

## 71. 'Philympia' Stamp Exhibition, 1970



London's international stamp exhibition is the premier event of the decade in British philately, and it has grown in stature with each progressive location in post-war years — from the carpeted splendour of Grosvenor House (1950) and the 'palm court' atmosphere of the Royal Festival Hall to the great exhibition halls of Olympia (1970) and Earls Court (1980). A notable feature of 'Philympia' was the Post Office issue of three special stamps to mark the occasion, the first time ever that a purely philatelic function of this nature had thus been commemorated. It was also the first British stamp issue to employ the motif of 'stamps on stamps', a popular collecting theme — and the stamps' publicity value was enormous, benefiting the Post Office, the exhibition and philately in general.

The stamps were designed by David Gentleman, R.D.I., who has been the most consistent and successful of all designers in this specialised field — his first designs for the British

Post Office were the National Productivity Year stamps of 1962, his latest, the characteristic Liverpool & Manchester Railway 150th anniversary stamps issued in March this year. For his 'Philympia' designs, he selected (5d.) a Penny Black of 1840 (the 'first engraved issue'); (9d.) a 1s. embossed green of 1847 (the 'first embossed issue'); and (1s.6d.) a 4d. carmine of 1855 (the 'first surface printed issue'). The classic 1d. black and 4d. carmine stamps were reproduced slightly larger than the originals, the 1s. green fractionally smaller, in order to obtain a uniform width in the vertical format of the 'Philympia' stamps.

The 1d. black — most famous and desirable of stamps — was printed by Perkins, Bacon and Company at the behest of Rowland Hill, the octagonal 1s. green stamps were printed/embossed at Somerset House from a primary die engraved at the Royal Mint by William Wyon, whose head of Queen Victoria on the 'Wyon Medal', issued to celebrate her visit to the City of London in the year

# New Definitive Stamps Issue



Subject to the Government's agreement to the proposed increase in the basic postage rates, six new definitive postage stamps will be issued on 14 January 1981 to supplement the current range. They are 2½p, 11½p, 14p, 15½p, 18p, 25p.

## First Day Cover Services

The following first day cover services will be offered by the Philatelic Bureau, Edinburgh, with a choice of two handstamps.

**SERVICE A.** This consists of the official Post Office cover, addressed to the correct postal address of the destination required, and bearing all six stamps. The cover will be cancelled: 'Philatelic Bureau, Edinburgh', or 'Windsor, Berks', as requested and despatched.

**SERVICE B.** Customers own pre-addressed covers bearing the correct postal address, will be given the full set of stamps, cancelled, and despatched.

The usual first day of issue facilities will be available at offices with philatelic posting boxes. Application forms available from the Philatelic Bureau, Edinburgh and at all Head Post Offices, should be returned not later than 5 January 1981.

of her coronation, was selected for the model of the 1d. black, and held pride of place throughout her reign; and the 4d. carmine was surface-printed by De La Rue, the forerunner of numerous similar issues printed by them until 1911.

The 'Philympia' stamps were photogravure-printed by Harrison and Sons in sheets of 120 (12 x 10) on unwatermarked paper with two phosphor bands. They were issued on the opening day of the exhibition — September 18th 1970 — and remained on sale until withdrawn a year later. Recorded printing flaws include a white blob between the 'OS' of 'POSTAGE' (later retouched), and a 'weak entry' of the frame-line in the top left corner, of the 1d. black (5d.), the latter interesting because 'weak entries' were characteristics of the original 1d. black stamps; also a missing dot over the 'i' of 'printed' on the 1s.6d. stamp.

Quantities sold were: 5d. 72,211,000; 9d. 16,330,000; and 1s.6d. 15,203,836.

JAMES WATSON

	INLAND	OVERSEAS
<b>SERVICE 'A'</b>	£1.20	£1.04½
Deposit account customers	£1.15½	£1.00½
<b>SERVICE 'B'</b>	£1.09½	95

## Technical Details

### Denominations and colours

- 2½p — rose
- 11½p — mushroom (single phosphor bar)
- 14p — steel blue
- 15½p — pale violet
- 18p — blue
- 25p — purple

All values except the 11½p will be printed on phosphor coated paper.

Printer: Harrison and Sons Ltd  
 Process: Photogravure — Jumelle  
 Perforation: 15 x 14  
 Sheet number: 200