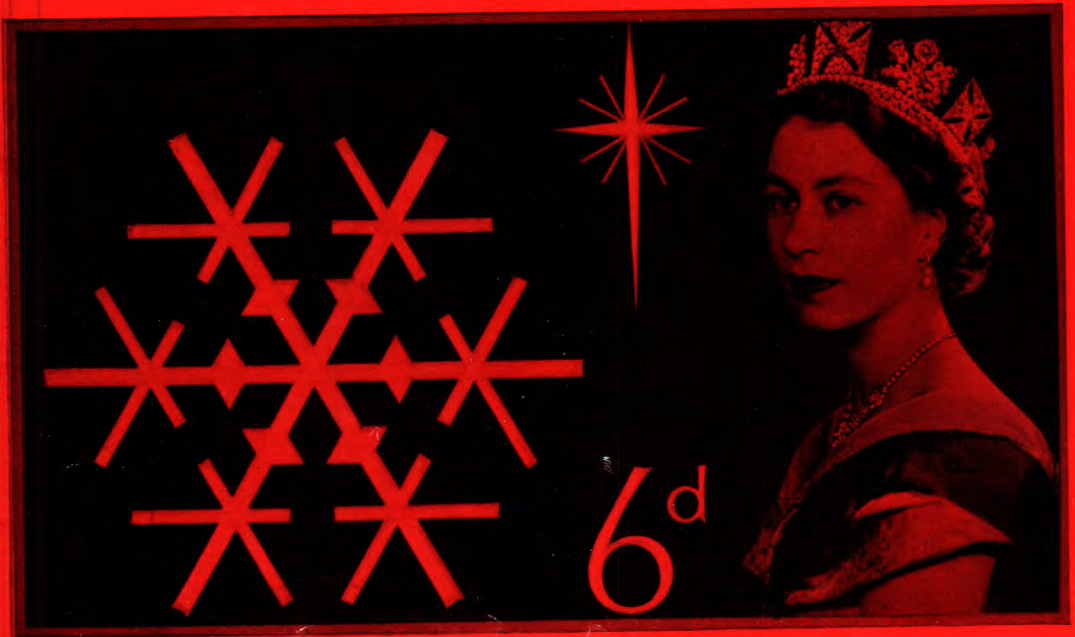


Philatelic Bulletin



Volume 3: Number 4



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Introduction

The reproductions of unaccepted stamp designs which we printed in our last issue seem to be popular with our readers and we hope they will be interested in the further selection printed this month.

In a recent Bulletin we promised to print articles of interest to our younger readers and we trust that they, especially, will learn something useful from our feature on Mount Pleasant.

Some information about next year's special issues is given and as soon as we receive further details we will let you have them.

We wish to draw the attention of our readers to the details, contained in this issue, of the special arrangements that have been made for the Burns stamps. In particular, additional philatelic posting boxes will be available for this issue. These will be at Ayr, Alloway, Dumfries and Kilmarnock.

We have received a number of inquiries about the 2s od (Postcard) book and we feel sure that the detailed information given in this issue will interest many readers.

The Bureau wishes to convey to every reader of the Bulletin sincere good wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

Robert Burns Stamps

Two stamps value 4d and 1s 3d will be issued on 25th January 1966. Full details of the stamps giving particulars of the designs and the artist are given in the special booklet enclosed with this issue of the Bulletin.

The booklet has been produced by our colleagues in Edinburgh Head Post Office, and will, we are sure, be of great interest.

In view of the Scottish character of this issue, the first day cover service will be provided from a special Philatelic Bureau which is being set up in Edinburgh. Arrangements are being made for this issue only for six different postmarks to be used at Alloway, Ayr, Dumfries, Edinburgh, Glasgow and Kilmarnock, and provision is made on the enclosed application forms for you to indicate your choice. When completed these **MUST** be sent direct to the Edinburgh Philatelic Bureau and **NOT** to London.

First Day Covers and Presentation Packs

Our customers who have standing orders for first day covers usually receive them bearing the GPO Philatelic Bureau date stamp but for this issue only their covers will bear an Edinburgh postmark. It will not be possible to provide one of the alternative postmarks on these covers, but should *additional* covers be needed applications should be made on the enclosed form specifying which postmarks are required and sent with the appropriate remittance direct to Edinburgh.

The charge for a first day cover under service 'A', where the special envelope is provided and serviced will be 4s 6d (70 cents). Customers' own envelopes will be serviced under service 'B' at a cost of 2s 6d (40 cents).

A presentation pack will be on sale for 2s 6d (40 cents).

The cost of the official first day cover envelope will be 6d (10 cents).

The list of philatelic offices follows.

Trafalgar Square B.O., WC2

London S.W.D.O.

London E.C.D.O. (Chief Office)

Aberdeen	Kingston-on-Thames
Aberystwyth	Leeds
Alloway*	Leicester
Ayr*	Lincoln
Belfast	Liverpool
Birmingham	Llandudno
Blackpool	Londonderry
Bournemouth	Maidstone
Bradford	Manchester
Brighton	Middlesbrough
Bristol	Newcastle-upon-Tyne
Cambridge	Newport, Mon
Cardiff	Northampton
Chelmsford	Norwich
Chester	Nottingham
Colwyn Bay	Oxford
Croydon	Peterborough
Derby	Plymouth
Douglas, IoM	Portsmouth
Dumfries*	Preston
Dundee	Reading
Edinburgh	Romford
Exeter	Sheffield
Glasgow	Shrewsbury
Gloucester	Southend-on-Sea
Guernsey	Stockport
Harrow	Stockton-on-Tees
Harrogate	Stoke-on-Trent
Hastings	Swansea
Hull	Swindon
Ipswich	Taunton
Jersey	York
Kilmarnock*	

*Available for the Burns issue only.

Stamps from the Royal Collection

An exhibition of stamps from the Royal Collection is currently on show in the Queen's Gallery, Buckingham Palace.

The Exhibition illustrates the history of postage stamps and postal covers during the first forty years of their existence.

Among the many treasures on show are the designs submitted in 1839 in response to the Treasury's competition which sought the best ideas to implement the Act for Penny Post.

The 1d black and 2d blue are shown in both proof and issued states and subsequent adhesive issues are exhibited showing how the stamps came into being and the changes which had to be made.

Also on view are stamps used during early experiments in obliterating and the different types of gum and paper to improve adhesiveness.

Visitors to the Exhibition will also see the start of perforations; the alphabet for corner letters used to prevent loss of revenue brought about by forgery; the very rare 'Stock Exchange' forgeries and many other unique specimens.

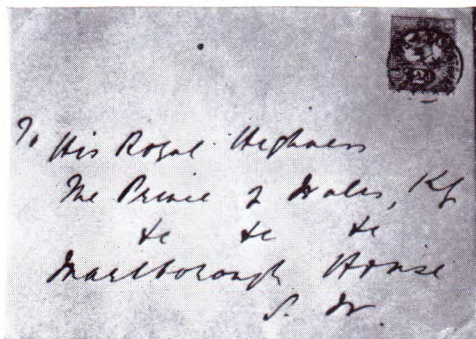
The envelope section of the Exhibition shows the 1840 Mulready Covers and a comprehensive selection of caricatures, comic envelopes and 'propaganda' envelopes covering such subjects as 'Anti-Slavery', 'Intemperance', 'League of Universal Brotherhood' and 'The Sabbath and the Post Office'.

The unique King Edward VII stamp, known as the twopenny 'Tyrian Plum'.



Block of 2d pale blue showing the plate number.

A used £5 Government Telegraph stamp issued in 1877. It was originally intended to print the stamp in gold, but this was abandoned as too expensive.



Postage Stamp Books

The Exhibition is expected to run for about two months from 5th November 1965 and is open to the public on week-days between 11 a.m. and 5 p.m., and on Sundays from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.



Over 1,000 frames are on show at the exhibition; but according to Sir John Wilson this is only 'a tiny part' of the royal stamp collection which was founded by King George V. Sir John, who prepared the exhibition, disclosed at the opening of the exhibition that the Queen also has her own private collection, which rivals the official one.

Muscat Stamps

It was stated in our previous issue that the postal services of Muscat would be transferred to the control of the Muscat Government from 1st January 1966. This has been postponed for a few weeks and the date of issue of the new stamps is now expected to be 1st March 1966. It is hoped to publish full information in the next issue. In the meantime we will continue to sell the existing range of Muscat stamps.

On 7th July the Postmaster General announced that, in addition to the 2s (ordinary), 4s 6d, 6s and 10s stamp books, a 2s (postcard) book containing eight 3d stamps would be introduced later in the year.

This 2s book will be on sale on a limited basis for Christmas card postings, as an experiment to help the GPO to assess the demand. It will be available on 6th December 1965 until 3rd January 1966 at 26 offices. These are:

Trafalgar Square B.O., London

Earls Court B.O., London

Aberdeen	Derby
Ayr	Doncaster, Yorks
Bath, Somerset	Dunfermline, Fife
Belfast	Hastings, Sussex
Bishops Stortford, Herts	Londonderry
Bournemouth, Hants	Newport, Mon
Burnley, Lancs	Oldham, Lancs
Cardiff	Oxford
Carlisle, Cumberland	Scarborough, Yorks
Coleraine, Co. Londonderry	Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire
Coventry, Warwick- shire	Swansea, Glam
Croydon, Surrey	Weymouth, Dorset

The book will comprise two panes of stamps, each pane of four 3d stamps. The interleaving will contain GPO information. The cover will be old gold with red lettering. The spine of the book will be stitched with black cotton.

Commonwealth Arts Festival Unaccepted Stamp Designs

Reproduced below is a selection of the unaccepted designs for the Commonwealth Arts Festival and an article about the Festival and its background.



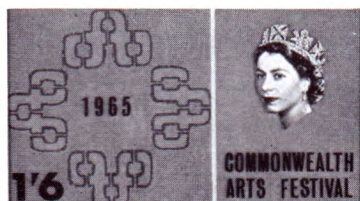
Walter Hayle



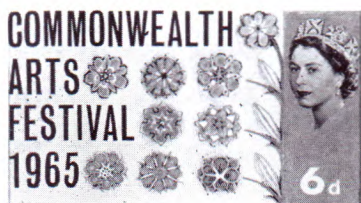
Walter Hayle



Don Foster



Stewart Black



Stewart Black



Stewart Black



Stewart Black



Don Foster



Don Foster



Don Foster



Don Foster

The Commonwealth Arts Festival

The first Commonwealth Arts Festival under its Director-General, Mr Ian Hunter, took place between September 16th and October 2nd 1965, with the United Kingdom acting as *host to the other countries of the Commonwealth*. The rich *diversity of the arts and cultures* of the Commonwealth was fully represented at the Festival which was staged in four main centres: London, Cardiff, Glasgow and Liverpool.

Among the countries participating were: Australia, Canada, Ceylon, Ghana, India, Jamaica, Kenya, Malaysia, Malta, New Zealand, Nigeria, Pakistan, Rhodesia, Sierra Leone, United Republic of Tanzania, Trinidad and Tobago, together with Antigua, Barbados, British Guiana, Dominica and Uganda. A great Dance Gala was held at the Royal Albert Hall with a cast of 250 performers from nine countries. The Toronto and Sydney Symphony Orchestras both gave performances at the Royal Festival Hall as did also the Christchurch Harmonic Choir.

Performances were given by the Australian Ballet at Covent Garden, and the Royal Winnipeg Ballet Company appeared at the Piccadilly Theatre. Dance companies from India, Jamaica and Trinidad offered colourful and varied displays.

A number of fine exhibitions were showing including 'Treasures of Commonwealth Art' at the Royal Academy; 'Australian Aboriginal Bark Painting' and 'Childrens Art from the Commonwealth' were given elsewhere and at the Design Centre a remarkable display of Commonwealth Textiles, Wood-Carving and Ceramics could be seen.

Drama and Poetry were well represented with performances at the Old Vic and Royal Court Theatres.

The wonderful range and variety of artistic endeavour brought together at this Festival cannot be described within the confines of a short article but many who attended the festival will be eagerly looking ahead to the Second Commonwealth Arts Festival.

Postmark Slogans

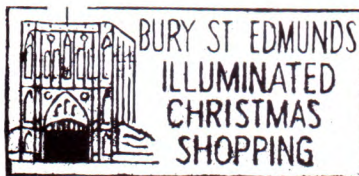
'Berkhamsted Pageant 1066-1966 3rd-11th June' will be in use in the transposed position at Berkhamsted during the period 1st December 1965 to 11th June 1966. Specimen impressions of this slogan can be obtained by sending stamped addressed covers, under prepaid cover, to the Head Postmaster at Berkhamsted.



'Bournemouth Wishes You a Merry Xmas. A Welcome Always Awaits You' will be in use during the period 1st to 24th December 1965. Cover for reposting to the Head Postmaster, Bournemouth.



'Bury St. Edmunds. Illuminated Christmas Shopping' will be in use in the transposed position Bury St. Edmunds during the period 1st to 24th December 1965.



'Bury St. Edmunds. Historic Attractive Touring Centre' will be in use during the period 25th December 1965 to 31st January 1966. Covers for reposting to Head Postmaster, Bury St. Edmunds.



'Visit Cambridge' will be in two dies in the standard and transposed positions at Cambridge during the period 1st December 1965 to 30th November 1966. Covers for reposting to Head Postmaster, Cambridge.



'Jersey for Sunshine in the Winter'; 'Jersey for a Happy Springtime Holiday'; 'Jersey for Sunny Summer Holidays' and 'Jersey for Sunny Autumn Holidays' will all be used in the transposed position at Jersey during the periods 1st October to 31st December 1965; 1st January to 31st March 1966; 1st April to 30th June 1966 and 1st July to 30th September 1966. Covers for reposting to Head Postmaster, Jersey.



'Skegness is so Bracing' will be in use in the transposed position at Skegness during the period 1st December 1965 to 3rd July 1966. A second die to the same design will also be used during the periods 17th to 24th December 1965, and 30th May to 3rd July 1966. Covers for reposting to Head Postmaster, Skegness.



'Greetings from Southport, the All-Year-Round Resort' will be in use in the transposed position at Southport during the period 6th December 1965 to 1st January 1966. The present campaign 'Southport, the All-Year-Round Resort' will be discontinued during the above period. Covers for reposting to Head Postmaster, Southport.

GREETINGS 
FROM
SOUTHPORT
THE ALL-YEAR-ROUND RESORT

SOUTHPORT
The
**ALL-YEAR-ROUND
RESORT**

'Westminster Abbey 900th Anniversary Year' will be used in the transposed position at South Kensington during the period 1st December 1965 to 30th November 1966. Covers for reposting to District Postmaster, South Western District Office.



**WESTMINSTER
ABBEY
900 th
ANNIVERSARY
YEAR**

'Buxton Welcomes New Industries' will now terminate on 26th December 1965 instead of 31st December as was previously announced. The Slogan 'Buxton, Send for Guide', will now commence on 27th December and continue in use until 31st March 1966. Covers for reposting to Head Postmaster, Buxton.



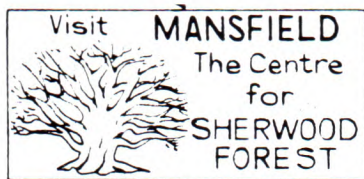
'Invest in Success — Come to Jarrow' will continue in use a further year during the period 26th November 1965 to 25th November 1966.



INVEST IN —
SUCCESS —
COME TO —
JARROW —

Special Stamp Issues for 1966

'Visit Mansfield, the Centre for Sherwood Forest' will continue in use a further year during the period 31st December 1965 to 30th December 1966.



Two of the four slogan dies, 'The International Building Exhibition, Olympia, London, 17 Nov—1 Dec 1965', which were to be used at West Central District Office are now in use in the standard position at East Central District Office. Eight dies bearing this slogan are still in use at Mount Pleasant. This slogan was given in the previous *Bulletin*.

Philatelic Bureau Counter Service

In order that we can deal as speedily as possible with the large number of customers who visit our counter *on the first day of a new issue*, we have to limit sales to the stamps etc., issued on that day and do not sell any other items.

We do not like to turn trade away but in the interests of the vast majority of that day's customers who are concerned only with the new stamps we feel it to be the best course. To those customers who are inconvenienced by this arrangement we apologize.

During the Christmas period the Bureau counter will close at mid-day on 24th December and will re-open at 9 a.m. on 29th December.

Further news about next year's special issues was given in Parliament by the Postmaster General on 27th October 1965.

Robert Burns stamps value 4d and 1s 3d are to be issued on 25th January 1966 and will be followed on 28th February by stamps commemorating the 900th Anniversary of Westminster Abbey. The World Cup Football Championship is to be played in this country in 1966 and to mark the occasion special stamps will be issued on 1st June. Every schoolboy remembers that the Battle of Hastings was fought in 1066 and as 1966 will be the 900th anniversary of that battle an issue will be made on 14th October to commemorate the event.

The Postmaster General also announced that special pictorial issues are to be introduced but gave no details. This opens up all sorts of exciting ideas and we eagerly await further information.

Treatment of Customers' Orders

With the ITU stamps issued on 15th November 1965 this year's special issues have come to an end.

The programme during 1965 has been full and varied, covering among other issues the sombre Sir Winston Churchill stamps, the gay issue for the Commonwealth Arts Festival, the special large 2s 6d stamp commemorating the 700th anniversary of Simon de Montfort's parliament and the block of six 4d stamps of the Battle of Britain series.

Because of the frequency of the special issues and the increasing popularity of the Bureau we have dealt with an unprecedented number of orders running into many thousands for each issue. Unforeseen difficulties resulting from shortage of staff have caused delays in the dispatch of some orders and we would like to thank our customers for their patience and apologize for any failings on our part.

Mount Pleasant—Britain's Largest Sorting Office

Every few minutes of every day of the week a van full of mail arrives at Mount Pleasant. 50,000 mailbags, 1,300 van loads, 800 underground train loads come into the building every day. In an average week between twenty and twentyfive million letters and parcels pass along its conveyor belts and chutes.

Statistics on this scale are hard to believe. To the 6,500 members of the Mount Pleasant staff astronomical figures are routine. The office covers an area of over nine acres and an average of one thousand three hundred million (1,300,000,000) separate items a year are handled.

The first requirement is obviously to bring order to the vast amount of mail which arrives. Awkwardly shaped items are separated from the letters and are sent by conveyor to be hand stamped. The rest of the letters are then arranged so that the stamps are facing the front and they are then passed through the high speed cancelling machines which cancels the stamps at the rate of 600 a minute.

The letters are then ready for 'primary' sorting which breaks down the mass of material into a number of convenient geographical destination groups. This is done by hand by teams of sorters who distribute the letters into frames of 48 pigeon holes, each compartment bears the name of a geographical area or major town.

When this primary 'break-down' is completed the next job is to carry out a further and more detailed routing. For this there are twentyfour secondary areas and it is to these that the streams of letters are now moved.

An ingenious overhead conveyor system carries the letters in baskets automatically delivering each basket to its appropriate discharge point.

The letters are now well on their way. At this secondary sorting large geographical areas are sub-divided. The random assortment received a short time before, has become an organised stream. The letters are then sorted into more

pigeon holes in greater detail, tied into bundles and put into place-named bags suspended on racks. It is at this stage that they are rejoined by the packets and large letters which were separated at the initial stage. These have arrived by means of a special combined packet-sorting and conveyor installation.

The mail bags are then sealed and are ready for dispatch by vans or the Post Office underground railway to other postal districts or to main line railway stations.

Certain 'second class' mail such as magazines, newspapers and advertising material are dealt with separately during 'off-peak' periods. As many as 2,000,000 have been handled in a single day.

In addition to letters and packets a vast amount of parcel mail is dealt with at Mount Pleasant; a weekly flow of a million parcels is not uncommon.

Parcel sorting is similar to that of letters except that instead of pigeon holes place-named trolley baskets are used for the primary sort. These are wheeled away for the secondary sorting into bags ready for dispatch.

Generations of knowledge, methodical tenacity, skilled hands and ingenious machinery combine in daily feats of efficiency in one of the world's biggest sorting offices.

Commemorative Stamps available from Philatelic Bureau

Sir Winston Churchill	4d*, 1s 3d
700th Anniversary of Simon de Montfort's Parliament	6d, 2s 6d*
Salvation Army Centenary	3d†, 1s 6d
Joseph Lister Centenary	4d, 1s
Commonwealth Arts Festival	6d, 1s 6d
25th Anniversary of the Battle of Britain	4d‡, 9d, 1s 3d
Post Office Tower	3d, 1s 3d
International Telecom- munications Union	9d, 1s 6d

NOTE:

All stamps are available with or without
phosphor lines with the exception of:

* plain only † phosphor only

‡ in blocks of six

Withdrawal of Bureau Stock Items

Our stocks of the following items are now
exhausted and we shall be unable to meet any
further orders for them.

Sir Winston Churchill, 4d phosphor lined
Salvation Army, 3d plain
Battle of Britain presentation packs

The existing range of Bahrain stamps will be
withdrawn from sale in the Bureau on 31st
December 1965.

Conditions

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

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

Stamps are NOT supplied cancelled to order. Remittances, which *must* be sent with orders, should be made payable to 'GPO Philatelic Bureau' and should include a handling charge of 6d for orders under 10s, and 2s 6d for orders of 10s and over. For orders to be sent Air Mail the cost of the airmail postage should be added. Stamps are not accepted as payment for orders.

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