

Philatelic Bulletin



Volume 6 Number 9 May 1969



CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL



DURHAM CATHEDRAL



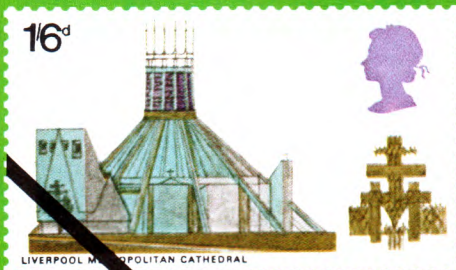
YORK MINSTER



ST. GILES CHURCH, EDINBURGH



ST. PAUL'S CATHEDRAL



LIVERPOOL METROPOLITAN CATHEDRAL

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Introduction

The first British Architecture series of stamps is to be issued on 28 May and details of the very fine Cathedrals stamps are given.

A new feature starts this month with an article on the Great Britain Philatelic Society. We hope to publish articles in future on many of the major societies within Great Britain for the especial benefit of those who perhaps are not conversant with them.

Prince of Wales Investiture First-Day Cover Services

The usual two first-day cover services will be available from the Philatelic Bureau for the five stamps – three at 5d one at 9d and one at 1s – to be issued on 1 July 1969.

The charges are:

Service A Official envelope with typed address, full set of stamps and bureau cancellation – 6s.

Service B Full set of stamps affixed to customers' own pre-addressed envelopes and cancelled – 4s.

Additionally we are arranging special A and B services to be provided by the GPO Philatelic Office, Caernarvon, which will offer a commemorative bi-lingual postmark.

All applications for Caernarvon cancellation only must be sent to the GPO Philatelic Office, Caernarvon. Applications for the bureau postmark only and those for covers with the Caernarvon postmark from deposit account holders must be sent to the Philatelic Bureau.

The usual philatelic posting boxes will be available for the use of those collectors who like to prepare and post their own covers.

New Philatelic Sales Counter

During this month we shall extend our services to philatelists with new sales points at Sheffield and Bristol Head Post Offices, bringing the number of special counters to ten.

The Sheffield sales point will open for business on 3 May and the counter at Bristol follows on 28 May to coincide with the 'British Architecture' stamp issue.

These arrangements, which are experimental for the present, will be made permanent if the expected levels of demand are maintained.

Great Britain Philatelic Society

The Society was founded in November 1955 by a small band of 24 who met previously at a convened meeting to talk over the possibilities of forming a group of people seriously interested in the philately of our mother country.

Three main responsibilities soon became evident. Firstly to produce a reasonable and modern set of rules. Secondly – to increase membership and, lastly, to produce a first-class prestige magazine of the highest standard. The first of these problems was soon dealt with but it was a much longer problem to encourage more members to join. Gradually however the members joined, until today, in 1969 there are over 700 members living all over the world. The question of a magazine was tackled by the small council with enthusiasm but none of the members had any previous experience in the journalistic world. This of course made things difficult and everything had to be done the hard way. But with clear drive and aim of achievement, and after many disappointments, No. 1 of the G.B.P.S. was dispatched to members in December 1956.

During this period of 12 months the Society was invited by the B.P.A. to stage a display for 'Stamp Week' at the old Odeon Cinema, Marble Arch. The Society of Postal Historians were also entertained and a G.B. display was provided at the Brighton Congress shortly afterwards. This was really the beginning and the group were becoming known as the G.B. Society. The introduction of an Advisory and Information Service quickly followed and the very first programme card was planned. Always in the thoughts of the Council were the ideas of furthering knowledge of our stamps and towards this end the first Study Circles were formed. One to study and record facts of George V issues, one for the 1887 Jubilee Issue and finally the third one of QV 1d Reds. Naturally most of the study and contacts was through postal correspondence and many interesting new facts were arrived at and subsequently published in the *Journal*. These three, together with five other Circles, are still

in operation today.

In December 1958 the first of a series of pamphlets was produced and distributed free to members. This was the beginning of many such advantages of membership. A binding service for the *Journals* was introduced late in 1959, a service which operates every two years.

1960 was a very important year for the Society: they decided to be properly represented at the London International and arranged to take a Society Stand. This was successfully achieved with the result of a great number of new friends and members. Also at this time they considered holding an annual competition for members and the establishment of an Exchange Packet Circuit. It was some years before the latter was finally established, but the first competition was held in April 1961. Although this feature has continued regularly and the President donated a fine Challenge Cup in 1964 it has not yet received the full support of a Society of 700 members. The social side had not been forgotten and during these early years social evenings were held at various venues.

After several different meeting places it was decided that the members should meet at Holborn Central Library. Also in this year the Society launched out again and held its first provincial meeting at Peterborough. It was an unqualified success and quite a number of equally successful ventures have since been held. The present policy is to stage one of these provincial meetings each season.

During 1961 to 1963 the Society really consolidated but in March 1964, with the greatest regret, the President Major K. Beaumont resigned through ill-health – and died in 1965. The new President was Mr R. A. G. Lee, who had acted as Hon. Secretary since the inception of the Society. The membership now was just over 300 members. In June 1965 they decided to organize their first full-scale Exhibition and in conjunction with and under the auspices of the Festival of the City of London a very successful show was held in the Crypt of the Guildhall in July 1966.

With the growing strength of membership, and after several months of negotiations, the Society launched a Swiss Group under the able guidance of Max Guggenheim of Basle. This group has gone from strength to strength and is now well over 100 strong.

Towards the end of 1967 the Journal Editor resigned and fortunately the services of Arnold Strange, Editor of the *London Philatelist* were obtained. In January 1968 another innovation was introduced. To hasten the publication of new items a regular 'Newsletter' was started. This is edited by Alfred Kirk who dispatches it monthly to members. It contains up-to-date reports and general news, leaving the *Journal* free for more serious and informative articles. The membership is still growing and some months ago the Society formed a French Group under the auspices of La Société Philatelique Franco-Britannique with Pierre Langlois as Chairman.

This brings the story almost up to date except that two postal auctions have been held recently, and numerous ideas are being considered for the improvement of the service to members. Financially the Society is just able to balance their budget, but like many societies have to face the present spiral of rising costs with careful planning.

During 1968 the President Mr R. A. G. Lee was invited by the Postmaster General to join the reformed Post Office Stamp Advisory Committee. This meets regularly to discuss, plan and offer advice on the new issues of British stamps that now appear at regular intervals. So it will be seen that the Society is a very active and progressive Society offering friendship, co-operation and knowledge to members whether beginners or specialists. The membership Secretary Mr T. C. Marvin of 27 Village Way, Beckenham, Kent, will be delighted to welcome and furnish full details of membership to applicants.

'Highland Games – Ballater Aberdeenshire' will be used at Aberdeen on 21 August 1969. It is of circular design featuring the St Nathalan Fish and Key as a central motif.

'Civic Week – Antrim 3rd–10th May 1969' will be used at Antrim as soon as possible for a period of three weeks. The expected date of commencement is 17 April 1969. It is of circular design. Items for re-posting should be sent to the Head Postmaster, Ballymena.

'I.P.A. Friendship Week 31st August–6th September 1969' will be used at Aberdeen from 1 September to 5 September inclusive. The circular stamp incorporates the Hand of Friendship, the dice marking of the Police Cap and the Brig of Balgownie.

'25th Anniversary Battle of Monte Cassino 1944–1969 Documentary Exhibition' will be used at Birmingham from 16 May 1969–18 May 1969 with the Monte Cassino Monastery and badges of 8th British Army and Polish 2nd Corps featured as a central design. It is a rectangular stamp.

'15th Anniversary of Divine Mercy College Fawley Court – Henley on Thames Oxon.' will be used at Reading on 25 May 1969. An outline of the college completes the central motif. It is of rectangular design.

'Hartley Victoria Methodist and College Open Day – Manchester 16' will be used at Manchester on 10 May 1969. It is rectangular and incorporates an outline of the college as a central design.

'Phil Essex '69 Shire Hall – Chelmsford Essex' will be used at Chelmsford on 7 June 1969. It is of rectangular design and features the outline of the Shire Hall.

'De La Rue School Anniversary' will be used at Tonbridge, Kent, on 28 June 1969. It is of circular design and features part of the school badge as a central motif.

'9th Convention Wiltshire Philatelic Federation' will be used at WELLS and not Bath as previously announced on 31 May 1969.

'NATO Naval Review' will be used on 16 May 1969 at Portsmouth and is of circular design.

'Chief Scout's Visit' will be used at Coventry on 24 May 1969. The Scouts badge with the three spires, a well-known Coventry emblem, completes the central motif. It is of rectangular design incorporating a rope framework.

'25th Anniversary of the Battle of Monte Cassino Philatelic Exhibition London S.W.7' will be used at South Western District Office from 15 May 1969–18 May 1969. It is a circular stamp and bears the 'mermaid' emblem of the 2nd Polish Corps as a central motif.

'Kent Federation of Philatelic Societies – Dartford Kent' will be used on 17 May 1969 at Dartford. It is of circular design and features a prancing horse as a central motif.

'Chiswick Savages – Diamond Jubilee 1909–1969 – London W4' will be used at Paddington on 26 May 1969. It is of circular design and a crossed hatchet and club completes the central motif.

'Golden Jubilee Year – Gilwell Park – Family Camp – Chingford E4' will be used at Chingford on 31 May 1969. It is of circular design with an illustrative motif.

'Gilwell Park Golden Jubilee Father and Son Camp – Chingford E4' will be used at Eastern District Office on 27 September 1969. It is of circular design with an illustrative motif combining a tent and a pair of feet.

'International Training Centre 1919–1969 – Reunion – Chingford E4' will be used at Chingford on 6 September 1969. It is of circular design with fleur-de-lis and axe-in-log arrangement as a central motif.

'Gilwell Park Golden Jubilee Year – Cub Scout Open Day – Chingford E4' – will be used at Chingford on 5 July 1969. It is of circular design showing the fleur-de-lis with an arrow as a central motif.

Items for re-posting for the four handstamps to be used at Chingford should be addressed to District Postmaster, Eastern District Office.

'Lewis's Stamp Exhibition – Manchester 1' will be used at Manchester from 27 May to 31 May 1969 inclusive. It is of circular design.

'The Cactus and Succulent Society of Great Britain – Northern Counties Show – Whitley Bay Northumberland' will be used at Newcastle upon Tyne on 1 June 1969. It is of rectangular design showing a cactus as a central motif.

'German British Culture Week Dortmund – British Forces Postal Services 1078' will be used at Dortmund from 28 May–4 June 1969. It is of circular design. Items for re-posting should be sent to Officer I.C. Philatelic Section, 8 CP and CC Depot RE, BFPO 34.

'Belle Vue Manchester – British Forces Post Office 1083 – ARM EX 69' will be used at Manchester from 26–29 June 1969. It is of circular design. Items for re-posting should be sent to Head Post Office, Philatelic Section, Norfolk Street, Manchester M2 1AA.

'Blockade Lifted – Blockade Aufgehoben – 20th Anniversary – Berlin' will be used at Berlin on 12 May 1969. It is of circular design. Items for re-posting should be sent to the Secretary, RAF Gatow Stamp Club, BFPO 45.

'1909 30th Glasgow Scouts 1969 – Jubilee Year – Glasgow S.W.2' will be used at Glasgow on 17 May 1969. It is of circular design and bears the Scout badge as a central motif.

'York Minster May 28 1969' will be used at York on May 28. It is of rectangular design embodying the coat of arms of York Minster as a central motif.

Four circular design handstamps reading 'Philatex St. Pauls' will be used on 24, 26, 27, 28 May 1969 at Eastern Central District Office. Items for re-posting should be sent to the Controller, E.C./F.S., E.C. Branch, King Edward Building, EC1.

'Middlesex Philatelic Federation – 19th Annual Convention – Hampstead Home of Sir Roland Hill' will be used at North Western District Office on 17 May 1969. It is of rectangular design.

'Expo 69' will be used at Lincoln on 24 May 1969. It is of square design showing the Lincoln coat of arms as a central motif.

Items for re-posting should be sent to the Head Postmasters in the areas concerned.

Postmark Slogans

'June 13th, 29th Bath Festival' will be used at Bath in the transposed position from 7 April until 27 June.

'1869 Centenary 1969 Sandes Home We Serve Servicemen' will be used transposed at Belfast as soon as possible until further notice.

'Bradford means business' will be used transposed at Bradford from 1 April 1969 to 31 March 1970.

'Visit United Counties Show Carmarthen 7th and 8th August 1969' will be used transposed at Haverfordwest, Llanelli, Swansea and Carmarthen from 1 May until 31 July.

'Cheltenham Festival July 4th-13th. Send to Town Hall for programme & guide' will be used transposed at Cheltenham from 14 May until 12 July.

'The centre for the Cotswolds send to Town Hall for Guide Cheltenham' will be used transposed at Cheltenham from 13 July until 12 September.

'The Mounties are coming to Hooton Cheshire Show June 4th & 5th' will be used transposed at Chester from 8 April until 5 June.

'Colchester Searchlight Tattoo July 30-31 Aug 1-2' will be used transposed at Colchester from 14 April until 27 July.

'Consett, Co. Durham Industrial Sites with all Services Available' is being re-used at Consett until 31 January 1970.

'Devon County Show 1969 15th-17th May' will be used transposed at Exeter, Plymouth, Barnstaple and Newton Abbot from 17 April until 15 May.

'Join the Sun Set in Eastbourne this year' is in use at Eastbourne in the transposed position from 24 March until 23 February 1970.

'Forestry Commission Exhibition: June 26-28 Near Speech House, Forest of Dean' will be used transposed at Gloucester from 8-21 June.

'Visit the Horsham Festival 5th-12th July' will be used transposed at Horsham from 25 May until 7 June and again from 22 June until 5 July.

'Hampstead Antiques Fair Old Town Hall 7th-10th May' will be used transposed at Hampstead from 16 April until 17 May.

'Humber-side's 'capital' event Lord Mayor's Parade Hull 24th May 1969' will be used transposed at Hull from 1 April until 23 May.

'Visit Biggar Show 7th August' will be used transposed at Lanark from 10 June until 4 August.

'Shetland 1469 : 1969' will be used transposed at Lerwick, Shetland, from 1 April until 30 September.

'Port of Manchester 1894-1969 75 Years of Progress' will be used transposed at Manchester as soon as possible until further notice.

'Newmarket Races Saturday May 17' will be used transposed at Newmarket from 1-16 May.

'Newmarket Races Saturday May 31' will be used transposed at Newmarket from 17-30 May.

'Newmarket Races Saturday June 14' will be used transposed at Newmarket from 31 May until 13 June.

'Newmarket Races Saturday June 28' will be used transposed at Newmarket from 14-27 June.

'Newmarket Races. July 8, 9, 10' will be used transposed at Newmarket from 28 June until 9 July.

'Newmarket Races Saturday Aug 2' will be used transposed at Newmarket from 10 July until 1 August.

'Churchill History Blenheim Palace Son et Lumière 16th July to 20th Sept.' will be used transposed at Oxford as soon as possible until further notice.

'Royal Rothesay The Island Resort' is being re-used at Rothesay until 28 February 1970.

'Skipton Gateway to the Yorkshire Dales' is being re-used at Skipton until 19 February 1970.

'Southend on Sea Illuminations 12 Aug.-15 Oct.' will be re-used at Southend-on-Sea from 1 July until further notice.

'Learn to Swim Week – Scotland June 2–7' will be used transposed from 2–7 June at Edinburgh, Kirkcaldy, Dumfries, Dunfermline, Falkirk, Greenock, Paisley, Perth, Glasgow, Aberdeen, Dundee, Bathgate, Coatbridge, Wick, Thurso, Oban, Hawick, Motherwell and Hamilton.

'East of England Show July 15th, 16th, 17th. Peterborough' will be used in the transposed position at Peterborough, Huntingdon, Oundle, St Ives, St Neots, Stamford, Whittlesey, Boston, Oakham, Ely, Haverhill, Royston, Spalding and Bedford from 2 June until 12 July and not from 1 May until 16 July.

'Telford New Town for Homes and Industry' will be used transposed at Wellington, Salop, from 12 May until 11 May 1970.

'Industrialists Stay on the Map. Invest and Take advantage of Easy to Develop Sites available now. Ask Aberdare U.D.C.' is being re-used at Aberdare until 24 February 1970.

'1869–1969 Centenary Year Accrington Savings and Building Society' will be used transposed at Blackburn from 1–30 June and again from 1–30 September.

'1869–1969 Co-operative Union Centenary' will be used transposed at Blackpool from 23–30 May.

'Bognor Regis Holidays for all the family' will be used transposed at Bognor Regis as soon as possible until further notice.

'Tenovus Fight Cancer. Tenovus Charities Cardiff' will be used transposed at Cardiff from 1 May until further notice.

'Burlington Arcade 150 Years of Public Service 1819–1969' will be used in the standard position at London Western District Office from 19–25 May.

'Londonderry Gateway to Industrial Expansion. Sites readily available' will be used transposed at Londonderry from 1–31 May.

'Londonderry all ways for industry' will be used transposed at Londonderry from 1–30 June.

'Londonderry, the Port where men, electricity and water attract new industries' will be used transposed at Londonderry from 1–31 July.

'Londonderry for your new factory. Apply Town Clerk' will be re-used at Londonderry from 1–31 August.

'East Anglian Rag '69 Norwich June 5–14' will be used transposed at Norwich from 18 May until 14 June.

'Mayflower 1620–1970 Plymouth 70. 350th Anniversary Sailing of Mayflower Year' is being used transposed at Plymouth until 31 August.

'NATO Naval Review Portsmouth 16 May 1969' is being used transposed at Portsmouth and Cosham until 16 May.

'Prestwick' (Bathing Lake design) will be re-used at Prestwick from 12 May until 30 June.

'Southport Flower Show August 27, 28, 29' will be in use at Southport until 29 August.

'Torrey Devon's Golden Playground' is being re-used at Torquay, Paignton and Brixham until 31 March 1970.

'My hat some sand England's friendliest resort. Walton on Naze Essex' is being re-used at Walton on Naze until 31 March 1970.

'Go for Giro' is in use transposed at Walsall until 23 May.

British Architecture First-Day Covers

Readers who have already received application forms for the Bureau's first-day cover services for the 'British Architecture' stamp issue may have noticed that the postmark offered is described as the 'Special Edinburgh First Day of Issue' datestamp. This refers of course to the Bureau's own special cancellation and not to the normal 'First Day of Issue' postmark applied to items posted in the philatelic box at Edinburgh HPO.

Presentation Packs

Many collectors find the Presentation Pack an easy and convenient way of maintaining a collection of our special stamps but perhaps more of them are sold to the impulse buyer.

The attractive design and the information that the packs contain catch the imagination of people who have not so far bothered to collect stamps and we hope by these means to interest the novice sufficiently to convert him into a regular collector.

We look upon the packs, therefore, as a sales promotion vehicle for our stamps and where necessary we will print them in other languages to stimulate collecting abroad. We shall print as many packs (both in English and other languages) as demand requires, always provided we have sufficient stamps to fill them.

The packs on sale from the Post Office or its agents are available during the life of the stamp, i.e. one year from the issue date.

In addition to the Presentation Packs, we also issue an annual Collector's Pack and we intend that these shall be on sale between 1 September and 31 December each year.

New Stamp-Vending Machines

Introduction of the new Post Office stamp-vending machines designed for decimal coinage has been delayed by stamp roll production difficulties. The machines will sell stamps of mixed value in strips. A new date for their introduction – and the sale of small rolls of the same stamps from the Philatelic Bureau in Edinburgh – will be announced later.

Philatelic Posting Boxes

A special philatelic posting box will be brought into use at Leamington Spa from 28 May 1969. The handstamps will read 'Warwick and Leamington Spa'.

Further boxes will be opened from the same date at Hamilton, Lanarkshire, and Carmarthen.

British Architecture Stamps

The six stamps to be issued on 28 May 1969, featuring British Cathedrals are the first in an architecture series which will be continued in 1970.

Durham Cathedral, Canterbury Cathedral, St Giles Edinburgh and York Minster are the subjects, in blocks of four in the 5d denomination while the 9d shows St Paul's and the 1s 6d, the Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral.

In addition to the designs of the cathedrals each stamp bears an enlarged architectural feature typical of the individual cathedral.

The designer of all the stamps is Peter Gauld who will be remembered for his very attractive 1968 Christmas Air Letter and Lister Centenary stamp.

Presentation packs will be available, price 4s 11d each.

Printing details

Printer: Harrison & Sons

Paper: Coated unwatermarked phosphor lined

Machines: 5d Reel fed rotary

9d and 1s 6d Sheet fed rotary

Size: 1.6" × .95" – all landscape

Perforation: 15 × 14

Number to Sheet: 5d 72
 9d 120
 1s 6d 120

Colours: 5d blue, orange, purple, green,
 mauve, grey, black
 9d purple, yellow, grey, green/grey,
 black
 1s 6d grey, yellow, blue, purple, black

German – British Culture Week

Dortmund 28 May–4 June 1969

A philatelic stand featuring exhibits of British stamps and staffed by members of the British Forces Postal Service is to be one of the attractions at an exhibition, to be held at the Kaufhof Store, Dortmund, during a German–



British Culture Week which is to take place from 28 May to 4 June 1969.

A commemorative philatelic cover bearing the arms of the Cities of Dortmund and Leeds is being produced to mark the occasion. This cover is to bear the Cathedral issue of British postage stamps, due for issue on 28 May, and is to be cancelled by a special datestamp impression.

Philatelists may obtain copies of the commemorative cover, price 5s 5d or DM2:59

each, from:

Officer Commanding
8 Command Postal & Courier
Communications Depot RE
(Philatelic Section)
British Forces Post Office 34.

Orders for covers must be accompanied by a remittance for the full amount and made payable to the Officer Commanding, Philatelic Section 8 CPCCD RE.

National Postal Museum Notes

The Rainbow Trials of 1840



R. M. Phillips' Collection. Fugitive Ink Trials, 1840.

Among the treasures in the Reginald M. Phillips' collection in the National Postal Museum are a fascinating series of trial printed stamps in many colours undertaken almost before the ink was dry on the penny black stamps of 1840.

The introduction in May 1840 of the red Maltese Cross obliteration on the penny black was unsatisfactory. Those intent on cheating the Revenue found that it was a comparatively simple matter to remove the red Maltese Cross obliteration from the black stamp which could then be re-used. Such chicanery was of course not to be tolerated. To prevent the occasion of such misuse the so-called 'Rainbow trials' of 1840 were undertaken. The upshot of these experimental printings was that the penny black was replaced by the penny red of 1841 and the Maltese Cross obliterator using red ink became a black ink obliterator.

Many and various were the experiments made to ensure that when the stamps were printed in the new shade of red they were unlikely to be tampered with successfully after they had been postally used. To this end specimen stamps in various shades of red



R. M. Phillips' Collection. 'Bull's Eye' Experimental cancellations, 1840.

bearing black obliteration marks were subjected to a series of cleaning trials designed to test whether the removal of the cancellation mark could be accomplished without leaving obvious signs of tampering.

The substances used to 'clean' the black Maltese Cross obliterations from the stamps ranged from plain water, water and soap, bread and other materials found in every household, to other substances easily obtainable at the local apothecary's or possibly from the printers.

Many sheets of stamps annotated to show what cleaning agents were applied are currently on show in the museum all of them from the Phillips' collection. It is a little difficult for the non-chemist to appreciate the likely effect of some of these agents on the trial printed stamps. We therefore sought the advice of one of the Post Office chemists at the Engineering Department Research Station on this matter and what follows is based on his findings.

Many of the substances tried were solvents for the oils, waxes, resins and gums used in preparation of printing or cancellation inks viz:



R. M. Phillips' Collection. 'Rainbow' Trial, 1840.



R. M. Phillips' Collection. Experiments with black cancellations on Red stamps which resulted in the change in colour of the penny stamp from Black to Red – 1840.

Creosote The medicinal creosote as used in some catarrh pastilles – not the coal tar distillate of today.

Turpentine The genuine pine distillate.

Naphtha Mineral naphtha as used for street market flares.

Essential oils These were natural vegetable or animal oils, e.g. lavender, eucalyptus, wintergreen, peppermint and juniper.

Fixed oils Include linseed, rape, palm, almond and castor – these are non-volatile oils.

The remaining chemicals reacted with some of the pigments then in use, dissolving them and causing a change of colour amounting in some cases to bleaching. These substances included tartaric acid and alum, prussic acid and potassium cyanide. Between them these substances softened, disrupted or dissolved nearly all the ink media in use. They certainly made the stamps unusable for the second time!

From such drastic trials emerged the penny red of 1841 which was to have a life until 1879. No mean achievement.

F. MARCUS ARMAN

The Post Office Philatelic Exhibits

The Post Office is providing philatelic displays at the following philatelic exhibitions:

Selby Abbey	17-26 May
Lewis', Manchester	27-31 May
Gamages, London	27 May-7 June

Sales counters will be provided at Selby and Lewis'.

Rolls of Stamps

The 2d phosphor lined 'V' rolls on coated unwatermarked paper (Dorothy Wilding design) are being sold to exhaustion and no more are to be issued.

They will be available from the Bureau for one year subject to stocks being available.

Jubilee Jamboree Covers and Rolls

The November edition of the *Philatelic Bulletin* contained two articles which would appear to deal with two entirely separate subjects, 'Collecting First Day Covers' and 'Stamp Selling Machines'. Yet in 1957 the two became one with the release of three stamps to commemorate the World Scout Jubilee Jamboree held at Sutton Coldfield during August of that year.

Indeed it might come as a surprise to many readers, who now accept the services of the Philatelic Bureau in supplying first day covers – a service introduced in 1964 – to learn that the Post Office offered a service in 1957. The face values of the three stamps issued for the Jubilee Jamboree were $2\frac{1}{2}d$, $4d$, and $1s\ 3d$, and for $2s$ the Post Office was prepared to stamp and cancel customers' own addressed covers, subject to a minimum quantity of 60 covers being ordered. The closing date for the receipt of orders was 22 July, the stamps being issued on 1 August 1957.

Faced with a barrage of orders – 60,632 covers were serviced – the Post Office commissioned two machines to perform the task of stamping the covers. The stamps for use in the machines were made up in continuous rolls of 4,800, making this the only Queen Elizabeth II commemorative series so far to be available in rolls, in addition to the normal sheet form.

The rolls were mounted at the back of each machine, and one of each value could be simultaneously brought forward by chain-driven cogs. Once brought forward the stamps were then positioned above the covers. The covers were fed head first into the machine, whereupon water was sprayed onto the top right hand corner of the envelope in the positions required for the three stamps, by three automatic devices.

The stamps were now pressed onto the moistened covers, whereupon a guillotine separated them from the rest of the roll. The covers were now ejected from the machines to



Messrs. H.B. Wingfield & Co.,
392, Strand,
LONDON. W.C. 2.

Stamp Issues in 1970

dry, also being checked to ensure the stamps had not been damaged by the guillotine.

The covers were now passed on to be cancelled by one of two cancelling machines with a slogan reading 'World Scout Jubilee Jamboree 1-12 Aug 1957'. The cancellation was applied in such a way that the Sutton Coldfield date stamp appeared half on the stamps, half on the envelope, the date appearing on the envelope. On the covers serviced by the Post Office in this way, the date and time slugs were fixed. After cancelling the covers were again examined to ensure the machine had not damaged the covers, the cancellation was not smudged, and the stamps placed correctly.

As already mentioned the stamps for use in the machines were prepared in rolls of 4,800, with a leader of brown, unwatermarked paper, on which were printed details of the roll in black. Later, unsold rolls were re-wound into smaller rolls of 480 of the 2½d and 4d values, and 240 of the 1s 3d. Special testing labels were prepared consisting of horizontal pairs of the famous 'poached egg' labels, inscribed 'For Testing Purposes Only', and imperforate between.

Specialists may be interested to know that during the Jamboree, posting boxes were available for collectors' own stamped covers, and these received the same slogan cancellation. A difference can be noted between the two cancellations, however, occurring in the length of the arcs in the date stamp part of the cancellation. The arcs are shorter on covers serviced by the Post Office, compared with covers posted in the posting box.

Wanted

The National Postal Museum library is in urgent need of a copy of Sir Henry Cole's biography 'Fifty Years of Public Work', published, in two volumes, by George Bell & Sons in 1884.

If any of our readers has a copy for sale the Curator would be pleased to hear from him.

The programme for special stamp issues in 1970 is:

February	British Architecture.
April	General Anniversaries.
June	Literary Anniversaries.
July	Commonwealth Games – Edinburgh
Sept.	Philippia – International Philatelic Exhibition, London.
Nov.	Christmas.

Details of the subjects, values and dates of issue will be announced later.

Misplaced Box

Our thanks to the kind readers who pointed out the mistake in the feature on p. 12 of the April *Bulletin*. The box we showed is, in fact, at Barnes Cross, Holwell, Bishop's Caundle, Dorset, and is the oldest on the mainland – c. 1853.

The misplaced box at Keighley is shown below and we offer apologies for the confusion.



By Mail Coach through Essex

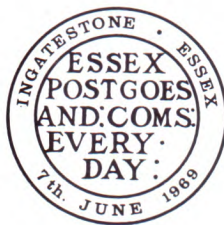
Royal Mail Coaches were once a familiar sight along the roads of Britain. The General Post Office established a regular coach service from St Martin's-le-Grand in London, through Essex and Suffolk, to Norwich on 25 March 1785. The Essex section of this road, between Brentwood and Chelmsford, will be reconstructed with a four-in-hand Mail Coach as part of the Silver Jubilee celebrations of the Association of Essex Philatelic Societies.

Passengers aboard the Mail Coach, which leaves Brentwood on Saturday 7 June at 10 a.m., will include The Lord Lieutenant of Essex, Sir John Ruggles-Brise, and a GPO postman in period dress. Commemorative mail will be carried to Ingatestone where a special handstamp incorporating the first Essex 'slogan' will be applied. At Chelmsford a handstamp depicting the rare 'SX' postmark is to be used on the mail carried between Ingatestone and Chelmsford.

The Convention and Exhibition at The Shire Hall, Chelmsford, will be open to the public at mid-day where a post office display and philatelic sales counter will be provided.



A coach of the period.



The actual coach to be used.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Sir,

I have received the *Bulletin* since issue No. 1 and have been pleased to see the steady improvement in layout, and contents. The new colour illustrations are especially welcome as also the 'Letters to the Editor' feature.

As regards British postage stamp issues perhaps the following comments and suggestions may be of interest:

Numbers and denominations of commemoratives: While welcoming the increase in the number of commemorative stamps I would like to see more events commemorated but by sets of only one or two values and greater use made of the lower value denominations of 4d and 5d and even 2d and 3d which could be used in combination, rather than the preponderance of values of 1s and above.

Many of these higher values are rarely seen or used by the general non-collecting public and also since so many young collectors are concentrating on GB issues lower denominations would be welcome from a financial point of view. Low value commemoratives are also always in great demand by foreign 'juvenile packet' producers.

Design of commemoratives: This has I think reached a high standard and compares favourably with any other country. The Queen's head adds a certain distinction to the design and is certainly preferable to the country's name or an abbreviation such as UK. However I think the inclusion of the names of the designer and printer was an unfortunate innovation which tends to spoil the overall effect of each design.

Very few commemoratives have been recess-printed and I should like to see a greater use of this printing process which can give such excellent results as witness the majority of Austrian commemoratives.

The 1968 Christmas issue was particularly pleasing (and a great improvement on its fore-runners), and this was partly I think because of the complementary nature of the three designs and the choice of the work of only one designer, rather than mixing the work of several – as in the 1966 World Cup issue.

Future Issues: Suggestions have been made in the *Bulletin* and elsewhere for the issue of a long-running series of stamps showing the arms of the counties. This I think an excellent idea and would suggest using the 4d or 5d value throughout the series perhaps on a monthly or bi-monthly basis.

As regards issues for 1970 I note that the following anniversaries occur then and would suggest they were worthy of commemoration:

Charles Dickens Death Cent. 9 June.

Wm. Wordsworth Birth Bicent. 7 April.

George Whitefield Death Bicent. 30 Sept.

Yours faithfully, D. R. POTTS

Altrincham, Cheshire

Dear Sir,

May I add one more to the suggestions for future issues?

A lot of money is to be spent in educating us for the change to decimal currency. If stamps were used for 1s (5p) and 2s (10p) bearing illustrations of both sides of each coin together with values in existing and new currencies, publicity would be gained without cost – in fact, the publicity would probably be paid for by those who were learning!

Other values could be treated similarly if they corresponded with postal charges.

There would be no problem of where to place the Queen's head. It would be there already – on the coin.

Yours sincerely,

HEDLEY PEARSON

Bridgwater, Somerset

Caernarvon Castle 5s Stamp – Special Service

With reference to the notice on page 15 of the March 1969 issue of the *Bulletin*, the facility for handstamping items bearing the Caernarvon Castle 5s postage stamp will be withdrawn for one day on Tuesday 1 July 1969. A bi-lingual postmark commemorating the Investiture will be used instead for First-Day Covers bearing the Prince of Wales issue of postage stamps. Full details of the philatelic services available for this special issue will be given later.

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