

Philatelic Bulletin



Volume 4: Number 11 July 1967



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Conditions

2	The Philatelic Bureau will be pleased to supply any number of stamps shown on its
2	current stock list, subject to stocks being available, in mint condition only. For stamps
3	not shown on the list, enquiries should be made of a stamp dealer.
6	We do not guarantee to supply stamps from particular cylinders or plates, position or
7	cylinder blocks, particular editions of books or books with selected watermark.
8	Stamps are NOT supplied cancelled to order. Remittances, which <i>must</i> be sent with orders
8	should be made payable to 'GPO Philatelic Bureau' and should include a handling charge
8	of 6d for orders under 10s, and 3s 9d for orders of 10s and over (9d and 4s 0d respectively for
9	orders to Overseas Countries, other than the Commonwealth). For orders to be sent by Air
10	Mail the cost of the airmail postage should be added. Stamps are not accepted as payment
12	for orders.
13	

Introduction

It is some time since we had an article of especial interest to our younger readers and we hope that they and our more mature friends will find 'A Brief History of the Post Office' worthwhile.

Our readers and Deposit account customers will have had advance notice of the Sir Francis Chichester first day cover services. They are reminded that ALL orders should be sent to the Bureau.

We are sure that the information given of the numbers of stamps delivered, and, ultimately issued, will be welcomed.

A Brief History of the Post Office

from 1558 to the present day

Letters were sent, of course, before the days of Queen Elizabeth I, but as we must start somewhere let us have a look at the growth of the Post Office between the two Elizabeths — Queen Elizabeth Tudor, who reigned from 1558 to 1603, and our own Queen Elizabeth. At the time of the first Elizabeth communication was either by word of mouth or by letter, and the Post Office grew up around the carrying of letters. For 250 years the basic business remained much the same, with some changes resulting from the addition of packets, parcels, newspapers, and other printed matter. But the invention of the telegraph, the telephone, and the radio — all in the last 150 years, the huge increase in the tempo and extent of commercial life, the spread of literacy, the development of new forms of transport, the tremendous strides in social welfare, all have had revolutionary effects upon the Post Office. In modern times we see it grown into a vast and complex organization, vital to the economic and everyday life of the nation.

Thomas Randolph, Master of the Queen's Posts under Elizabeth I, was instructed as part of his duties to have two horses constantly ready with 'two bags well-lined with baize or cotton and a horn to blow as oft as company is met or four times in every mile'. Each horse travelled about twenty miles, and towns on the route were expected to have fresh horses ready as needed. Towns on one of the main postal routes, for instance, from London to Dover, or from London to Bristol, were so often ordered to supply horses that even ploughing was delayed, and in the end citizens found it easier to pay for special horses. The post at this time was used mainly for carrying official letters between the Queen and Government officials. The Master of Posts could accept letters for

delivery to private people, but there were also a number of unofficial letter-carriers. Payment for letters sent by the official post was arranged between the letter-carrier and the person to whom he delivered the letter, but the carrier was supposed to hand the fee to the Master of Posts, who was probably glad enough to have this addition to his not very large salary.

By a proclamation in 1591, Queen Elizabeth laid it down that letters might not be sent out of the country except by the official carriers, and made it an offence to send a letter abroad by private messenger. The object was not to ensure that all the money charged for letter carrying should go to the Royal Exchequer; in fact, no attempt was made to encourage the public to use the official post, and letters were still accepted grudgingly. It was more a safeguard against the exchange of letters intended to encourage rebellion against the Queen, the throne then claiming in peacetime the right which the Government still claims in wartime, to censor letters as it thought fit. There was some excuse at the time, for in 1587, only four years before the proclamation, Mary Queen of Scots was executed, and only a year later England was attacked by the Spanish Armada. But the Act was never really enforced, and the merchant adventurers who carried on foreign trade continued to carry letters for payment.

By an Act of 1609, James I attempted once more to establish the Crown's monopoly as letter-carrier, but was not successful. Indeed, he so far recognized the private post carried on by Mathew De Quester, a Flemish merchant who had settled in this country, as to make him, in 1619, Postmaster of England for Foreign Parts. The official Master of Posts, Lord Stanhope, naturally resented this

appointment and claimed that it was an infringement of his own rights, but although the courts upheld Lord Stanhope's claim, De Quester retained his title. At the same time, the merchant adventurers, who also opposed the appointment on the ground that they had always arranged for the carriage of private letters abroad were allowed to continue doing so.

In 1632 the ageing De Quester ceded his letters patent to two persons, one of whom, Thomas Witherings, established the first 'packet' — a regular postal service by boat across the English Channel to the Continent. Witherings also did much to improve the inland postal services, and, by imposing a fixed charge for letters, increased the revenue. In spite of the civil war of 1642-46, and the interregnum following the execution of King Charles I in 1649, it was during the first half of the 17th century that the Post Office really became a public service. An attempt was made to base the charges on the principle that they should cover the whole cost of the post, including the transport of letters of state.

Under Cromwell, a Captain John Manley was appointed Master of the Posts in 1653. He paid £10,000 a year for his appointment and Cromwell gave him power to stop all mails carried by unauthorized persons. Many people supported the carriage of mails by private carriers who were quite willing to maintain their position by accepting letters at much less than the official cost. There was a long struggle with the private posts before the Government finally suppressed all mail services except its own.

Cromwell's Act of 1657, by which the Master of Posts became officially the Postmaster General, created, in addition, several deputy postmasters. At the restoration in 1660,

Charles II considered the Acts passed by the Commonwealth unlawful, so he was obliged to pass an Act of his own, which differed very little from Cromwell's. These two Acts are the basis of all later laws affecting the Post Office.

The Postmaster General now began to interest himself in getting a quicker service. Among other things, postmarks were introduced 'to prevent any neglect of the letter-carriers in the speedy delivery of letters'. The advantages of advertising the Post Office by means of postmarks were already recognized, and one of them bore, besides the date, the inscription 'Essex post goes and comes every day'.

The five 'receiving houses', established in London between Westminster and Fleet Street, from which letters were collected, might be regarded as the Post Office's first branch offices. In Charles II's time, the total staff in the Post Office in London was surprisingly small. In 1665 there were only 45 people employed, 30 of whom died in the Great Plague. We can imagine how difficult it must have been for the Post Office to keep going in London during the Plague and the Great Fire which followed it in 1666, and we read in letters written at the time that it had to change its headquarters on several occasions.

Although the Government continued, so far as it was able, to suppress all private posts — even appointing searchers to detect the smuggling of letters — it was still possible in 1680 for William Dockwra, a London merchant, to set up a penny post in London in defiance of the Postmaster General's rights. Dockwra appointed several hundred 'receivers', at whose houses letters could be deposited and from whom collections were

made every hour. The letters were taken to central or district offices for distribution, and sometimes even handed to the Post Office for delivery in the provinces, the Post Office then collecting its usual fee from the person who received the letter. Dockwra also accepted parcels and set up a system of registration as insurance against loss. After the receiving houses closed at 5 o'clock in the afternoon, letter-carriers walked through the streets ringing a bell until half-past six, and people came out from their houses and posted their letters in his bag which constituted, in effect, a walking posting box.

After two years Dockwra's service was showing a considerable profit, and the Government, which had viewed his early efforts with indifference intervened and took over the service which had proved so popular. After a long fight Dockwra eventually obtained a pension under William and Mary, and was made Comptroller of the Penny Post Service. Later he lost both pension and office, and no more was heard of him. The London Penny Post, however, continued as a separate service until 1854, although in 1801 it was turned into a twopenny post and became the London District Post.

An Act of 1711 in the reign of Queen Anne fixed postal charges with the intention that a profit should be made, and that this profit should go partly to the Exchequer and partly to the Crown. Unfortunately working expenses were so high that in spite of increased charges the final accounts showed a loss. Until 1840, however, the idea of profit was always in the foreground of Post Office policy, and the high charges imposed during and after the Napoleonic wars (1795-1815) led to the agitation which resulted, in 1840, in establishing penny post throughout the country.

Despite these financial difficulties, however, the postal services continued to develop between 1711 and 1840, largely as a result of individual enterprise and the rapid growth of communications.

In 1719, Ralph Allen, the Postmaster of Bath, contracted with the Post Office to deliver 'by-letters' and 'cross-letters' (that is, those letters which were either posted or intended for delivery at stages on the main roads between London and the big provincial towns, or were sent from one provincial town or village to another without passing through London). Previously the delivery of such letters had been haphazard in the extreme, but Allen reorganized the whole system, and in addition made a handsome profit for himself. He died in 1764 and was, it seems, the first Post Office pioneer to die a wealthy man.

Stage coaches were in use by the 17th century, but the Post Office was slow to adopt them for mail transport. John Palmer, a Bath merchant, was concerned that much of the mail which should have been carried by the official post was being taken by the stage coaches, and with the support of the Prime Minister, William Pitt, he finally persuaded the Government to allow him to run a special coach for mail, which would not have to pay the usual turn-pike tolls. The roads were unsafe for lonely travellers and Post Boys were often attacked and robbed, so that when the first mail coach was put on the road in 1784, it was hoped that the result would be not only a quicker, but a more secure service. The first mail coach ran between Bristol and London, travelling the distance of 119 miles in sixteen hours, and the experiment was so successful that, in a short time, post boys were replaced by mail coaches on the main routes.

(to be continued)

Special Issues 1966

We are often asked to publish numbers of special stamps printed and sold. For a variety of reasons we are not able to quote the exact number printed but we can say the exact number which are delivered to us. After the expiry of the sale period we shall be able to

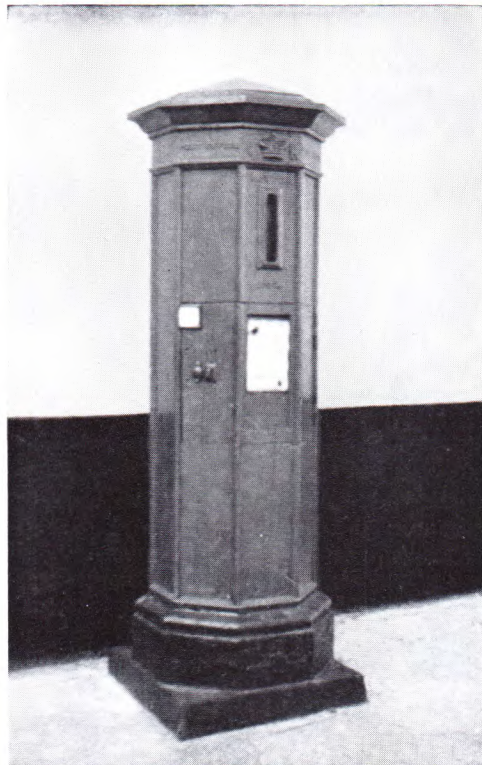
give the 'net issue' figure, which, we think, is of most interest to collectors.

It follows that for each year's issues we will print two lots of figures and we start by quoting the number of good stamps delivered for the 1966 series.

Issue and Date	Value	Good stamps delivered	
		Plain	Phosphor
Robert Burns	4d	78,586,800	9,105,960
25.1.66	1/3d	6,058,680	2,160,720
Westminster Abbey	3d	53,879,280	6,296,400
28.2.66	2/6d	2,877,600	—
Pictorial Landscapes	4d	84,361,680	12,000,720
2.5.66	6d	12,961,680	2,460,720
	1/3d	9,061,680	1,500,720
	1/6d	6,001,200	1,500,720
World Cup	4d	129,841,680	17,640,720
1.6.66	6d	18,241,680	3,360,720
	1/3d	7,037,760	1,891,440
Pictorial Birds	4d	102,504,360	16,080,720
8.8.66			
World Cup 'Winners'	4d	12,481,680	—
18.8.66			
Pictorial Technology	4d	85,322,400	12,780,720
19.9.66	6d	11,822,160	2,388,720
	1/3d	6,002,160	1,776,720
	1/6d	6,782,160	1,860,720
Battle of Hastings	4d	112,087,344	19,308,720
14.10.66	6d	13,801,984	2,820,360
	1/3d	7,051,984	2,100,360
Christmas Stamps	3d	154,922,240	20,782,720
1.12.66	1/6d	9,430,160	2,200,480

Veteran Pillar Boxes

Our readers may be interested in the photographs of two of the oldest pillar boxes in the country. They are both to be found at Framlingham, Suffolk and were made by Messrs Handyside & Co. of Derby about 1856.



Pillar box in Double Street, not far from the Parish Church.

Pillar box near Framlingham College at Stowmarket B.1119 and Ipswich B.1116 road junction.



Special Stamp — Sir Francis Chichester

To commemorate the outstanding achievement of Sir Francis Chichester in sailing single handed round the world, a special 1s 9d stamp will be issued on 24th July.

The stamp shows Sir Francis' boat Gipsy Moth IV at sea, and will be in four colours, blue, red, green and black. It was designed by Michael Goaman who designed the 10th International Botanical Congress stamps in 1964 and the 1965 Christmas Air Letter form, and will be printed by Harrison and Sons.

The printing processes are: *Paper:* Plain Coated *Machine:* Reel Fed Rotary *Size:* 1.6" by .95" *Perforation:* Corner + 30 across Corner + 17 down *Diameter:* .0355

The chosen denomination of 1s 9d is the basic air mail charge to, among other places, Australia, from which country Sir Francis set sail on the last leg of his voyage.

FIRST DAY COVER SERVICES

Because of the unique nature of the event commemorated we are offering in addition to the usual Bureau A and B services two other first day cancellations. They are from Plymouth where Sir Francis's voyage commenced and ended and Greenwich where Her Majesty bestowed the accolade of knighthood on Sir Francis. A specially designed 1½" pictorial handstamp will be used for the three offices — the inscriptions will read 'GPO Philatelic Bureau, Edinburgh', 'Greenwich London SE10' and 'Plymouth Devon'.

The full service (A) using specially designed envelopes will cost 4s 9d per cover while customers' own pre-addressed envelopes will be serviced for 2s 9d each. All orders MUST be sent to the Philatelic Bureau with clear instructions as to which cancellation is required.

Special philatelic posting boxes will again be provided for the use of those who prefer to prepare their own covers and the official envelopes will be on sale at the same offices

priced 6d each.

There will be no presentation packs for this issue.

The philatelic posting box offices are the same as those shown on p.3 of the June Bulletin with the exception of Windsor and with the addition of Aldershot, Blackburn, Bury St Edmunds, Canterbury, Chichester and Greenwich BO, 261/267 Greenwich High Street, London SE10 and Perth.

Special Handstamps

'The Haberdashers' Aske's School Elstree Boreham Wood Herts Fete and Open Day 22 July 1967' will be in use at St Albans on the 22nd July 1967.

'Highland Ballater Games Aberdeenshire 17th August 1967' will be in use at Aberdeen on the 17th August 1967.

'Jane Austen Commemoration 1817-1967 Chawton, Alton Hants' will be used at Alton on 18th July.

'Barnstaple Devon honours Sir Francis Chichester' will be in use for one day at Barnstaple in July. Actual date of use yet to be decided.

'Essex International Youth Camp E. Mersea, Colchester 1967' will be used at Colchester from 22nd July to 19th August.

'Art on Stamps Exhibition Strand W.C.2 Stamp Centre' will be used at WCDO July 10th-15th 1967.

British Paintings Stamps

The colours of the 9d stamp — George Stubb's 'Mare and Foals in Landscape' — are blue, light brown, red brown, yellow and black. The denomination and the Queen's head will be printed in black.

The entry on page 9 of the June Bulletin should be suitably amended to keep the record correct.

Eighteen Thousand Million Stamps a Year for Export

Since 1847, three years after Britain produced the world's first adhesive postage stamp, the UK commenced printing stamps for overseas postal administrations. Today the stamps used in no less than 225 countries are printed in Britain earning us £1,340,000 in foreign currency. This sizable contribution towards the solution of our balance of payments problem is made by three firms, De La Rue's, Bradbury Wilkinson's and Harrison's, who between them export eighteen thousand million stamps a year. A further export contribution is made by the Post Office Philatelic Bureau in Edinburgh which over the last year sent no less than 2,840,000 current British stamps to collectors and dealers overseas, netting a further £174,000 in foreign currency. This service is expanding rapidly.

The foundations of this profitable export trade were laid in 1847 when Perkins Bacon & Co., who printed the world's first adhesive postage stamps, the famous Penny Black of 1840, secured the contract for printing stamps for the Pacific Steam Navigation Company (Peru). With the introduction of surface printed stamps of 1855, printed by De La Rue & Company, this overseas trade rapidly expanded and this company is still actively engaged in this enterprise.

A new exhibition opened at the National Postal Museum on 3rd July illustrating the pioneer work of De La Rue's in the production of Britain's surface printed stamps over the period 1855-67. Later an exhibition will be mounted showing the subsequent development of British postage stamps.

Like the line engraved stamps of 1840 these early surface printed stamps were based on line drawings of the Wyon Medal made by Henry Corbould: the Queen's portrait on the surface printed stamp dies were engraved by Joubert (Jean Ferdinand Joubert de la Ferté) a French artist working in London who had achieved some distinction by engraving the works of William Etty and other Royal Academicians. With minor modifications

Joubert's designs were used for almost all the stamps issued in this country throughout Queen Victoria's long reign.

As with other exhibitions in the Museum, the story told is graphically illustrated by superb and frequently unique material from the Reginald M. Phillips' collection, supplemented by a few items from the Post Office collections. The numerous die proofs, colour trials, artists' drawings and experimentally produced specimens show how carefully these early surface printed stamps were designed. No serious collector should miss seeing this exhibition.

The National Postal Museum at London's Chief Post Office, King Edward Building, EC1. (near St Paul's Tube station) is open Mondays to Fridays from 10.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. Special lecture tours are arranged for groups.

Telephone 01-432 3851

A short account of the Reginald M. Phillips' Collection of 19th century British Postage Stamps by F. Marcus Arman, is available from the Museum price 5/- post free.

The Art of the Stamp

In the April Bulletin we promised to give the itinerary for the Victoria and Albert Museum's travelling exhibition. It may be seen at the following places:

Birmingham Art Gallery: 26th August to 17th September.

Bethnal Green Museum, London: 30th September to 22nd October.

Ludlow: 4th November to 26th November.

Swindon: 9th December to 31st December.

Further details will be given later.

Postmark Slogans

'Industrialists stay on the Map. Invest and Take advantage of Easy to Develop Sites Available Now. Ask Aberdare U.D.C.' will be in use at Aberdare in the transposed position from 31st July until further notice.

'Wythnos Y Gair Aberystwyth Gorffennat 22-29 1967', will be in use at Aberystwyth in the transposed position from 22nd July to 29th July.

'Aberystwyth — Record Sunshine', will be withdrawn at Aberystwyth for the period 22nd July to 29th July.

'Visit the Abbey Gardens when in Bury St Edmunds', will be in re-use at Bury St. Edmunds in the transposed position until further notice.

'Buxton — Centre for the Peak District and for Exhibitions and Conferences', will be in use at Buxton in the transposed position from 22nd July to 30th September.

'Buxton Festival of Music 16th-23rd July 1967', will be withdrawn at Buxton on 21st July.

'Cambridge Festival 16th-29th July', will be withdrawn at Cambridge from 23rd July.

'Visit Cambridge', will be re-used at Cambridge in the transposed and standard positions from 24th July to 30th November.

'Visit United Counties Show Carmarthen 10th and 11th August 1967', will be withdrawn at Carmarthen from 11th August.

'Send to Town Hall for Guide Cheltenham the Centre for the Cotswolds', will be in re-use at Cheltenham in the transposed position from 11th July to 10th September.

'Chesterfield for Industry and Countryside', will be withdrawn at Chesterfield on 2nd August.

'Antiques Fair Chesford Kenilworth Sept. 26-Sept. 30', will be used in the transposed position at Coventry from 1st September to 30th September.

'Brierley Hill, Coseley, Dudley, Sedgley for shopping and free car parks', will be withdrawn at Dudley on 21st July.

'Dundee for development Tay Road Bridge', will be withdrawn at Dundee on 3rd August.

'Holiday at Dunoon Centenary 1968', will be used at Dunoon, Argyll in the transposed position from 1st August 1967 until 31st July 1968.

'Holiday at Dunoon', will be withdrawn at Dunoon, Argyll on 1st August.

'Make a Date with Eastbourne Sun Trap of the South', will be used at Eastbourne in the transposed position from 20th June to 31st December.

'Build your new Factory at Grimsby Details of Sites from Town Clerk', will be in continued re-use at Grimsby in the transposed position until 31st December.

'Play all Year Round in Harlow's Playscheme', will be re-used at Harlow in the transposed position from 22nd July to 20th August.

'Harlow Town Show 26-27 Aug.', will be in use at Harlow in the transposed position from 21st August to 27th August.

'Road Safety depends on You', will be re-used at Harlow in the transposed position from 28th August to 27th September.

'Harrogate Festival of Arts and Sciences August 10-19 1967', will be withdrawn at Harrogate on 18th August.

'Put your Faith and Factory in Hartlepool', will be in use at Hartlepool in the transposed position from 12th August 1967 to 11th August. 1968.

'Hull Gateway to Europe', will be in use in the transposed position at Hull from 10th July to 10th October.

'For Happy Holidays Isle of Man', will be in re-use at Douglas and Ramsey in the transposed position from 17th July to 24th September.

'Jersey for Sunny Autumn Holidays', will be in re-use at Jersey in the transposed position from 1st July to 30th September.

'Use Liverpool, Britain's Premier Export Port Mersey Docks and Harbour Board', will be withdrawn at Liverpool on 31st August.

'Historic Gawsworth Hall near Macclesfield open Weekends and Wednesdays', will be in use at Macclesfield in the transposed position until 30th September.

'Ship through the Port of Manchester', will be in continued use at Manchester in the transposed position until 7th June 1968.

'Fly Direct from Manchester Gateway to the World at the Heart of Britain', will be in use at Newton Street, Manchester in the standard position from 3rd July 1967 to 4th June 1968.

'Merthyr Tydfil Industrial Estate Building Sites available Direct Access from Heads of the Valleys Road Application to Town Clerk Merthyr Tydfil', will be withdrawn at Merthyr Tydfil on 14th August.

'Motherwell and Wishaw Heart of Industrial Scotland', will be in use at Motherwell and Wishaw in the transposed position from 3rd July 1967 to 2nd July 1968.

'Come Racing at Musselburgh', will be withdrawn at Musselburgh and Edinburgh on 18th July.

'1967 June 10th-Sept. 23rd Black and White

'Peterborough Show July 18-19-20', will be withdrawn at Peterborough on 20th July.

'East Meon Gymkhana and Show Sat. Aug. 5th', will be in use at Petersfield in the transposed position from 22nd July to 4th August.

'Portsmouth and Sunny Southsea', will be withdrawn at Portsmouth on 8th August.

'Portsmouth and Sunny Southsea for the Holiday of a Lifetime', will be withdrawn at Portsmouth on 9th August.

'Prestwick for Golf', will be in re-use at Prestwick, Ayrshire in the transposed position from 22nd July to 2nd September.

'Choose Ryde Isle of Wight for Happy Holidays', will be withdrawn at Ryde on 23rd August.

'Festival of the Arts Salisbury 1967', will be withdrawn at Salisbury on 28th July.

'The National Forgemasters Association International Forging Conference 1967 Sheffield Sept. 19-21', will be in re-use at Sheffield in both the standard and transposed positions from 1st July to 8th August.

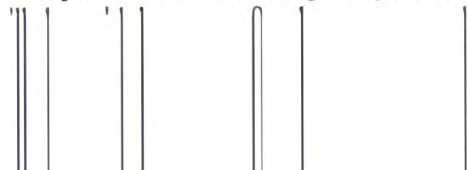
'Shrewsbury Musical and Floral Fete 16-17 Aug.', will be withdrawn at Shrewsbury on 17th August.

'Shrewsbury Carnival Day 2nd Saturday in September', will be in re-use in the transposed position at Shrewsbury from 18th August to 9th September.

'Skegness Illuminations Nightly from August 19th Lincolnshire's Holiday Playground', will be in re-use at Skegness in the transposed position from 10th July until further notice.

'Southend on Sea Illuminations 12th Aug.-15th Oct.', will be in use at Southend on Sea in the transposed position from 1st July to 15th October.

'Southport Flower Show August 23-24-25',



'Stranraer 350th Anniversary Year', will be withdrawn at Stranraer on 31st August.

'Stranraer Welcomes New Industry', will be re-used in the transposed position at Stranraer from 1st September 1967 to 31st January 1968.

'Industry prospers in Peterlee', will be used in the transposed position at Sunderland from 1st July to 1st December.

'Roker and Seaburn Sunderland's Twin Resorts', will be withdrawn at Sunderland on 31st July.

'Ventnor I.O.W. for Leisure and Pleasure', will be in re-use at Ventnor, IOW in the transposed position from 29th August 1967 to 28th August 1968.

'Weymouth Pavilion Square World of Comedy June 30th-9th Sept.', will be used at Weymouth in the transposed position from 1st July to 9th September.

'Winchester '67 September 11th-16th 1967', will be in use at Winchester in the transposed position from 21st July to 16th September.

'Select Sunny Worthing for Homes or Holidays on the Warm Sussex Coast', will be used in Worthing in the transposed position from 3rd July 1967 to 2nd July 1968.

'York Races 22-23-24 August', will be used in the transposed position at York from 31st July to 19th August.

'York Races 6-7 Sept.', will be used in the transposed position at York from 21st August to 4th September.

'Ship through the Port of London', will be re-used in the standard position at Birmingham (Hockley), London (Mount Pleasant, SWDO, NW9 and N2) from 2nd July to 25th August.

'One Putt for Alcan Golf Championships St Andrews Oct 2-8', will be used in the standard position at St Andrews, Carnoustie, Cupar, Arbroath from 2nd August to 30th September.

British Paintings Stamps

In addition to the offices listed in the June Bulletin, special Philatelic Posting Boxes will be provided at Aldershot, Bishop Auckland, Canterbury, Perth and Bury St Edmunds.

New Definitive Issue

From 8th August philatelic posting boxes will be provided at St Albans and Watford.

Automatic Letter Facing Machines

A further sixteen offices in different parts of the country are to have ALFs.

Orders have been placed by the Post Office for both automatic letter facers and the associated letter segregating machines which will be installed in Aberdeen, Bournemouth, Cambridge, Croydon, Edinburgh, Huddersfield, Leicester, London WCDO, Newport (Mon), Oxford, Reading, Romford, Sheffield, Stoke-on-Trent, Swansea and Wolverhampton.

Southampton was chosen for the first experiment of automatic letter facing in 1957 since when five other offices have been added to the list.

Special Issues available from Philatelic Bureau

Pictorial Birds	4d (blocks of 4)
Pictorial Technology	4d, 6d, 1s 3d, 1s 6d
Battle of Hastings	4d (blocks of 6), 6d, 1s 3d
Christmas	3d, 1s 6d
EFTA	9d, 1s 6d
British Flora	4d (blocks of 4), 9d, 1s 9d
British Paintings	4d, 9d, 1s 6d

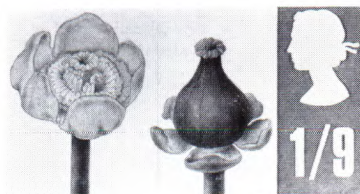
The Christmas 3d are available in plain only and the British Paintings in phosphor only. The remainder are available both plain and phosphor.

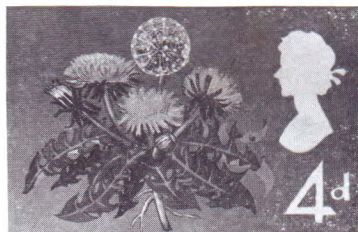
Unaccepted Stamp Designs

British Flora Issue of 24th April, 1967

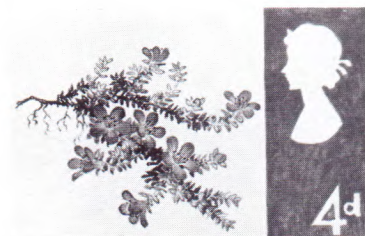
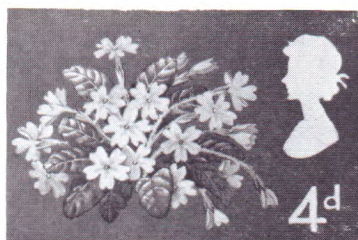


Richard Chopping





Barbara
Everard

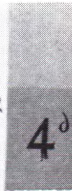




Barbara
Everard



M. Grierson



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