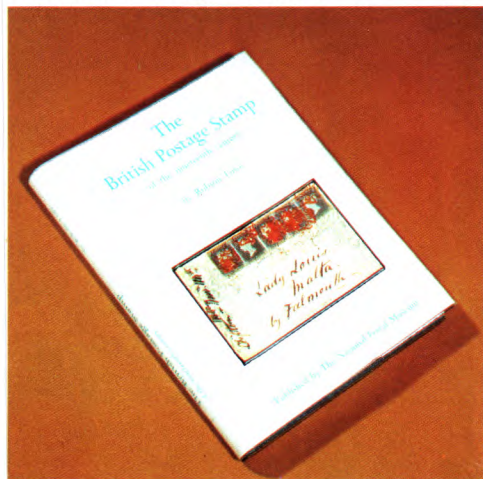
Change of Colour of 4d and 8d Stamps



These are the approximate new colours of the 4d and 8d definitive stamps which were introduced for operational reasons on 2 January 1969.

The British Postage Stamp by Robson Lowe

No doubt many of our readers will have had book tokens as Christmas presents and are unable to decide which book to choose. May we suggest 'The British Postage Stamp of the Nineteenth Century' which has been acclaimed on all sides as an authoritative study of the early days of the postage stamp. The book is available from the Bureau, price 75s post free or from leading bookshops.



Special Handstamps

'Leamington Warwickshire' will be used at Warwick and Leamington Head Office on 15 February 1969 in conjunction with the Warwick and Leamington Philatelic Society Stamp Exhibition. The motif of the rectangular design is a replica of the old 'Leamington Spa 444' spoon type cancellation.

'Abraham Lincoln 160th Birthday 1809-1969 Lincoln Gt. Britain' will be used at Lincoln on 12 February 1969. The design is circular and there is no motif.

'Burnley and District Philatelic Society Silver Jubilee 1944-1969 Burnley Lancs' will be used at Burnley on 19 April 1969. The old type obliterator '150' is shown on the right of the rectangular design.

Items for reposting for these three handstamps should be sent under cover to the Head Postmasters concerned.

'British Forces Postal Services 1075 50th Anniversary Inauguration of Regular Passenger and Cargo Flights London-Hendon-Paris' will be used 10 January 1969. 'Big Ben' is shown on the left of the rectangular handstamp and the Eiffel Tower on the right. Collectors requiring impressions of this handstamp should send items for reposting, under cover, to:

Group Captain W. S. O. Randle
60 Shelveys Way
TADWORTH, Surrey.

'Cutty Sark Stamp Day 15 January 1969 GREENWICH S.E.10' will be used at South East District Office on 15 January 1969. The rectangular design has a motif of 'Nannie the Witch' the figure head of the *Cutty Sark* on the right of the stamp.

Items for reposting should be sent to The District Postmaster, South East District Office, 239 Borough High Street, London SE1.

'Civil Service Philatelic Society 21st Anniversary Exhibition, King Edward Building, London, E.C.1' will be used at East Central District Office from 28 January to 30 January 1969. The circular design has no motif. Items for reposting should be sent under cover to The Controller EC/FS, KEB, London, EC1.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Sir,

In your November issue I read several letters from readers pleading for commemorative stamp issues covering the field in which they were particularly interested or expert. The subjects put forward included locomotives, coats of arms, scientists, postmen and omnibuses. These readers have got to be joking. How could the Post Office conceivably cater for everybody's minority interests.

I myself am profoundly interested in British wallpaper designs past and present and would consider this an admirable subject for philatelic reproduction. At a conservative estimate I would say that there have been 120,000 commercial designs produced since 1925 – what price now the mere ninety omnibus liveries suggested by one of your correspondents – and most of these will never be seen again. We could issue commemorative wallpaper stamps for ever without repeat.

Seriously though I must deplore the current over commercialisation of stamp reproduction in this country and elsewhere which has turned what used to be a pleasurable and interesting hobby into the highly organised, restrictive and artificial business it is today.

Finally could you please give me your estimate of the value of commemorative stamps not used for postal business since the Shakespeare issue.

Yours faithfully,

G. COXON

Diggle, near Oldham, Lancs.

Dear Sir,

I was reading the November *Bulletin* both wondering whether we were not getting too many Pictorials of one kind or another and yet thinking of writing to you to suggest a series of stamps dealing with Angling and depicting fishes, when I read Patricia Moore's letter to you making the same sort of suggestion.

Of all the sports and pastimes fishing is the one which has the greatest number of active participants, e.g. many more go fishing each weekend than play football.

And so I agree with Patricia Moore, 'though is there anything particularly interesting about the industrial side of fishing?'

I would like to see two series of stamps, one a set of three showing angling scenes; fishing with rod and line from a boat at sea, fly fishing for salmon or trout and fishing from a river bank for coarse fish.

Another series, on the British Birds tenant lines, could depict six or even eight common fishes, viz. cod, bass, salmon, pike, roach, perch, chub and carp.

There would be plenty of scope for the use of colour and, anyway, how many postal users and philatelists are anglers?

Yours truly,

PETER ELLIOTT

Wroughton, Swindon, Wilts.

Dear Sir,

I read with interest the various suggestions, some practical and some not so practical, that appear from time to time in the correspondence columns of the *Philatelic Bulletin*.

It is hoped, however, that the Post Office will not adopt a policy of multiple issues as advocated by recent letters.

The suggestion of separate designs for each County caused me some concern but now we have a suggestion of a motor bus in 90 different colour combinations and with possible further extensions.

The cost of producing such issues would be very high – would each sheet have, for example, 90 different designs or would Post Office counter staff have to cope with 90 different sheets for one value.

Might I plead, also, for the poor collector, whose album would explode – if he could afford to buy complete sets.

Should we not consider, also, the youthful collectors – the philatelists of tomorrow – and their very limited resources.

Yours faithfully,

RONALD S. HATFULL

Hyde Lea, Stafford

'Concorde' Covers – Closing Date

Dear Sir,

I should like firstly to say how much I approve of the forthcoming Christmas Issue, it is good to see a set all from one designer, a fact which I am sure many other collectors will appreciate, while I approve of the designs coming from as wide a choice as possible, I feel that the sets at times lose much of their appeal by being different from each other. One of the best sets in recent years is the 'E.F.T.A.' one.

While on the subject I feel sure many readers will agree with me on the subject of the Queen's Cameo, this I feel is an insult to our beautiful Queen who should have a more prominent place on our stamps, the 'Wilding Portrait' is far better than what we have been getting recently.

I should like to see the Queen in a separate panel with the value also, instead of anywhere that seems convenient.

Yours sincerely,

RICHARD F. HALL

Leicester

Dear Sir,

Having just read 'The Loneliest Pillar Box' (October *Bulletin*) I wish to make some corrections. Cranmere Pool is in fact only one and a half miles from the nearest (tarred) road, and though difficult to find, is only a short walk.

Altogether there are five or six, possibly more, boxes of this type on Dartmoor. I know of ones at Fur Tor, Cranmere Pool, Duck's Pool, Bleak House and Crow Tor. Of all these, Cranmere is the least lonely.

When, as sometimes happens, a stamp is stolen, it is replaced, often by private individuals. All the visitors' books are kept, and can be seen at Plymouth Public Library.

Many different stamps have been used, and there are at least four different ones each from Fur Tor, Cranmere Pool and Duck's Pool, which have been used over the years. The stamp of Cranmere shown is now missing, and a rectangular one is in use.

Yours truly,

C. W. BOLT

St Budeaux, Plymouth

For the convenience of collectors who may have experienced difficulty in obtaining envelopes over the Christmas and New Year holiday periods, the Philatelic Bureau will now accept application for 'Concorde' first-day cover services up to Thursday, 16 January, and *NOT* 2 January, 1969, as shown on the application forms.

RAF 50th Anniversary

Our apologies for giving the incorrect address in the December *Bulletin* to which applications should be sent for the philatelic services to commemorate this anniversary.

Fortunately we discovered the error in time to arrange for all letters to be redirected to the correct address which is:

Group Capt. W. S. O. Randle RAF
60 Shelveys Way
TADWORTH, Surrey.

To Deposit Account Holders

We again appeal to our deposit account customers to enter their account numbers in all correspondence with the Bureau.

Locating a particular account when no number is quoted, especially in cases where signatures are not too clear or frequently met names such as Smith or Brown are involved, gives our operators a giant size headache.

It can also build up into a very unwelcome delay at peak pressure periods.

Correction

We wish to apologise to the sponsor of a special handstamp commemorating the visit of the Methodist President Rev Donald E. Gordon Rupp to Cheadle Hulme on 17 November. Due to a typing error we said the handstamp would read Christmas Awake instead of Christians Awake.

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