

Philatelic Bulletin



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Introduction

The most important news this month concerns the British Paintings issue of 12 August and the new high value definitive range of 9 September. We give full details and background information for the benefit of those who like to have it to write up their collections.

We are sure that those who have visited the National Postal Museum will be interested to see the artist's impression of the new Main gallery as it will eventually appear. We will give plenty of notice about the date of re-opening.

We have had many requests for another article about the Post Office Railway and we will publish one in the near future.

Conditions

The Philatelic Bureau, 2-4 Waterloo Place, Edinburgh 1, will be pleased to supply any number of stamps shown on its current order form, subject to stocks being available, in mint condition only. For stamps not shown on the form, enquiries 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 watermark.

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 3s 9d for orders of 10s and over (9d and 4s respectively for orders to Overseas Countries, other than the Commonwealth). For orders to be sent by Air Mail the cost of the airmail postage should be added. Stamps are not accepted as payment for orders.

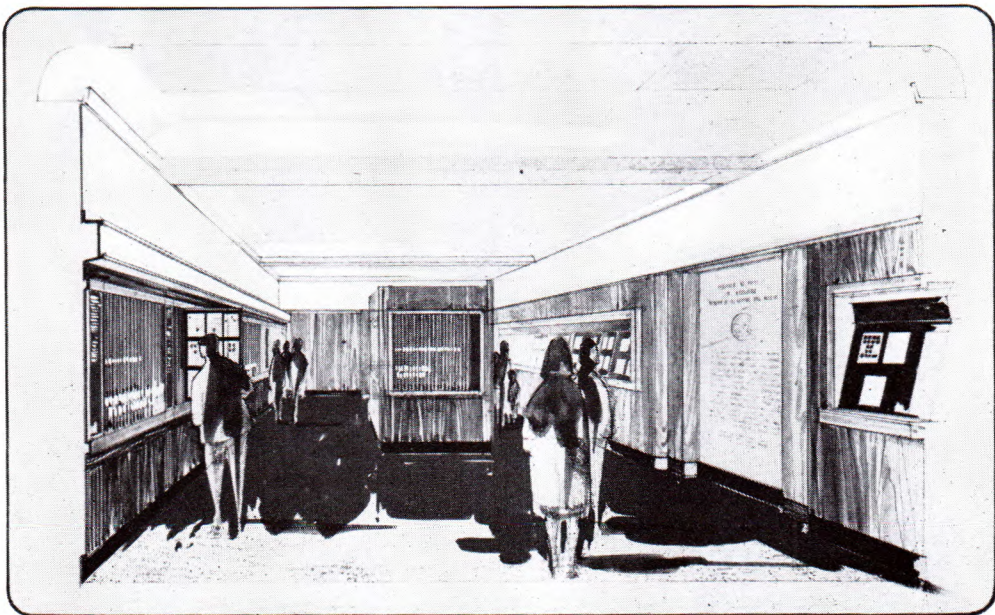
National Postal Museum Notes

Time was when the enjoyment of objets d'art was the prerogative of a wealthy sophisticated minority with time to spare, resources to collect the rich and rare and the educational background necessary for their enjoyment. We live in a different age, for a large part of the world's treasures is as accessible to the man in the street as the parks and open spaces of our towns.

All the means of communication of our time are harnessed to draw attention to our cultural heritage: more and more ordinary folk are finding the quality of their lives enriched by taking trouble to find out about their heritage. Experts like Robert Erskine bring fascinating by-gones to the television cameras and discuss them before our eyes. There are books without number, and many of them remarkably inexpensive, to whet our interests and innumerable lectures and talks 'for free'.

And when the television, radio, the spoken and written word leave off, 'The Glory that was Rome' or 'The Story of the World's First Adhesive Postage Stamp' come within the direct visual experience of everyone that we may look and learn. We need only take time off to visit one of our National Museums, among which the National Postal Museum will, before the year is out, take its rightful place.

Work on the much larger Museum galleries is proceeding apace and it should soon be practicable to announce the date of opening. Meanwhile, the work of preparing a vast amount of material for exhibition and reference continues. No less than 25,000 album pages of stamps and stamped stationery have, over the last few months, been prepared for exhibition and there are many more to be done. Some twenty thousand of them will be shown continuously in the Museum. It may indeed



An artist's impression of the Main Gallery of the National Postal Museum as it will be when completed.

Postmark Slogans

be fairly claimed that one would have to travel a long way to find so vast and varied a collection of stamps in a philatelic Museum.

Whereas we are spending a lot of time and energy preparing to exhibit the stamps of every member country of the Universal Postal Union, and many stamps issued before the U.P.U. was founded, the Museum's most specialised field is, very properly, the stamps of Great Britain. Nowhere in the world can a finer and more comprehensive G.B. collection be found. In conjunction with the Reginald M. Phillips collection of Nineteenth Century British Postage Stamps which in 1965, with singular generosity, he presented to the Postmaster General in trust for the nation, and around which the Museum is being developed, the Post Office collection of British stamps serves as a catalyst. Much of the Post Office G.B. collection consists of the officially approved proof sheets – the imprimatur sheets. By themselves they would make dull viewing: a few examples shown in conjunction with the scholarly sequences of album pages which Mr Phillips so painstakingly built up to illustrate the evolution of the British Postage Stamp from 1840 to 1900 adds lustre to that collection and the imprimaturs themselves are made more meaningful.

Until the Post Office started printing its own stamps in 1914 the Stamp Office at Somerset House produced them and all the proof sheets until then were the property of the Board of Inland Revenue. That Department preserved them carefully and it is this heritage together with the Post Office twentieth century collection which is now housed in the National Postal Museum.

As we prepare for the Museum's re-opening my colleagues and I are very conscious that we are handling treasures of great interest to philatelists everywhere and perhaps of even greater interest to posterity. The 'count down' has commenced and I hope this month's notes will help you to share the sense of immediacy we are experiencing in the 'back room'.

F. MARCUS ARMAN

'Chesterfield for Industry and Countryside' will be re-used at Chesterfield from 3 August 1968 to 2 August 1969.

'Prestwick Indoor Bowls' will be re-used at Prestwick from 2 September until 2 November.

'Skegness Illuminations Nightly from Aug 24 on the Dry Coast of Lincolnshire' will be used in the transposed position at Skegness from 1 July until 30 September.

'Weymouth Pavilion – My Fair Lady Sept 16–21' will be used in the transposed position at Weymouth from 26 August until 17 September.

'York Races' will be used in the transposed position at York from 19 August until 2 September.

The slogan 'Bexhill-on-Sea Desirable Residential Resort' will be re-used from 1–30 September at Bexhill-on-Sea.

'Racing at Hamilton' will be re-used from 7–28 September at Glasgow.

'Harlow the 21 Town 1947, 1968' will be re-used at Harlow from 2–30 September.

'Jersey New Tomatoes now available' will be in use in the transposed position at Jersey from 1–30 September.

'From June 24 BBC Radio Leeds VHF 94.6' will be used in the standard position at Leeds and Morley from 10 June until 8 July.

'Ship through the Port of Manchester' will be in continued use at Manchester from 8 June 1968 until 7 June 1969.

'Fly Direct from Manchester Gateway to the World at the heart of Britain' will be in continued use from 5 June 1968 until 4 June 1969.

'Newcastle Students Charities Week 28 Oct 2 Nov' will be used in the standard position at Newcastle upon Tyne and North and South Shields from 30 September until 2 November.

'Newmarket Races' will be used at Newmarket from 24 August until 20 September and again from 21 September until 4 October in the transposed position.

'1888-1968 Have you seen it? Carnival Time at Ryde IOW 2-7 Sept' will be in use in the transposed position at Ryde from 29 July until 7 September.

'Sheffield Students Rag Week Oct 18-26' will be used in the transposed position at Sheffield from 2 September until 26 October.

'Shrewsbury Musical & Floral Fete Aug 21 22' is in use at Shrewsbury in the transposed position until 21 August.

'York Races' will be used in the transposed position at York from 18 September until 8 October.

'Join or start a National Savings Group Tall Oaks from Little Acorns Grow' will be used in the transposed position at Edinburgh, Edinburgh WDO and NWDO, Falkirk, Greenock and Hamilton from 1 July until 13 September.

The slogan 'Eisteddfod Genedlaethol Y Barri 1968 - National Eisteddfod Barry 1968' will be used in the transposed position at Barry, Neath and Port Talbot from 10 June until 7 July, at Merthyr Tydfil from 10 June to 30 June, at Bridgend and Pontypridd from 24 June until 7 July, at Swansea from 1 July to 7 July.

'Hove Dairy Festival 20th July to 28th July, Western Lawns. The Dairy Festival' will be used in the transposed position at Brighton from 8 July to 28 July.

'Send to Town Hall for Guide - Cheltenham. The Centre for the Cotswolds' will be re-used at Cheltenham from 13 September until 12 November.

'Fifty Fifth Annual Convention 22nd June to 30th June 1968. County Derry Portstewart' will be in continued use until 26 June at Coleraine.

'Coleraines New Life Churches Bid You Welcome' will now begin 27 June and not 20 June and will run until 31 July at Coleraine.

'From 3rd July BBC Radio Durham VHF 96.8' will be used in the transposed position at Durham from 19 June until 17 July.

'Londonderry For Your New Factory, Apply Town Clerk' which is in use at Londonderry, now has a slightly new design with a shamrock incorporated.

'Maidstone 1968 31st August to 21st September, Son et Lumiere' will now be withdrawn at Maidstone 24 September and not 25 September.

'Alec Rose and "Lively Lady" Portsmouth - Around the world - Portsmouth 1967-1968' will be used in the transposed position at Portsmouth and Cosham from the day that Alec Rose arrives until further notice.

'Malmesbury Abbey Flower Festival 6th, 7th and 8th September' will be used in the transposed position at Swindon from 15 July until 31 August.

The Post Office at Prague

At the World Stamp Exhibition Praga 1968, the Post Office will be exhibiting some of its philatelic treasures.

On show will be single specimens from many of the various plates used to print stamps during Queen Victoria's reign. The stamps will cover the period from Plate 1 of the 1d black of 1840, through the 1d red, the 2d blue, to the 4d, 5d, 6d, 8d and 9d of 1855-6 up to the 10d, 1s 0d, 2s, 2s 6d, 5s, 10s, £1 and £5.

Also exhibited will be Inland Revenue stamps overprinted ½d - £1 and Telegraph stamps ½d - £5 together with a selection of early stamped stationery.

New High Value Stamps

On 9 September 1968 the new definitive range will be completed by the issue of the four high value stamps, 2s 6d, 5s, 10s and £1.



The stamps show a line engraving of the Arnold Machin head which has become world famous since it was first introduced on the 4d of 5 June 1967 and are printed, as are all our high value stamps by Bradbury Wilkinson & Co. Ltd.

The details are:

Printing process: Recess

Machines: Bradbury Wilkinson Steel Plate Press

Format: Vertical

Perforation: 12 × 12

Size of perforation: .04" diameter

Size: 29.72 mm. × 34.35 mm.

Colours: 2s 6d Peat Brown

5s Raspberry Red

10s Sapphire Blue

£1 Blue/Black.

First day cover service particulars will be given in the August *Bulletin*.

Help us to help you

Under this heading we occasionally publish 'hints and tips' to show how our business can be conducted more efficiently and our customers' needs met more rapidly by observing simple procedures.

Here are another two:

It will greatly help the Bureau if, when ordering stamps, any queries not directly relating to the stamps being ordered, could be

written on a separate sheet of paper bearing the customer's name and address. The enquiry can then be dealt with separately without danger of being overlooked when the stamp order is completed, or of the order being delayed while the enquiry is pursued.

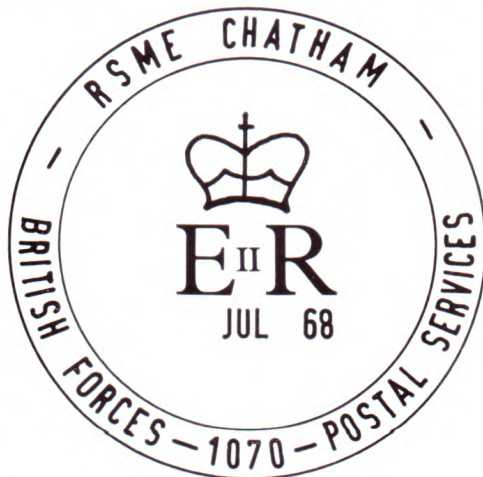
It will assist us if deposit account holders ensure that sufficient credit remains in their accounts to meet the cost of the new High Value stamps to be issued on 9 September. A full range First Day Cover of this series will require approximately £2. Why risk delay or disappointment due to lack of funds?

Special Handstamp

The R.S.M.E. Chatham holds its 'Open Day' at Brompton Barracks on 13 July 1968. This year the display is of particular interest as it also commemorates the 50th anniversary of the death on active service of Major J. T. B. McCudden, VC, DSO*, MC*, MM, RE.

Commemorative postcards will be on sale at the 'Forces Post Office' stand and items posted at the stand will be franked with a special hand-stamp as shown below.

The special postcards may be purchased at the 'Forces Post Office' stand on 13 July 1968.



Stamped Stationery for Two-Tier Tariff

To cater for the two-tier tariff postage rates already announced, a revised stamped stationery range is to be introduced from 16 September 1968.

Items are as follows:

Envelopes

Azure Envelope 'A' $5\frac{3}{4}" \times 3\frac{3}{4}"$ (Duke)	4d stamp	5d each; 4s for packet of 10
Azure Envelope 'A' $5\frac{3}{4}" \times 3\frac{3}{4}"$ (Duke)	5d stamp	6d each; 4s 10d for packet of 10
Azure Envelope 'B' $9\frac{1}{4}" \times 4\frac{3}{4}"$ (Foolscap)	4d stamp	6d each; 4s 4d for packet of 10
Azure Envelope 'B' $9\frac{1}{4}" \times 4\frac{3}{4}"$ (Foolscap)	5d stamp	7d each; 5s 2d for packet of 10

Lettercards

Azure Lettercard	4d stamp	5d each; 4s for packet of 10
Azure Lettercard	5d stamp	6d each; 4s 10d for packet of 10

Postcards

Azure Postcard – Single	4d stamp	5d each; 3s 10d for packet of 10
Azure Postcard – Reply Paid	4d + 4d stamp	10d each; 8s 2d for packet of 10

Registered Letter Envelopes

Embossed with 3s 5d stamp (Registration fee 3s; postage 5d)

Size G	$6\frac{1}{8}" \times 3\frac{3}{4}"$	3s 8d each; £2 4s for packet of 12
Size H	$8" \times 4\frac{3}{4}"$	3s 9d each; £2 5s for packet of 12
Size K	$11\frac{1}{2}" \times 6"$	4s each; £1 4s for packet of 6

Stamp Rolls

As a result of a recently concluded review of stamp rolls, the range offered for sale by the Post Office has been revised and streamlined to cater for current demand. The following rolls are available throughout the country.

$\frac{3}{4}"$ core	$\frac{1}{2}"$ core	$1\frac{1}{4}"$ core
$\frac{1}{2}d$ W 960 stamps	2d T 480 stamps	4d A 960 stamps
1d E 480 stamps	3d S 480 stamps	6d J 480 stamps
1d X 960 stamps	4d H 480 stamps	
1d Z 1,920 stamps		
2d V 960 stamps		
3d AC 480 stamps		
3d AD 960 stamps		
3d U 1,920 stamps		

Since demand for the $1\frac{1}{4}"$ core 3d roll C is limited, it will be available only from Trafalgar Square, BO WC2 and by post from the Philatelic Bureau, 2–4 Waterloo Place, Edinburgh 1.

Rolls E, Z, AC and U are being sold to exhaustion and current stocks are expected to last until well into 1969.

All other rolls are being withdrawn, since they are no longer economic to produce.



Queen Elizabeth I.



Pinkie.

The second series of British Paintings stamps is to be issued on 12 August 1968. Four famous paintings are reproduced; the 4d shows Queen Elizabeth I by an unknown artist, the 1s is a reproduction of Sir Thomas Lawrence's *Pinkie*, while a modern painting *St. Mary le Port, Bristol* by John Piper is the subject of the 1s 6d. The set is completed by perhaps the best known of all British Paintings – Constable's *The Hay Wain* which is shown on the 1s 9d.

Sir Thomas Lawrence's portraits of children, and his splendidly vivacious paintings of fashionable women, have a place of their own in British art. He was born at Bristol on 4 May 1769, the youngest of sixteen children. At the age of twelve this somewhat precocious boy had his own studio in Bath, and six years later went to London, received the encouragement and advice of Sir Joshua Reynolds, entered the Royal Academy schools and obtained Court patronage. At the King's request he was made an 'extra' associate of the Royal Academy in 1791, being the first and last artist to enjoy that irregular honour. He was appointed principal portrait painter to George III in 1792, and was elected RA in 1794. A great array of his portraits of kings, queens and statesmen is to be seen at Windsor Castle, the National Gallery, the National Portrait Gallery and

other London collections. Lawrence was knighted in 1815 and was elected President of the Royal Academy in 1820. He died suddenly in London on 7 January 1830, and was buried in St. Paul's Cathedral. *Pinkie*, a portrait of Miss Sarah Moulton-Barrett, was first exhibited in 1795 at the Royal Academy, and is now at the Huntington Library and Art Gallery in California.

John Piper, painter and writer, was born on 13 December 1903 in Epsom Surrey. He worked in the office of his father, a solicitor, until 1928, and then entered the Royal College of Art. In 1941 he was commissioned by the Queen to do a series of water colours of Windsor Castle. He designed the windows and interior of Nuffield College Chapel, Oxford, which was completed in 1961, the window of Coventry Cathedral in 1962 and the tapestry for Chichester Cathedral in 1966. He was Official War Artist to the Ministry of Information during the war. *St. Mary le Port* was destroyed by bombs on 24 November 1940, and Piper arrived in Bristol the next day and found the ruins of one or two churches still smouldering. He was made an Hon. ARIBA in 1957 and Hon. ARCA in 1959, and since 1967 has been a Trustee of the Tate Gallery, where *St. Mary le Port, Bristol* is now on show.

John Constable, one of the greatest English



St. Mary le Port, Bristol.



The Hay Wain.

landscape painters, was born at East Bergholt, Suffolk, on 11 June 1776, the son of a well-to-do miller. His father had originally intended him for a career in the Church but, encouraged by Sir George Beaumont, a distinguished painter and connoisseur of the arts, agreed to let his son go to London, where he was admitted to the Royal Academy schools in 1799, exhibiting his first landscape in 1802. He was made an ARA in 1819, and an RA in 1829. Three of his paintings were shown at the French Salon in 1824 – these caused a sensation and he was awarded a gold medal by the King of France; however, recognition in England was slow in coming. From 1830, he produced numerous fine landscapes, and was also very interested in a series of twenty mezzotint engravings of his works by David Lucas, which were brought out in five parts in 1833. He died suddenly in London on 31 March 1837. The painting depicted on the 1s 9d stamp, *The Hay Wain*, is one of Constable's best known landscapes. It was painted in 1821 and was later presented to the National Gallery, where it is now to be seen.

First Day Cover Services

The usual first day cover services will be available. The charge for a cover under Service A where the officially designed enve-

lope is provided will be 7s 7d while customers' own pre-addressed covers will be serviced for 5s 7d. The special philatelic posting boxes will be opened for the convenience of customers who like to prepare and post their own covers. Additional boxes will be provided – at Barnsley, Newbury and Scunthorpe.

Presentation packs containing a full set of stamps together with background information will be on sale at the offices where the philatelic boxes are provided.

Details

Printer: Harrison and Sons Ltd.

Process: Photogravure

Paper: Plain coated unwatermarked, phosphor lined

Machines: Sheet fed rotary Rembrandt

Size: 4d 1.6" × 1.1173" vertical

1s 1.6" × 1.1176" vertical

1s 6d 1.6" × 1.3412" vertical

1s 9d 1.6" × 1.2294" horizontal

Perforation: 15 × 14

Colours: 4d Yellow, red, grey, black, gold

1s Yellow, red, pink, blue, black, gold

1s 6d Yellow, orange, red, grey, blue, black, gold

1s 9d Yellow, red, blue, black, gold

No. to sheet: 60

Special Handstamps

'I.F.I.P. Congress' will be used from 5 August to 10 August 1968 at Edinburgh. A circular design – no motif.

Four separate handstamps will be used at Dundee during the Open Golf Championships 10–13 July 1968. 'Day 1' will be used on 10 July, 'Day 2' on 11 July, 'Day 3' on 12 July and 'Final Day' on 13 July. The stamps will be of rectangular design and will have a motif of a golf ball with the figures 1, 2, 3 imposed upon it for the first three stamps and the words 'Final Day' on the fourth stamp on the left side. The designation, Carnoustie Angus and the date will be on the right of the stamp. A play-off will be arranged if necessary and in this event a fifth handstamp will be used on 14 July at Dundee. This will also be of rectangular design with the words 'Play-off' imposed upon the golf ball on the left side of the stamp.

'Portsmouth Hants Welcomes Alec Rose' will be used at Portsmouth on the day Alec Rose returns from his world voyage. A circular design, no motif.

'International Camp E. Mersea Colchester' will be used from 27 July to 24 August 1968 at Colchester. A circular design with a motif of a shield bearing three curved swords.

'RAF 50th Anniversary Princess Alexandra's Royal Air Force Hospital Fete Wroughton Swindon Wilts' will be used on 27 July 1968 at Swindon. A rectangular design with RAF roundel on the left and the 'Red Cross' symbol on the right of the stamp.

'Sussex Philatelic Societies Convention Henfield E52 Henfield Sussex' will be used on 6 July 1968 at Brighton. A circular design with six martlets on a shield as the central motif.

'Discovery Row – Antarctic Exhibition HMS Discovery London WC2' will be used on 13 July 1968 at West Central District Office. A circular design with a motif of HMS *Discovery* in the upper half of the stamp.

'The P. J. Clarke Memorial Youth Hostel Opening Llanberis Caernavon' will be used on 27 July at Bangor – a rectangular design with a motif of an outline sketch of the hostel on the right of the handstamp.

'International Air Rally Middleton St. George Darlington' will be used on 3 August 1968 at Darlington Co. Durham. A rectangular design with a motif of an air 'sock'.

'Portsmouth and District Philatelic Society' will be used from 12–18 August 1968. A circular design with a motif of an anchor above the date and a '21st birthday key' below the date.

'Xth Lambeth Conference Newcastle Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lindisfarne Holy Island Berwick-upon-Tweed' will be used at Berwick-upon-Tweed on 17 August 1968. The design is rectangular with a motif of a bishop's mitre in a top central position and the Lantern Tower of Newcastle Cathedral on the left of the handstamp.

'Hertford District Philatelic Society 21st Anniversary Exhibition Hertford' will be used on 5 October 1968 at Hertford. A circular design with a stag as a motif.

'175th Anniversary of Birth of John Clare, Helpston, Peterborough' will be used on 13 July 1968 at Peterborough. A rectangular design – no motif.

'Manchester Grammar School Philatelic Society 1918–1968' will be used on 13 July 1968 at Manchester. A circular design with a motif of an owl in the centre of the handstamp.

'International Camp Girl Guides Blair Atholl' will be used at Pitlochry from 27 July to 7 August. A circular design with a motif of the olympic symbol of five circles above the girl guide badge.

'4th British Conference of Christian Youth Edinburgh' will be used from 26 July to 2 August 1968 at Edinburgh. A circular design – no motif.

'Martlet Down Expo Sussex Ardingly Haywards Heath Sussex' will be used on 19–20 July at Haywards Heath. A circular design – no motif.

'Scottish International Scout Camp Blair Atholl' will be used at Pitlochry from 16 July to 26 July. A circular design with a motif of the Scout Badge.

All items for reposting should be sent under cover to the Head Postmasters concerned.

First Day of Issue at Whitby

In our recent issues we have given details of the new Captain Cook bicentenary stamp and the first day cover arrangements for the 29 May. Our readers may be interested to know what is involved in providing a service for philatelists on a first day of issue, and the following article describes the most recent occasion, that for the Anniversaries issue, at Whitby, Yorkshire.

When Whitby Head Post Office opened on the morning of Wednesday 29 May, there was a queue of collectors stretching for fully two hundred yards along the pavement waiting to buy first day covers and stamps for the Captain Cook bicentenary stamp issue. Stamp collectors from many parts of Britain had travelled to Whitby, the only place in the country where the special handstamp for the Cook stamp was in use.

The counter staff was reinforced for the day, and it was not uncommon for clerks to sell a full sheet of 120 stamps to individual customers. Tables and chairs were put in the foyer to facilitate the fixing of the stamps and the addressing of the covers. Many philatelists had taken advantage of the Philatelic Bureau's first day cover services, and by noon 8,000 ordered covers had been received at Whitby from the Bureau for cancellation and posting. The Whitby post office had sold out of the special covers by 11 am and collectors waited for nearly two hours before more supplies arrived. When the office closed for the day it was estimated that over 20,000 first day covers, many destined for Australia and New Zealand, had been given the special handstamp. To cope with this enormous number, cancellation and sorting facilities were provided in the old manual telephone exchange, which was recently stripped of all electronic equipment. For sorting, Christmas fittings were used, enabling a much wider selection of mail for distant destinations.

For some people, however, there was disappointment; stocks of covers were soon sold out, and so many did the next best thing – they sent off coloured picture postcards with a

picture of Captain Cook and details of his life and voyages, bearing the 1s 9d stamp.

The philatelic posting box provided opened at 9 am and, after being cleared every quarter of an hour, closed at 5.30 pm. The special handstamp used on the covers included in the design an anchor and three roses. A special postmark slogan was also used, in the automatic stamp cancelling machine. Designed by Susan Leach, a pupil of Whitby Grammar School, it will be used on all outgoing correspondence at Whitby for an indefinite period.

Withdrawal of Bureau Stock Items

The 4d Christmas 1967 stamp will be withdrawn from sale on 17 October 1968.

New Air Letter Form

The 9d stamp which appears on the new air letter which was issued on 1 July depicts the silhouettes of two VC 10 aircraft, one in black and one in white on a blue background. The stamp was designed by David Gentleman, and the air letter is printed by McCorquodales.

New Philatelic Sales Points

Notice to Customers in Liverpool and Blackpool

For the convenience of customers we have opened two more philatelic sales points on an experimental basis at the Head Post Office counters of Liverpool and Blackpool, for a period of six months.

The new sales points opened for business on Monday, 1 July 1968. They will supplement the services already offered at London, Edinburgh and Glasgow. We are sure that our patrons in the two areas will welcome this experimental extension of our facilities.

An Early History of the Post Card

The possibility of sending cards which were not enclosed in envelopes through the post was first brought to the notice of the British Government in September 1869 by an article in the *Scotsman*; the proposition was considered, and rejected. However, the following year, Dr Lyon Playfair presented a petition containing many signatures in favour of a 'card post'. This prompted the Government to make inquiries in Austria, where postcards had been introduced in October 1869. Following these inquiries, the Postmaster General recommended that postcards should be issued here, and a clause to this effect was included in the Newspaper Postage Bill of 1870.

The first postcard was sold in Britain on 1 October of that year and, surprisingly enough, its introduction was greeted with ridicule and even hostility. It was argued that the postcard would encourage public libel and defamation of character, and also that a postcard was an insult to the recipient since, if the communication was not worth the letter rate of one penny, it was not worth sending at all.

In spite of all the objections, the use of postcards spread rapidly, 575,000 being sold on the first day at the office in St. Martin's-le-Grand alone, while nearly one and a half million were sold throughout the country each week. In 1870, 75 million were sold; by 1900, the figure had reached 382 million.

Initially, postcards were sold at face value, and, since there was no charge for the actual card, the stationers complained that this was unfair competition. After many protests, in 1872, it was decided that a charge of 6½d per dozen should be made for the cards if they were pre-stamped, while private cards, previously prohibited, were permitted provided they were stamped at Somerset House. The Inland Revenue Department commenced stamping cards on 17 June 1872, a concession much appreciated by the public.

In 1875, Gladstone's government introduced a new stouter postcard selling at 8d per dozen, while the thinner cards went up to 7d per dozen; the cards were also sold in half-dozens.

Many people found the 'bulk-buying' inconvenient and so, from 1877 postcards could be bought in any quantity required. However, the cards still had to be bought pre-stamped. The agitation for the use of separate postage stamps on postcards was revived in 1882, and received the support of the Postmaster General, but it was not until 1894 that private cards could be sent with postage stamps affixed to them.

An important innovation in 1882 was the introduction of reply-paid postcards. This followed the example set by Germany, who had first introduced these cards ten years previously. The German public had received these cards very well, as they were found to be very convenient for business and family matters. Foreign reply-paid cards were also introduced in Britain under the auspices of the Postal Union which fixed the charges for postcards at one half the letter rates, pre-payment being compulsory.

Another development of the postcard system was the introduction of the picture postcard. An astute photographer in Passau, Germany, having chemically sensitized an ordinary postcard, printed a view of his native town upon it. The idea grew, and a great craze for these pictorial postcards developed, particularly in Germany during the late 19th century.

The early postcards were of varying shapes and sizes, the smallest being believed to come from Austria. As a rule, the stamp was to be found in the top tight hand corner; in Switzerland and Italy however, the stamp was in the left hand corner, while in Spain the stamp was put in the middle of the postcard.

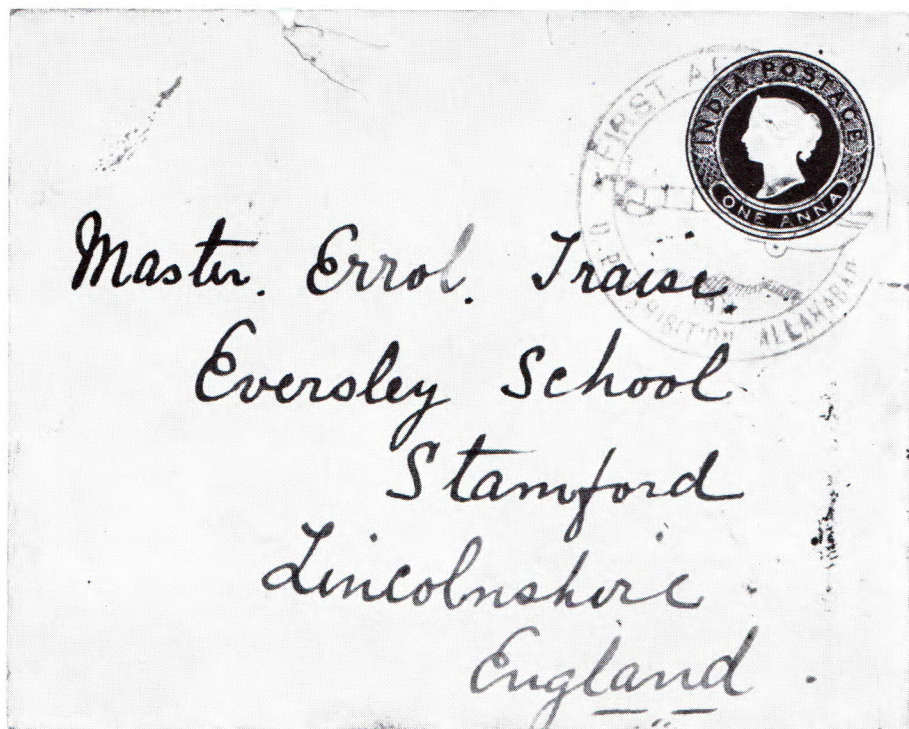
Today, nearly one hundred years after their introduction postcards are still used for a vast number of different forms of correspondence. They are convenient both for the sender and the recipient and, being cheaper to send than an ordinary letter, they seem assured of continuing popularity in the future.

Post by Air

Following our article on the first official aerial post (see *Philatelic Bulletin*, Vol. 5, No. 6) a reader has been kind enough to send us an envelope embossed with a One Anna Brown

stamp.

The envelope, shown here, is very unusual since it bears a Queen Victoria stamp with a *bona fide* Air Mail cancellation.



Letters to the Editor

Dear Sir,

I wonder if you would care to listen to a voice from Denmark?

Since March 1966 I have been a subscriber of the *Bulletin* which I think is a very neat magazine giving much good information about the past as well as about the present and the future. It has been definitely improved with the introduction of *Letters to the Editor*. But as you probably know, nothing is perfect. I have one criticism: the reproductions on the front page are very dull and in some cases even very bad. They do not correspond very well with the quality of paper and printing of the *Bulletin*. Why not give us a full colour reproduction in photogravure? More colour reproductions would give the *Bulletin* the final touch of perfection. Of course this will increase the production expenses but I think that the *Bulletin* can bear an increase in price.

I have read the letters regarding stamp policy with the greatest interest and these are my comments: In the March *Bulletin* Mr Alan A. Taylor said that it would be a good idea to issue a new £5 stamp! That would certainly be exploiting collectors. I do not think that stamp issuing should be mixed up with government economic policies. Leave that to Eastern Europe and certain Lilliput states in the West. I wholeheartedly agree with Mr Overell: 'We want to collect what genuinely needs to be printed to meet the needs of the Post Office'. And this leads me to the announcement in the April *Bulletin* about new stamp books. It is all right to brighten the appearance of the books, but the planned innumerable different designs on the same books has nothing to do with the 'needs of the P.O.', unless they are to get more money out of the collectors' pockets. What Mr C. A. Barnes said in May may very well be repeated here: 'Please stick to your conservative policies in this and all other matters such as the frequency and nature of your new issues.'

Yours faithfully,

PREBEN OTT

Aalborg, Denmark

Dear Sir,

I should like to support the letter from Mr C. A. Barnes in your May issue. Like him I am assembling a collection of G.B. commemorative stamps on first day covers. I think this is a most attractive and interesting way of showing these issues. But if cancelling to order is allowed to creep in, it will finish this section of collecting. The signs are there. I realise that the Bureau is limited in the administrative action it can take to curb this, but I suggest the following points.

Just as covers not bearing a full set of stamps are denied a first day of issue handstamp at the philatelic posting box offices, so I suggest should the following covers:

Those bearing peelable labels.

Those bearing pencilled addresses.

Both these are surely cancelled to order covers in effect.

Yours sincerely,

B. G. BARFOOT

Plymouth, Devon

Dear Sir,

Reading all the many varied comments in the past few issues of the *Bulletin*, I decided to voice my own opinions on some of the topics previously mentioned:

1. I wholeheartedly agree with Mr Overell, in the March *Bulletin*, concerning Cylinder blocks. Surely as a *Philatelic* Bureau it is your job to supply Philatelists' requirements – within reason.

2. C.T.O. and 'Embarrassing Packets' – certainly the former should not be sunk to, but some of the regulations related to the latter are fast becoming archaic.

3. If the shape of stamps was changed occasionally it might add variety to a G.B. collection, although nothing outlandish is called for, possibly a triangle here and there.

4. What about a small 'Suggestion Box' section in the *Bulletin* – I am sure many readers have some excellent special issue ideas. Why not British Butterflies, British

Wildlife, British Buildings, British Stamps on Stamps, Ex-Kings and Queens, and as a final pre-decimalisation farewell tribute, Obsolescent Coins on Stamps (e.g. half-crowns etc.). Possibly some readers could even suggest future stamp designs.

5. In the *May Bulletin*, L. F. Spendlove suggested we have a new design for Pictorial Packs. Would it not be possible to have a centre leaf with a page folding over it on each side? All the necessary information could then be exhibited.

I might add that I am very grateful to the GPO for supplying such an informative and interesting book as the *Philatelic Bulletin* for such negligible cost.

Yours faithfully,

SELWYN WARD

Thorpe Bay, Essex

Dear Sir,

As a recent addition to the ranks of collectors of F.D.C.s, I wondered if you or any readers of the *Bulletin* have a name for this branch of the hobby.

Yours faithfully,

ARNOLD GOLDMAN

Southport, Lancs

Dear Sir,

Concerning presentation packs, I was interested in the letter of Miss Lilian F. Spendlove in your May issue of the *Philatelic Bulletin*.

For a long time I have used ordinary adhesive corners as used for displaying snapshots in albums for mounting both these packs and first day covers in my collection. By the use of these, items can be withdrawn for examination quite easily.

Incidentally, they are quite cheap and can be bought in large boxes. They are good at mounting stamp booklets too!

Yours faithfully,

R. F. H. MARTIN

Olney, Bucks

Dear Sir,

Your teenage correspondent Stephen Evans when objecting to the suggestion of issuing a £5 stamp (Volume 5 No. 10) will, I hope, live to a ripe old age.

Not too long ago it was rare for a parcel to require a 10s stamp. Now over £1 is not abnormal and it is surely only a matter of a decade or two at the most when a £5 stamp will at least be useful, if not absolutely necessary particularly on larger Air Mail packets. By then he will be able to afford one.

Yours faithfully,

CYRIL HARMER

London W1

Dear Sir,

With regard to your article and in answer to W. T. Parker's letter regarding U-V lamps in June's *Bulletin*, I would like to bring to your notice a third kind of lamp.

It consists of a brass holder about 3 inches long, with a black vitreous material at one end. Inside is the socket for any conveniently sized car bulb. The black material is a filter which cuts out visible light but lets through the Ultra-Violet. I bought it for 6s from a government surplus shop, which has now unfortunately closed down.

The light produced is what is known as long U-V, that is light which is just beyond the violet end of the spectrum, whereas the lamp mentioned in the article produced short U-V, which is capable of producing blindness.

My lamp is capable of showing phosphor lines, although it sometimes fails to show them on stamps where they are obvious to the naked eye. It is very good at differentiating between ordinary and whiter paper.

There are many low voltage U-V discharge tubes on the market which are not too dear.

Yours faithfully,

FRANK LARGE

Crosby, Liverpool

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