



BRITISH POSTMARK SOCIETY

“TWENTY YEARS OF FIRST DAY POSTMARKS”

by Brian Pask & Colin G Peachey

**Details of all plain and pictorial handstamps and
slogans used on the first days of stamp issues,
1963-1983**

Published 1983

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The story and details of First Day postmarks
as used by the British Post Office 1963—1983

ICPA
INTERNATIONAL
conference
POSTAL
administration

(1963)



Published by British Postmark Society

Twenty Years of First Day Postmarks

The story and details of
"First Day of Issue" postmarks
used by the British Post Office
from 1963 to 1983

by

Brian Pask &

Colin G Peachey

FRONT COVER : The 3.45am time was
obtained, on 7 May 1963, on covers
posted at London Chief Office where
the stamps were on sale from midnight.

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Foreword

We celebrate the 20th birthday of the "First Day of Issue" postmark in the UK by bringing together details, largely published year by year in the Quarterly Bulletin of the British Postmark Society, into this single volume. First day covers are more popular than ever, and the service provided by the GPO in a limited way in 1963 has expanded over subsequent years. We tell the story of these facilities and the postmarks that go with them.

We are also marking the 25th birthday of the British Postmark Society, which brings together collectors of 20th century postmarks. Readers who would like to enquire further about the Society should contact the Hon. Secretary at the address shown on the next page.

Lastly, we acknowledge the help given by other members of the Society over the years, notably Frank Harwood for repostings, Colin Langston for extra information in later sections and for repostings, Patrick Awcock, Mervyn Betts and John Enfield for extra data, John Newcomb for checking and George Pearson for production of the BPS Quarterly Bulletin. In addition we are grateful to various Head Postmasters and their staff who have helped with our enquiries.

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BRITISH POSTMARK SOCIETY

The British Postmark Society caters for collectors of all types of postal markings but particularly those of the 20th century. One of the Society's aims is the dissemination of information, and an illustrated Quarterly Bulletin is produced, mainly from contributions of articles and news items from members.

Additionally, for UK members there is a good library, regular London meetings and three different circulating packets, and for all members there is an annual postal auction.

For further details please write to the Hon Secretary :

ALAN J. HOWARD
9 GAINSBOROUGH AVENUE
MARPLE BRIDGE
STOCKPORT, CHESHIRE
SK6 5BW

Bibliography

References are made in the Main Listings (section 3) to entries in the first four publications mentioned below :

Quarterly Bulletin of British Postmark Society (see above) (in particular Special Event listings from 1973 and Slogan Listings from 1980)

"Special Event Postmarks of the United Kingdom" (Second Edition)

by George R. Pearson, 1973; covers special event postmarks to early 1973; for further details see page 104.

"Slogan Postmarks of the United Kingdom : 1917-1969"

by Cyril R.H. Parsons, Colin G. Peachey and George R. Pearson, 1974; for further details see page 104

"Slogan Postmarks of the Seventies" by the same authors, 1980;

for further details see page 104

"Postal Arrangements to cover the issue of Commemorative Postage Stamps of the United Kingdom 1953-1966" by W.R. Wellsted and C. Langston; includes background information as well as details such as quantities stamped etc.

"Stamp Collecting", issues of 12 July 1963 (p.611) and 24 January 1964 (p.761); details of 1963 issues

"Collecting Modern First Day Covers of Great Britain 1971-1982" (2nd edition 1983) by N.C. Porter and A.G. Bradbury

"Collect First Day Covers Great Britain" (1982 edition) by B.H. Townsend and A. Buckingham (BB Publications Ltd)

"Regus Collectors' Guide to British Regional Cards and Covers" (Fourth edition 1983) by Regus Publications; covers "First Day of Sale" postmarks for Post Office postcards not covered in this volume.

"Isle of Man Postal Slogans, Machine and FDI Cancellations" by P.R.F. Britnell - third edition Dec. 1982.

"The Postal History Annual 1981" by James A. Mackay; in particular "The Results of the Post Office Strike on the Issue of Low Value Decimal Stamps 15 Feb 1971" by Roger W. Broomfield - see page 89.

British Post Office "Philatelic Bulletin" and "Postmark Bulletin".

1 The 'First Day' Story

The 'First Day' facilities provided by the British Post Office can be described briefly as follows :-

- (1) Special first day covers (or envelopes) are provided for all 'new' stamp issues.
- (2) Special posting boxes for first day covers are provided at selected post offices on the first days of issue of 'new' stamps.
- (3) Postmarks inscribed 'First Day of Issue' are applied to covers posted in these special posting boxes.
- (4) A re-posting facility is available for those who are unable to post their covers in person.
- (5) The Philatelic Bureau sells fully serviced first day covers as well as servicing collectors' own covers on payment of a fee.

While we are concerned primarily with the 'first day of issue' postmarks referred to in (3), it is relevant to consider the general aspects in slightly more detail.

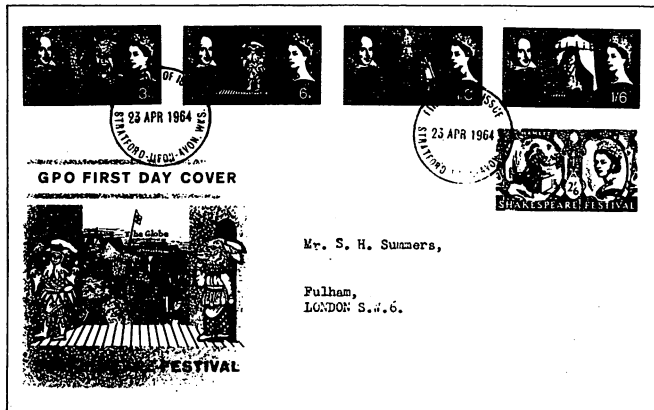
Although the Post Office produces its own covers (and has done so for most issues from 23 April 1964) there is no compulsion to use these. Several dealers regularly produced their own special covers and other dealers or organisations do so for particular occasions. Postcards are also produced by the Post Office ('PHQ' cards) or others, while individual collectors sometimes produce their own covers or use plain envelopes. What might be termed philatelically inspired ordinary mail (e.g. one philatelist writing to another) is also sometimes posted to receive the first day of issue postmark, while envelopes designed as first day covers are at times used for bulk mailing of publicity material. All these are equally acceptable provided they are appropriately stamped.

We have said that first day covers are provided and the posting boxes opened for use for all 'new' stamp issues. The Post Office definition of 'new' does vary slightly from that accepted by many more serious philatelists. Thus the Post Office regard special stamp issues, additional definitives or regional values or new colours as 'new' issues. They do not normally consider phosphor band variations, booklet panes or postal stationery as 'new' issues for this purpose. There have, however, been exceptions to this, and appropriate mention will be made of these in the listings that follow. If a particular issue is not mentioned, it should be assumed that no first day facilities were provided for it. In some cases, issues which the Post Office do not accept as 'new' have appeared on the same date as issues which they do accept. For a few of these, first day treatment has been given or other special arrangements have been made, and this will be mentioned where applicable.

The position of airletters has always been a little obscure. Initially they were not given first day treatment except, probably in error, when they appeared on the same day as a new stamp issue. The first official provision of first day facilities was for Christmas airletters of 1969 and 1970. From 1971 these appeared on the same date as the Christmas stamps and received the same first

day treatment, except for three years when they were issued a week earlier with no first day facilities. First day facilities have been provided specially for a few definitive airletters while commemorative issues generally appeared on the same day as the relevant stamps and received the same first day treatment. The earlier pictorial Welsh and Scottish airletters issued from 1973 usually had first day facilities. A restricted service with 'First Day of Issue' postmarks was provided for the Welsh issues, while for the Scottish issues special 'First Day of Sale' handstamps were used at a few offices, generally those relevant to the theme of the airletter. With the increasing availability of philatelic handstamps, first day facilities are no longer provided for these airletters.

For the collector who requires first day covers when no official first day postmark is available, some other postmark has to be found. Also, of course, other postmarks may be used from choice even if there is a first day postmark. Normal operational postmarks may be used and examples are known where handstamps have been used 'by favour' instead of the normal machine cancellation. The most common reason for use of an operational postmark is that either the office name or the machine slogan is thematically relevant to the stamp issue (e.g. Nazareth, Gwynedd on Christmas stamps; World Cup City Sheffield slogan on Football stamps). However, in many cases an appropriate 'special event' postmark (often thematically linked with the stamp issue) can be used or, more recently, there have been the various philatelic handstamps at places such as the National Postal Museum or the philatelic sales counters. In general, postmarks in all these categories are outside the scope of this work and readers requiring further details are referred to the bibliography. Exceptionally, brief details of thematically relevant slogans and special event postmarks are included in the listing that follows. With a few exceptions, these are restricted to postmarks available on the first day of issue of the stamp. For many years it has been normal for major stamp exhibitions to be timed to coincide with a new stamp issue. It could be argued that the special event postmarks of such exhibitions are relevant to any new stamp issue (and, indeed, they often appear on first day covers). However, we do not include details of such postmarks unless there is a clear thematic link between the exhibition and the subject of the new stamps.



The first of the GPO's First Day Cover envelopes

The original concept of a first day cover envisaged the cover bearing all the new stamps of a particular issue, and the Post Office covers have always been designed on this basis. However, there was initially no compulsion to use full sets of stamps, nor any specially laid down minimum postage. Indeed, at least one early issue (1967 Christmas) included a stamp for the minimum printed paper rate and this has been seen on its own on first day covers. It has also been seen on covers on which the additional postage to make up letter rate has been added, either with a definitive stamp (which was cancelled with an ordinary datestamp, the first day of issue postmark being used only on the new stamp) or (on a bulk posting of first day covers) with a red 'paid' machine mark. From the beginning of 1968 it was ruled that, to receive first day treatment, covers must bear the full set of new stamps, and this ruling was enforced for the first two issues of that year. For the third issue, which dealt with four separate anniversaries and for which separate first day covers and special postmarks were available, this rule was relaxed. However, following pressure from the philatelic world, from 1st July 1968 the ruling was abandoned. For subsequent issues, covers received first day treatment so long as they carried at least one stamp of the new issue and the total value of the stamps was sufficient to cover the appropriate postage. From decimalisation in 1971 a special handstamp charge (initially ½p) had to be paid, over and above the postage, on covers receiving special event and other special handstamps, and thereafter postage plus special handstamp charge became the minimum postage on a first day cover. The special handstamp charge has always been equal to or slightly less than the difference between the second and first class inland postage rates. Since most special stamp issues have as their lowest value a stamp at the first class inland rate, this normally causes no problems. Christmas issues, which usually have a stamp at the second class inland rate, are generally excepted from the ruling, covers with this one stamp being accepted. However, where definitives or regionals are concerned, additional postage may have to be added if a first day cover of a lower value stamp on its own is required.

The reposting facility referred to in (4) has never been widely advertised and, although it applied from the beginning of first day facilities, it was originally only of use to dealers granted 'pre-release' facilities for the stamps. However, it has been extended since 1972 or thereabouts and now provides that appropriately stamped covers sent under cover to the Head Postmaster at the office using the first day of issue postmark may be reposted to receive that postmark, provided that the date on the outer cover is on or before the date of issue of the new stamps. Thus it is possible for a collector to purchase the new stamps on the first day and then send his covers elsewhere to receive a first day of issue postmark. This is obviously useful to someone who is remote from an office providing first day facilities or who, for any reason, requires the first day of issue postmark of a particular office.

The facilities provided by the Post Office Philatelic Bureau are designed for those who require a 'ready made' first day cover without any effort. They obviously make use of the Post Office official cover and receive a 'Philatelic Bureau' first day of issue postmark or a postmark from an office appropriate to the particular issue (termed a 'special office'). In view of the large number of covers involved these postmarks have, from the beginning, often differed from those used at other offices. Both Philatelic Bureau and special office postmarks have been available to ordinary collectors in the same way as other first day of issue postmarks and their use has not been confined to covers provided by the Philatelic Bureau.

It was mentioned earlier that first day covers are sometimes used for mailing of advertising material. This has occurred largely in two fields - mailing of publicity by pharmaceutical companies to doctors, and mailing of appeals from charities. Such covers are specially designed by the organisations carrying out the mailing. They normally only bear the minimum value stamp of the particular issue and each posting usually consists of many thousands of covers (Post Office

regulations set a minimum of 1000 covers). In some cases normal first day of issue postmarks have been used, but others have a machine slogan type of first day of issue postmark, and there have been a number of oddities, some of which will be mentioned at the appropriate places in the listing which follows.

We now come to our prime concern, the first day of issue postmarks and the offices which have used them. The postmarks themselves have (after a short period with machine slogans) always been 'handstamps', initially of rubber but more recently of plastic. Although nominally handstamps some postmarks have, in fact, in recent years been applied by means of what is generally known as the 'Swiss Cancelling Machine'. This is a device which assists the operator in correctly locating the point on the cover which is to be stamped and then applies the handstamp mechanically. Since February 1972 both Philatelic Bureau and special office pictorial postmarks have usually been applied by the Swiss Cancelling Machine (often as well as by genuine handstamps) and the machine has also been used elsewhere. Although the impressions given by machine and handstamp are identical, with experience the two can be distinguished. The impression of the Swiss Cancelling Machine is often grey but well defined, the handstamp impression being blacker but less sharp at the edges.

The offices which will be included in our listing are those which are actually named in the postmarks. For each of these offices there will be a special posting box, normally situated in the main post office of the town concerned. There may also be other special posting boxes elsewhere in the town, or even in a neighbouring town, but these covers all go to one central point for stamping. We do not list those offices which have special posting boxes but do not stamp their own covers, although some examples may be of interest. Thus, the posting box for the London WC postmark was originally at Trafalgar Square BO, but with the EFTA issue of 20 February 1967 boxes were also provided at WCDO (High Holborn), Remnant Street BO and Southampton Street BO. Similar arrangements were made elsewhere in Central London at the same time, while a comparable arrangement in the provinces is, for example, the provision of a posting box at Weymouth for the Dorchester postmark. This practice has also been followed in some cases where offices have ceased to cancel normal mail as a result of a concentration scheme, and the office has also lost its first day postmark (e.g. covers from Stafford are now cancelled with the Stoke-on-Trent first day postmark).



British Pillar Boxes No. 10
The cover drawing shows a philatelic posting box which was introduced in some post offices in February 1974. It is meant to provide facilities for posting mail which has a philatelic significance. Designed by Douglas Scott Associates, it is manufactured in two parts from polyester resin/glass fibre and is coloured throughout, the upper in red, the lower in white.
This is the tenth of a series of designs by Ronald Maddox.
Advertisement Contractors: Canonsearch Ltd.
TEL 01-405-1707

The covers of the 10p stamp book referred to below

A few words about the actual posting boxes may be appropriate here. There have been a wide variety of apparently 'home-made' affairs, though in some cases, such as Aylesbury's replica of a Victorian 'Penfold' pillar box, they are very smart. However, in February 1974 a specially designed philatelic posting box in polyester resin/glass fibre was introduced at a number of offices and is still in use. This achieved the distinction of inclusion in the select list of British Pillar Boxes which appeared on the illustrated covers of 10p stamp books. It was number 10 in the series and appeared on the April and June 1974 stamp books.

First Day Story

The provision of first day facilities started in a small way in 1963 at 11 offices (41 by the end of that year). With subsequent additions (and a few deletions) this figure has now grown to over 200, as the table below shows.

Number of first day offices in regular use over 20 year period

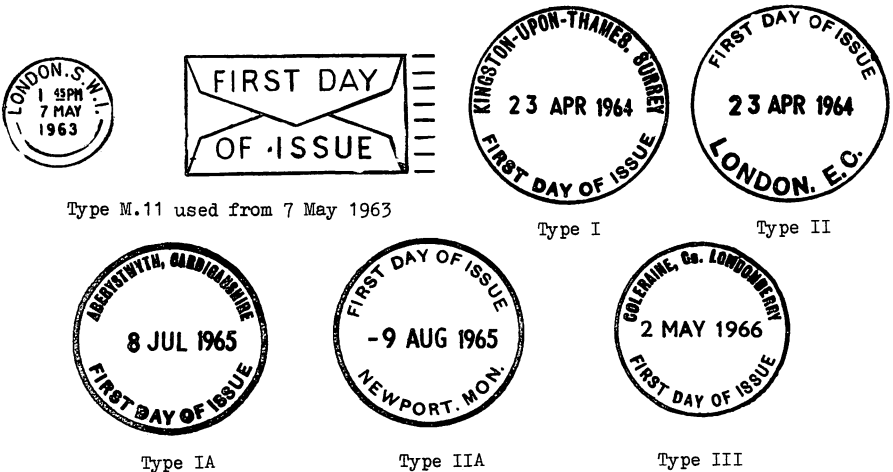
Year	Number Introduced	Cumulative no. introduced	Number ceased	Cumulative no. ceased	Current Total
1963	41	41			41
1964	8	49			49
1965	15	64			64
1966	20	84			84
1967	40	124			124
1968	20	144			144
1969	16	160	3 - Guernsey Jersey Stockton-on-Tees	3	157
1970	13	173		3	170
1971	7	180		3	177
1972	6	186		3	183
1973	3	189	1 - Douglas	4	185
1974	3	192	1 - Stafford	5	187
1975	4	196		5	191
1976	6	202	2 - Hartlepool South Shields	7	195
1977	0	202		7	195
1978	3	205		7	198
1979	3	208		7	201
1980	3	211		7	204
1981	5	216		7	209
1982	2	218	2 - Northallerton Ilford	9	209
1983 (to May)	1	219		9	210

To enable these offices to be identified readily, we have allocated a number to each office which provides first day facilities. These numbers are allocated in the order in which first day facilities have been introduced, and alphabetically (but with London first) within groups of offices which started on the same date.

It will be noted that, over the twenty years, nine offices have been deleted from the list of those providing first day facilities. Three of these, Guernsey, Jersey, and Douglas have been as a result of the islands involved gaining postal independence. In each case, first day facilities have continued to be provided (often with the same or similar types of postmark) in connection with the stamp issues of the postal authorities concerned, but their postmarks are outside the scope of this work. The remaining six offices have continued to provide a first day posting box, but the covers have been sent to a neighbouring office for stamping with the postmark of that office, as with the Stafford example already mentioned.

2 The Postmarks

The British Post Office began to show concern for the requirements of the collector of first day covers during the early 1960s, when an instruction was issued that, for the first day of issue of new stamps, any slogans not relevant to that issue should be withdrawn for the day. This meant that collectors were able to get clearer machine postmarks on their first day covers. This is known to have been done for the following issues - 7 July 1960 (General Letter Office), 18 September 1961 (CEPT), 25 September 1961 (Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference) and 14 November 1962 (National Productivity Year). The remaining two issues during this period - 19 September 1960 (Europa) and 28 August 1961 (Post Office Savings Bank) - fell outside the announced dates for national slogans. Following on from this, special arrangements were first made at the beginning of 1963 when, with the Freedom from Hunger issue of 21 March, special posting boxes were available at 11 offices. No special postmarks were provided, but the covers were postmarked "under supervision" with the normal machine cancellations of the offices concerned. For the next issue, Paris Postal Conference of 7 May, the arrangement was extended to 30 offices and special slogan type "First Day of Issue" postmarks were provided for use in the machines. Similar arrangements continued for the rest of 1963.



Type M.11 used from 7 May 1963

Type I

Type II

Type IA

Type IIA

Type III

For the first issue of 1964, the Shakespeare stamps on 23 April, the now familiar "First Day of Issue" handstamps made their first appearance. Those provided initially were of Type I, 38mm in diameter with a movable date, and this type remained the standard first day of issue postmark for the next three years. Two offices used handstamps of the very similar type II, differing from type I only in the reversal of the inscription and office name. Subsequent new or replacement handstamps were of either of these types or, from 1965, of the variants IA and IIA which had much thicker outer rims. A fixed date variant, type III, 34mm in diameter, was used on 2 May 1966 at four special offices and on 20 February 1967 for a number of new offices. This was the last

occasion on which the large diameter handstamps were used, so there was no need for variable date handstamps at these new offices. For one issue during the currency of the large handstamps, the Battle of Hastings issue of 14 October 1966, special arrangements were made. The layout of the stamps (which included a long se-tenant strip) on the cover made it necessary to use a much smaller postmark and all the first day offices were supplied, for this issue only, with a type IV fixed date handstamp, 21mm in diameter. Because of the small size of these handstamps the county was omitted from the office name in some cases and at many offices where it was included it appeared in a straight line across the handstamp above the date. A similar, but slightly larger (23/24mm), fixed date handstamp of type V was used for the small number of offices involved with the first issue of 1967, the regional higher values. Again a number of offices had the county name in a straight line. this time below the date.



Type IV



Type V



Type VI



Type VIA

With the Flowers issue of 24 April 1967 the 26mm (1") diameter handstamp was introduced, and this has remained the standard first day of issue postmark ever since. A number of varieties of this type have existed, with different layouts of the office name. Those first supplied have earlier all been described as type VI, but are here split into types VI and VIA. Type VI has the whole office name round the bottom rim of the postmark and type VIA, used for offices where the name was too long for this treatment, splits the name into two parts, the town name appearing in a straight line across the handstamp and the county name beneath it round the bottom rim. A variant of the latter, type VIII, in which both parts of the name are in straight lines across the handstamp, first appeared in 1970. More recently, type VIA has disappeared and many offices which formerly used it now use type VI (i.e. with the county following on from the town name round the bottom rim). Types VII (24mm) and IX (27mm) are fixed date variants of the normal 26mm postmarks and these and several un-numbered types of various diameters have appeared from time to time at Edinburgh and other large offices.



Type VII



Type VIII



Type IX

With the increasing use by the Post Office of the Welsh language, its inclusion in first day of issue postmarks became necessary. However, the additional wording of bilingual text meant that the postmarks had to be completely redesigned. Although Welsh had been used earlier in some postmarks for issues with Welsh connections, the first generally used bilingual postmark was type X, used experimentally at all Welsh offices on 22 September 1971 only. This type solved the problem of additional text by arranging the information in two concentric rings, but the absence of an outer rim to the postmark led to a

The Postmarks

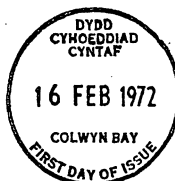
rather unusual effect. When bilingual handstamps came into regular use, from 16 February 1972, a more conventional approach was adopted, although a larger 34mm handstamp was necessary. This had the Welsh inscription at the top in three straight lines and the English inscription and office name at the bottom. There were two varieties, type XI in which the English inscription appeared in two straight lines above the office name round the bottom rim, and type XIA in which these positions were reversed. A third variety, type XIB, in which both the English inscription and the office name were in straight lines, appeared later at Newport in both 37mm and 34mm diameter varieties.



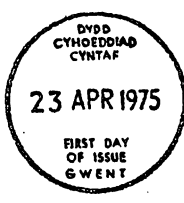
Type X



Type XI



Type XIA



Two sizes of type XIB



Type XIC



Type XII

Major changes in first day of issue postmarks resulted from a decision by the Post Office that postmarks generally should reflect the names of the new English and Welsh counties which came into being on 1 April 1974. It was announced that the new postmarks would be introduced gradually over a period of a year from 1 July 1974. So far as the first day of issue postmarks were concerned, the English changes were made in two large batches on 10 July 1974 and 13 August 1975, with odd "stragglers" on 27 November 1974 (2), 3 September 1975 and 24 September 1975 (one each). The first batch included several examples of a new handstamp type XII. This was similar to, but slightly smaller (25mm diameter) than, type VIII and was also distinctive in that in most examples the county name was partly in lower case type. Some of the offices carried this feature forward into the type VIII handstamps which later replaced those of type XII. The Welsh changes were all made on one date, 11 June 1975, and the new handstamps were of a further type, type XIC, a variant of the 37mm postmark. In this the inscriptions were both round the rims, Welsh at the top and English at the bottom, and the office name was in straight lines across the bottom half of the handstamp. This type had in fact first appeared (complete with new county) with the previous issue on 23 April 1975 at Wrexham, a new office on that date. It also replaced the earlier handstamps at the two offices (Cardiff and Gwent) not affected by the county change, and is still the standard first day of issue postmark at offices in Wales.

Basic Handstamp Types

Type	Diam. (mm)	Inscription	Office name	Notes	Dates of use
I	38	Round bottom rim	Round top rim		1964/67
IA	38	Round bottom rim	Round top rim	Thick rim	1965/67
II	38	Round top rim	Round bottom rim		1964/67
IIA	38	Round top rim	Round bottom rim	Thick rim	1965/67
III	34	Round bottom rim	Round top rim	Fixed date	1966/67
IV	21	Round bottom rim	Round top rim; county in 2nd line across handstamp in some cases	Fixed date	14.10.66 only
V	23/24	Round top rim	Round bottom rim; county in 2nd line across handstamp in some cases	Fixed date	1.3.67 only
VI	26	Round top rim	Round bottom rim		1967 to date
VIA	26	Round top rim	Town in line across handstamp, county round bottom rim		1967 to about 1974
VII	24	Round top rim	Round bottom rim	Fixed date	1967/70
VIII	26	Round top rim	Two lines across handstamp		1970 to date
IX	27	Round top rim	Round bottom rim	Fixed date	1971/72
X	34	Wording arranged in two rings - outer ring with Welsh inscription at top, town name at bottom; inner ring with English inscription at top, date at bottom		Bilingual Welsh; fixed date; no outer frame	22.9.71 only
XI	34	Welsh - three lines across top of hand- stamp. English - two lines across bottom of handstamp	Round bottom rim	Bilingual Welsh	1972/75
XIA	34	Welsh - three lines across top of hand- stamp. English - round bottom rim	One line across bottom of handstamp	Bilingual Welsh	1972/75
XIB	37/34	Welsh - three lines across top of hand- stamp. English - two lines across bottom of handstamp	One line across bottom of handstamp	Bilingual Welsh	1974/75
XIC	37	Welsh - round top rim. English - round bottom rim	One or two lines across bottom of handstamp	Bilingual Welsh	1975 to date
XII	25	Round top rim	Two lines across hand- stamp; county normally partly in lower case		1974 to about 1976

Note. Wording is generally arranged in an arc round the rim of the handstamp, unless shown above as "across handstamp", in which case it appears in one or more straight lines above or below the date as appropriate.

The Philatelic Bureau used a special machine postmark for one issue in 1963, but it was only with the Geographical Congress issue of 1 July 1964 that the first of a long series of Philatelic Bureau handstamps appeared. For this and the next four issues a standard type II handstamp inscribed 'G.P.O. Philatelic Bureau, London E.C.1' was used. This long inscription was obviously somewhat cramped in one line round the rim of the handstamp and so, on later handstamps, it was split, 'G.P.O. Philatelic Bureau' being set in a straight line across the handstamp and 'London, E.C.1' round the bottom rim. Several handstamps of different diameters with this layout of inscription were used from 13 September 1965 up to the end of 1966. For the last of these, from 19 September to 1 December 1966, the second part of the inscription read 'Edinburgh 1' as a result of the move of the Philatelic Bureau from London to Edinburgh. These first Edinburgh handstamps were much smaller (24mm diameter - effectively type VII) and this became (with a few exceptions) the standard size for Philatelic Bureau handstamps for the next few years. From the beginning of 1967, the layout of the inscription was again altered to appear in three lines - 'G.P.O. Philatelic/Bureau' in two straight lines and 'Edinburgh, 1' round the rim.



Types
PB.1, 2, 3, 4
respectively

Many (if not all) of these were fixed date handstamps produced specially for each stamp issue and there were thus numerous minor differences. These occurred both in the inscription, where size of lettering and punctuation varied, and also in the date. The main varieties in the inscription were in the presence or absence of commas after 'Bureau' and 'Edinburgh' and a tendency to omit the district number '1'. Following the change in status arising from the formation of the Post Office Corporation from 1 October 1969, the title 'G.P.O.' ceased to be used and, after one issue when the inscription was 'P.O. Philatelic Bureau', from the beginning of 1970 handstamps were inscribed 'British Philatelic Bureau'. The dates differed from those in normal handstamps in that the months 'JUNE', 'JULY' and 'SEPT' were shown thus in four letters rather than three, and the day sometimes appeared as, for example, '5th' rather than '5'. For a period from 8 August 1967 to 5 February 1968 the date also appeared in much squarer characters than those used in the, by then, standard types VI and VIA handstamps, but from 29 May 1968 the more upright characters were once again used. During this period there were two issues, on 24 July 1967 and 29 April 1968, when the Philatelic Bureau used pictorial handstamps similar to those used at the special offices for the same issue. From 18 September 1970 a semi-pictorial Philatelic Bureau handstamp incorporating a Maltese Cross was introduced and this continued in use up to the end of 1971. With the first issue of 1972 the present practice commenced of providing a pictorial Philatelic Bureau handstamp appropriate to each issue and comparable with that used for the special office for that issue. In these pictorial handstamps the inscription became 'Philatelic Bureau Edinburgh'.

Also obviously inspired by the Philatelic Bureau were the series of type VII handstamps used at Edinburgh. These were used for most issues from 8 August 1967 to 28 May 1969 and were usually identical to the Philatelic Bureau handstamp but for the absence of 'G.P.O. Philatelic Bureau' from the inscription. Thus they often shared the district number '1' and had the same variations in the date as the corresponding Philatelic Bureau handstamps. The table below summarises the Philatelic Bureau handstamps (except for the two pictorial handstamps mentioned above), which are classified with type numbers prefixed 'PB', and the Edinburgh type VII handstamps used during this complicated period.

The Postmarks

13

Philatelic Bureau Type	Diam. (mm)	Inscription	Edinburgh type VII Inscription	Date (as shown in postmarks)	Notes
PB.1	27	G.P.O. Philatelic Bureau/ LONDON, E.C.1		13 SEP 1965 8 OCT 1965	
PB.2	33	G.P.O. Philatelic Bureau/ LONDON, E.C.1		28 FEB 1966 2 MAY 1966	
PB.3	26	G.P.O. Philatelic Bureau/ LONDON, E.C.1		1 JUNE 1966 8 AUG 1966	
PB.4	24	G.P.O. Philatelic Bureau/ EDINBURGH 1		19 SEPT 1966 14 OCT 1966 1 DEC 1966	1
PB.5	24	G.P.O. PHILATELIC/ BUREAU/ EDINBURGH 1		20 FEB 1967	2
PB.6	26	G.P.O. PHILATELIC/ BUREAU, EDINBURGH, 1		24 APR 1967 3 MAR 1969	3,4 11
PB.7	24	G.P.O. PHILATELIC/ BUREAU, EDINBURGH, 1	EDINBURGH	5th JUNE 1967 10 JULY 1967	5
PB.8	24	G.P.O. PHILATELIC/ BUREAU/ EDINBURGH, 1	EDINBURGH	8 AUG 1967	6
PB.9	24	G.P.O. PHILATELIC/ BUREAU/ EDINBURGH	EDINBURGH	19 SEPT 1967 13 AUG 1969 1 OCT 1969	7
PB.10	24	G.P.O. PHILATELIC/ BUREAU/ EDINBURGH 1	EDINBURGH EDINBURGH 1 EDINBURGH 1 EDINBURGH 1 EDINBURGH 1	18 OCT 1967 27 NOV 1967 5TH FEB 1968 29th APR 1968 29th MAY 1968	8 9 10
PB.11	24	G.P.O. PHILATELIC/ BUREAU, EDINBURGH 1	EDINBURGH 1 EDINBURGH 1	1st JULY 1968 12th AUG 1968 4th SEPT 1968	4 11
PB.12	24	G.P.O. PHILATELIC/ BUREAU, EDINBURGH, 1	EDINBURGH, 1 EDINBURGH, 1 EDINBURGH, 1	25 NOV 1968 15 JAN 1969 5 MAR 1969	3
PB.13	24	G.P.O. PHILATELIC/ BUREAU, EDINBURGH,	EDINBURGH,	2 APR 1969	12
PB.14	24	G.P.O. PHILATELIC/ BUREAU, EDINBURGH	EDINBURGH	28 MAY 1969	13
PB.15	26	G.P.O. PHILATELIC/ BUREAU, EDINBURGH, 1		1 JUL 1969	14
PB.16	24	P.O. PHILATELIC/ BUREAU/ EDINBURGH		26 NOV 1969	15
PB.17	26	BRITISH PHILATELIC/ BUREAU/ EDINBURGH		11 FEB 1970 1 APR 1970	16
PB.18	26	BRITISH PHILATELIC/ BUREAU/ EDINBURGH	EDINBURGH EDINBURGH EDINBURGH	3 JUN 1970 17 JUN 1970 15 JUL 1970	17
PB.19	25	BRITISH POST OFFICE PHILATELIC BUREAU/ EDINBURGH		18 SEP 70 to 13 OCT 71	18
PB.20 etc.		PHILATELIC BUREAU/ EDINBURGH		16 FEB 72 onwards	19

The Postmarks



Type PB.5



Type PB.6



Type PB.7



Type PB.8



Type PB.9



Type PB.10



Type PB.11



Type PB.12



Type PB.13



Type PB.14



Type PB.15



Type PB.16



Type PB.17



Type PB.18



Type PB.19

- Notes:
1. Philatelic Bureau now at Edinburgh
 2. Inscription now in three lines
 3. Comma after Edinburgh
 4. Comma after Bureau
 5. First use of type VII at Edinburgh. Lettering used for date is much squarer than that in type VI handstamps and is used for all dates up to and including 5 February 1968.
 6. No comma after Bureau.
 7. No district number after Edinburgh
 8. Similar to type PB.5 but letters of Edinburgh more spaced. District number added but without comma.
 9. District number added to Edinburgh handstamp for first time.
 10. Edinburgh only, Philatelic Bureau used pictorial type PB.10A. Lettering for date now similar to that in type VI handstamp.
 11. Philatelic Bureau only, Edinburgh used type VI.
 12. District number after Edinburgh removed, but not comma.
 13. Edinburgh now central under Bureau and no comma.
 14. Similar to type PB.6 but comma after Bureau. Edinburgh reverted to type VI for this and subsequent issues.
 15. Now 'P.O. Philatelic Bureau'.
 16. Now 'British Philatelic Bureau'.
 17. 'British Philatelic Bureau' in smaller letters. Edinburgh once again using type VII.
 18. Includes Maltese Cross in design.
 19. Pictorial handstamps.

In the early years any special offices used either standard postmarks or fixed date handstamps of various diameters. For the Robert Burns issue of 25 January 1966 a number of special pictorial postmarks were provided and similar arrangements were made on other occasions over the next few years, although non-pictorial postmarks remained the norm. In 1971 a policy statement was made by the Post Office that the Philatelic Bureau and at least one other office would provide a pictorial handstamp for each stamp issue. In fact for 1971 only the special offices had individually produced pictorial postmarks for each issue, the Philatelic Bureau using its semi-pictorial handstamp incorporating a Maltese Cross. However, from 1972 specially produced handstamps, usually of similar or related designs, have been used by both special offices and the Philatelic Bureau for most issues. The special office postmarks are listed with their own series of reference numbers prefixed 'S', while the Philatelic Bureau pictorial handstamps continue the 'PB' series started with the earlier non-pictorial postmarks.

The early first day arrangements were designed with special stamp issues in mind and there were no new definitive stamps during the early years to cause complications. By the time the first of the Machin definitives appeared in 1967, the principles were well established and first day facilities were provided at all offices on the list for all new definitives, with one early exception (the 4d and 8d colour changes of 1969). Windsor was usually the special office for definitive stamp issues but pictorial handstamps were not provided, although both Windsor and the Philatelic Bureau often used unusual fixed date handstamps for definitive issues. A standard type of pictorial handstamp (types PB.62 and S.62), incorporating the £ sterling sign, first appeared with the issue of 2 February 1977 and has reappeared for all subsequent definitive issues.

Type PB.62



Type S.62

The first regional stamps to be issued after the introduction of first day facilities appeared in 1964 and they set the standard with facilities only provided at offices within the regions concerned (except for one issue where the English offices in "Wales and Border Counties" region were included). The first two issues (8 June 1964 and 7 February 1966) gave rise exceptionally to machine slogans, then followed two issues (1 March 1967 and 4 September 1968) with normal handstamps and one (26 February 1969) for which no facilities were provided. With the first decimal regionals of 7 July 1971 a series of special pictorial duplex type postmarks (types S.17-20) were provided for all offices in the regions. For the 1974 and subsequent issues now referred to by the Post Office as 'country definitive' rather than 'regional' stamps, these developed into what were to become the standard special office postmarks for such issues. Special postmarks were used at the Philatelic Bureau (type PB.37) and at the chief offices in each of the three countries - Belfast (type S.43), Cardiff (type S.44) and Edinburgh (type S.45) - and incorporated a map of Britain with the countries highlighted, the hand of Ulster, the Welsh dragon and the Scottish lion respectively. From 1974 also facilities were provided, as well as at offices in the countries, at those English offices with philatelic sales counters. These and the other offices in the regions used their normal first day handstamps. The number of English offices was originally 14, but with the opening of additional philatelic sales counters it is now (April 1983) 45.



Type EB.37



Type S.43



Type S.44



Type S.45

Although use of the machine slogans ceased, with the exception of the two regional issues just mentioned, from 1964 for normal first day covers, they remained in use for bulk posted covers of various types and are still sometimes so used. A number of changes in these postmarks have taken place over the years, the most significant being the change to use of the slogan in the transposed position. This was first done at Southampton on 5 August 1964, and the practice became increasingly common through the 1960s. The number of uses of slogans reduced markedly from about 1974, the few uses after this date being a mixture of standard and transposed. As replacement of the original slogan dies became necessary, a number of slightly different types have appeared, either in the traditional 'envelope' style or, for one type, without the envelope. The original type of die remains in use alongside these new patterns, sometimes even at the same offices. There have also been some special slogans intended for use on particular issues. Details of the various slogan dies are summarised in the table which appears below, with their slogan catalogue type numbers. It should be pointed out that some of these slogans and also other types not included have been used since Postal Independence by the Post Offices of Jersey, Guernsey and the Isle of Man. These uses are outside the scope of this work.

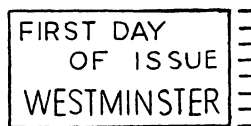
Type	Description	Usage
M.11	First Day of Issue 'envelope' design (thin lettering)	Standard on normal first day covers 7 May to 3 December 1963, 8 June 1964 and 7 February 1966 (standard and transposed). Also on bulk posted covers for other issues, first use transposed 5 August 1964 at Southampton
M.11A	First Day of Issue 'envelope' design (thick lettering)	First used transposed at Bethlehem 26 November 1969, and first use standard at Liverpool 16 June 1971
M.13	First Day of Issue Westminster	Only used at London SW1 8 July 1965 (transposed) and 28 February 1966 (standard)
M.15	First Day of Issue (bilingual)	Used with Menai Bridge town die 29 April 1968 only (standard)
M.16	Investiture Day (bilingual)	Used at Caernarvon 1 July 1969 only (transposed)
M.19	First Day of Issue 'envelope' design without lines at right	First used standard at Tunbridge Wells 24 November 1976, and first use transposed at Liverpool 31 May 1978
M.20	First Day of Issue without 'envelope'	First used standard at Bournemouth-Poole 31 May 1978, and first use transposed at Guildford 22 July 1981



Type M.11



Type M.11A



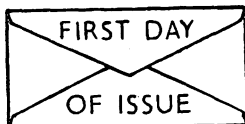
Type M.13



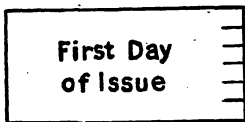
Type M.15



Type M.16



Type M.19



Type M.20

Finally, to complete the picture on machine postmarks, machine dies not inscribed "First Day of Issue" are sometimes used to fulfil the same purpose. Wavy lines with "Postage Paid R" in the centre portion have been seen used in black from London SE1 and Bournemouth-Poole. Also worthy of mention is the unusual arrangement at Bournemouth in 1977 whereby town dies inscribed "Christchurch" and "Wimborne" were used without a slogan die; further details of these can be found in the next section under issues 77/7 and 77/8.

3 Main Listings of stamp issues and postmarks

In the listing that follows we have shown all new stamp issues for which some form of first day facility has been provided. If an issue is not included, it should be assumed that no first day facilities were provided anywhere for that issue. Issues are, for ease of reference, numbered chronologically within each year. Thus, 64/2 indicates the second issue of 1964, and so on. For each issue we show :-

- (1) any offices where first day facilities were introduced, or otherwise changed, or postmarks with altered names introduced, with that issue.
- (2) the postmark used by the Philatelic Bureau for that issue (postmarks with 'PB' reference numbers). But see previous section for detailed survey of Philatelic Bureau datestamps during the 1965/71 period.
- (3) any 'special offices' provided with a postmark for that issue only, or provided with a postmark different from that regularly used (postmarks with 'S' reference numbers).
- (4) any use of machine slogans or other special postmarks for bulk postings.
- (5) any slogan or special event postmark available on the first day of issue and relevant to that stamp issue. Details of these will be given by use of the reference numbers in the slogan and special event catalogues (see Bibliography), though it should be added that the relevance of such postmarks can be a matter of opinion. From the start of 1978, because of the increased number of relevant special event postmarks, these are shown in summary only. Postmarks of offices with thematically relevant names are not included, except where reposting facilities are specifically provided by the Post Office.

In working chronologically through the listing, it should be assumed that once an office is shown as using first day of issue postmarks it continues to do so for all subsequent issues until a change (either of type of handstamp or office designation) or deletion is noted. Obviously over a long period the office concerned may well use many different handstamps of the same general style and some may well be identifiable by minor changes in their inscriptions. Such changes, as well as changes between handstamps of basically similar types, are shown separately in two alphabetical lists of offices in a later section. One list covers all minor changes to large diameter handstamps (types I, IA, II, IIA) and the other all minor changes to the standard 1" diameter handstamps (types VI, VIA, VIII). Reference to the index provided will enable the user to follow the story of any particular office from introduction, through re-designation, use of 'special office' handstamps, use of slogans and minor handstamp changes to eventual deletion.

1963

63/1 21 March 1963 - Freedom from Hunger stamp issue

Philatelic posting boxes were provided at 11 offices and mail posted in these boxes was postmarked 'under supervision'. Special postmarks were not provided.

Other Relevant Slogan : 394 Freedom from Hunger Week

63/2 7 May 1963 - Paris Postal Conference stamp issue

First day facilities were provided at 30 offices which used an 'envelope' design 'First Day of Issue' machine slogan (type M.11) for the first time. The offices involved and the designations (if any) of the town dies are shown below, along with, in parentheses, designations of other town dies used for later issues of 1963 :-

- | | | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------|-------------------------------|-------|
| (1) London EC / -C- | (J) | (16) Leeds / -C- | |
| (2) London SW1 / - | (D) | (17) Leicester / -F- | |
| (3) London WC / -C- | (D,A,E) | (18) Liverpool / -M- | |
| (4) Aberdeen / -A- | (C) | (19) Llandudno-Colwyn Bay | |
| (5) Belfast / -C- | (A) | (20) Londonderry / - | |
| (6) Birmingham / -J- | | (21) Manchester / -K- | (F,A) |
| (7) Bournemouth-Poole / A | (B) | (22) Newcastle upon Tyne / - | |
| (8) Brighton & Hove / Sussex.A. | (no letter, B) | (23) Northampton / -1- | (2,3) |
| (9) Bristol / -C- | (D,E,B) | (24) Norwich / -Norfolk- | |
| (10) Cardiff / -A- | (B) | (25) Nottingham / -E- | (D) |
| (11) Chelmsford / -Essex- | | (26) Preston Lancs. / -A- | (B,C) |
| (12) Dundee, Angus / -A- | (B) | (27) Reading / Berks. | |
| (13) Edinburgh / - and -C- | (E) | (28) Sheffield / -D- | (A) |
| (14) Exeter / -Devon- | | (29) Shrewsbury/Shropshire.A. | (B) |
| (15) Glasgow / -B- and -C- | (F,E) | (30) York / - | |

The slogan is also known used with triangles 162(Cardiff) and 635(Reading)

Errors : Slogan known used with other than new stamps at Cardiff, Glasgow and Manchester.

Relevant Special Event Postmark : 525 Dover

**63/3 16 May 1963** - Nature Week stamp issue

No change to general arrangements outlined above, but Edinburgh / Great Britain.V. town die also used and at London EC time plugs were omitted from town die for this and subsequent issues.

Philatelic Bureau : The Bureau operated for the first time with this issue, but the covers they serviced received the same London EC postmark as those posted in the philatelic posting boxes.

Errors : Slogan known used with other than new stamps at Glasgow and Manchester.

Relevant Special Event Postmark : 528 Brownsea Island.

Exceptionally, collectors were able to send covers for reposting for the double ring handstamp of Selborne/Hants, the home town of naturalist Gilbert White.

63/4 31 May 1963 - Lifeboat Conference stamp issue

No change to general arrangements outlined above.

Errors : Slogan known used with other than new stamps at Cardiff, Glasgow and Manchester.

Other Relevant Slogan : 406 International Life-boat Conference

63/5 15 August 1963 - Red Cross Centenary stamp issue

No change to general arrangements outlined above.

Other Relevant Slogan : 412 Red Cross Centenary

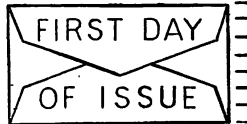
63/6 3 December 1963 - Compac Cable stamp issue

No change to general arrangements outlined above.

New Offices : (31) Blackpool / -Lancs.C.- (37) Oxford / -B-
 (32) Bradford, Yorkshire / -A- (38) Plymouth / -Devon-
 (33) Cambridge / - (39) Portsmouth & Southsea / D
 (34) Derby / -A- (40) Southend-on-Sea / Essex
 (35) Gloucester / -A- (41) Stoke-on-Trent / Staffs.
 (36) Hull / -Yorkshire.B.-

Philatelic Bureau : Distinctive machine die used (probably on same machine as London EC) with 'First Day of Issue' slogan for first and only time. Note the unusual layout with 'GPO' in the time position.

Error : Slogan known used with other than new stamps at Cardiff.

**1964****64/1** 23 April 1964 - Shakespeare stamp issue

New Offices : (42) Croydon (45) Kingston-upon-Thames
 (43) Harrow (46) Romford
 (44) Ipswich

With one exception, these and the existing 41 offices were provided with type I handstamps inscribed as follows :

- | | |
|--------------------------|--|
| (1) London, E.C. | (44) Ipswich. Suffolk |
| (2) London, S.W. | (45) Kingston-upon-Thames. Surrey |
| (3) London, W.C. | (16) Leeds |
| (4) Aberdeen | (17) Leicester |
| (5) Belfast | (18) Liverpool |
| (6) Birmingham | (19) Llandudno & Colwyn Bay |
| (31) Blackpool, Lancs. | (20) Londonderry |
| (7) Bournemouth-Poole | (21) Manchester |
| (32) Bradford, Yorkshire | (22) Newcastle upon Tyne |
| (8) Brighton, Sussex | (23) Northampton |
| (9) Bristol | (24) Norwich. Norfolk |
| (33) Cambridge | (25) Nottingham |
| (10) Cardiff | (37) Oxford |
| (11) Chelmsford. Essex | (38) Plymouth, Devon - also
Plymouth. Devon |
| (42) Croydon. Surrey | (39) Portsmouth. Hants. |
| (34) Derby | (26) Preston, Lancs. |
| (12) Dundee, Angus | (27) Reading. Berks. |
| (13) Edinburgh | (46) Romford. Essex |
| (14) Exeter, Devon | (28) Sheffield |
| (15) Glasgow | (29) Shrewsbury. Salop |
| (35) Gloucester | (41) Stoke-on-Trent. Staffs. |
| (43) Harrow. Middx. | (30) York |
| (36) Hull. Yorkshire | |



Type I



Type II



Type S.1



Type II

The dots and commas are sometimes difficult to distinguish because the dots are elongated and similar to the commas. Subsequent changes brought about by redesignation of offices are shown under the issue with which the change occurred and other changes are shown under 'Minor Handstamp Changes - Large Handstamps 1964-6' - see page 84.

The exception to the above was (40) Southend-on-Sea, where the type I handstamp provided was incorrectly inscribed "Southend. Essex" and was not used. The replacement was type II and inscribed "Southend-on-Sea. Essex". A type II handstamp was also provided at (1) "London. E.C." in addition to the type I handstamp.

Philatelic Bureau : Covers serviced with type S.1, see below

Special Office : Stratford-upon-Avon. Wks. type S.1
(at least five identical fixed date handstamps)

First Day Machine Slogans :

London W.1. / -G- type M.11 standard
Stratford-upon-Avon / Wks. type M.11 standard
(two very similar dies in two extra machines at Stratford-upon-Avon)

Relevant Special Event Postmark : 542 Stratford-upon-Avon

Other Relevant Slogan : 436t Shakespeare Anniversary Year

64/2 8 June 1964 - regional 2½d stamp issue

On this occasion first day facilities were provided only at three offices in the "regions" concerned, and machine slogans of type M.11 were used, standard, as follows :

Douglas / -Isle of Man- (time of 7.30am said to be an error for 7.30pm)
Guernsey / - (also with triangle 324)
Jersey / - (also with triangle 409)



64/3 1 July 1964 - Geographical Congress stamp issue

New Office : (47) Maidstone. Kent type I

Philatelic Bureau : G.P.O. Philatelic Bureau, London E.C.1 type II

First Day Machine Slogan :

Greenwich / -SE10- type M.11 standard, also with triangle S.E.10

Note : Also issued on this date was the 2/- "Seaside" booklet, which contained a 2d/2d se-tenant stamp pane. This pane has been reported with "First Day of Issue" handstamps from London EC, SW, WC, Aberdeen, Llandudno & Colwyn Bay.

64/4 5 August 1964 - International Botanical Congress stamp issue

New Office : (48) Lincoln type I

Philatelic Bureau : type II as for 1 July

First Day Machine Slogans :

Richmond & Twickenham / A type M.11 standard

Richmond & Twickenham / Gt.Brit.type M.11 standard

Southampton / - type M.11 transposed (first use of slogan transposed)

Relevant Special Event Postmark : 555 Edinburgh

64/5 4 September 1964 - Forth Road Bridge stamp issue

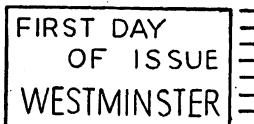
New Office : (49) Middlesbrough, Yorkshire type I

Philatelic Bureau : type II as for 1 July

First Day Machine Slogan :

Edinburgh / -C- type M.11 transposed

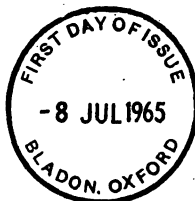
Relevant Special Event Postmarks : 559-562 North & South Queensferry



Type M.13



Type IA



Type IIA

1965

65/1 8 July 1965 - Churchill stamp issue

New Offices :

(50)	Aberystwyth, Cardiganshire	type IA
(51)	Chester	type IIA
(52)	Colwyn Bay Denbs.	type IA
(53)	Douglas Isle of Man	type IA
(54)	Harrogate, Yorkshire	type IA
(55)	Hastings, Sussex	type IA
(56)	Newport, Mon.	type IIA
(57)	Stockport, Cheshire	type IA

also (12) Dundee type IA

(replaced Dundee, Angus)

(19) Llandudno, Caerns type I
(now separate from Colwyn Bay)

Philatelic Bureau : type II as for 1 July 1964

Special Office : Bladon, Oxford type IIA
(movable date but used on this occasion only)

First Day Machine Slogans :

Paddington.W.2. / -D- type M.11 standard

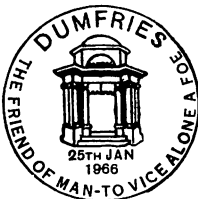
London S.W.1. / -I- type M.13 transposed (first use of this slogan)

65/2 19 July 1965 - 700th Anniversary of Parliament stamp issueNew Offices : nonePhilatelic Bureau : type I[as for 1 July 1964Special Office : Evesham, Worcs. type IA
(movable date but used for this occasion only)**65/3** 9 August 1965 - Salvation Army stamp issueNew Offices : (58) Peterborough type IA
(59) Swindon, Wilts. type IAPhilatelic Bureau : none**65/4** 1 September 1965 - Lister and Commonwealth Arts stamp issuesNew Offices and Philatelic Bureau : noneFirst Day Machine Slogans :Paddington W.2. / -B- type M.11 standard
Edinburgh / -A- type M.11 standardOther Relevant Slogans : 569, 578, 581/t Commonwealth Arts Festival**65/5** 13 September 1965 - Battle of Britain stamp issueNew Offices : (60) Guernsey, Channel Islands type I
(61) Jersey, Channel Islands type IPhilatelic Bureau : type PB.1First Day Machine Slogan :

London, S.W.1. / -H- type M.11 transposed

65/6 8 October 1965 - Post Office Tower stamp issueNew Offices : (62) Stockton-on-Tees Co. Durham type I
(63) Swansea, Glam. type I
(64) Taunton, Somerset type IPhilatelic Bureau : type PB.1First Day Machine Slogan :

Liverpool / -M- type M.11 standard

65/7 25 October 1965 - United Nations stamp issueNew Offices and Philatelic Bureau : noneOther Relevant Slogan : 559t International Co-operation Year**65/8** 15 November 1965 - ITU stamp issueNew Offices and Philatelic Bureau : none

Type S.2



Type S.3



Type S.4



Type S.5

1966

66/1 25 January 1966 - Robert Burns stamp issueNew Offices : nonePhilatelic Bureau and Special Offices :

Normal first day of issue handstamps were not used at either Philatelic Bureau, (13) Edinburgh or (15) Glasgow, but the special pictorial handstamps illustrated were used instead. These were not inscribed "First Day of Issue", but qualify for inclusion here since they served the same purpose. Type S.2 was used at Dumfries and type S.3 was used at Alloway, Ayr, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Greenock, Kilmarnock and Mauchline, both on locally posted covers and (with the exception of Greenock and Mauchline) on covers serviced by the Philatelic Bureau. Minor differences allow at least three different handstamps at Alloway and two each at Edinburgh and Glasgow to be distinguished. In addition to the handstamps, the Philatelic Bureau used a special Gestetner machine to apply similar postmarks to some covers. These postmarks were much smaller and blacker with detailed differences in the designs. Type S.4 was used with inscription Dumfries and type S.5 inscribed Alloway, Ayr, Edinburgh, Glasgow and Kilmarnock.

66/2 7 February 1966 - regional 4d blue stamp issue

On this occasion first day facilities were provided only at offices in the regions concerned, and machine slogans type M.11 were used, standard except where shown, as follows (includes Bangor on this occasion only) :

4) Aberdeen / -B-	(15) Glasgow / -B-	
(50) Aberystwyth / -Card.- <u>transposed</u>	(35) Gloucester / -A-, -B-	(note 2)
- Bangor / Caernarvonshire	(60) Guernsey / -	(note 3)
(5) Belfast / -A-	(61) Jersey / -	
(10) Cardiff / -B-	(19) Llandudno/Caernarvonshire	(note 1)
(52) Colwyn Bay/Denbighshire (note 1)	(20) Londonderry / -	
(53) Douglas / Isle of Man.A.	(56) Newport / -Mon.-	
(12) Dundee / -C-	(63) Swansea, Glam. / -A-	
(13) Edinburgh / -A-		

Notes : 1. Also seen on ordinary 3d stamp.

2. Apparently used in error on ordinary correspondence throughout the day at Gloucester

3. Also reported used transposed on a cover delivered late, as though it was stamped subsequent to the main batch.

The only exception to the use of machine slogans was the use of a type I handstamp at Aberystwyth, Cardiganshire on replacement covers.

66/3 28 February 1966 - Westminster Abbey stamp issue

<u>New Offices</u> :	(65) Carlisle, Cumberland	type I
	(66) Colchester, Essex	type I
	(67) Grimsby and Cleethorpes, Lincs.	type I
	(68) Luton, Beds.	type I
	(69) Skegness, Lincs.	type I
	(70) Southampton	type I
	(71) Tunbridge Wells, Kent	type I
	(72) Wolverhampton, Staffs.	type I
	(73) Worcester	type I

Philatelic Bureau : type PB.2

First Day Machine Slogan :

London S.W.1. / -I- type M.13 standard
(second and last use of this slogan, and only use standard)

Other Relevant Slogan : 595t Westminster Abbey Anniversary

66/4 2 May 1966 - Pictorial Views stamp issue

New Offices : (74) Coventry, Warwickshire type I
(75) Eastbourne, Sussex type I
(76) Fareham, Hants. type I
(77) Hounslow, Middx. type I
(78) Sunderland, Co. Durham type I



Philatelic Bureau : type PB.2

Special Offices : Coleraine, Co.Londonderry type III
Grantown-on-Spey, Morayshire type III Type III
Harlech, Merioneth type III
Lewes, Sussex type III

This was the first use of fixed date handstamps, type III. The four towns were those appropriate to the views shown on the stamps.

66/5 1 June 1966 - World Cup Football stamp issue

New Offices : none

Philatelic Bureau : type PB.3

Special Office : Wembley, Middx. type III
(in addition to normal Harrow, Middlesex type IA)

First Day Machine Slogan :

Harrow & Wembley / Middx.B. type M.11 standard

Other Relevant Slogan : 631 World Cup City Sheffield

66/6 8 August 1966 - Birds stamp issue

New Office : (79) Worthing, Sussex type I

Also, Diss Norfolk exists for this and the 18 August issues, but these are forgeries, see later section.

Philatelic Bureau : type PB.3

66/7 18 August 1966 - World Cup Winners stamp issue

New Offices : none, but (43) Harrow and Wembley, as type I but fixed date, used instead of normal Harrow, Middlesex

The England Winners stamp was not distributed in Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales, so first day postmarks were not used in these regions or at the Philatelic Bureau.

66/8 19 September 1966 - Technology stamp issue

New Offices : (80) Bromley and Beckenham type I
(81) Doncaster, Yorkshire type I
(82) Folkestone, Kent type I
(listed for this issue by C.M.Langston - see bibliography -
but Post Office unable to confirm use prior to 14 October)
(83) Newport, Isle of Wight type I

Philatelic Bureau (now located at Edinburgh) : type PB.4 struck in purple

First Day Machine Slogan

Paddington W.2. / -A- type M.11 standard

66/9 14 October 1966 - Battle of Hastings stamp issueNew Offices : (34) Dorchester

also (43) Harrow and Wembley (replaced Harrow Middlesex)

Philatelic Bureau : type PB.4Special Office : Battle, Sussex

(but see also relevant special event postmark)

For this issue only, the 84 regular offices plus Battle were provided with small diameter (22mm) handstamps of type IV. Two handstamps have been noted for Hastings, one with wide 'Sussex' with comma and full stop i.e. Hastings, Sussex. Many offices with a county name in the handstamp had the county horizontally above the date and, for this issue only, the county was omitted at Aberystwyth, Carlisle, Colwyn Bay, Coventry and Llandudno. The only exceptions to the use of type IV handstamps were :-

Bradford, Yorkshire type I used on replacement covers
Manchester, which was one of the "Diss forgeries".

Relevant Special Event Postmark : 682 Battle

(a cachet "Posted at the Battlefield" was also used)



Type IV

66/10 1 December 1966 - Christmas stamp issueNew Offices : none, but all offices reverted to large diameter handstamps which were thus used for the first time at :

(43) Harrow and Wembley type I

(movable date, unlike 18 August)

(84) Dorchester type I

However, at (13) Edinburgh, large handstamps were not used
and all locally posted covers received the Philatelic
Bureau handstamp.



Type S.6

Philatelic Bureau : type PB.4Special Office : Bethlehem/Llandeilo, Carmarthen. type S.6

As far as is known, the Bethlehem postmarks for this and all later
years were applied at Llanelli.

Notes : At Cambridge, the date in the handstamp was "-- DEC 1966", and at
Newport, Mon. it was "- DEC 1966".

Other Relevant Slogans : 727t Harlow's Christmas Lights

728t Christmas Shopping Bury St Edmunds

1967**67/1** 20 February 1967 - EFTA stamp issue

This was the last occasion on which the large diameter
handstamps were used, so that movable date handstamps
were not needed at offices which were added to the list
with this issue. Most of these offices were therefore
provided with fixed date type III handstamps.



Type III

- New Offices :
- | | | |
|------|---------------------------|----------|
| (85) | London, E.1. | type III |
| (86) | London, N.1. | type III |
| (87) | London, N.W.1. | type III |
| (88) | London, S.E.1. | type III |
| (89) | London, W.1. | type III |
| (90) | Battersea, S.W.11 | type III |
| (91) | Paddington, W.2 | type III |
| (92) | Bath, Somerset | type I |
| (93) | Hereford | type I |
| (94) | Llanelli, Carm. S. | type III |
| (95) | Rotherham, Yorkshire | type III |
| (96) | South Shields, Co. Durham | type III |
| (97) | Walsall, Staffs. | type III |
- also (31) Fylde Coast, Lancs. type III
(replaced Blackpool, Lancs.)
- (24) Norwich, Norfolk type III
(where normal handstamps withdrawn during period of enquiry over "Diss forgeries")

Philatelic Bureau : type PB.5

Relevant Special Event Postmark : 700 Portmeirion



67/2 1 March 1967 - regional 9d & 1/6d stamp issue

- New Offices :
- | | |
|-------|-----------|
| (98) | Dumfries |
| (99) | Inverness |
| (100) | Paisley |

Two sizes of type V

On this occasion first day facilities were provided only at 16 offices (including the above new offices) in the three regions concerned. All were provided with fixed date handstamps type V, mostly 23mm in diameter but some, including Belfast and Cardiff, being larger (24mm). In some cases the county appears in a straight line below the date, the name reading, for example, "Caernarvonshire / Llandudno" as in the postmark illustrated. It is likely that some, if not all, offices had more than one handstamp - minor differences show at least two at Belfast.

- | | | | |
|------|---------------------------|-------|---------------------------|
| (4) | Aberdeen | (15) | Glasgow |
| (50) | Cardiganshire/Aberystwyth | (99) | Inverness |
| (5) | Belfast | (19) | Caernarvonshire/Llandudno |
| (10) | Cardiff | (94) | Llanelli, Carm. S. |
| (52) | Denbighshire/Colwyn Bay | (20) | Londonderry |
| (98) | Dumfries | (56) | Newport, Mon. |
| (12) | Dundee | (100) | Renfrewshire/Paisley |
| (13) | Edinburgh | (63) | Swansea, Glam. |

Philatelic Bureau : none

Other Relevant Slogans : 742t Scottish Stamps & First Day Covers
(not available on first day, but of obvious relevance)
743t New Stamp Issue Wales
744t New Stamp Issue Northern Ireland

67/3 24 April 1967 - Flowers stamp issue

- New Offices :
- | | |
|-------|---------------------------|
| (101) | Barnstaple Devon |
| (102) | Burnley, Lancs. |
| (103) | Huddersfield, / Yorkshire |
| (104) | Truro, Cornwall |

Philatelic Bureau : type PB.6



Type VI

Type VIA

All 104 offices were provided with new 26mm handstamps for this and subsequent issues, with inscriptions as shown in the list which follows. These were of two types, type VI in which the whole of the office name is arranged round the bottom rim and type VIA in which the name is split into two parts, one across the handstamp and the other round the bottom rim, the latter indicated in the list with "/" to split the two halves of the inscription. Subsequent changes brought about by the redesignation of offices are shown under the issue with which the change occurred. Other changes are shown under "Minor Handstamp Changes". (Note: numbers 101-104 shown on previous page)

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| (85) London, E.1 | (36) Hull, Yorkshire |
| (1) London, E.C. | (99) Inverness |
| (86) London, N.1 | (44) Ipswich, Suffolk |
| (87) London, N.W.1 | (61) Jersey, / Channel Islands |
| (88) London, S.E.1 | (45) Kingston upon Thames, / Surrey |
| (2) London, S.W. | (unusual lettering, see illustration) |
| (89) London, W.1 | (16) Leeds |
| (3) London, W.C. | (17) Leicester |
| (90) Battersea, S.W.11 | (48) Lincoln |
| (91) Paddington, W.2 | (18) Liverpool |
| (4) Aberdeen | (19) Llandudno, / Caernarvonshire |
| (50) Aberystwyth, / Cardiganshire | (94) Llanelli, Carmar. |
| (92) Bath, Somerset | (20) Londonderry |
| (5) Belfast | (68) Luton, Beds. |
| (6) Birmingham | (47) Maidstone, Kent |
| (7) Bournemouth-Poole | (21) Manchester |
| (32) Bradford, / Yorkshire | (49) Middlesbrough, / Yorkshire |
| (8) Brighton, / Sussex | (22) Newcastle upon Tyne |
| (9) Bristol | (83) Newport, / Isle of Wight |
| (80) Bromley and / Beckenham | (56) Newport, Mon. |
| (33) Cambridge | (23) Northampton |
| (10) Cardiff | (24) Norwich, / Norfolk |
| (65) Carlisle, / Cumberland | (25) Nottingham |
| (11) Chelmsford, / Essex | (37) Oxford |
| (51) Chester | (100) Paisley, / Renfrewshire |
| (66) Colchester, / Essex | (58) Peterborough |
| (52) Colwyn Bay, / Denbighshire | (38) Plymouth, / Devon |
| (74) Coventry, / Warwickshire | (39) Portsmouth, / Hants. |
| (42) Croydon, / Surrey | (26) Preston, / Lancs. |
| (34) Derby | (27) Reading, Berks. |
| (81) Doncaster, / Yorkshire | (46) Romford, Essex |
| (84) Dorchester | (95) Rotherham, / Yorkshire |
| (53) Douglas, / Isle of Man | (28) Sheffield |
| (98) Dumfries | (29) Shrewsbury, / Salop |
| (12) Dundee | (69) Skegness, Lincs. |
| (75) Eastbourne, / Sussex | (70) Southampton |
| (13) Edinburgh | (40) Southend-on-Sea, / Essex |
| (14) Exeter, Devon | (96) South Shields, / Co.Durham |
| (76) Fareham, Hants. | (57) Stockport, / Cheshire |
| (82) Folkestone, / Kent | (62) Stockton-on-Tees, / Co.Durham |
| (31) Fylde Coast, / Lancs. | (41) Stoke-on-Trent, / Staffs. |
| (15) Glasgow | (78) Sunderland, / Co.Durham |
| (35) Gloucester | (53) Swansea, Glam. |
| (67) Grimsby and / Cleethorpes, Lincs. | (59) Swindon, Wilts. |
| (60) Guernsey, / Channel Islands | (64) Taunton, / Somerset |
| (54) Harrogate, / Yorkshire | (71) Tunbridge Wells, / Kent |
| (43) Harrow, / Middlesex | (97) Walsall, Staffs. |
| (55) Hastings, / Sussex | (72) Wolverhampton, / Staffs. |
| (93) Hereford | (73) Worcester |
| (77) Hounslow, / Middlesex | (79) Worthing, / Sussex |
| | (30) York |

67/4 5 June 1967 - definitive 4d, 1/-, 1/9 stamp issue (first Machin issue)

New Offices : (105) Ayr type VI
 (106) Perth, Scotland type VI
 also (43) Harrow and Wembley type VI
 (replaced Harrow, / Middlesex)

Philatelic Bureau : type PB.7

Special Office : Windsor, Berks. type VI but fixed date "5 JUNE 1967"

67/5 10 July 1967 - Paintings stamp issue

New Offices : (107) Aldershot, Hants. type VI
 (108) Bury St. Edmunds / Suffolk type VIA
 (109) Canterbury Kent type VI
 (110) Mansfield, / Notts. type VIA

Philatelic Bureau : type PB.7

Special Office : Bishop Auckland, / Co.Durham type VI
 but fixed date "10 JULY 1967"

("Master Lambton" painting is at Witton Castle, Bishop Auckland)

Note : (13) Edinburgh used a type VII handstamp for this issue for the first time. Similar handstamps used for most subsequent issues to 28 May 1969 - for details see page 13.

Relevant Special Event Postmark : 740 London WC2

67/6 24 July 1967 - Sir Francis Chichester stamp issue

New Office : (111) Blackburn / Lancs type VIA
 also (106) Perth type VI
 (replaced Perth, Scotland)

Philatelic Bureau : type PB.7A

Special Offices : Greenwich. London / SE10 type S.7
 Chichester / Sussex type VIA
 (38) Plymouth Devon type S.7
 (instead of normal type VIA)

(although type S.7 was not inscribed "First Day of Issue" it was only used on the new stamp)

Edinburgh : normal type VI for this issue only



Type PB.7A (left)



Type S.7 (right)

67/7 8 August 1967 - definitive 3d, 9d, 1/6 stamp issue

New Offices : (112) Pontypridd, / Glam. type VIA
 (113) St.Albans, Herts. type VI
 (114) Salisbury, Wilts. type VI
 (115) Watford Herts. type VI
 also (111) Blackburn and / Accrington type VIA
 (replaced Blackburn / Lancs)

Philatelic Bureau : type PB.8

Special Office : Windsor, Berks. type VI but fixed date

67/8 19 September 1967 - Discoveries stamp issue

New Offices : (116) Bedford type VI
 (117) Rhondda, Glam. type VI
 (Porth in Post Office publications)
 (118) Rochester and / Chatham type VIIA
 (119) Torquay type VI
 (120) Windsor, Berks. type VI
 (previously a special office)

Philatelic Bureau : type PB.9

First Day Machine Slogans :

London N.1 / -A- type M.11 standard
 London N.1 / -C- type M.11 standard
 Paddington W.2 / -A- type M.11 standard

Error : Handstamp dated 19 OCT 1967 at Aldershot

Relevant Special Event Postmark : 762 London W2

67/9 18 October 1967 - Christmas stamp issue (4d)

New Offices : (121) Bognor Regis / Sussex type VIA
 (122) Loughborough / Leics. type VIA
 (123) Scarborough, / Yorkshire type VIA
 (with and without comma)

Philatelic Bureau : type PB.10

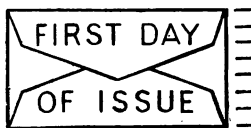
Special Office : Bethlehem / Llandeilo, Carms. type VIA

First Day Machine Slogan :

Bethlehem, Llandeilo, / Carms. type M.11 transposed



Type VIA



Type M.11 at Bethlehem



67/10 27 November 1967 - Christmas stamp issue (3d & 1/6)

New Office : (124) Kendal type VI

Philatelic Bureau : type PB.10

Special Office : Bethlehem / Llandeilo, Carms. type VIA

First Day Machine Slogans :

London W.1 / -G- type M.11 standard
 Bethlehem, Llandeilo, / Carms. type M.11 transposed

Other Relevant Slogans : 914t First Ever Christmas Present
 915t Christmas Illuminations Cheltenham
 LP.552t Jersey for Christmas Holidays

1968

68/1 5 February 1968 - definitive ½d, 1d, 2d, 6d stamp issue

New Offices :

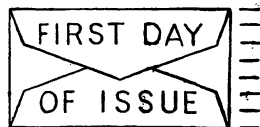
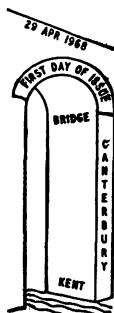
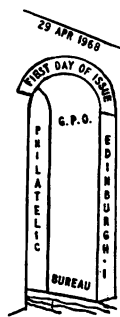
(125) Bolton Lancs	type VI
(126) Chesterfield / Derbyshire	type VIA
(127) Dover Kent	type VI
(128) Dunfermline, / Fife	type VIA
(129) Enfield, Middx.	type VI
(130) Guildford, / Surrey	type VIA
(131) Halifax / Yorkshire	type VIA
(132) Wigan, Lancs.	type VI

Philatelic Bureau : type PB.10

First Day Machine Slogans :

Paddington W.2 / -A- type M.11 standard
 London S.E.1 / -A- type M.11 standard

Error : Handstamp dated 5 FEB 1978 at Hounslow



Types PB.10A and S.8 (left)

Type M.11 at Bridge (above)

68/2 29 April 1968 - Bridges stamp issue

New Offices :

(133) Chippenham / Wilts.	type VIA
(134) Darlington	type VI
(135) Stafford	type VI

also

(49) Middlesbrough / Teesside	type VIA
(replaced Middlesbrough, / Yorkshire)	
(62) Stockton-on-Tees / Teesside	type VIA
(replaced Stockton-on-Tees, / Co.Durham)	

Philatelic Bureau : type PB.10A

Special Office : Bridge, Canterbury, Kent type S.8

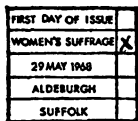
First Day Machine Slogans :

Great Britain / London. W.2. type M.11 standard
 Aberfeldy / -Perthshire- type M.11 standard
 Bath / -Somerset- type M.11 standard
 Bridge. Canterbury. / Kent. type M.11 standard
 Menai Bridge / Anglesey type M.15 standard
 (only use of this slogan, for illustration see page 17)

Error : Handstamp dated 29 MAY 1968 at Newport, Mon.



Type S.9



Type S.10



Type S.11



Type S.12

68/3 29 May 1968 - Anniversaries stamp issue

New Offices : (136) King's Lynn / Norfolk type VIA
 (137) Lancaster and / Morecambe type VIA

Philatelic Bureau : type PB.10

Special Offices : (21) Manchester type S.9
 (instead of normal type VI)
 Aldeburgh Suffolk type S.10
 Hendon London NW4 type S.11
 Whitby Yorkshire type S.12

- pictorial handstamps relevant to the anniversaries on the four stamps.

First Day Machine Slogans :

Paddington W.2 /-A- type M.11 standard
 Paddington W.2 /-D- type M.11 standard
 Great Britain / London. W.2. type M.11 standard
 Hounslow /-Middlesex- type M.11 transposed
 Manchester /-A- type M.11 standard

Relevant Special Event Postmarks : 832 RAF Leuchars 835 Cranwell
 833 RAF Medmenham 836 BPPO 106/
 834 Fylingdales 837 BFPS 1000

Other Relevant Slogan : 1053t Bicentenary Capt Cook, Whitby

68/4 1 July 1968 - definitive 5d, 7d, 8d, 10d stamp issue

New Offices : (138) Barnsley, Yorkshire type VI
 (139) Louth, Lincs. type VI
 (140) Warrington, Lancs. type VI

Philatelic Bureau : type PB.11

Note : The new design airletter was also issued on this date and is known cancelled with the "First Day of Issue" handstamp.

68/5 12 August 1968 - Paintings stamp issue

New Offices : (141) Ilford and Barking, / Essex type VIA
 (142) Newbury, Berks. type VI
 (143) Scunthorpe, Lincs. type VI

Philatelic Bureau : type PB.11

First Day Machine Slogans :

London SE1 /-2U- type M.11 standard
 London W1 /-1A- type M.11 standard
 London W1 /-1C- type M.11 standard
 Great Britain / London.W.2. type M.11 standard
 Hatfield /-Herts.- type M.11 standard
 (presumably since Queen Elizabeth I, portrayed on 4d stamp,
 associated with Hatfield House)

Note : Handstamp struck in purple at Swansea

68/6 4 September 1968 - regional 4d sepia and 5d stamp issue

On this occasion first day facilities were provided only at 28 offices in the regions (including three English offices in "Wales and Border Counties"), which used normal type VI/VIA handstamps. Caernarvon was included for this issue only (though added to general list in 1969) and used a fixed date type VI handstamp with date "4 SEPT 1968".

(4) Aberdeen	(60) Guernsey, / Channel Islands
(50) Aberystwyth, / Cardiganshire	(93) Hereford
(105) Ayr	(99) Inverness
(5) Belfast	(61) Jersey, / Channel Islands
- Caernarvon	(19) Llandudno, / Caernarvonshire
(10) Cardiff	(94) Llanelli, Carm. s.
(51) Chester	(20) Londonderry
(52) Colwyn Bay, / Denbighshire	(56) Newport, Mon.
(53) Douglas, / Isle of Man	(100) Paisley, / Renfrewshire
(98) Dumfries	(106) Perth
(12) Dundee	(112) Pontypridd, / Glam.
(128) Dunfermline, / Fife	(117) Rhondda, Glam.
(13) Edinburgh	(29) Shrewsbury, / Salop
(15) Glasgow	(63) Swansea, Glam.

Philatelic Bureau : type PB.11

Other Relevant Slogans : 1107t New stamps for Scotland
 1110t Isle of Man new stamps
 (not available on first day but
 of obvious relevance)
 1115t New stamps for Wales and Mon.
 1122t New stamps for Northern Ireland

68/7 25 November 1968 - Christmas stamp issue

New Office ; (144) Northallerton, / Yorkshire type VIA

Philatelic Bureau : type PB.12

Special Office : Bethlehem / Llandeilo, Carm. s. type VIA

First Day Machine Slogans :

London S.E.1 / -A-	type M.11 standard
London W.1. / -G-	type M.11 standard
London W.1. / -H-	type M.11 standard
Bethlehem, Llandeilo, / Carm. s.	type M.11 transposed
Sunderland / -Co.Durham-	type M.11 standard

Relevant Special Event Postmarks : 948 London W1
 949 HMS Hermes

Other Relevant Slogan : 1180t Christmas Illuminations
 Cheltenham

1969**69/1** 6 January 1969 - definitive 4d red, 8d blue stamp issue

First day facilities were not provided generally, but Windsor, Berks. used the handstamp illustrated, similar to type VI but blank at top.

69/2 15 January 1969 - Ships stamp issue

New Office : (145) Caernarvon type VI
 (previously a special office)

also (46) Romford and / Dagenham, Essex type VIA
 (replaced Romford, Essex)

Philatelic Bureau : type PB.12



First Day Machine Slogans :

London S.W.1. / -H-	type M.11 transposed
Greenwich / -SE10-	type M.11 standard
Great Britain / London.W.2.	type M.11 transposed

Errors : Handstamps dated 15 JAN 1968 at Brighton, Canterbury, Plymouth.

Note : Handstamp struck in purple at Lancaster and / Morecambe from this issue to 13 August 1969

Relevant Special Event Postmarks : 958 Greenwich SE10
959 London EC3

69/3 26 February 1969 - regional 4d red stamp issue

As on 6 January, first day facilities were not provided, but slogans were withdrawn for the day in each region to provide clearly dated machine cancellations. First day covers are normally seen so stamped at Belfast, Cardiff, Edinburgh, Douglas, Guernsey and Jersey, though Musselburgh and Ramsey are also recorded as providing "wavy line" postmarks on that day. At Douglas two town dies were used, inscribed Douglas / -Isle of Man B.-
and Douglas / -Isle-of-Man.B.-

69/4 3 March 1969 - Concorde stamp issue

New Offices : none

Philatelic Bureau : type PB.6

Edinburgh : normal type VI for this issue only

Special Office : Filton Bristol type VI

First Day Machine Slogans :

London SE1 / -2U-	type M.11 standard
London SW1 / -G-	type M.11 standard
Paddington W.2 / -A-	type M.11 standard
Paddington, W.2. / -D-	type M.11 standard

Error : Handstamp dated 2 MAR 1969 at Peterborough

69/5 5 March 1969 - definitive 2/6, 5/-, 10/-, £1 stamp issue

New Office : (146) Stevenage, Herts. type VI

Philatelic Bureau : type PB.12

Error : Handstamp inscribed Flyde Coast / Lancs. type VIA as illustrated.

**69/6** 2 April 1969 - Anniversaries stamp issue

<u>New Offices</u> : (147) Basildon Essex	type VI
(148) Haverfordwest Pems	type VI
(149) Rhyl Flintshire	type VI

Philatelic Bureau : type PB.13

First Day Machine Slogans

London S.W.1. / -I-	type M.11 standard
London.W.1. / -H-	type M.11 standard
Great Britain / London. W.2.	type M.11 transposed
Paddington W.2 / -D-	type M.11 standard

Relevant Special Event Postmarks : 979-80 NATO
982 Manchester
984 BFPS 1000

Other Relevant Slogan : 1202t Manchester Airport - Alcock & Brown

69/7 28 May 1969 - Cathedrals stamp issue

New Offices : (150) Carmarthen type VI
 (151) Durham type VI
 (152) Hamilton / Lanarkshire type VIA
 (153) Warwick & / Leamington Spa type VIA

Philatelic Bureau : type PB.14

First Day Machine Slogan :
 Great Britain / London. W.2. type M.11 transposed

Relevant Special Event Postmarks : 1031 St. Pauls
 1034 Liverpool
 1035 York

**69/8** 1 July 1969 - Investiture of Prince of Wales stamp issue

New Offices : none

Type S.13

Philatelic Bureau : type PB.15

Edinburgh : Reverted to normal type VI for this and subsequent issues.

Special Office : (145) Caernarvon type S.13
 (instead of normal type VI - about 25 handstamps used; although not inscribed "First Day of Issue" this was used only on the new stamps)

First Day Machine Slogans :

London W.1 / -H- type M.11 standard
 Caernarvon type M.16 transposed

(although not inscribed "First Day of Issue" this slogan was intended for use only on bulk postings of covers bearing the new stamps; it has, however, been seen on ordinary 4d stamps. Unlike other transposed slogans the seven protective bars to the right of the town die do not appear on this postmark)
 (for illustration see page 17)

Error : About 40 covers dated 1 JUL 1968 at London NW1

Relevant Special Event Postmarks : 1072 Cardiff 1075 Tywyn
 1073 BFPS 1000 1076 Nettleham
 1074 Margam Port Talbot

Other Relevant Slogan : 1314/t Investiture Cover
 (not available on first day but of obvious relevance)

69/9 13 August 1969 - Gandhi Centenary stamp issue

New Offices : (154) Chichester, Sussex type VI
 (previously a special office)
 (155) Dartford, Kent type VI
 (156) Telford Salop type VI

Philatelic Bureau : type PB.9

Relevant Special Event Postmark : 1114 London E8

Error : Handstamp dated 13 JUL 1969 at Dundee

Note : Handstamp struck in purple at Brighton, Sussex

69/10 1 October 1969 - Post Office Technology stamp issue

New Offices : (157) Reigate and / Redhill, Surrey type VIA
 (158) Yeovil, Somerset type VI
 also (119) South Devon type VI
 (replaced Torquay)

Philatelic Bureau : type PB.9

Note : With Postal Independence of Guernsey and Jersey from 1 October 1969, these administrations used their own postmarks which are outside the scope of this work. The total number of first day offices was thus reduced to 156 on 1 October 1969.

First Day Machine Slogans :

Paddington. W.2. / -D- type M.11 standard and transposed

Relevant Special Event Postmarks : 1151 Post Office Tower
 1152 London WC1

69/11 29 October 1969 - Christmas airletter

This was the first occasion on which airletters were officially given first day treatment and posting boxes were provided at all the usual offices, although with little advance publicity. Previously, even when airletters were issued on a 'first day', and including when they bore a new stamp as on 1 July 1968, they were, except in error, specifically excluded from first day treatment.

New Offices : none, but

(49) and (62) Teesside type VI
 (replaced Middlesbrough / Teesside and Stockton-on-Tees/
 Teesside - identical handstamps used at both offices - but
 for the purposes of our "office count" in section 1
 Stockton-on-Tees regarded as having "ended" since indis-
 tinguishable from Middlesbrough)

Philatelic Bureau : none

Special Office : Bethlehem / Llandeilo, Carm. type VIA

69/12 26 November 1969 - Christmas stamp issue

New Offices : (159) Hartlepool, / Co.Durham type VIA
 (160) Horsham, Sussex type VI
 also (46) Romford type VI
 (replaced Romford and / Dagenham, Essex)

Philatelic Bureau : type PB.16

Special Office : Bethlehem / Llandeilo, Carm. type VIA

Error : Handstamp dated 18 DEC 1969 on replacement cover from Bethlehem

First Day Machine Slogans :

London W.1. / -G- type M.11 standard
 Bethlehem, Llandeilo, / Carm. type M.11A transposed
 (first use of this type of slogan)

Relevant Special Event Postmark : 1199 Jerusalem

Other Relevant Slogans : 1405t Dick Whittington Lewisham
 1406t Christmas Illuminations Cheltenham

1970

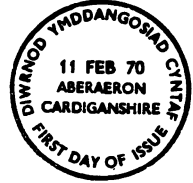
70/1 11 February 1970 - Rural Architecture stamp issue

New Offices : (161) Deal, Kent type VI
 (162) Harlow, Essex type VI
 (163) Lowestoft, Suffolk type VI
 also (14) Exeter District type VI
 (replaced Exeter, Devon)

Philatelic Bureau : type PB.17

Special Office : Aberaeron, Cardiganshire type S.14
 (location of Welsh stucco house on 1/- stamp)

First Day Machine Slogan :
 Paddington, W.2. / -D- type M.11 transposed Type VIII



Type S.14



70/2 1 April 1970 - Anniversaries stamp issue

New Offices : (164) Barrow-in-Furness / Lancs. type VIII
 (165) Bridgwater, / Somerset type VIII
 (166) Crawley, Sussex type VI
 (167) Great Yarmouth, / Norfolk type VIII
 (168) Hemel Hempstead, / Herts. type VIII
 (first use of type VIII handstamps with
 office name in two straight lines)

Philatelic Bureau : type PB.17

Special Offices : Arbroath, Angus type VI
 also, type VII with smaller lettering and thicker rim
 (this office relevant to Declaration of Arbroath)
 Billericay, Essex type VI
 Boston, Lincs. type VI
 (both offices associated with 'Mayflower')
 Rochdale, Lancs. type VI
 (associated with Co-op Alliance)

First Day Machine Slogans :
 London W.1. / -G- type M.11 standard
 Paddington W.2. / -C- type M.11 transposed
 Paddington W.2. / -D- type M.11 transposed



Type VI



Type VII

Relevant Special Event Postmarks : 1236 Canterbury 1244 London E 15
 1237 London SE1 1245 London W1
 1238 London NW1 1246 Scrooby,
 1239 BFPS 1121 Doncaster
 1240 BFPS 1205 1247 Slough
 1241 BFPS 1206

Other Relevant Slogans : 1468t Plymouth Mayflower 70
 1473t Mayflower 70 Boston Lincs.

70/3 3 June 1970 - Literary Anniversaries stamp issue (Dickens & Wordsworth)

New Offices : (169) Southall, Middx. type VI
 (170) Stirling type VI

Philatelic Bureau : type PB.18

Edinburgh : type VII

Special Offices : (118) Rochester, Kent type VI
 (instead of Rochester and/ Chatham for this issue only)
 Broadstairs, Kent type VI
 (both offices associated with Dickens)
 Cockermonth, / Cumberland type VIII
 (associated with Wordsworth)

First Day Machine Slogans :

London W.1. / -G- type M.11 standard
 Broadstairs / -Kent- type M.11 transposed

Relevant Special Event Postmarks : 1325 Chigwell 1328 London WC2
 1326 Broadstairs 1329 Ventnor
 1327 Corsham

70/4 17 June 1970 - definitive 10p, 20p, 50p stamp issue

New Offices : none

Philatelic Bureau : type PB.18

Edinburgh : type VII

Relevant Special Event Postmark : 1358 Windsor

70/5 15 July 1970 - Commonwealth Games stamp issue

New Office : (171) Rochdale, Lancs. type VI
 (previously a special office)

Philatelic Bureau : type PB.18

Edinburgh : type VII

First Day Machine Slogans :

London W.1. / -G- type M.11 standard
 London.W.1. / -H- type M.11 standard
 Edinburgh / Gt.Britain.D. type M.11 standard

Other Relevant Slogan : 1591t National Savings Britain's 'Common Wealth'

70/6 18 September 1970 - Philympia stamp issue

New Office : (172) Rugby, Warwickshire type VI
 also (80) Bromley, Kent type VI
 (replaced Bromley and / Beckenham)

Philatelic Bureau : type PB.19 for this and subsequent issues to the end of 1971 (except those issues, so noted, where no Philatelic Bureau handstamp used)

Edinburgh : type VI, but with unusual lettering (as type PB.18 but without "British Philatelic Bureau") (see also 15 February 1971 entry)

First Day Machine Slogan :

Paddington, W.2. / -D- type M.11 transposed

Error : Handstamp dated 19 SEP 1970 at Yeovil

Relevant Special Event Postmark : 1481 London

Other Relevant Slogan : 1632t Philympia

70/7 28 October 1970 - Christmas airletterNew Offices : none, but

- (141) Ilford, Essex type VI
 (replaced Ilford and Barking, / Essex)
 (118) Medway, Kent type VI
 (replaced Rochester and / Chatham)

Philatelic Bureau : noneEdinburgh : type VI for this issue onlySpecial Office : Bethlehem / Llandeilo, Carms. type VIError : Handstamp dated 28 SEP 1970 at Manchester**70/8** 25 November 1970 - Christmas stamp issue

New Office : (173) Richmond and / Twickenham type VIII
 also (35) Gloucestershire type VIA
 (replaced Gloucester)

Edinburgh : as 18 SeptemberSpecial Office : Bethlehem / Llandeilo, Carms. type S.15First Day Machine Slogans :

London SE1 / -U2- type M.11 standard
 London W.1. / -G- type M.11 standard
 London.W.1. / -H- type M.11 standard
 Paddington W.2. / -D- type M.11 transposed
 Bethlehem, Llandeilo, / Carms. type M.11A transposed

Error : Handstamp dated 25 OCT 1970 at London ECOther Relevant Slogans :

1687t Christmas Illuminations Cheltenham
 1688t Fairfield Christmas Circus (Croydon)

First Day of Issue 25 Nov 70**1971**

Type S.15

71/1 15 February 1971 - decimal definitive stamps, postal stationery etc.

This issue took place during the Post Office strike, but some Head Post Offices were open, as were all sub offices (which were not affected by the strike) and all new stamps were on sale at all these offices. At those 'philatelic offices' which were open on 15 February, philatelic posting boxes were provided in the normal way but covers could only be delivered in the few areas (such as Aldershot) where a local delivery service operated during the strike.

The strike ended on 7 March and then followed the unique event associated with this issue. In order that collectors throughout the country could obtain their "First Day of Issue 15 February" postmarks, philatelic posting boxes were open at all 170 offices for the two days 12 and 13 March, and covers posted in them received backdated first day postmarks identical to those actually applied on 15 February. The last, and most surprising, development was a last minute instruction that a cachet reading "Posting delayed by the Post Office strike 1971" (or similar wording) should be applied to the backdated covers. Some covers posted early on 12 March did however go through before this instruction took effect. The cachets were locally produced and thus come in all shapes and sizes, and were applied in various colours. Those known are shown in a later section - see page 89.

Not only were the $\frac{1}{2}$ p to 9p decimal definitives due to be issued on 15 February, but also the full range of other decimal items such as booklets, coils, postal stationery and 'stamped to order' printed and embossed stamps on customers' own material. Not all this range was actually available on 15 February, but great efforts were made by the Post Office in the days following the strike to ensure that all were available for the first day postings on 12 and 13 March. All of this range, with the exception of registered envelopes, qualified for first day treatment, although there appeared to be some doubt over the 4p airletter which received first day treatment at some offices but not others.

New Offices : none

Edinburgh : as on 18 September 1970

First Day Machine Slogan :

Paddington W.2. / -D- type M.11 transposed

Notes : (1) London EC used type IX handstamp in addition to normal type VI

Handstamp struck in purple at Warrington, Lancs.

Other Relevant Slogan : 1725/t Decimal currency take a leaflet



Type VI



Type IX



Type IX



FIRST DAY OF ISSUE
16 JUNE 1971
PORTADOWN

Type S.16

71/2 16 June 1971 - Ulster Paintings stamp issue

New Offices : (174) Barnet, Herts. type VI
(175) Epsom, Surrey type VI
(176) Sutton, Surrey type VI
(177) Uxbridge, / Middx. type VIII
(struck in purple for this issue only)

Edinburgh : New type IX handstamp, diameter 27mm and with wider lettering similar to previous Edinburgh type VII and with clean new appearance used for this and subsequent issues (except 7 July 1971) to 21 June 1972.

Special Offices : type S.16, incorporating the hand of Ulster and without county names, used at 10 offices in Ulster (in place of the normal type VI handstamp at (5) Belfast and (20) Londonderry) :

Armagh	Coleraine	Londonderry
Ballymena	Cookstown	Newry
Belfast	Enniskillen	Omagh
		Portadown

First Day Machine Slogans :

Paddington W.2. / -C- type M.11 transposed

Liverpool / - type M.11A standard

(two similar dies seen with town dies dated 16 JUN and 16 JNE)

Error : Handstamp dated 16 JUN 1970 at Plymouth

Relevant Special Event Postmark : 1657 Norwich Congress (Ulster Paintings Day)

71/3

1 July 1971 - 5p airletter

It was announced at very short notice (the Press Notice was dated 29 June) that first day facilities would be provided at all 174 offices for this issue. No Philatelic Bureau handstamp was used. The short notice was probably a contributory factor to the very small numbers that were posted, some examples of which are London WC (Trafalgar Square) 291, Birmingham 48, Hemel Hempstead 4, Londonderry 15.

71/4

7 July 1971 - regional decimal stamp issue

On this occasion first day facilities were provided only at offices in the regions, which used handstamps of types S.17-20 (most of which omitted the county) instead of the normal types VI/VIA. Caerphilly was included for this occasion only, probably as a result of the Caerphilly Castle 700th Anniversary celebrations. Although not a 'First Day of Issue' postmark, a fixed date rubber handstamp was used to service about 500 covers at Windsor. This is a predecessor to the philatelic handstamps provided for regular use at Windsor from 1973. First day handstamps were used at the following offices :

(4) Aberdeen	type S.19	(152) Hamilton	type S.19
(50) Aberystwyth	type S.20	(148) Haverfordwest	type S.20
(105) Ayr	type S.19	(99) Inverness	type S.19
(5) Belfast	type S.18	(19) Llandudno	type S.20
(145) Caernarvon	type S.20	(94) Llanelli	type S.20
- Caerphilly	type S.20	(20) Londonderry	type S.18
(10) Cardiff	type S.20	(56) Newport Mon.	type S.20
(150) Carmarthen	type S.20	(100) Paisley	type S.19
(52) Colwyn Bay	type S.20	(106) Perth	type S.19
(53) Douglas Isle of Man	type S.17	(112) Pontypridd	type S.20
(98) Dumfries	type S.19	(117) Rhondda	type S.20
(12) Dundee	type S.19	(149) Rhyl	type S.20
(128) Dunfermline	type S.19	(170) Stirling	type S.19
(13) Edinburgh	type S.19	(63) Swansea	type S.20
(15) Glasgow	type S.19		

Philatelic Bureau : none



Type S.17



Type S.18



Type S.19



Type S.20



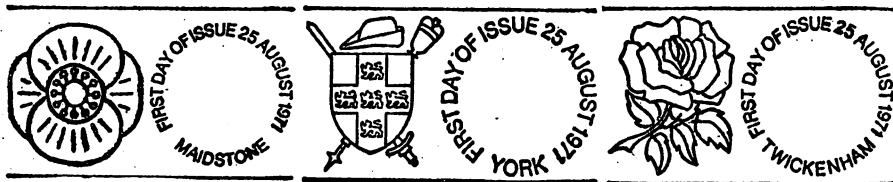
Fixed date handstamp at Windsor



Type S.21

71/5 28 July 1971 - Literary Anniversaries stamp issue (Keats, Gray, Scott)New Office : (178) Margate, Kent type VISpecial Office : (1) London EC type S.21
(instead of normal type VI)

The motif of type S.21 is the shield of the Worshipful Company of Stationers and Newspaper Makers, who were concerned with the publication of the works of Keats, Gray and Scott. London EC also used type IX (as on 15 February); this has been seen on covers sent to the Philatelic Bureau for servicing, though probably used only on a small proportion of them. Its use was not announced.

First Day Machine Slogan :
Paddington W.2. / -C- type M.11 transposedErrors : Handstamps dated 28 JUN 1971 at Deal and Warwick & Leamington Spa.Relevant Special Event Postmarks : 1701 Shanklin
1702 Stoke Poges**71/6** 11 August 1971 - definitive 10p small format stamp issueNew Offices : noneNote : (120) Windsor Berks type IX in addition to normal type VI. As with London EC on 28 July this was used on covers sent to the Philatelic Bureau for servicing.**71/7** 25 August 1971 - General Anniversaries stamp issueNew Office : (179) Kirkcaldy, Fife type VI

Type S.22

Type S.23

Type S.24

Special Offices : Instead of the normal type VI handstamps, pictorial handstamps type S.22 to 24 were used at :

- (47) Maidstone type S.22
(associated with Royal British Legion)
- (30) York type S.23
(City of York anniversary)
- (173) Twickenham type S.24
(associated with Rugby Football Union)
(instead of normal "Richmond & Twickenham" inscription)

Use of these three handstamps was not restricted to the relevant stamp but each was used on any combination of the three stamps. The Twickenham handstamp has also been seen on a cover bearing a combination of the York stamp and a definitive stamp.

First Day Machine Slogan :
Paddington W.2. / -C- type M.11 transposedRelevant Special Event Postmarks : 1727 Rugby
1728 Twickenham
1730 BFES 1182



Type S.25



Type S.26



Type S.27



Type S.28

71/8 22 September 1971 - Modern Universities stamp issue

New Office : (180) Llandrindod Wells / Radnor type VIII
(fixed date handstamp with date '22 SEPT 71')

This was apparently an experiment as first day facilities were not provided at Llandrindod Wells on a regular basis until 16 February 1972. 506 covers were postmarked.

Special Offices : Instead of the normal handstamps, pictorial handstamps types S.25 to 28, showing modern heraldic shields from the Coats-of-Arms of the four universities, were used at :

(50) Aberystwyth	(17) Leicester
(70) Southampton	(66) Colchester

Welsh Offices : Apart from Aberystwyth and Llandrindod Wells, the other 12

Welsh offices used experimental fixed date bilingual handstamps of type X. No counties were included, even for Newport.

First Day Machine Slogan :
Paddington W.2. / -C- type M.11 transposed

71/9 13 October 1971 - Christmas stamp issue and airletter

New Offices : none



Type X



Type S.29



Type S.30

Special Offices : Bethlehem Ilanedeillo Carms. type S.29
(109) Canterbury type S.30
(instead of normal type VI)
(stamps showed stained glass windows from Canterbury Cathedral)

Welsh Offices : reverted to normal type VI handstamps with inscriptions in English only. First day facilities not provided at Llandrindod Wells.

First Day Machine Slogans :
Bethlehem, Ilanedeillo, / Carms. type M.11A transposed
Liverpool / - type M.11 standard

Note : Handstamp struck in purple at Barnet, Herts.

Other Relevant Slogan : 1895t Aladdin Barnsley

1972

72/1 16 February 1972 - British Polar Explorers stamp issue

New Offices : (181) Basingstoke, Hants. type VI
 (182) Greenock, Renfrewshire type VIII
 also (178) Thanet, Kent type VI
 (replaced Margate, Kent)
 (180) Llandrindod Wells type XI
 (previous use experimental - see below)

Philatelic Bureau : type PB.20 applied both by means of a normal handstamp and by means of Swiss Cancelling Machine (see section 1 for description)

Special Office: (3) London WC type S.31
 (instead of normal type VI)



Type PB.20



Type S.31



Type XI



Type XIA

Welsh Offices : Following the experimental use of bilingual handstamps on 22 September 1971 (fixed date on that occasion) new variable date handstamps came into use at all Welsh offices, including Llandrindod Wells, a regular first day office from this date. They were of type XI (town name round bottom rim) or type XIA (First Day of Issue round bottom rim) as illustrated. The county name was excluded for all offices except Newport, and this was the first use of the generic postmark 'Clwyd' (replacing Rhyl, Flintshire), the operational Clwyd postmarks not being introduced until 21 February 1972. Type XI/XIA handstamps were used at :

(50) Aberystwyth	type XI	(180) Llandrindod Wells	type XI
(145) Caernarvon	type XI	(19) Llandudno	type XIA
(10) Cardiff	type XIA	(94) Llanelli	type XIA
(150) Carmarthen	type XIA	(56) Newport Mon	type XI
(149) Clwyd	type XIA	(112) Pontypridd	type XIA
(52) Colwyn Bay	type XIA	(117) Rhondda	type XIA
(148) Haverfordwest	type XI	(63) Swansea	type XIA

First Day Machine Slogans :

Edinburgh / -D- and -E- type M.11 standard
 (used on advertising material from Philatelic Bureau)
 Paddington W.2. / -D- type M.11 transposed

72/2 29 February 1972

This was the last day of validity of £.s.d stamps, and a rubber fixed date handstamp was used at Windsor. It is mentioned here because of its similarity to that used on 7 July 1971, even though no stamp issue was involved on this occasion.



72/3 26 April 1972 - General Anniversaries stamp issue and new 6¹/₂p airletter

New Offices : (183) Aylesbury, Bucks. type VI
 (184) High Wycombe, Bucks. type VIII
 (185) Kettering, Northants. type VI
 (186) Oldham, Lancs. type VI

Philatelic Bureau : type PB.21 (two sizes, 31mm and 32mm, seen)

Special Office : (1) London EC type S.32
 (instead of normal type VI)

First Day Machine Slogan :
 Paddington W.2. / -D- type M.11A transposed

Relevant Special Event Postmarks : 1863 London WC
 1881 Bideford
 1882 Down Ampney

Other Relevant Slogan : 1984t Treasures of Tutankhamun



Type PB.21



Type S.32



Type PB.22



Type S.33

72/4 24 May 1972 - £1 "Wedgwood" stamp book

This was an unusual issue for which to provide first day facilities as the stamps were normal definitives with no new designs, colours or values, only new phosphor band arrangements and se-tenant pairings. It was laid down that "First Day of Issue" postmarks would be applied only to covers bearing at least a strip of four stamps from pages 2 or 3 of the booklet or the entire page 4 (these were the se-tenant pages), but pages bearing the complete page 1 (all 3p stamps) were also given first day treatment.

New Offices : none; in fact only intermittent introduction of new offices from here onwards so that "new offices" only mentioned where relevant.

Philatelic Bureau : type PB.22

Special Office : Barlaston Staffs. type S.33
 (used at (41) Stoke-on-Trent / Staffs. instead
 of normal type VIA handstamp)

72/5 21 June 1972 - Village Churches stamp issue

Philatelic Bureau : type PB.23

Special Office : (109) Canterbury type S.34
 (instead of normal type VI)



Type PB.23



Type S.34



Type PB.24



Type S.35

First Day Machine Slogans :

Paddington W.2. / -A-	type M.11A transposed
Paddington W.2. / -C-	type M.11 transposed
Liverpool / -F.2.-	type M.11 standard
Liverpool / -F.3.-	types M.11 & M.11A standard
Liverpool / -J.2.-	type M.11A standard

Relevant Special Event Postmarks : 1949 Greensted, Ongar
 1950 Earls Barton, Northampton
 1951 Letheringsett, Holt
 1952 Helphringham, Sleaford
 1953 Huish Episcopi, Langport

(note : no.1953 is worded 'First Day of Issue Exhibition' but it was not a Post Office first day handstamp and was used on other than the new stamps.)

72/6 13 September 1972 - Broadcasting Anniversaries stamp issue

Philatelic Bureau : type PB.24

Special Office : (89) London W1 type S.35
 (instead of normal type VI)

Edinburgh : reverted to type VI for this and subsequent issues. This is a normal type VI handstamp, not the handstamp with unusual lettering used 1970/1.

First Day Machine Slogans :

Paddington W.2. / -C-	type M.11A transposed
Paddington W.2. / -D-	type M.11A transposed

Note : (33) Cambridge used an unusual large, apparently fixed date, handstamp applied by means of the Swiss Cancelling Machine for this and the 18 October issue

Errors : Handstamps dated 13 SEP 1973 at Ayr, 13 SEP 1974 at Stirling

Relevant Special Event Postmarks : 2040 BFPS 1326 2043 Gloucester
 2041 Cardiff 2045 Leicester
 2042 Chelmsford 2046 Birmingham

Other Relevant Slogan : 2088t BBC Radio Brighton



"Large Cambridge"



Type PB.25

FIRST DAY OF ISSUE



DYDD CYHOEDDIAD CYNTAF

Type S.36

72/7 18 October 1972 - Christmas stamp issue and airletter

Philatelic Bureau : type PB.25

Special Office : Bethlehem Llandeilo Carms type S.36
 (in addition to normal Llanelli type XIA)

First Day Machine Slogans :

Paddington W.2 / -A-	type M.11A transposed
Paddington W.2. / -C-	type M.11 transposed
Bethlehem, Llandeilo, / Carms.	type M.11A transposed
Liverpool / -	type M.11A standard

Error : Handstamp dated 18 SEP 1972 on replacement covers from Dorchester

72/ 8 20 November 1972 - Royal Silver Wedding stamp issue

Philatelic Bureau : type PB.26 applied both by means of a normal handstamp and the Swiss cancelling machine

Special Office : (120) Windsor Berks. type S.37
(instead of normal type VI; four handstamps as well as the Swiss Cancelling Machine)

First Day Machine Slogans :

Paddington W.2 / -A-	type M.11A transposed
Paddington W.2. / -C-	type M.11 standard
Liverpool / -C-	type M.11A standard
Liverpool / -D-	type M.11A standard

Relevant Special Event Postmarks : 2102 London SW1
2103 BFFS 1307



Type PB.26



Type S.37



Type PB.27



Type S.37A

72/ 9 6 December 1972 - new £1 stamp issue

Philatelic Bureau : type PB.27

Special Office : (120) Windsor Berks type S.37A
(in addition to normal type VI, possibly applied by Swiss Cancelling Machine)

1973

Type PB.28

73/1 3 January 1973 - European Communities stamp issue

New Offices : none, but

(5£) Gwent (replaced Newport, Mon.) type XI

Philatelic Bureau : type PB.28

For this and most subsequent issues the Philatelic Bureau postmark was applied both by means of a normal handstamp and the Swiss Cancelling Machine.

Note : (1) London EC used unusual large fixed date handstamps in addition to the normal type VI handstamp for this and the 28 February issue; for illustrations see next page.

First Day Machine Slogan :

Paddington W.2. / -C-	type M.11 transposed
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73/2 28 February 1973 - Oak Tree stamp issue

New Offices : (187) Motherwell & / Wishaw type VIII
 (188) Stratford-Upon-Avon / Warwickshire type VIII
 (but unusually in upper & lower case lettering)
 (previously a special office)

Philatelic Bureau : type PB.29

Relevant Special Event Postmarks :

2137 London SW1
 (design shows acorn & oak leaf)
 2138 Bishops Stortford
 2139 Tetbury



Type PB.29



Type PB.30



Bryn Asaph cachet

73/3 18 April 1973 - Second Explorers stamp issue

Philatelic Bureau : type PB.30

Special Offices : Blantyre, Glasgow type VI
 (birthplace of Livingstone)
 Denbigh type XIA
 (birthplace of Stanley)

The Wales & Marches Postal Board held a private reception at St Asaph on 18 April 1973, at "Bryn Asaph" (a Post Office holiday home), to mark the Stanley commemorative issue, and covers posted in the special posting box there received the special cachet illustrated as well as the Denbigh first day hand-stamp.

First Day Machine Slogans :

Paddington W.2 / -A- type M.11A transposed
 Paddington W.2. / -C- type M.11 transposed
 Liverpool / -M- type M.11A standard

Relevant Special Event Postmarks : 2171 Plymouth
 2172 Budleigh Salterton

73/4 16 May 1973 - County Cricket Centenary stamp issue

Philatelic Bureau : type PB.31

Special Office : (87) Lords London NW type S.38
 (instead of normal London NW1 type VI)

First Day Machine Slogans :

Paddington W.2. / -C- type M.11 transposed
 Liverpool / - type M.11A standard
 Liverpool / -C- type M.11 standard

Relevant Special Event Postmarks :

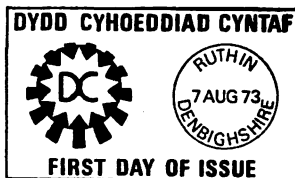
2209 London NW8 2213 Hove
 2210 Kennington SE11 2214 Headingley Leeds
 2211 Downend Bristol 2215 Hambledon Portsmouth
 2212 Chelmsford 2216 BFPS 1400



Type PB.31



Type S.38



Type S.39

73/5 4 July 1973 - Paintings stamp issueNew Offices : (189) Grantham, Lincs.

type VI

also (173) Twickenham

type VI

(replaced Richmond & Twickenham)

Philatelic Bureau : type PB.32First Day Machine Slogans :

London W.2. / -Gt. Britain-

type M.11 transposed

Liverpool / -

type M.11A standard

Type PB.32

Liverpool / -M-

type M.11 standard



Note : This was the last day of British Postal Services in the Isle of Man and therefore the last occasion on which a "First Day of Issue" handstamp was used at Douglas by the British Post Office. The same handstamp was used on the following day, 5 July, for the first day of the new stamps issued by the Isle of Man Post Office but this and subsequent similar uses are outside the scope of this work. After 4 July the number of first day offices was thus reduced to 185 (189, the number of the latest new office, less Douglas and the three deletions - Guernsey, Jersey and Stockton-on-Tees - already mentioned).

Relevant Special Event Postmark : 2274 London W1**73/6** 7 August 1973 - Welsh 5p airletter

On this occasion first day facilities were provided only at offices in Wales, the handstamps used being as for 16 February 1972, except that Newport Mon. was now :

(56) Gwent type XI

Special Office : Ruthin, Denbighshire

type S.39

**73/7** 15 August 1973 - Inigo Jones stamp issuePhilatelic Bureau : type PB.33First Day Machine Slogan :

Paddington W.2. / -C-

type M.11 transposed

Type PB.33

Notes : (1) London EC used type IX as well as type VI handstamp
(120) Windsor used a fixed date postmark, 31mm in diameter, applied by means of the Swiss Cancelling Machine as well as normal type VI handstamp for this issue and later issues to early 1974. The lettering differs from issue to issue.

Relevant Special Event Postmarks : 2337 Newmarket

2338 Wilton Salisbury

**73/8** 10 September 1973 - 3p single phosphor band stamp issue

Although generally no first day facilities were provided,
(17) Leicester used a 28mm handstamp with unusual lettering.

73/9 12 September 1973 - Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference stamp issuePhilatelic Bureau : type PB.34Relevant Special Event Postmark : 2378 London SW1**73/10** 3 October 1973 - Welsh 6p airletter

Although generally no first day facilities were provided, the type XI "First Day of Issue" handstamp has been reported used at (180) Llandrindod Wells.

73/11 24 October 1973 - definitive 4½p, 5½p, 8p stamp issueNew Offices : none, but

- (111) Blackburn / & N.E.Lancs. type VIII
 (replaced Blackburn and Accrington)
 (14) Exeter (no county) type VI
 (replaced Exeter District)

Philatelic Bureau : type PB.34A

Type PB.34

Edinburgh : type VI handstamp with unusual lettering used for this issue and on 14 NovemberNote : (120) Windsor Berks used two different postmarks as on 15 August**73/12** 14 November 1973 - Royal Wedding stamp issuePhilatelic Bureau : type PB.35

- Special Offices : (2) Westminster Abbey London SW1 type S.40
 (instead of normal London SW type VI)
 (120) Windsor type S.41
 (instead of normal type VI, but see below)



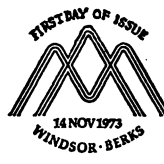
Type PB.34A



Type PB.35



Type S.40



Type S.41



Type IX

First Day Machine Slogans :

- Paddington W.2 / -A- type M.11A transposed
 Paddington W.2. / -C- type M.11 transposed

Note : (1) London EC used type IX as well as normal type VI

Other issues : Also issued on this date were new stamp booklets and items of postal stationery. None of the booklet stamps were new, but this was the first occasion that 3p single phosphor band and 3½p stamps had been available in booklet panes. Some offices gave first day treatment to covers bearing these panes and the new 3p postcard and 3½p letter card while others did not. Windsor, which was a special office for the Royal Wedding stamps, used its normal type VI handstamp on 3p postcards and 3½p letter cards, but its philatelic handstamp on booklet panes. The latter handstamp had been introduced on 8 October but had been planned not to be used on stamp issue dates.

Relevant Special Event Postmarks : 2439 Great Somerford Chippenham
 2440 BFPS 1434

73/13 28 November 1973 - Christmas stamp issuePhilatelic Bureau : type PB.36Special Office : Bethlehem Llandeilo Carmarthen type S.42
(in addition to normal Llanelli type XI)First Day Machine Slogans :

Paddington W.2. / -C-	type M.11	transposed
Haywards Heath / -Sussex-	type M.11A	transposed
Liverpool / -	type M.11A	standard



Type PB.36



Type S.42



"Large Windsor"

Notes : (1) London EC used type IX as well as normal type VI
(120) Windsor Berks used two different postmarks as on 15 August
(see illustration for larger postmark)

Other issue : In addition to the stamp issue on 28 November, a Christmas airletter was issued a week earlier, on 21 November, but surprisingly no first day facilities were provided for this issue.

Other Relevant Slogans : 2332t Christmas Greetings Tenovus
2340t Christmas Illuminations Shrewsbury
2342t Cinderella Lewisham Concert Hall

1974**74/1** 23 January 1974 - country definitive 3p (single phosphor band), 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ p, 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ p, 8p stamp issue

From this point, the Post Office coined the term "country issue" to replace the term "regional issue".

On this occasion, the previous practice of providing first day facilities at offices in the "countries" was continued, but in addition facilities were provided at 14 offices in England with philatelic sales counters. Apart from the special offices mentioned below, all offices (both in the "countries" and in England) used their normal types VI/VIA/VIII handstamps (types XI/XIA in Wales). Similar arrangements have applied for all subsequent country stamp issues. The English offices involved on this occasion, however, were as follows :

(1) London, E.C.	type VI	(16) Leeds	type VI
(3) London W.C.	type VI	(18) Liverpool	type VI
(6) Birmingham	type VI	(21) Manchester	type VI
(7) Bournemouth / Poole	type VIII	(22) Newcastle upon Tyne	type VI
(8) Brighton, Sussex	type VI	(37) Oxford	type VI
(9) Bristol	type VI	(28) Sheffield	type VI
(31) Fylde Coast, Lancs.	type VI	(70) Southampton	type VI

Philatelic Bureau : type PB.37

Special Offices : (5) Belfast type S.43
(10) Cardiff type S.44
(13) Edinburgh type S.45
(all instead of normal types VI/XIA handstamps)



Type PB.37



Type S.43



Type S.44



Type S.45

74/2 27 February 1974 - Horse Chestnut stamp issuePhilatelic Bureau : type PB.38Note : (120) Windsor used a large diameter postmark applied by means of the Swiss Cancelling Machine.Errors : Handstamps dated 28 NOV 1973 at Enfield, 27 FEB 1973 at SalisburyFirst Day Machine Slogan :

Paddington W.2. / -C- type M.11 transposed

74/3 24 April 1974 - Fire Service stamp issueNew Offices : none, but

- (125) Bolton & Bury / Lancs. type VIII
(replaced Bolton Lancs.)
- (14) Exeter District type VI
(replaced Exeter (no county) - two
different handstamps seen)

Philatelic Bureau : type PB.39First Day Machine Slogans :

Paddington W.2. / ?B type M.11A transposed
Liverpool / - type M.11 standard

Relevant Special Event Postmarks : 2520 Bristol
2521 Cambridge
2522 Sunderland

Other Relevant Slogan : 2419t Fire Brigade needs men of courage

Type PB.38



Type PB.39

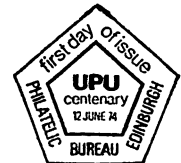
74/4 12 June 1974 - UPU Centenary stamp issueNew Offices : none, but

- (101) North Devon type VI
(replaced Barnstaple, Devon)

Philatelic Bureau : type PB.40First Day Machine Slogans :

• London W.2 / -Gt.Britain- type M.11 transposed
Liverpool / - type M.11A standard

Notes : (159) Hartlepool / Co.Durham used an unusual 31mm handstamp from this issue to, probably, 4 September
(97) Walsall, Staffs./ WS1 1AA, type VIII, unusually including the postcode, was used from this issue to, probably, issue 74/7

Relevant Special Event Postmark : 2580 Southampton

Type PB.40

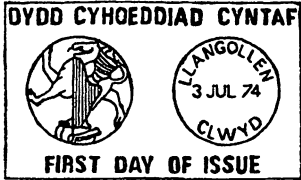
74/5 3 July 1974 - Second design Welsh airletter (third issue including both 5p and 6p issues in first design)

On this occasion first day facilities were provided, as for the first issue on 7 August 1973, only at the 14 offices in Wales. These used their normal type XI/XIA handstamps as shown for that issue except that (56) Gwent used a new type XIB handstamp, 37mm in diameter (illustrated in previous section) for this and subsequent issues.

Special Office : Llangollen Clwyd

type S.46

Relevant Special Event Postmark : 2604 Llangollen



Type S.46



Type XII



Type FB.41



"Large Hartlepool"

74/6 10 July 1974 - Great Britons stamp issue

New Offices : none, but handstamps with new county names introduced at

- | | |
|---|-----------|
| (138) Barnsley / S Yks | type XII |
| (32) Bradford / W Yks | type XII |
| (49) Cleveland | type VI |
| (replaced Teesside) | |
| (81) Doncaster / S Yks | type XII |
| (61) Grimsby and / Cleethorpes | type VIII |
| (no county) | |
| (131) Halifax / W Yks | type XII |
| (54) Harrogate / N Yks | type XII |
| (103) Huddersfield / W Yks | type XII |
| (36) Hull / N Hside | type XII |
| (county name all in upper case letters) | |
| (144) Northallerton / North Yorkshire | type VIII |
| (95) Rotherham / S Yks | type XII |
| (123) Scarborough / N Yks | type XII |
| (143) Scunthorpe / South Humberside | type VIA |
| (96) South Shields / Tyne & Wear | type XII |
| (first uses of type XII, of smaller size and in most cases with county name partly in lower case lettering) | |

Philatelic Bureau : type FB.41

First Day Machine Slogans :

Paddington W.2 / -B-
Liverpool / -M-

type M.11 transposed
type M.11A standard

Relevant Special Event Postmarks : 2616 Bannockburn Stirling
2617 Dunfermline
2618 Machynlleth



74/7 4 September 1974 - definitive 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ p stamp issue

Philatelic Bureau : type FB.42

Type PB.42

Note : (92) Bath (no county) used an unusually large (27mm diameter) handstamp for this and subsequent issues up to late 1977.



"Large Bath"



Type PB.43



Type S.47



Type S.48

74/8 9 October 1974 - Churchill Centenary stamp issue

New Offices : (190) Dudley, Worcs. - fixed date 25mm diameter handstamp for this issue only (note that old county name used)

(191) Wakefield / West Yks type XII (county all in upper case letters) (see later section for apparent experimental provision of first day facilities in 1969)

also (46) Romford, Essex type VI (replaced Romford (no county))

Philatelic Bureau : type PB.43

Special Offices : House of Commons London SW type S.47 (probably used instead of normal type VI at London SW)
Blenheim Woodstock Oxford type S.48 (probably used instead of normal type VI at Oxford)

First Day Machine Slogans :

Paddington W.2. / -C- type M.11 transposed
Haywards Heath / -Sussex- type M.11A transposed
Liverpool Gt. Britain M type M.11 standard

Note : A cachet "Posted at Chartwell" was applied to covers posted in the Post Office publicity trailer there and the stamps received the normal Tunbridge Wells first day postmark.

Other Issues : Also issued on this date were stamp booklets containing 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ p stamps, available in panes for the first time. These panes have been seen cancelled with the Dudley, Worcs. first day postmark.

Relevant Special Event Postmarks : 2696 Oldham
2697 Woodford Green
2698 BPPS 1874

74/9 6 November 1974 - country definitive 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ p (single phosphor band), 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ p stamp issue.

First day facilities were provided on the same basis as on 23 January 1974.



"Small Dudley"



Chartwell cachet



Type PB.44



Type S.49

74/10 27 November 1974 - Christmas stamp issue and airletter

New Offices : (192) Crewe (no county) type VI
 also (190) Dudley, Worcs. type VI
 (replaced fixed date handstamp - this item also
 included in "Minor Handstamp Changes" list)
 and handstamps with new county names introduced at
 (159) Hartlepool, Cleveland type VI
 (72) Wolverhampton / West Midlands type VIII

Philatelic Bureau : type PB.44

Special Office : Bethlehem Llandeilo Carm's type S.49
 (in addition to normal Llanelli type XIA)

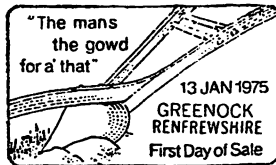
First Day Machine Slogans :

Paddington W.2. / -C- type M.11 transposed
 Haywards Heath / -Sussex- type M.11A transposed
 Liverpool / -M- type M.11A standard

Note : Use of the first day handstamp at (135) Stafford ceased after this date following concentration of mail on Stoke-on-Trent.

Relevant Special Event Postmarks : 2723 Ottery St Mary
 2724 Norwich
 (both locations associated with designs on stamps)

Other Relevant Slogans : 2550t Christmas Illuminations Cheltenham
 2555t Fairfield Croydon Christmas Show



Type S.50



Type PB.45



Altrincham cachet

1975**75/1** 13 January 1975 - second Scottish airletter (Burns design)

On this occasion posting boxes were provided at Alloway, Ayr, Dumfries, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Greenock, Kilmarnock and Mauchline but normal first day postmarks were not used. Instead, these offices used special handstamps, type S.50, inscribed "First Day of Sale". Similar handstamps, but without this inscription, were used at the same offices on Burns Day, 25 January.

75/2 15 January 1975 - definitive 7p stamp issue

Philatelic Bureau : type PB.42

Note : (120) Windsor used a large diameter postmark applied by means of the Swiss Cancelling Machine, as well as the normal type VI handstamp.

75/3 22 January 1975 - Health and Handicap Charities stamp issue

New Offices : (193) Altrincham, Cheshire type VI
 (for this issue only the cachet illustrated was also
 applied to all covers posted at Altrincham)
 (194) Galashiels / Selkirkshire type VIII

Philatelic Bureau : type PB.45

Other Relevant Slogan : 2586t Menphys love the handicapped

75/4 19 February 1975 - Turner Paintings stamp issuePhilatelic Bureau : type PB.46Special Office : (3) London WC

type S.51

(applied both by means of normal handstamp -
postmark 28mm diameter - and the Swiss Cancelling
Machine - postmark 31mm diameter)Error : Handstamp dated 19 FEB 1974 at DunfriesOther Relevant Slogan : 2568t Turner Royal Academy (late use at 471)

Type PB.46



Type S.51



Type XIC



Type PB.47

75/5 23 April 1975 - European Architectural Heritage Year stamp issueNew Office : (195) Wrexham / Clwyd

type XIC

(first use of type XIC)

Philatelic Bureau : type PB.47First Day Machine Slogans :

Paddington W.2. / -C-

type M.11 transposed

Horsham / -Sussex-

type M.11A transposed

Liverpool / -M-

type M.11 standard

Liverpool / Gt.Britain M

type M.11 standard

Note : (56) Gwent used a smaller version (34mm diameter) of its unique
type XIB handstamp for this issue - illustrated in previous section.Relevant Special Event Postmarks : 2777 Chester 2779 Edinburgh
2778 Cirencester 2780 WindsorOther Relevant Slogans : 2582t Heritage 75(late uses at Edinburgh and Newcastle-upon-Tyne)
2595t Chester Heritage City
2622t European Architectural Heritage Year**75/6** 11 June 1975 - Sailing stamp issueNew Offices : (196) Woking, Surrey

type VI

also, handstamps type XIC introduced for all Welsh offices except
Wrexham (see 23 April). These included new county names for all but
Cardiff and Gwent, where the inscriptions did not change.

- | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| (50) Aberystwyth / Dyfed | (56) Gwent |
| (145) Caernarfon / Gwynedd | (148) Haverfordwest / Dyfed |
| (previously Caernarvon) | (180) Llandrindod Wells / Powys |
| (10) Cardiff | (19) Llandudno / Gwynedd |
| (150) Carmarthen / Dyfed | (94) Llanelli / Dyfed |
| (149) Clwyd 2 | (112) Pontypridd / Mid Glam |
| (previously Clwyd) | (117) Rhondda / Mid Glam |
| (52) Colwyn Bay / Clwyd | (63) Swansea / West Glam |

Philatelic Bureau : type PB.48

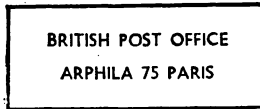
First Day Machine Slogans :

Horsham / -Sussex- type M.11A transposed
 Liverpool / -D- type M.11 standard
 Liverpool / -M- type M.11A standard

Notes : (70) Southampton used a fixed date postmark, 31mm diameter, with date '11 JUNE 1975', possibly applied by Swiss Cancelling Machine.

A cachet was applied in violet to first day covers posted at the British Post Office stand at the 'Arphila 75' exhibition in Paris.

Relevant Special Event Postmarks : 2826 London SW1
 2827 Weymouth



Type PB.48 "Large Southampton" 'Arphila 75' cachet Type S.52

75/7 18 June 1975 - fourth Scottish airletter (Highland theme)

No first day facilities were provided generally, but a fixed date "First Day of Sale" handstamp, type S.52, was used at Oban. This was designed for, but not used exclusively on, the new airletter.

75/8 23 July 1975 - fifth Scottish airletter (Edinburgh theme)

No first day facilities were provided generally, but a fixed date "First Day of Sale" handstamp, type S.53, was used at Edinburgh. This was designed for, but not used exclusively on, the new airletter.

75/9 13 August 1975 - Railways stamp issue

New Offices : none, but handstamps with new county names introduced at :

(164)	Barrow in Furness / Cumbria	type VIII
(121)	Bognor Regis / West Sussex	type VIII
(8)	Brighton / East Sussex	type VIII
(65)	Carlisle / Cumbria	type VIII
(154)	Chichester / West Sussex	type VIII
(166)	Crawley / West Sussex	type VIII
(75)	Eastbourne / East Sussex	type VIII
(55)	Hastings / East Sussex	type VIII
(160)	Horsham / West Sussex	type VIII
(124)	Kendal, Cumbria	type VI
	(previously Kendal - no county)	
(97)	Walsall / W.Mids.	type VIII
(140)	Warrington, Cheshire	type VI
(79)	Worthing / West Sussex	type VIII

Type S.53



Type VIII



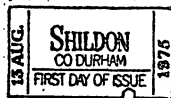
Type PB.49



Type S.54



Type S.55



Type S.56

Philatelic Bureau : type PB.49

Special Offices : (49) Stockton-on-Tees Cleveland type S.54
 (instead of normal Cleveland type VI)
 (134) Darlington Co. Durham type S.55
 (instead of normal type VI)
 Shildon Co. Durham type S.56

First Day Machine Slogans :

none seen, but use reported by Post Office at Liverpool

Relevant Special Event Postmarks : 2886 Buckfastleigh 2888 Wylam
 2887 Paignton 2889 BFPS 1396

Other Relevant Slogans : 2623t Ravenglass & Eskdale Railway
 2649t 150th Anniversary Railway Darlington
 2694t Shildon Co. Durham Railway Jubilee

75/10 3 September 1975 - Inter-Parliamentary Conference stamp issue

New Offices : none, but handstamp with new county name introduced at

(74) Coventry / West Midlands

type VIII

also (63) West Glamorgan

type XIC

(replaced Swansea / West Glam)

Philatelic Bureau : type PB.50Relevant Special Event Postmark : 2913 London SE1

Type PB.50

75/11 24 September 1975 - definitive 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ p (single phosphor band), 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ p stamp issue

New Offices : none, but handstamp with new county name introduced at (190) Dudley / W.Mids.

type VIII

Philatelic Bureau : type PB.51

Note : (120) Windsor used a large diameter postmark applied by means of the Swiss Cancelling Machine, as well as the normal type VI handstamp.

75/12 22 October 1975 - Jane Austen stamp issue

Philatelic Bureau : type PB.52

Special Office : Steventon Basingstoke Hants type S.57
 (instead of normal (181) Basingstoke type VI - a cachet was also used on mail carried by commemorative mail coach on 22 Oct.)

Relevant Special Event Postmark : 2954 Bath

Type PB.51

Other Relevant Slogan : 2728t Jane Austen Bi-centenary



Type PB.52



Type S.57



Type PB.53



Type S.58

75/13 26 November 1975 - Christmas stamp issue and airletterNew Offices : none, but(31) Fylde, Blackpool / Wyre, Lancs. type VIII
(replaced Fylde Coast Lancs.)Philatelic Bureau : type PB.53Special Office : Bethlehem Llandeilo Dyfed type S.58
(in addition to normal Llanelli type XIC)First Day Machine Slogans :Bethlehem Llandeilo / Dyfed type M.11A standard and transposed
(with new county name for first time)
Haywards Heath / West Sussex type M.11A transposed
Liverpool / -D- type M.11 standard
Liverpool / -M- type M.11A standard
(two different -M- dies)Other Relevant Slogans : 2736t Christmas Illuminations Cheltenham
2740 Christmas Greetings Tenovus**1976****76/1** 14 January 1976 - country definitive 6½p, 8½p stamp issue

First day facilities were provided on the same basis as on 23 January 1974

76/2 25 February 1976 - definitive 9p, 9½p, 10p, 10½p, 11p stamp issueNew Offices : none, but(26) Lancashire (replaced Preston) type VI
(identical handstamp also used at Southport, though
date of introduction of this handstamp uncertain)
(111) Lancashire 14 type VI
(replaced Blackburn & NE Lancs.)Philatelic Bureau : type PB.51Note : (120) Windsor used a large diameter postmark, probably applied by
Swiss Cancellling Machine, as well as the normal type VI handstamp.Error : Handstamp dated 25 FEB 1975 at Kettering.**76/3** 10 March 1976 - Telephone Centenary stamp issueNew Offices : (197) Ashford, Kent type VI
(198) Bangor, Gwynedd type VI
(199) Boston, Lincolnshire type VI
(previously a special office)
(200) Bridgend, Mid.Glam. type VI
(201) Mid.Northumberland (at Morpeth) type VI
(202) Milton Keynes (at Bletchley) type VI
also (102) Burnley & Pendle / Lancs. type VIII
(replaced Burnley, Lancs.)

Type PB.54

The type VI handstamps at Bangor and Bridgend were supplied in error instead of the correct bilingual type XIC, and were used for this issue only.

Philatelic Bureau : type PB.54

Other issue : Also issued on this date was a new format 10p stamp booklet and covers bearing these stamps have been seen with the first day handstamp of at least London EC and Windsor.

Relevant Special Event Postmark : 2985 Taunton

Other Relevant Slogan : LP.1749t PO Telecommunications Museum Taunton

76/4 28 April 1976 - Social Reformers stamp issue

New Offices : none, but

- | | |
|--|----------|
| (157) MLO Redhill | type VI |
| (replaced Reigate & Redhill / Surrey) | |
| (198) Bangor, Gwynedd | type XIC |
| (200) Bridgend / Mid Glamorgan | type XIC |
| (both replaced type VI previously supplied in error) | |

Philatelic Bureau : type PB.55

First Day Machine Slogans :

Liverpool / -D-	type M.11 standard
Liverpool / -M-	type M.11 standard



Type PB.55

76/5 2 June 1976 - Bicentennial of American Independence stamp issue

Philatelic Bureau : type PB.56

Note : A cachet was applied in red to first day covers at the British Post Office stand at the "Interphil 76" exhibition in Philadelphia.

Relevant Special Event Postmarks : 2993 London SE10
3019 BFPS 1775
3020 Bath
3021 Washington Tyne & Wear



Type PB.56



'Interphil' cachet



Type PB.57



Sissinghurst cachet

76/6 30 June 1976 - Roses stamp issue

Philatelic Bureau : type PB.57

Note : A cachet "Posted at Sissinghurst Castle" was applied to covers posted there and the stamps received the normal Tunbridge Wells first day postmark, although the cachet was probably not arranged by the Post Office.

First Day Machine Slogans :

Bristol / -E-	type M.11A standard
Liverpool / -M-	types M.11 & M.11A standard
(at least two dies)	

Relevant Special Event Postmarks : 3041 Bath 3043 Oxford
3042 Northampton 3044 St Albans

76/7 4 August 1976 - British Cultural Traditions stamp issuePhilatelic Bureau : type PB.58Special Office : Cardigan type S.59Relevant Special Event Postmarks : 3081 Cardigan
3083 Bristol

type S.59

**76/8** 29 September 1976 - Printing stamp issuePhilatelic Bureau : type PB.59Special Office : (2) London SW1

(instead of normal London SW type VI)

type S.60

Note : First day handstamps no longer used at -

(159) Hartlepool, Cleveland

(covers postmarked at Middlesbrough with
Cleveland handstamp)

(96) South Shields

(covers postmarked at Newcastle-upon-Tyne)

Type PB.58



Type S.59

Other issue : Also issued on this date was a Welsh airletter. Although the 'stamp' on this was not new those posted in philatelic posting boxes were given first day treatment.Relevant Special Event Postmarks : 3128-9 London SE1
3130 Westminster SW1
3131 London WC
3132 Leicester
3133 Plymouth

Type PB.59



Type S.60



Type PB.60



Type S.61

76/9 20 October 1976 - country definitive 10p, 11p stamp issue

First day facilities were provided on the same basis as on 23 January 1974

Note : (13) Edinburgh used the normal type VI in addition to type S.45.**76/10** 24 November 1976 - Christmas stamp issuePhilatelic Bureau : type PB.60Special Office : Bethlehem Llandeilo Dyfed type S.61
(in addition to normal Llanelli type XIC)First Day Machine Slogans :

Bethlehem Llandeilo / Dyfed type M.11A transposed

Haywards Heath / West Sussex type M.11A transposed

Tunbridge Wells / -Kent- type M.19 standard

(first use of this design, for illustration see page 17)

Other issue : A Christmas airletter was issued a week earlier on 17 November but there were no first day facilities.

1977**77/1** 12 January 1977 - Racket Sports stamp issuePhilatelic Bureau : type PB.61Relevant Special Event Postmarks : 3165 Badminton Avon
3166 Harrow**77/2** 2 February 1977 - definitive 50p, £1, £2, £5 stamp issue Type PB.61Philatelic Bureau : type PB.62Special Office : (120) Windsor Berks. type S.62
(instead of normal type VI)

Type PB.62



Type S.62



Type PB.63



Type PB.64

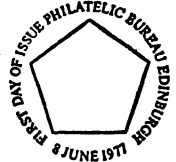
77/3 2 March 1977 - British Achievement in Chemistry stamp issuePhilatelic Bureau : type PB.63Relevant Special Event Postmarks : 3173 London WC
3174 Battersea SW11**77/4** 11 May 1977 - The Queen's Silver Jubilee stamp issue and airletterPhilatelic Bureau : type PB.64Special Office : (120) Windsor Berks. type S.63
(instead of normal type VI)
(for illustration see next page)First Day Machine Slogans :

Liverpool / -	type M.11A transposed
Liverpool / Gt.Britain	type M.11A transposed
Liverpool / Gt.Britain.A	type M.11A transposed

The slogan dies at Liverpool, through wear, appear not to have the lines at the right hand end of the slogan, though in some impressions they show slightly.

Relevant Special Event Postmarks :

3214 London SE1	3219 Glasgow
3215 London SW1	3221 Hythe
3216-7 London WC	3223 Bath
3218 Croydon	



Type PB.65

Other Relevant Slogans : 2939-41 Silver Jubilee Philatelic Exhibitions
2945 The Queen's Silver Jubilee Appeal
2949-50 Portsmouth

77/5 8 June 1977 - Commonwealth Heads of Government stamp issuePhilatelic Bureau : type PB.65Special Office : (2) London SW type S.64
(instead of normal type VI)

Type S.64

776 15 June 1977 - The Queen's Silver Jubilee stamp issue
Philatelic Bureau : type PB.64 (additional 9p value)

Special Office : (120) Windsor Berks. type S.63
 (instead of normal type VI)

Relevant Special Event Postmarks :

3264 Leicester	3286 London WC2
3268 North Devon	3292 Nuneaton

Other Relevant Slogans : as for 11 May issue



777 5 October 1977 - British Wildlife stamp issue

Philatelic Bureau : type PB.66

Type S.63

First Day Machine Slogan :

Bournemouth-Poole / A type M.11 standard

Note : Bulk posted first day covers also seen with Christchurch / -Dorset- town die, both with wavy lines and transposed with protection bars but no slogan die or wavy lines. Covers stamped at Bournemouth.

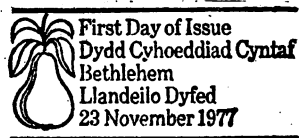


Relevant Special Event Postmarks :

3405 London WC2	3408 Norwich
3406 Blandford	3409 Shrewsbury
3407 Hythe	

Type PB.66

Other Relevant Slogan : 2989/t World Wildlife Fund (late uses at London SE1/SW1)



Two machine dies used on bulk mailings (used at Bournemouth)

Type PB.67

Type S.65

778 23 November 1977 - Christmas stamp issue

New Offices : none, but

(83) Isle of Wight type VI
 (replaced Newport Isle of Wight)

Philatelic Bureau : type PB.67

Special Office : Bethlehem Llandeilo Dyfed type S.65
 (in addition to normal Llanelli type XIX)

First Day Machine Slogans :

Bournemouth-Poole / -C-	type M.11 standard
Haywards Heath / West Sussex	type M.11A transposed

Note : Bulk posted first day covers also seen with Wimborne / -Dorset- town die with DP plug in 'time' position, used transposed with protection bars but no slogan die or wavy lines. Covers stamped at Bournemouth.

Relevant Special Event Postmark : 3434 Blackpool

Other issue : A Christmas airletter was issued a week earlier on 16 November but there were no first day facilities.

1978

78/1 18 January 1978 - country definitive 7p, 9p, 10½p stamp issue
First day facilities were provided on the same basis as on 23 January 1974

Note : (13) Edinburgh used the normal type VI handstamp in addition to type S.45

Error : Handstamp dated 18 FEB 1978 at Caernarfon

78/2 25 January 1978 - Energy stamp issue

Philatelic Bureau : type PB.68

Type PB.68

Relevant Special Event Postmarks : 3448-3456

Because of the increased number of relevant Special Event postmarks, from the start of 1978 onwards we show these postmarks in summary only. For further details readers should refer to the publications shown in the Bibliography.

78/3 1 March 1978 - Historic Buildings stamp issue and miniature sheet

Philatelic Bureau : type PB.69

Special Office : (1) London EC
(instead of normal type VI) type S.66

Relevant Special Event Postmarks : 3464-3469

78/4 26 April 1978 - definitive 10½p new colour stamp issue

Philatelic Bureau : type PB.62

Special Office : (120) Windsor Berks
(instead of normal type VI) type S.62



Type PB.69



Type S.66



Type PB.70



Type S.67

78/5 31 May 1978 - 25th Anniversary of Coronation stamp issue

New Office : (203) Devizes, Wilts. type VI

Philatelic Bureau : type PB.70

Special Office : (2) London SW1
(instead of normal London SW type VI) type S.67

First Day Machine Slogans :

Bournemouth-Poole / -C-	type M.20	standard
(first use of this slogan, for illustration see page 17)		
Bristol / -Z-	type M.11A	standard
Liverpool / -	type M.19	transposed
Liverpool / - (date below year)	type M.19	transposed
Liverpool Gt.Britain / V	type M.19	transposed

Relevant Special Event Postmarks : 3542-3545



78/6 5 July 1978 - Horses stamp issue

New Offices : none, but
 (43) Harrow, Middx. type VI
 (replaced Harrow & Wembley)

Philatelic Bureau : type PB.71

Special Office : (58) Peterborough type S.68
 (instead of normal type VI)

Relevant Special Event Postmarks : 3586-3594



Type PB.71



Type S.68



Type PB.72



Type S.69

78/7 2 August 1978 - Cycling stamp issue

Philatelic Bureau : type PB.72

Special Office : (54) Harrogate N Yorkshire type S.69
 (instead of normal type VIII)

Relevant Special Event Postmarks : 3626-3628

Other Relevant Slogan : 3092 Driver mind that bike

78/8 22 November 1978 - Christmas stamp issue and airletter

New Offices : (204) Kilmarnock, Ayrshire type VI
 (205) Nuneaton / Warwickshire type VIII
 (not seen until 1981, assumed same
 handstamp used from beginning)

Philatelic Bureau : type PB.73

Special Office : Bethlehem Llandeilo Dyfed type S.70
 (in addition to normal Llanelli type XIC)

First Day Machine Slogans :

Bournemouth-Poole / -C-	type M.20	standard
Bristol / -Z-	type M.11A	standard
Guildford / -Surrey-	type M.20	standard
Haywards Heath / West Sussex	type M.11A	transposed

Relevant Special Event Postmarks : 3723-3725



Type PB.73



Type S.70

1979**79/1** 7 February 1979 - Dogs stamp issuePhilatelic Bureau ; type PB.74Special Office : (2) London SW type S.71
(instead of normal type VI)First Day Machine Slogan :
Horsham / -West Sussex- type M.11A transposedRelevant Special Event Postmark : 3749**79/2** 21 March 1979 - Flowers stamp issuePhilatelic Bureau : type PB.75First Day Machine Slogans :
London N.1. / -A- type M.11 standard Type PB.74
Bristol / -Z- type M.11A transposedRelevant Special Event Postmarks : 3764-3769Other Relevant Slogans : 3142 Spalding Flower Parade
LP.1955 Bath - Europe's Floral City**79/3** 9 May 1979 - Direct Elections to European Assembly stamp issuePhilatelic Bureau : type PB.76Special Office : (2) London SW type S.72
(instead of normal type VI)Relevant Special Event Postmarks : 3805-3808

Type S.71



Type PB.75



Type PB.76



Type S.72

79/4 6 June 1979 - Horse Racing stamp issueNew Offices : none, but
(124) South Lakeland type VI
(replaced Kendal, Cumbria - this generic title only
applied to the "First Day of Issue" handstamp, not
other Kendal postmarks)Philatelic Bureau : type PB.77Special Office : (175) Epsom Surrey type S.73
(instead of normal type VI)First Day Machine Slogans :
Bristol / -Z- type M.11A transposed
Liverpool / Gt.Britain.A type M.19 transposedRelevant Special Event Postmarks : 3854-3856Other Relevant Slogan : LP.1963 Come racing at Great Yarmouth



Type PB.77



Type S.73



Type PB.78



Type VIII

79/5 11 July 1979 - International Year of the Child stamp issue

This stamp issue had been planned for 18 July, but the date was brought forward by one week at short notice to avoid supply difficulties. In order that collectors should not be disappointed, the philatelic posting boxes were kept in use until 18 July and covers could be posted up to that date.

Philatelic Bureau : type PB.78

Special Offices : Hartfield / East Sussex type VIII
 (Christopher Robin Milne lived here as a child)
 Stourbridge / W.Mids. type VIII
 (winner of first day cover design competition lived here)

First Day Machine Slogans :

Bristol / -Z- type M.11A transposed
 Liverpool / M / Gt.Britain type M.19 transposed
 Liverpool Gt.Britain / V type M.19 transposed

Relevant Special Event Postmarks : 3896-3910

79/6 15 August 1979 - definitive 11½p, 13p, 15p stamp issue

Philatelic Bureau : type PB.62

Special Office : (120) Windsor Berks type S.62
 (instead of normal type VI)

79/7 22 August 1979 - Rowland Hill stamp issue

Because there were some difficulties supplying all the values of this set to all post offices, the philatelic posting boxes were once again kept open for a week or so in order that collectors could post their first day covers.

Philatelic Bureau : type PB.79

Special Offices : (1) London EC type S.74
 (instead of normal type VI)
 Kidderminster Worcestershire type S.75
 Sanguhar / Dumfriesshire type VIII
 (oldest surviving post office)

Relevant Special Event Postmarks : 3961-3968



Type PB.79



Type S.74



Type S.75

79/8 26 September 1979 - Police stamp issuePhilatelic Bureau : type PB.80Special Office : (2) London SW type S.76
(instead of normal type VI)Relevant Special Event Postmarks : 4016-4021**79/9** 24 October 1979 - Rowland Hill miniature sheet and airletterNew Offices : (206) Dunstable, Beds. type VI
(207) Falkirk, Stirlingshire type VI
(208) Fort William / Inverness-shire type VIIIPhilatelic Bureau : type PB.79Special Office : (1) London EC type S.74
(instead of normal type VI)

Kidderminster, Worcs. type VI

(not type S.75 as on 22 August)

Sanquhar / Dumfriesshire type VIII

Error : Handstamp dated 24 SEP 1979 at EnfieldRelevant Special Event Postmarks : 4050-4052

Type PB.80



Type S.76



Type PB.81



Type S.77

79/10 21 November 1979 - Christmas stamp issue and airletterPhilatelic Bureau : type PB.81Special Office : Bethlehem Llandeilo Dyfed type S.77
(in addition to normal Llanelli type XIC)First Day Machine Slogans :

Bournemouth-Poole / -C-

type M.20 standard

Bristol / -Z-

type M.11A standard

Haywards Heath / West Sussex

type M.11A transposed

Relevant Special Event Postmarks : 4076-4080Other Relevant Slogan : LP.1976 Central Milton Keynes Christmas Shopping

Type PB.82



Type S.78



Type PB.83



Type S.79

1980**80/1** 16 January 1980 - Birds stamp issuePhilatelic Bureau : type PB.82Special Office : Sandy Beds type S.78
(home of RSPB - Royal Society for Protection of Birds)First Day Machine Slogan :
Bristol / -Z- type M.11A standardOther Issues : Also issued on this date was a new coil strip containing definitive stamps 8p+1p+1p+two labels. Some offices gave this item first day treatment, others did not.Relevant Special Event Postmarks : 4102-4113**80/2** 30 January 1980 - definitive 4p, 12p, 13½p, 17p, 17½p, 75p stamp issuePhilatelic Bureau : type PB.62Special Office : (120) Windsor Berks type S.62
(instead of normal type VI)**80/3** 4 February 1980 - new 14p airletter

First day treatment was not normally given to this and other new postal stationery items issued on this date, but Hounslow first day postmark type XIII has been seen on this airletter.

Type XIII

80/4 12 March 1980 - Liverpool & Manchester Railway stamp issuePhilatelic Bureau : type PB.83Special Offices : (18) Liverpool type S.79
(21) Manchester type S.79
(both instead of normal type VI)Relevant Special Event Postmarks : 4131, 4144-4152Other Relevant Slogan : 3278 Liverpool to Manchester Mail by rail**80/5** 9 April 1980 - London 1980 stamp issueNew Office : (209) Kidderminster, Worcs. type VI
(previously a special office)Philatelic Bureau : type PB.84Special Office : (2) London S.7 type S.80
(instead of normal type VI)Relevant Special Event Postmarks : 4175-4176Other Relevant Slogan : 3203 International Stamp Exhibition London 1980

Type PB.84



Type S.80



Type PB.85



Type S.81

80/6 16 April 1980 - Wedgwood £3 stamp book

Because there were some supply difficulties, philatelic posting boxes were generally kept open until 19 April. As with the 1972 Wedgwood book, the stamps were normal definitives differing only in phosphor band arrangements and se-tenant pairings. Thus, first day postmarks should only have been applied to at least a strip from the se-tenant page, but any complete page generally received first day treatment.

Philatelic Bureau : type PB.85

Special Office : Barlaston Stoke-on-Trent type S.81
(instead of normal (41) Stoke-on-Trent type VI)

80/7a 7 May 1980 - London Landmarks stamp issue

Philatelic Bureau : type PB.86

Special Office : (45) Kingston-upon-Thames type S.82
(instead of normal type VIII)
(nearest office to Hampton Court, featured on 15p stamp)

First Day Machine Slogans :

Liverpool / - - type M.11A transposed
Liverpool / Gt.Britain.A type M.19 transposed

Relevant Special Event Postmark : 4207

80/7b 7 May 1980 - London 1980 miniature sheet

Philatelic Bureau : type PB.84

Special Office : (2) London SW type S.80
(instead of normal type VI)

Relevant Special Event Postmarks : 4141, 4208, 4209



Type PB.86



Type S.82



Type PB.87



Type S.83

80/8 9 July 1980 - Famous Literary People stamp issue

New Office : (210) Bathgate / West Lothian type VIII
also (157) Redhill (replaced MLO Redhill) type VI

Philatelic Bureau : type PB.87

Special Office : Haworth Keighley W.Yorks. type S.83
(home of Bronte sisters)

Relevant Special Event Postmarks : 4309-4314

Other Relevant Slogan : LP.2011 Knutsford Mrs Gaskell's 'Cranford'

80/9 23 July 1980 - country definitive 10p (single phosphor band), 12p, 13½p, 15p stamp issue

On this occasion first day facilities were provided on the same basis as on 23 January 1974, except that there were now 19 English offices with philatelic sales counters. The additional offices providing first day facilities for the first time for a country definitive issue on this occasion were :

(33) Cambridge	type VI
(66) Colchester, Essex	type VI
(24) Norwich, Norfolk	type VI
(41) Stoke-on-Trent	type VI
(30) York	type VI



In addition, it appears that Exeter had by this date opened a philatelic sales counter, but there is no evidence that first day facilities were provided until the next country definitive issue on 8 April 1981.

All sorts of problems were caused by the inclusion in this issue of the 10p single phosphor band stamp, not regarded by the Post Office as a 'new' issue. Covers provided by the Philatelic Bureau did not include this stamp, and instructions were issued that this stamp should not be given first day treatment. Despite this, collectors generally included the stamp on their first day covers, and first day handstamps were applied to all 4 stamps at Olwyd 2, Rhondda and Wrexham. Generally however an operational datestamp was applied to the 10p stamp the first day postmarks only being applied to the other three stamps. Unusually, Belfast used what appeared to be an old first day handstamp with the upper part of the inscription removed, solely on the 10p stamps, the other values receiving type S.43.



Type PB.88



Type S.84



Type PB.89



Type S.85

80/10 4 August 1980 - Queen Mother's 80th Birthday stamp issue

Philatelic Bureau : type PB.88

Special Office : Glamis Castle Forfar type S.84

First Day Machine Slogan :

Bournemouth-Poole / -C- type M.20 standard

Relevant Special Event Postmarks : 4364-4375

Other Relevant Slogan : 3316/t Isle of Man Queen Mother Crown

80/11 10 September 1980 - Music - British Conductors stamp issue

Philatelic Bureau : type PB.89

Special Office : (2) London SW type S.85
(instead of normal type VI)

Relevant Special Event Postmarks : 4430-4445

80/12 10 October 1980 - Sport stamp issue

New Offices : none, but
 (29) Shrewsbury, Shrops. type VI
 (replaced Shrewsbury, Salop)

Philatelic Bureau : type PB.90

Special Office : (10) Cardiff type S.86
 (instead of normal type VI)
 (associated with Welsh Rugby Union)



Type VIII

Note : (8) Brighton / East Sussex used a type VIII handstamp with unusual lettering as illustrated.

Relevant Special Event Postmarks : 4500-4511



Type PB.90



Type S.86



Type PB.91



Type S.87

80/13 22 October 1980 - definitive 3p, 22p stamp issue

Philatelic Bureau : type PB.62

Special Office : (120) Windsor Berks type S.62
 (instead of normal type VI)

80/14 19 November 1980 - Christmas stamp issue and airletter

New Office : (211) Coleraine / Co.Londonderry type VIII
 (previously a special office)

Philatelic Bureau : type PB.91

Special Office : Bethlehem Llandeilo Dyfed type S.87
 (in addition to normal Llanelli type XIC)

First Day Machine Slogans :

Bournemouth-Poole / -C- type M.20 standard
 Bristol / - - type M.11A standard

Relevant Special Event Postmarks : 4536-4543

1981**81/1** 14 January 1981 - definitive 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ p, 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ p, 14p, 15 $\frac{1}{2}$ p, 18p, 25p stamp issue

New Offices : none, but
 (74) Coventry and / Warwickshire type VIII
 (replaced Coventry West Midlands)
 (156) Telford, Shropshire type VI
 (replaced Telford, Salop)

Philatelic Bureau : type PB.62

Special Office : (120) Windsor Berks type S.62
 (instead of normal type VI)

8V/2 6 February 1981 - Folklore stamp issue

New Offices : none, but
 (63) Swansea type X1C
 (used as well as West Glamorgan, at least for this
 issue, but replaced it subsequently)

Philatelic Bureau : type PB.92

Special Office : (3) London WC type J.88
 (instead of normal type VI)

Relevant Special Event Postmarks : 4574-4581



Type PB.92



Type J.88



Type PB.93



Type J.89 "Liverpool Special"

**8V/3** 25 March 1981 - International Year for the Disabled stamp issue

Philatelic Bureau : type PB.93

Special Office : (120) Windsor type J.89
 (instead of normal type VI)

Special Postmark at Liverpool: A bulk posting by the Spastics Society did not receive the normal first day machine slogan, but instead received a type of first day postmark not previously seen. It was not unlike a handstamp in appearance, but we understand it was applied by means of an adapted Cheshire labelling machine (probably similar in usage to the Swiss Cancelling Machine). All the specimens seen have a small break in the bottom rim of the postmark to the right of 'Liverpool', as in the illustration, and are probably from the same die, although there may well have been more than one die.

Note : Freshfield, Formby, Liverpool used a "First Day of Issue" postmark unofficially from this issue to 10 February 1982 - see page 96.

Relevant Special Event Postmarks : 4611-4625

Other Relevant Slogans : 3349 St Loyes College Exeter
 3360 International Year for the Disabled

8V/4 8 April 1981 - country definitive 11½p, 14p, 18p, 22p stamp issue

On this occasion first day facilities were provided on the same basis as 23 January 1974, except there were now 27 English offices with philatelic sales counters. The additional offices providing first day facilities for the first time for a country issue on this occasion were :

(51) Chester	type VI	(186) Oldham, Lancs.	type VI
(14) Exeter District	type VI	(38) Plymouth, Devon	type VI
(36) Hull, N'Hside	type VI	(59) Swindon, Wilts.	type VI
(25) Nottingham	type VI	(104) Truro, Cornwall	type VI

8/5 13 May 1981 - Butterflies stamp issue

New Office : (212) Kirkwall, Orkney type VI
 also (125) Bolton / Bury and Wigan type VIII
 (replaced Bolton & Bury, but first day postmark
 also continued in use at (132) Wigan, Lancs.)

Philatelic Bureau : type PB.94

Special Office : (2) London SW type S.90
 (instead of normal type VI)

Relevant Special Event Postmarks : 4673-4683

Other Relevant Slogan : LP.2047 National Butterfly Museum



Type PB.94



Type S.90



Type PB.95



Type S.91

8/6 24 June 1981 - National Trust stamp issue

New Offices : (213) Ballymena / Co.Antrim type VIII
 (214) Buxton (no county) type VI
 (introduced on an experimental basis, to be
 reviewed at the end of 1981. Use continued
 thereafter so now regarded as permanent.
 Introduction probably prompted by issue on
 this date of an NWPR postcard featuring a
 pillar box at Buxton.)
 (215) Newry / Co.Down type VIII

Philatelic Bureau : type PB.95

Special Offices : Glenfinnan type S.91
 (featured on 14p stamp)
 Keswick type S.92
 (Derwentwater featured on 18p stamp)

Relevant Special Event Postmarks : 4759-4772

8/7 22 July 1981 - Royal Wedding stamp issue and airletter

New Office : (216) Lerwick Shetland type VI

Philatelic Bureau : type PB.96

Special Offices : (1) London EC type S.93
 (145) Caernarfon Gwynedd type S.94
 (instead of types VI/X1C respectively)



Type S.92



Type PB.96



Type S.93



Type S.94

Main Listing 1981

First Day Machine Slogan :

Guildford / -Surrey- type M.20 transposed
(first transposed use of this slogan)

Relevant Special Event Postmarks : 4832-4849

(and on 29 July 4834, 4860-4869)

Other Relevant Slogan : 3383 Prince Charles Lady Diana Crowns Sutton

Note : On Royal Wedding Day, 29 July 1981, there were generally no postal services. However, the philatelic posting boxes were open at all first day offices from 23 to 28 July and items posted in them received special fixed date 29 July handstamps. The handstamps are neither inscribed "First Day" or "Royal Wedding Day" and an example is illustrated. The one first day office not provided with its own handstamp was (214) Buxton, which sent its covers to Stockport for stamping. Full details of these postmarks were published in the Quarterly Bulletin of the British Postmark Society - see bibliography.



"Wedding Day"



Type PB.97



Type S.95



Type PB.98

8/8 12 August 1981 - The Duke of Edinburgh's Award stamp issue

Philatelic Bureau : type PB.97

Special Office : (91) London W2 type S.95
(instead of normal Paddington W2 type VI)

Relevant Special Event Postmarks : 4882-4892

Other Relevant Slogan : 3392 Duke of Edinburgh's Award Crowns

8/9 23 September 1981 - Fishing stamp issue

Philatelic Bureau : type PB.98

Special Office : (36) Hull type S.96
(instead of normal type VI)

Relevant Special Event Postmarks : 4949-4957

8/10 18 November 1981 - Christmas stamp issue and airletter

Philatelic Bureau : type PB.99

Special Office : Bethlehem Llandeilo Dyfed type S.97
(in addition to normal Llanelli type XIC)

First Day Machine Slogan :

Guildford / -Surrey- types M.11 and M.20 standard

Relevant Special Event Postmarks : 5020-5028



Type S.96



Type PB.99



Type S.97

1982**82/1** 27 January 1982 - definitive 5p, 12¹/₂p, 16¹/₂p, 19¹/₂p, 26p, 29p stamp issuePhilatelic Bureau : type PB.62Special Office : (120) Windsor Berks type S.62
(instead of normal type VI)**82/2** 10 February 1982 - Darwin stamp issueNew Office : (217) Dumbarton type VIPhilatelic Bureau : type PB.100Special Office : (29) Shrewsbury type S.98
(instead of normal type VI)
(Darwin was born near Shrewsbury)

Note : Use of the Cleveland first day handstamp held at Stockton-on-Tees (identical to that held at Middlesbrough, and not included in the total of 209 offices) ceased after this date.

Relevant Special Event Postmarks : 5052, 5055-5066**82/3** 24 February 1982 - country definitive 12¹/₂p, 15¹/₂p, 19¹/₂p, 26p stamp issue

On this occasion first day facilities were provided on the same basis as on 23 January 1974, except that there were now 36 English offices with philatelic sales counters. These included Portsmouth whose philatelic sales counter actually opened on this date, and Torquay which is not listed in the Post Office Guide. The additional offices providing first day facilities for the first time for a country definitive issue on this occasion were :

(109) Canterbury, Kent	type VI	(93) Hereford	type VI
(49) Cleveland	type VI	(17) Leicester	type VI
(at Middlesbrough)		(202) Milton Keynes	type VI
(35) Gloucestershire	type VI	(39) Portsmouth, Hants.	type VI
(at Gloucester)		(119) South Devon	type VI
(130) Guildford, Surrey	type VI	(at Torquay)	

Relevant Special Event Postmark : 5074

Type PB.100



Type S.98



Type PB.101



Type S.99



Type S.100

82/4 24 March 1982 - Youth Organisations stamp issueNew Office : (218) Hawick, Roxburghshire type VIPhilatelic Bureau : type PB.101Special Offices : (2) London SW type S.99
(15) Glasgow type S.100
(both instead of normal type VI)

Note : Use of the first day handstamp at (144) Northallerton ceased after this date following concentration of mail on Darlington.

Relevant Special Event Postmarks : 5086-5102

Other Relevant Slogan : 3420 Scouts help others



82/5 28 April 1982 - Theatre stamp issue

Philatelic Bureau : type PB.102

Special Office : (188) Stratford-upon-Avon type S.101
(instead of normal type VIII)

"Liverpool
Special "

Special Postmark at Liverpool : A bulk posting by the Spastics Society received a postmark similar to that used on 25 March 1981 but with smaller lettering, applied by means of an adapted Cheshire labelling machine.

Other Issue : Also issued on this date was a new Scottish airletter, which has been seen with a first day postmark from Glasgow.

Relevant Special Event Postmarks : 5128-5144



Type PB.102



Type S.101



Type PB.103



Type S.102



Type VIII

82/6 19 May 1982 - Stanley Gibbons #4 book

As with the Wedgwood books of 1972 and 1980 the stamps were the normal definitives differing only in phosphor band arrangements and se-tenant pairings. First day postmarks should only have been applied to the complete se-tenant pane, but any complete pane generally received first day treatment.

Philatelic Bureau : type PB.103

Special Office : (3) London WC type S.102
(instead of normal type VI)

Relevant Special Event Postmarks : 5168-5169

82/7 16 June 1982 - Maritime Heritage stamp issue

New Offices : none, but

(29) Shropshire / & Mid Wales type VIII
(replaced Shrewsbury, Shrops.)

Philatelic Bureau : type PB.104

Special Office : (39) Portsmouth type S.103
(instead of normal type VI)

Note : Handstamp struck in purple at Ashford, Kent.

Relevant Special Event Postmarks : 5225-5246

Other Relevant Slogans : 3450 Tall Ships Southampton
LP.2077 Maritime Bristol



Type PB.104



Type S.103



"South Atlantic Fund"

**82/8** 2 July 1982 - South Atlantic Fund

This was NOT a new stamp issue, but special covers were sold in aid of this fund and philatelic posting boxes were open at all first day offices from 28 June to 2 July, when special fixed date handstamps dated 2 JULY 1982, similar to those used on Royal Wedding Day 1981, were applied. The handstamps used included Northallerton, whose first day facilities had ceased earlier in the year. The only first day office not provided with its own handstamp was (217) Dumbarton which, after applying to some covers a first day handstamp in blackish violet dated 28 JUN 1982 (the first day of sale of the covers), forwarded the remainder to Glasgow for stamping.

Pictorial handstamps were provided at the Philatelic Bureau and at Portsmouth, and full details of the postmarks (which were not, of course, first day postmarks) were published in the Quarterly Bulletin of the British Postmark Society - see Bibliography, page 2.

82/9 23 July 1982 - Textiles stamp issue

Philatelic Bureau : type PB.105

Special Office : (171) Rochdale type S.104
(instead of normal type VI)

Relevant Special Event Postmarks : 5310-5323



Type PB.105



Type S.104



Type PB.106



Type S.105

82/10 8 September 1982 - Information Technology stamp issue

Philatelic Bureau : type PB.106

Special Office : (3) London WC type S.105
(instead of normal type VI)

Relevant Special Event Postmarks : 5386-5395

82/11 13 October 1982 - Motor Cars stamp issue

Philatelic Bureau : type PB.107

Special Offices : (6) Birmingham type S.106
(192) Crewe type S.107
(both instead of normal type VI)

Relevant Special Event Postmarks : 5433-5446, 5448, 5450

Other Relevant Slogan : 3469 Hella of Banbury Motor Show



Type PB.107



Type S.106



Type S.107



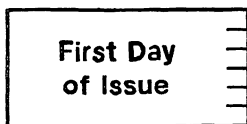
Type PB.108



Type S.108

82/12 17 November 1982 : Christmas stamp issue and airletterPhilatelic Bureau : type PB.108Special Office : Bethlehem Llandeilo Dyfed type S.108
(in addition to normal Llanelli type XIC)Error : Handstamp dated 17 SEP 1982 at BelfastFirst Day Machine Slogan :

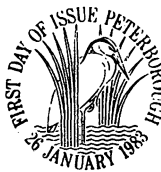
Guildford, Surrey / Gt. Britain type M.20 transposed

Note : Use of the first day handstamp at (141) Ilford ceased after this date as a belated result of concentration of mail on Romford in February 1981.Relevant Special Event Postmarks : 5477-5479, 5481-5485**1983**

Type M.20 transposed

83/1 26 January 1983 - Fishes stamp issuePhilatelic Bureau : type PB.109Special Office : (58) Peterborough type S.109
(instead of normal type VI)Relevant Special Event Postmarks : 5504-5521

Type PB.109



Type S.109



Type PB.110



Type S.110

83/2 9 March 1983 - Commonwealth Day stamp issueNew Office : (219) West Lothian type VI
(used at Livingston)Philatelic Bureau : type PB.110

Special Office : (2) London SW type S.110
(instead of normal type VI)

Note : Handstamps struck in purple at Greenock and Louth

Relevant Special Event Postmarks : 5536-5540, 5545, 5547

83/ 3 30 March 1983 - definitive 3½p, 16p, 17p, 20½p, 23p, 28p, 31p stamp issue

Philatelic Bureau : type PB.62

Special Office : (120) Windsor Berks. type S.62
(instead of normal type VI)

83/ 4 27 April 1983 - country definitive 16p, 20½p, 28p stamp issue

On this occasion first day facilities were provided on the same basis as on 23 January 1974, except that there were now 45 English offices with philatelic sales counters. The additional offices providing first day facilities for the first time for a country definitive issue on this occasion were :

(74) Coventry and / Warwickshire	type VIII	(29) Shropshire / & Mid Wales (used at Shrewsbury)	type VIII
(42) Croydon, Surrey	type VI	(40) Southend-on-Sea	type VI
(54) Harrogate, N.Yks.	type VI	(120) Windsor, Berks.	type VI
(23) Northampton	type VI	(73) Worcester	type VI
(46) Romford, Essex	type VI		

At Windsor the philatelic handstamp (introduced earlier in 1983) was applied to first day covers in error. At Shrewsbury the rules were misinterpreted and covers were forwarded to Belfast, Cardiff or Edinburgh (as appropriate) for stamping. In both cases the first day handstamp was applied to replacement covers after enquiries had been made.

Note : Handstamp struck in purple at Greenock



Type PB.111



Type S.111



"Liverpool Special"

83/ 5 25 May 1983 - Engineering Achievements stamp issue

Philatelic Bureau : type PB.111

Special Office : (36) Hull type S.111
(instead of normal type VI)

Special Postmark at Liverpool : A bulk posting by the Spastics Society received a postmark similar to that used on 25 March 1981 and 28 April 1982, but with thicker rim, applied by means of an adapted Cheshire labelling machine.

Relevant Special Event Postmarks : 5607-5619, 5624

Other Relevant Slogans : 3500 GLC Thames Barrier
L.P.2081 Philatelic Counter Hull

4 'No County' Handstamps

Generally first day handstamps show "town and county" e.g. "Salisbury, Wilts.", but in some cases handstamps have been introduced without a county, e.g. "Salisbury", for one reason or another. The aim of this section is to list these handstamps, omitting London and Special Offices but covering all other regular first day offices, and to explain the reasons for omission of the county.

Firstly we show those offices where omission of the county is entirely expected. In table 1 we list those offices which are either major cities or are county towns which give their names to the county, and in neither case is the county required in postal addresses or in postmarks.

Table 1

(4) Aberdeen	(12) Dundee (note 2)	(22) Newcastle-upon-Tyne
(104) Ayr	(151) Durham	(23) Northampton
(116) Bedford	(13) Edinburgh	(25) Nottingham
(5) Belfast	(15) Glasgow	(37) Oxford
(6) Birmingham	(35) Gloucester (note 3)	(106) Perth (note 5)
(9) Bristol	(93) Hereford	(58) Peterborough
(145) Caernarvon (note 1)	(99) Inverness	(28) Sheffield
(33) Cambridge	(137) Lancaster (note 4)	(70) Southampton
(10) Cardiff	(16) Leeds	(135) Stafford
(150) Carmarthen (note 1)	(17) Leicester	(170) Stirling
(51) Chester	(48) Lincoln	(153) Warwick (note 6)
(34) Derby	(18) Liverpool	(73) Worcester
(217) Dumbarton	(20) Londonderry	(30) York
(98) Dumfries	(21) Manchester	

- Notes :
1. Only applied until introduction of new counties' handstamps in 1975
 2. Only applied from 1965
 3. Only to issue 70/1, then generic "Gloucestershire" introduced
 4. Handstamp reads "Lancaster & Morecambe"
 5. Handstamp initially read "Perth, Scotland", see issue 67/4
 6. Handstamp reads "Warwick & Leamington Spa" or "Warwick & Leamington"

In tables 2A/2B we list those first day offices whose addresses, after the introduction of postcodes, did not require the inclusion of a county in an address if the postcode was included, and this seemed to be interpreted by some offices as a reason for dropping the county from some of their postmarks. But other reasons were also involved e.g. the Bath "no county" handstamp seemed to coincide with the introduction of the new county of Avon, yet Avon appears in other Bath postmarks. In addition, the omission of a county from the Bournemouth-Poole handstamp was in line with other Bournemouth-Poole postmarks from long before postcodes were introduced, presumably since Bournemouth was in Hampshire and Poole in Dorset.

Table 2A shows those offices in this list which did not show the county at all in their first day postmarks. Table 2B shows those offices which used "county" handstamps originally, but also introduced "no county" handstamps as shown. Handstamps of the two inscriptions may subsequently have continued in use together, or one inscription only, or intermittently one and then the other.

Table 2A All are type VI handstamps

(7) Bournemouth (note 7) (202) Milton Keynes (173) Twickenham (note 9)
 (192) Crewe (119) Torquay (note 8)

- Notes : 7. Handstamp reads "Bournemouth-Poole" (with variations,
 see Minor Handstamp Changes" section)
 8. Only to issue 69/9, then generic "South Devon"
 9. Handstamps initially inscribed "Richmond & Twickenham"



Table 2B

	Type	Earliest date seen
(92) Bath (but see note, issue 74/7, concerning larger version of this handstamp)	VI	10 July 1974
(125) Bolton and Bury (later replaced by Bolton / Bury and Wigan, type VIII, also without county, see issue 81/5)	VI	24 Nov 1976
(66) Colchester * (the "no county" die is understood to be used at <u>Clacton-on-Sea</u> , concurrent with the "county" handstamp at Colchester)	VI	22 Oct 1975
(14) Exeter District (replaced Exeter, Devon and no county used with Exeter District designation; also shown under issues 70/1 and 74/3)	VI	11 Feb 1970
(14) Exeter (see issue 73/11)	VI	24 Oct 1973
(44) Ipswich * (but later seen with county again)	VI	27 Nov 1974
(186) Oldham * (but county handstamp in use again by 13 August 1975)	VI	27 Nov 1974
(26) Preston * (but Preston replaced by "Lancashire" designation from issue 76/2)	VI	26 Nov 1975
(157) MLO Redhill (see issue 76/4)	VI	28 April 1976
(157) Redhill (see issue 80/8)	VI	9 July 1980
(46) Romford (see issue 69/12, but county handstamp in use from issue 74/8)	VI	26 Nov 1969
(114) Salisbury * (but county handstamp seen used on dates later in 1973, also 1974-5)	VI	4 July 1973
(40) Southend-on-Sea	VI	30 June 1976
(41) Stoke-on-Trent	VI	23 July 1980
(78) Sunderland	VI	24 April 1974
(63) Swansea (but used concurrently with "West Glamorgan" for at least one issue)	XIC	6 Feb 1981
(59) Swindon * (but county handstamp seen in use earliest date 26 Nov 1975)	VI	28 Nov 1973
(140) Warrington * (but county handstamp seen in use earliest date 18 Nov 1981)	VI	9 May 1979
(72) Wolverhampton * (but not seen since introduction of "new county" handstamp, see issue 74/10)	VI	12 June 1974

Note : * denotes those offices believed to have used "county" and "no county"
 handstamps together, or intermittently one then the other.

*In table 3 we show those offices where it was presumably considered that the county could not be fitted into the handstamp.

Table 3

- (67) Grimsby and /Cleethorpes type VIII 10 July 1974
(replaced "Grimsby and / Cleethorpes, Lincs.", and instead of new county the handstamp had no county, see issue 74/6, but then replaced as shown below)
- (67) Grimsby & Cleethorpes / South Humberside 30 June 1976
type VIII, with different size lettering as illustrated



In addition, the joint offices (43) Harrow & Wembley and (118) Rochester & Chatham also omitted the county name, presumably for the same reason, since later versions (Harrow, Middx. & Medway, Kent respectively) included the county.

Lastly, we show in tables 4A/4B those offices where we can only conclude that the omission of the county was in error. In table 4A we list those offices where the county was never shown in first day handstamps, and in table 4B we show those offices where the county was originally included but where a "no county" handstamp was later introduced, or vice versa, as shown.



Table 4A

All are type VI handstamps

- (214) Buxton
- (84) Dorchester
- (124) Kendal (only while in Westmorland; county included in "Kendal, Cumbria" die, see issue 75/9, which in turn was replaced by "South Lakeland" without county, see issue 79/4)



Table 4B

	Type	Earliest date seen
(134) Darlington / Co.Durham (in this case the "no county" die was used at first, see issue 68/2, and the date shown is the earliest use recorded for a "county" die, with apparent intermittent use of the two dies thereafter)	VIII	24 Sep 1975
(184) High Wycombe (with "county" die back in use earliest seen 2 March 1977, and intermittent use of the two dies thereafter)	VI	10 March 1976
(139) Louth (with "county" die back in use earliest seen 30 January 1980)	VI	30 June 1976
(118) Medway (possibly used for this issue only without county)	VI	12 Sep 1973

5 Minor Handstamp Changes

This section lists details of handstamp changes of insufficient importance to merit listing in the previous section. Generally, these represent additional or replacement handstamps which differ slightly from the original, either in "type" or in punctuation, or in use of upper/lower case lettering. Except in one or two exceptional cases, we have omitted changes of lettering or spacing. The Middlesbrough handstamp illustrated is the only known case of the use of lower case lettering in a large handstamp.



LARGE HANDSTAMPS 1964-6

Although the following cannot be dated accurately, they were each used later than the original handstamp as listed in the previous section.

<u>Office</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Earliest date seen</u>
(1) London E.C. (no comma)	IA	9 Aug 1965
(2) London S.W. (no comma and no stop after W)	IA	13 Sep 1965
(3) London W.C. (no comma)	IA	1 Sep 1965
(4) Aberdeen	IA	25 Oct 1965
(5) Belfast	IA	8 Aug 1966
(6) Birmingham	IA	25 Oct 1965
(7) Bournemouth-Poole	IA	?1965
(32) Bradford, Yorkshire (with comma)	IA	2 May 1966
(8) Brighton, Sussex (with comma)	IA	25 Oct 1965
(42) Croydon, Surrey (with comma)	IA	25 Oct 1965
(12) Dundee	IA	25 Oct 1965
(13) Edinburgh	IA	25 Oct 1965
(14) Exeter, Devon	IA	28 Feb 1966
(43) Harrow, Middlesex (county in full)	IA	8 Oct 1965
(55) Hastings, Sussex (very large letters)	I	18 Aug 1966
(77) Hounslow, Middx. (very large letters)	I	18 Aug 1966
(36) Hull, Yorkshire (with comma)	I	?1965
(45) Kingston upon Thames, Surrey (no dashes)	I	8 July 1965
(17) Leicester	IA	1 Dec 1966
(49) Middlesbrough, Yorkshire (lower case, see illustration)	IA	8 July 1965
(22) Newcastle-upon-Tyne	I	8 July 1965
(23) Northampton	IA	25 Jan 1966
(24) Norwich, Norfolk	IA	8 Aug 1966
(25) Nottingham	IA	9 Aug 1965
(37) Oxford	IA	?1965
(27) Reading, Berks. (with comma)	IA	1 Dec 1966
(28) Sheffield	IA	1 June 1966
(40) Southend-on-Sea, Essex	I	8 July 1965
(41) Stoke-on-Trent, Staffs. (with comma)	IA	1 Dec 1966
(30) York	IA	19 Sep 1966

SMALL HANDSTAMPS 1967-1983

We continue the list with similar minor changes to small handstamps, types VI, VIA and VIII used from 1967.



<u>Office</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Earliest date seen</u>
(86) London, N.1. (with stop at end)	VI	15 Feb 1971
(87) London, N.W.1. (with stop at end)	VI	3 June 1970
(2) London S.W. (no comma)	VI	1 July 1969
(2) London, S.W (no stop at end)	VI	22 Aug 1979
(89) London, W.1. (with stop at end)	VI	22 Aug 1979
(3) London, W.C (no stop at end)	VI	1 July 1971
(107) Aldershot / Hants.	VIII	10 March 1976
(193) Altrincham Cheshire (no comma)	VI	26 Sep 1979
(138) Barnsley / S Yks (Yks lower case as type XII)	VIII	22 Jan 1975
(138) Barnsley, S.Yks	VI	19 Feb 1975
(138) Barnsley, S.Yks. (with stop at end)	VI	2 March 1977
(101) Barnstaple, Devon (with comma)	VI	1 April 1970
(164) Barrow-in-Furness, / Lancs. (with comma)	VIII	3 Jan 1973
(164) Barrow in Furness / Lancs. (no dashes)	VIII	19 Feb 1975
(164) Barrow-in-Furness / Cumbria (with dashes)	VIII	26 Sep 1979
(147) Hasildon, Essex (with comma)	VI	3 Jan 1973
(111) Blackburn and / Accrington	VIII	3 Jan 1973
(111) Blackburn & / N.E. Lancs. (with '&' on 1st line)	VIII	9 Oct 1974
(121) Bognor Regis / Sussex	VIII	13 Oct 1971
(121) Bognor Regis, Sussex	VI	15 Aug 1973
(125) Bolton, Lancs. (with comma)	VI	13 Oct 1971
(125) Bolton and Bury / Lancs. ("and" not "&")	VIII	26 Nov 1975
(7) Bournemouth / Poole	VIII	23 Jan 1974
(7) Bournemouth & Poole	VI	23 April 1975
(7) Bournemouth, Poole (with comma)	VI	16 Jan 1980
(32) Bradford, Yorkshire	VI	25 Nov 1970
(32) Bradford, / Yorkshire	VIII	13 Oct 1971
(32) Bradford / N Yks (Yks lower case as type XII)	VIII	24 Sep 1975
(32) Bradford, W.Yks.	VI	16 Jan 1980
(165) Bridgwater / Somerset (no comma)	VIII	30 June 1976
(8) Brighton Sussex	VI	29 May 1968
(8) Brighton, Sussex (with comma)	VI	25 Nov 1970
(108) Bury St.Edmunds, / Suffolk	VIII	13 Sep 1972
(108) Bury St.Edmunds / Suffolk (no comma)	VIII	19 Feb 1975
(109) Canterbury, Kent	VI	11 Feb 1970
(65) Carlisle, Cumberland	VI	11 Feb 1970
(65) Carlisle, Cumbria	VI	29 Sep 1976
(11) Chelmsford, Essex	VI	25 Nov 1970
(126) Chesterfield / Derbyshire	VIII	25 Nov 1970
(126) Chesterfield Derbyshire	VI	20 Nov 1972
(133) Chippenham, Wilts.	VI	25 Nov 1970
(133) Chippenham / Wilts.	VIII	24 Nov 1976
(66) Colchester, Essex	VI	13 Oct 1971
(74) Coventry / Warwickshire	VIII	13 Oct 1971
(74) Coventry, / Warwickshire (county in lower case)	VIII	3 Jan 1973
(74) Coventry / Warwickshire (normal lettering)	VIII	4 Sep 1974
(74) Coventry / Warwickshire (larger than normal handstamp, county in lower case)	VIII	22 Jan 1975
(166) Crawley West / Sussex (West on line 1)	VIII	2 June 1975
(42) Croydon / Surrey (no comma)	VIA	?1968
(42) Croydon, Surrey	VI	1 July 1969
(42) Croydon Surrey (no comma)	VI	25 Nov 1970

(81)	Doncaster Yorkshire	VI	1 July 1969
(81)	Doncaster, / Yorkshire	VIII	18 Sep 1970
(81)	Doncaster, Yorkshire (with comma)	VI	28 Nov 1973
(81)	Doncaster, S.Yks.	VI	26 Nov 1975
(81)	Doncaster, S.Yorks.	VI	18 Nov 1981
(81)	Doncaster / South Yorkshire	VIII	27 Jan 1982
(53)	Douglas / Isle of Man (no comma)	VIA	26 Nov 1969
(53)	Douglas / Isle of Man	VIII	13 Oct 1971
(127)	Dover, Kent (comma)	VI	3 Jan 1973
(190)	Dudley, Worcs.	VI	27 Nov 1974
(190)	Dudley, W.Mids.	VI	9 July 1980
(128)	Dunfermline, Fife.	VI	25 Nov 1970
(128)	Dunfermline, Fife (no stop)	VI	13 Oct 1971
(75)	Eastbourne / Sussex (no comma)	VIA	28 May 1969
(75)	Eastbourne, Sussex	VI	25 Nov 1970
(129)	Enfield, Middlesex (county in full)	VI	19 Feb 1975
(76)	Fareham Hants. (no comma)	VI	8 Aug 1967
(82)	Folkestone, Kent	VI	25 Nov 1970
(31)	Fylde Coast / Lancs.	VI	3 June 1970
	- in this case exceptionally the "/" is inscribed in the handstamp		
(31)	Fylde Coast, Lancs.	VI	16 Feb 1972
(167)	Great Yarmouth / Norfolk (no comma)	VIII	28 Nov 1973
(182)	Greenock / Renfrewshire	VIA	28 Nov 1973
(182)	Greenock / Renfrewshire	VIII	2 March 1977
(67)	Grimsby and / Cleethorpes, Lincs (no stop)	VIA	25 Nov 1970
(130)	Guildford, Surrey	VI	13 Oct 1971
(131)	Halifax, Yorkshire	VI	25 Nov 1970
(131)	Halifax / West Yorkshire	VIII	26 Nov 1975
(131)	Halifax / W Yks. (county in lower case)	VIII	30 Jan 1980
(131)	Halifax / W. Yks.	VIII	9 March 1983
(152)	Hamilton / Lanarkshire	VIII	22 Oct 1975
(54)	Harrogate, / Yorkshire	VIII	28 Nov 1973
(54)	Harrogate, N. Yks.	VI	26 Nov 1975
(43)	Harrow & Wembley ("&" not "and")	VI	28 Nov 1973
(43)	Harrow & / Wembley	VIII	4 Aug 1976
(159)	Hartlepool / Co.Durham	VIII	3 Jan 1973
(55)	Hastings, Sussex	VI	25 Aug 1971
(148)	Haverfordwest / Pemsb.	VIII	13 Oct 1971
(168)	Hemel Hempstead / Herts. (no comma on line 1)	VIII	16 May 1973
(184)	High Wycombe, Bucks.	VI	24 April 1974
(184)	High Wycombe / Bucks. (no comma on line 1)	VIII	5 Oct 1977
(77)	Hounslow, Middlesex	VI	2 April 1969
(77)	Hounslow, / Middlesex	VIII	24 April 1974
(77)	Hounslow, Middx.	VI	4 Aug 1976
(103)	Huddersfield, / Yorkshire	VIII	24 April 1974
(103)	Huddersfield / West Yorkshire	VIII	24 Sep 1975
(36)	Hull / Yorkshire	VIII	21 June 1972
(36)	Hull / N. Hside	VIII	23 April 1975
(36)	Hull, N. H'side	VI	5 Oct 1977
(36)	Hull, N Hside (no stop or ')	VI	23 Nov 1977
(36)	Hull, N'Hside	VI	22 Oct 1980
(61)	Jersey / Channel Islands (no comma)	VIA	3 March 1969
(136)	King's Lynn, / Norfolk (with comma)	VIII	3 Jan 1973
(136)	Kings Lynn, Norfolk (no ')	VI	24 April 1974
(136)	Kings Lynn / Norfolk (no ' or comma)	VIII	23 Nov 1977



(45)	Kingston upon Thames / Surrey	VIII	13 Oct	1971
(45)	Kingston Upon Thames, / Surrey	VIII	20 Nov	1972
	(all upper case with K,U,T,S larger than other letters)			
(45)	Kingston-Upon-Thames / Surrey	VIII	24 April	1974
	(with dashes, also different size letters as above)			
(45)	Kingston Upon Thames / Surrey	VIII	26 Nov	1975
	(as above but no dashes or comma)			
(45)	Kingston upon Thames / Surrey	VIII	28 April	1976
	(different size upper case as above but only with larger K and T)			
(45)	Kingston upon Thames / Surrey	VIII	24 Nov	1976
	(all same size upper case but very small letters)			
(45)	Kingston-Upon-Thames / Surrey	VIII	. 2 March	1977
	(K, U, T and SURREY in larger upper case letters)			
(45)	Kingston Upon Thames / Surrey	VIII	23 Nov	1977
	(similar to above but no dashes)			
(45)	Kingston-Upon-Thames / Surrey	VIII	23 Nov	1977
	(K, U, T, and S in larger upper case letters)			
(111)	Lancashire and Lancashire 14 both in use at Blackburn	VI	16 Jan	1980
(137)	Lancaster and / Morecambe	VIII	13 Oct	1971
(137)	Lancaster & / Morecambe ('&' not 'and')	VIII	10 July	1974
(122)	Loughborough, Leics.	VI	16 May	1973
(110)	Mansfield, Notts.	VI	13 Oct	1971
(49)	Middlesbrough / Teesside (no comma)	VIA	15 Jan	1969
(187)	Motherwell / & Wishaw ('&' on line 2)	VIII	6 Nov	1974
(187)	Motherwell & Wishaw	VI	1 March	1978
(22)	Newcastle / Upon Tyne	VIII	11 May	1977
(83)	Newport / Isle of Wight (no comma)	VIA	12 June	1974
(83)	Newport / Isle of Wight	VIII	24 Nov	1976
(144)	Northallerton, / Yorkshire	VIII	25 Nov	1970
(144)	Northallerton / N. Yks. (larger N,Y than k,s)	VIII	13 Aug	1975
(144)	Northallerton / N. Yks. (letters same size)	VIII	19 Nov	1980
(24)	Norwich, Norfolk	VI	13 Oct	1971
(100)	Paisley, / Renfrewshire	VIII	25 Nov	1970
(100)	Paisley / Renfrewshire	VIA	23 Jan	1974
(100)	Paisley, Renfrewshire	VI	19 Feb	1975
(38)	Plymouth, Devon	VI	25 Nov	1970
(112)	Pontypridd, Glam.	VI	16 June	1971
(39)	Portsmouth, / Hants.	VIII	26 April	1972
(39)	Portsmouth, Hants.	VI	12 June	1974
(26)	Preston, Lancs.	VI	25 Aug	1971
(157)	Reigate and Redhill / Surrey	VIII	13 Oct	1971
(157)	Reigate & Redhill / Surrey ('&' not 'and')	VIII	12 June	1974
(95)	Rotherham, / Yorkshire	VIII	13 Oct	1971
(95)	Rotherham, S.Yks.	VI	11 June	1975
(123)	Scarborough / Yorkshire	VIII	13 Oct	1971
(123)	Scarborough / North Yorkshire	VIII	22 Jan	1975
(143)	Scunthorpe / South Humberside	VIII	2 March	1977
	(larger S, H than rest of county)			

(29)	Shrewsbury, / Salop.	VIII	20 Nov	1972
(29)	Shrewsbury, Salop	VI	10 July	1974
(29)	Shrewsbury, Salop. (with stop)	VI	22 Nov	1978
(40)	Southend-on-Sea / Essex (no comma)	VIA	1 July	1968
(40)	Southend-on-Sea, / Essex	VIII	13 Oct	1971
(40)	Southend on Sea / Essex (no dashes)	VIII	28 Nov	1973
(40)	Southend-on-Sea (dash and dot)	VI	22 Nov	1978
(96)	South Shields / Co.Durham	VIII	13 Oct	1971
(96)	South Shields / Tyne & Wear (county lower case)	VIII	26 Nov	1975
(57)	Stockport, Cheshire	VI	25 Nov	1970
(41)	Stoke-on-Trent / Staffs. (no comma)	VIA	25 Nov	1970
	(unusual squat lettering for county)			
(41)	Stoke-on-Trent / Staffs. (no comma)	VIII	21 June	1972
(41)	Stoke-on-Trent, / Staffs.	VIII	18 Oct	1972
(41)	Stoke on Trent / Staffs. (no dashes)	VIII	26 Nov	1975
(41)	Stoke-on-Trent / Staffs.	VIII	23 Nov	1977
	(larger S, T, S than other letters, struck in purple)			
(188)	Stratford-Upon-Avon / Warwickshire	VIII	27 Nov	1974
	(larger S, U, A, W than other letters)			
(188)	Stratford-Upon-Avon / Warwickshire	VIII	23 Nov	1977
	(letters same size)			
78)	Sunderland, / Co. Durham	VIII	25 Nov	1970
(59)	Swindon, Wilts (no stop)	VI	25 Nov	1970
64)	Taunton, Somerset	VI	13 Oct	1971
64)	Taunton / Somerset	VIII	6 Feb	1981
(156)	Telford, Salop (no stop)	VI	3 Jan	1973
(156)	Telford, Salop. (with stop)	VI	28 Nov	1973
(104)	Truro, / Cornwall	VIA	15 July	1970
71)	Tunbridge Wells / Kent	VIII	13 Oct	1971
71)	Tunbridge Wells, / Kent (with comma)	VIII	28 Nov	1973
71)	Tunbridge Wells, Kent	VI	26 Nov	1975
(177)	Uxbridge, Middx.	VI	9 May	1979
(191)	Wakefield, West Yorks.	VI	22 Oct	1975
(191)	Wakefield, West Yks.	VI	25 Feb	1976
(153)	Warwick & / Leamington Spa	VIII	4 July	1973
(153)	Warwick & / Leamington Spa. (with stop)	VIII	24 April	1974
(153)	Warwick & Leamington (no Spa)	VI	22 Jan	1975
(115)	Watford, Herts.	VI	9 May	1979
(72)	Wolverhampton, / Staffs.	VIII	28 July	1971
(72)	Wolverhampton / Staffs (no comma)	VIII	15 Aug	1973
(79)	Worthing, Sussex	VI	28 July	1971

We end this section by emphasising that handstamps of different inscriptions may be used together, or a handstamp of the "original" inscription for a particular office may be re-introduced at a later date. The above list only shows the "changes", not the original inscription which is shown for each office in the main listings in the previous section. This is better explained by means of the pair of illustrations. "Bournemouth-Poole" is the original inscription, and this handstamp was used alongside "Bournemouth & Poole" on covers from the same bulk posting.



6 'Posting Delayed'

Cachets 1971

The first decimal definitive stamps were issued on 15 February 1971 which was during the postal strike. Although a few offices were in operation and first day covers could be genuinely posted and stamped, the Post Office decided after the strike to make arrangements for philatelists to post their covers belatedly so that a "First Day of Issue" postmark could be obtained. Under these arrangements, philatelic posting boxes were opened in the normal way on Friday and Saturday 12 and 13 March 1971, and covers were then stamped "15 Feb 1971 First Day of Issue". To explain the anomaly it was decided (at the last minute, hence some covers passed through before the decision came into effect) to apply an explanatory cachet, and it is the variety of these cachets that we show in this section. The cachets were arranged quickly and most offices made local arrangements to obtain their cachets. It would appear that NE Region handled the supply of their cachets centrally as all the cachets seen from the region are type 15, though there are fractional differences between some of these, not shown below.

The list may not be complete, but it is based on lists previously published in British Postmark Society Quarterly Bulletin (compiled by Colin Langston) and James Mackay's "The Postal History Annual 1981" (compiled by Roger Broomfield), along with the 1982 update compiled by Patrick Awcock.

<p>POSTING DELAYED BY THE POST OFFICE STRIKE 1971</p> <p>1</p>	<p>POSTING DELAYED BY THE POST OFFICE STRIKE 1971</p> <p>2</p>	<p>POSTING DELAYED BY THE POST OFFICE STRIKE 1971</p> <p>3</p>	<p>POSTING DELAYED BY THE POST OFFICE STRIKE, 1971</p> <p>4</p>
<p>"POSTING DELAYED</p> <p>BY P.C. STRIKE</p> <p>1971"</p>			
<p>POSTING DELAYED BY THE POST OFFICE STRIKE 1971</p> <p>5</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>POSTING DELAYED By P.O. STRIKE 1971</p> <p>7</p>	
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;"> <p>Posting delayed by the POST OFFICE strike 1971</p> </div> <p>8</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;"> <p>POSTING DELAYED by the Post Office strike 1971</p> </div> <p>9</p>	<p>POSTING DELAYED BY THE POST OFFICE STRIKE 1971</p> <p>10</p>	
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;"> <p>POSTING DELAYED BY THE POST OFFICE STRIKE 1971</p> </div> <p>11</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;"> <p>"POSTING DELAYED BY THE POST OFFICE STRIKE 1971"</p> </div> <p>12</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;"> <p>POSTING DELAYED BY THE POST OFFICE STRIKE 1971</p> </div> <p>15</p>	
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;"> <p>POSTING DELAYED BY THE POST OFFICE STRIKE 1971</p> </div> <p>13</p>	<p>POSTING DELAYED BY THE POST OFFICE STRIKE 1971</p> <p>14</p>		

Posting Delayed Cachets

POSTING DELAYED POSTING DELAYED
BY THE POST BY THE POSTAL
OFFICE STRIKE 1971 STRIKE 1971.

16 18 POSTING DELAYED
POSTING DELAYED BY THE POST OFFICE STRIKE 1971 BY THE POST OFFICE STRIKE 1971.

17 20
POSTING DELAYED POSTING DELAYED POSTING DELAYED
BY THE POST OFFICE BY POST OFFICE BY THE POST OFFICE
STRIKE 1971 STRIKE 1971 STRIKE 1971.

19 21 22
POSTING DELAYED BY THE POST OFFICE STRIKE 1971

23 24 25
POSTING DELAYED POSTING DELAYED BY
BY THE POST OFFICE STRIKE P.O. STRIKE 1971 POSTING DELAYED BY THE
OFFICE STRIKE P.O. STRIKE 1971 POST OFFICE STRIKE 1971

26 27 28
"POSTING DELAYED BY POST OFFICE STRIKE 1971" POSTING DELAYED BY THE POST OFFICE STRIKE 1971.

29 30 31
POSTING DELAYED BY P O STRIKE 1971 POSTING DELAYED BY THE POST OFFICE STRIKE 1971

32 33
POSTING DELAYED BY THE POST OFFICE STRIKE 1971 Posting delayed by the Post Office Strike 1971

34 35
POSTING DELAYED BY THE POST OFFICE STRIKE 1971 POSTING DELAYED BY THE POST OFFICE STRIKE 1971

36 37
POSTING DELAYED BY THE POST OFFICE STRIKE 1971

38 39
POSTING DELAYED BY THE POST OFFICE STRIKE 1971 POSTING DELAYED BY THE POST OFFICE STRIKE 1971

POSTING DELAYED BY THE POST OFFICE STRIKE 1971

POSTING DELAYED BY THE POST OFFICE STRIKE 1971

40 41 42
POSTING DELAYED BY THE POST OFFICE STRIKE 1971 POSTING DELAYED BY THE POST OFFICE STRIKE 1971

43 44
Posting Delayed By The Post Office Strike 1971 "Posting delayed by the Post Office Strike 1971"

POSTING DELAYED BY POST
OFFICE STRIKE 1971

45

Posting delayed by the
Post Office strike 1971

47

POSTING DELAYED BY THE
POST OFFICE STRIKE 1971.

48

POSTING DELAYED
BY THE POST OFFICE
STRIKE 1971

46

POSTING DELAYED BY THE
POST OFFICE STRIKE 1971

49

POSTING DELAYED BY THE POST OFFICE STRIKE 1971

50

POSTING DELAYED BY
THE POST OFFICE
STRIKE 1971.

51

Posting delayed by the Post Office Strike, 1971

52

POSTING DELAYED BY THE
POST OFFICE STRIKE 1971

POSTING DELAYED BY THE
POST OFFICE STRIKE 1971

53

POSTING DELAYED
BY POST OFFICE
STRIKE 1971.

58

POSTING DELAYED BY THE
POST OFFICE STRIKE 1971

57

Posting delayed by the
Post Office strike 1971

55

POSTING DELAYED BY THE
POST OFFICE STRIKE 1971

56

POSTING DELAYED BY THE
POST OFFICE STRIKE 1971

59

60

POSTING DELAYED BY THE
POST OFFICE STRIKE 1971

61

Posting delayed by the
Post Office Strike 1971

62

POSTING DELAYED BY THE
POST OFFICE STRIKE 1971

63

POSTING DELAYED BY THE
POST OFFICE STRIKE 1971

66

POSTING DELAYED
BY THE
POST OFFICE
STRIKE 1971

64

Posting Delayed
By The Post Office
Strike 1971

65

POSTING DELAYED
BY THE
POST OFFICE STRIKE
1971

67

Posting delayed by the
POST OFFICE STRIKE
1971

68

Posting Delayed
By The Post Office
Strike 1971

69

**POSTING DELAYED BY THE
POST OFFICE STRIKE 1971**

70

**POSTING DELAYED BY THE
POST OFFICE STRIKE 1971**

71

**POSTING DELAYED
BY THE POST OFFICE
STRIKE 1971**

72

**POSTING DELAYED BY THE
POST OFFICE STRIKE 1971**

73

**POSTING DELAYED
BY POST OFFICE
STRIKE 1971**

Posting delayed by Post Office Strike 1971

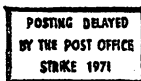
74

**POSTING DELAYED BY
THE POST OFFICE
STRIKE 1971**

77

**POSTING DELAYED
BY THE POST OFFICE STRIKE 1971**

76



79

**Posting Delayed By The
Post Office Strike 1971**

78

**POSTING DELAYED
BY THE POST
OFFICE STRIKE 1971**

80

**POSTING DELAYED
BY THE POST OFFICE
STRIKE 1971**

*Posting delayed by the
Post Office Strike 1971*

**Posting Delayed by the
Post Office Strike 1971**

82

83

POSTING DELAYED BY P.O. STRIKE 1971

84

**POSTING DELAYED BY THE
POST OFFICE STRIKE 1971**

*Posting Delayed by the
Post Office Strike 1971*

**POSTING DELAYED
BY PO STRIKE 1971**

85

86

87

**POSTING DELAYED
BY THE POST
OFFICE STRIKE 1971**

**POSTING DELAYED BY THE
POST OFFICE STRIKE 1971**

**POSTING DELAYED BY
THE POST OFFICE
STRIKE 1971**

89

90

**POSTING DELAYED DUE TO
P.O. STRIKE 1971**

POSTING DELAYED BY THE POST OFFICE STRIKE 1971

91

92

**POSTING DELAYED BY THE
POST OFFICE STRIKE 1971**

**POSTING DELAYED BY THE
POST OFFICE STRIKE 1971**

93

94

Cachet numbers and the offices of use are shown below. The colours present some problems as there are intermediate shades of, in particular, black and violet. Colours are shown as - (R) Red, (B) Black, (V) Violet.

1. London E1	(B)	15 Newcastle-u-Tyne	(R)	42 Crawley	(V)
2. London E1	(V)	cont. Northallerton	(R)	43 Croydon	(B)
London N1	(V)	Rotherham	(R)	44 Croydon	(B)&(V)
3. London EC	(B)&(V)	Scarborough	(R)	45 Dartford	(V)
4. London EC	(B)	Sheffield	(R)	46 Derby	(V)
London WC	(B)	Sunderland	(R)	47 Douglas	(B)
Richmond &		Teesside	(R)	48 Dover	(V)
Twickenham	(B)	York	(R)	49 Dundee	(B)
Watford	(B)&(R)	16 Barnstaple	(V)	50 Eastbourne	(V)
5. London EC	(B)	17 Barrow-in-Furness	(V)	51 Enfield	(B)
Aberdeen	(B)	Lancaster &		52 Exeter Distr.	(B)&(V)
Dunfermline	(B)	Morecambe	(V)	53 Fylde Coast	(V)
Edinburgh	(B)	18 Basildon	(V)	54 Gloucestershire	(V)
Liverpool	(V)	19 Bath	(B)	55 Harrow & Wembley	(B)
Windsor	(B)	Hounslow	(V)	56 Harrow & Wembley	(B)
6. London NW1	(B)	20 Bedford	(B)	57 Haverfordwest	(B)
7. London NW1	(V)	Ipswich	(V)	Plymouth	(B)
8. London SE1	(V)	21 Belfast	(V)	58 Hemel Hempst.	(B)&(V)
Brighton	(V)	Londonderry	(V)	59 Hounslow	(B)&(V)
Canterbury	(B)	Lowestoft	(V)	60 Ilford	(V)
Chichester	(V)	22 Birmingham	(B)&(V)	61 Kingston-u-T.	(B)&(V)
Fareham	(B)	23 Blackburn &		62 Leicester	(B)
Folkestone	(V)	Accrington	(V)	63 Loughborough	(V)
Hastings	(V)	24 Bolton	(V)	64 Luton	(V)
Horsham	(V)	25 Bournemouth-Poole	(V)	65 Mansfield	(B)
Maidstone	(B)	Southampton	(B)&(V)	66 Medway	(B)
Portsmouth	(B)	26 Bridgwater	(B)	67 Newport IOW	(B)
Reading	(B)	Taunton	(V)	68 Newport Mon.	(B)
Tunbridge Wells	(B)	Yeovil	(B)	69 Nottingham	(V)
Worthing	(V)	27 Bristol	(V)	70 Oxford	(V)
9. London SW	(V)	28 Bristol	(V)	71 Paisley	(V)
10. London W1	(B)	29 Bromley	(V)	72 Preston	(V)
11. Battersea SW11	(V)	30 Burnley	(V)	73 Reigate & Redhill	(V)
12. Paddington W2	(V)	31 Bury St Edmunds	(V)	74 Rochdale	(B)&(V)
Dorchester	(V)	Norwich	(V)	75 Romford	(B)
13. Aberystwyth	(B)&(V)	32 Caernarvon	(B)	76 Rugby	(V)
Chippenham	(B)	33 Cambridge	(V)	77 St Albans	(V)
Hereford	(V)	Harlow	(V)	78 Salisbury	(B)
Rhyl	(V)	Ipswich	(V)	79 Shrewsbury	(B)
14. Ayr	(B)&(V)	Norwich	(V)	80 Southall	(B)&(V)
Glasgow	(B)	Peterborough	(B)	81 South Devon	(V)
Hamilton	(B)&(V)	Stevenage	(V)	82 Stafford	(B)
15. Barnsley	(R)	34 Cardiff	(B)&(V)	83 Stirling	(V)
Bradford	(V)&(R)	35 Carlisle	(V)	84 Stockport	(V)
Chesterfield	(R)	Manchester	(V)	85 Stoke-on-Trent	(V)
Darlington	(R)	36 Chelmsford	(V)	86 Swansea	(B)
Doncaster	(R)	Southend-on-Sea	(V)	87 Swindon	(V)
Durham	(R)	37 Chelmsford	(V)	88 Truro	(V)
Grimsby &		38 Chester	(B)	89 Walsall	(V)
Cleethorpes	(R)	39 Colchester	(V)	Wolverhampton	(V)
Halifax	(R)	40 Colwyn Bay	(B)	90 Warrington	(V)
Harrogate	(R)	Llandudno	(B)	91 Wigan	(V)
Huddersfield	(R)	41 Coventry	(V)	92 Windsor	(B)
Hull	(R)	Warwick &		93 Windsor	(B)
Leeds	(R)	Leamington Spa	(V)	94 Worcester	(B)
Lincoln	(R)				

7 Forgeries and Miscellaneous

What we have considered in the main listing of this book is the official use by the Post Office of first day of issue postmarks in connection with new stamp issues. In this section, we will deal with the small number of items which fall outside this category. These include forgeries and other postmarks which were either unofficial or of doubtful status, as well as official use of first day postmarks other than in connection with new stamp issues.

Diss 1966

There appears only to have been one serious attempt to forge British first day covers, the 'Diss forgeries' of 1966. These first came to light when an advertisement by Worldwide Stamp Sales of Diss, Norfolk in "Stamp Collecting" magazine (issue of 2 September 1966) offered and illustrated unaddressed first day covers of the World Cup Winners stamp issue cancelled with a "Diss Norfolk" type I first day handstamp. One collector wrote and obtained one of these covers, while another who wrote had his money refunded with the extraordinary explanation "This postmark was produced in anticipation of the EMC's agreement - but he didn't!". In addition he was sent a free unaddressed first day cover of the World Cup Winners stamp with what appeared to be a normal Manchester first day handstamp. The collectors concerned had no reason to doubt the genuineness of the Diss covers and it was only later that Diss Post Office confirmed that they had never used a first day handstamp.

The Diss postmark on the cover initially advertised



Norwich 33mm handstamp, another of "Diss forgery" postmarks

Subsequently, illustrated lists were received from the same dealer offering a number of interesting covers (all unaddressed) including :-

- (1) World Cup Winners cover of 18 August 1966 with normal operational datestamp "Rulham Market / Diss. Norfolk" and Diss Norfolk type I first day handstamp, the latter positioned in such a way as to suggest that it was added later.
- (2) Westminster Abbey cover of 28 February 1966 with a similar combination of datestamps, but no office name at all in the first day handstamp, i.e. the top segment blank.
- (3) World Cup stamps on World Cup Winners cover, but dated 1 June 1966 with Manchester type I first day handstamp. This was obviously wrong, since the cover could not have been produced by 1 June as the results of the matches were not then known!

(4) Battle of Hastings cover of 14 October 1966 with Manchester type I first day handstamp instead of the normal type IV used by the Post Office for this issue.

(5) Technology cover of 19 September 1966 and Christmas cover of 1 December 1966 with Norwich Norfolk first day handstamp similar to type I but 33mm diameter instead of the 35mm used by the Post Office.

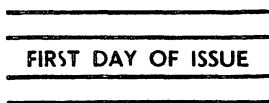
These activities resulted in Henry Maurice Harman of The Hall, Pulham Market, Norfolk being charged by the Director of Public Prosecutions with 13 offences concerning forging cancellations on British commemorative first day covers and with uttering forged documents, or alternatively with intent to defraud, causing postal orders, cheques or cash to be paid for forged first day covers. These charges were heard at a Magistrates Court on 6 and 7 March 1967, when evidence concerning the covers described above was given by collectors and by representatives of "Stamp Collecting", Post Office Headquarters and the Postmasters of Diss and Pulham Market. In addition, evidence was given that the Police had raided the defendant's home and had seized franking dies and cancellation stamps, along with quantities of blank special envelopes of previous stamp issues, enabling production of the forged covers. Harman was committed to appear at Norfolk Quarter Sessions where he pleaded guilty to the charges given and was fined £400 or nine months imprisonment.

Parliamentary Conference 1957

Much less is known about three other forged first day covers. The first of these, which appeared in an auction some years ago (and which we do not illustrate), purported to be a first day cover of the 46th Parliamentary Conference 4d stamp of 12 September 1957. The postmark was an approximate copy of the special event postmark associated with the conference (catalogue no.456) but was an obvious forgery since :-

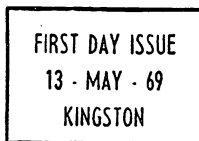
- (1) the lettering was irregular as if based on a manuscript drawing.
- (2) the postmark was not pictorial, omitting the Big Ben motif which appeared in the centre of the genuine postmark.
- (3) the London district was incorrectly shown as W1 instead of SW1.

There was an obvious motive for this forgery, since the cover sold for £18, whereas the stamp alone was at the time listed at £3.



Edinburgh 1967-1969

There would, however, appear to be less motive in the case of the other two covers, since only the lowest value of a not particularly expensive set was used in each case. The postmark illustrated, used on the 5d Ships stamp of 15 January 1969, appears to be in two parts applied separately. It has also been seen applied in blue ink and dated 10 JUL 1967 on the 4d Paintings stamp with the straight line "First Day of Issue" section on the back of the cover. In both cases the covers are unaddressed and nothing is known of the origin of the postmarks. They bear no resemblance to any modern British first day postmarks, although the straight line section is similar to a USA first day postmark.



Wakefield 1969

We have no reason to doubt the genuineness of the next postmark to be recorded, although it did not come to light until nearly nine years after the date it bears, and the Post Office were by that time unable to comment on the circumstances of its use. It is for Wakefield, Yorkshire and is struck in purple and dated 28 MAY 1969. We can only assume that it was the result of an experimental provision of first day facilities at Wakefield which was dropped after a very short time. Regular provision of first day facilities at that office did not commence until 9 October 1974, as we have already recorded.

Freshfield Formby 1981-1982

A similar postmark has been recorded more recently from Freshfield Formby, but this is known to have been produced unofficially by the sub-postmaster there for use on the first day covers of his own customers. It had a movable date and was used from 25 March 1981 to 10 February 1982, but was withdrawn when its use came to the attention of the Head Postmaster, Liverpool.

Kingston upon Thames 1969

One other postmark which remains to be mentioned includes the inscription 'First Day Issue' but is probably an unauthorised privately produced attempt at a special event postmark: It cancels two Machin 4d definitives on an illustrated cover stating that it is a "Souvenir First Day Cover commemorating First Shoot of the Miniature Cross Bow Club of Kingston upon Thames 13th May 1969". The incorrect postal address "Kingston" and the use of the words "First Day Issue" (a term often incorrectly used by the non-philatelist to denote any special cover) clearly indicate the unofficial nature of this postmark.

Postbus events

We conclude with a number of cases where the Post Office have used their own official first day of issue postmarks, but not on new stamps. There have, of course, been examples of this happening in error (first day slogans applied to all mail rather than just that with the new stamp; use of first day handstamp at Dumbarton instead of special 'South Atlantic Fund' handstamp), but on three occasions first day handstamps were deliberately used in connection with postbus items. These were:

- (1) A set of Scottish postbus postcards were issued on 28 November 1979 and the card showing the Killin - Callander service has been seen with the Stirling type VI handstamp.
- (2) Philatelic Covers commemorating the first day of operation on 12 May 1980 of the Bamburgh - Chathill postbus service bore 12p definitive stamps cancelled with the Mid Northumberland type VI handstamp.
- (3) Postcards commemorating the fifth anniversary of the Stour Valley postbus service on 1 September 1980 were stamped with the Colchester type VI handstamp.

8 Index

References to stamp issues are shown by stamp issue number e.g. 64/1 denotes stamp issue number 1 in 1964, and these issue numbers are shown throughout the Main Listings.

From the index entry of any one town the reader may follow the complete history of first day postmarks at that town as detailed in the main lists (section 3) of this book. References to sections 1 and 2 are omitted (as are "Relevant Special Event Postmarks" and "Other Relevant Slogans"), but each entry consists of up to three parts, as follows :

- (1) Firstly the office number and period of use for regular users of first day postmarks; ** and underlined denotes still in use (May 1983)
- (2) Secondly, all other mentions of the appropriate town in the main listings, ending with references to the later sections of the book -
 - NC ("No County" Handstamps section, section 4)
 - MHC ("Minor Handstamp Changes" section, section 5)
 - PDC ("Posting Delayed Cachets" section, section 6)
 - FM ("Forgeries and Miscellaneous" section, section 7)
- (3) Thirdly, all first day slogan usages (if necessary duplicating references to (1) or (2)), with * to highlight the entry.

London E1	(85)	<u>67/1**</u> 67/3, PDC	London WC	(3)	<u>63/2**</u> 64/1, 64/3, 67/3, 71/3, 72/1, 74/1, 75/4, 81/2, 82/6, 82/10, MHC, PDC *Slogan: 63/2-6
London EC (excl. Philatelic Bureau)	(1)	<u>63/2**</u> 64/1, 64/3, 67/3, 70/8, 71/1, 71/5, 72/3, 73/1, 73/2, 73/7, 73/11-13, 74/1, 76/3, 78/3, 79/7, 79/9, 81/7, MHC, PDC *Slogan: 63/2-6	Hendon NW4		68/3
			Greenwich SE10		67/6
					*Slogan: 64/3, 69/2
London N1	(86)	<u>67/1**</u> 67/3, MHC, PDC *Slogan: 67/8, 79/2	Battersea SW11 (90)		<u>67/1**</u> 67/3, PDC
London NW1	(87)	<u>67/1**</u> 67/3, 69/8, 73/4, MHC, PDC	Paddington W2 (91)		<u>67/1**</u> 67/3, 81/8, PDC *Slogan: 65/1, 65/4, 66/8, 67/8, 68/1-3, 68/5, 69/2, 69/4, 69/6, 69/7, 69/10, 70/1-2, 70/6, 70/8, 71/1-2, 71/5, 71/7-8, 72/1, 72/3, 72/5-8, 73/1, 73/3-5, 73/7, 73/12, 73/13, 74/2-4, 74/6, 74/8, 74/10, 75/5.
London SE1	(88)	<u>67/1**</u> 67/3, PDC *Slogan: 68/1, 68/5, 68/7, 69/4, 70/8	Aberaeron		70/1
London SW	(2)	<u>63/2**</u> 64/1, 64/3, 67/3, 73/12, 74/8, 76/8, 77/5, 78/5, 79/1, 79/3, 79/8, 80/5, 80/7, 80/11, 81/5, 82/4, 83/2, MHC, PDC, FM *Slogan: 63/2-6, 65/1, 65/5, 66/3, 69/2, 69/6	Aberdeen	(4)	<u>63/2**</u> 64/1, 64/3, 66/2, 67/2, 67/3, 68/6, 71/4, NC, MHC, PDC *Slogan: 63/2-6, 66/2
London W1	(89)	<u>67/1**</u> 67/3, 72/6, MHC, PDC, FM *Slogan: 64/1, 67/10, 68/5, 68/7, 69/6, 69/8, 69/12, 70/2, 70/3, 70/5, 70/8	Aberfeldy		*Slogan: 68/2
			Aberystwyth	(50)	<u>65/1**</u> 66/2, 66/9, 67/2, 67/3, 68/6, 71/4, 71/8, 72/1, 73/6, 75/6, PDC *Slogan: 66/2

Index

Aldeburgh		68/3	Billerica		70/2
Aldershot	(107)	<u>67/5**</u> 71/1, MHC	Birmingham	(6)	<u>63/2**</u> 64/1, 67/3, 71/3, 74/1, 82/11, NC, MHC, PDC *Slogan: 63/2-6
Alloway		66/1, 75/1	Bishop Auckland		67/5
Altrincham	(193)	<u>75/3**</u> MHC	Blackburn	(111)	67/6 Blackburn 67/7 Blackb & Acc. 73/11 Blackburn & NE Lancs. <u>76/2**</u> Lancashire MHC, PDC
Arbroath		70/2	Blackpool	(31)	63/6 Blackpool 67/1 Fylde Coast <u>75/13**</u> Fylde Blackpool Wyre 64/1, 67/3, 69/5, 74/1, MHC, PDC *Slogan: 63/6
Armagh		71/2	Bladon		65/1
Ashford	(197)	<u>76/3**</u> 82/7	Blantyre		73/3
Aylesbury	(183)	<u>72/3**</u>	Blenheim		74/8
Ayr	(105)	<u>67/4**</u> 66/1, 68/6, 71/4, 72/6, 75/1, NC, EDC	Bognor Regis	(121)	<u>67/9**</u> 75/9, MHC
Ballymena	(213)	<u>81/6**</u> 71/2	Bolton	(125)	68/1 Bolton 74/3 Bolton & Bury <u>81/5**</u> Bolton Bury Wigan NC, MHC, PDC
Bangor Caern	(198)	<u>76/3**</u> 66/2, 76/4	Boston	(199)	<u>76/3**</u> 70/2
later Gwynedd		*Slogan: 66/2	Bournemouth	(7)	<u>63/2**</u> 64/1, 67/3, 74/1, NC, MHC, PDC *Slogan: 63/2-6, 77/7, 77/8, 78/5, 78/8, 79/10, 80/10, 80/14
Barlston		72/4, 80/6	Bradford	(32)	<u>63/6**</u> 64/1, 66/9, 67/3, 74/6, MHC, PDC *Slogan: 53/6
Barnet	(174)	<u>71/2**</u> 71/9	Bridge		68/2 *Slogan: 68/2
Barnsley	(138)	<u>68/4**</u> 74/6, MHC, PDC	Bridgend	(200)	<u>76/3**</u> 76/4
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