

ANNUAL REPORTS OF THE JERSEY POST OFFICE

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On the 10th May 1972 the first 'Report of the Department of Postal Administration, Jersey' was published by the States of Jersey. As there are still many collectors who are unaware of the existence of the Reports it is the purpose of this article to 'dip' into each in turn, revealing some of the more interesting facts.

No. 1 Covering the period 1 October 1969 to 31 December 1971. Ref. 300-360/1/2(1) 1972 R.C. - 14. Price 10 pence. For most of 1970 the Broad Street counters were manned by staff, most of whom had less than one year's experience of Post Office work. This was due to the more experienced staff having to deal with the extra accounting required by taking over from the G.P.O. A new livery for the postal fleet of vehicles and postal uniforms was introduced in 1970. During the first six months of operation the sales to collectors amounted to £313,575. 1971 saw a profit of £110,094 directly attributable to philately and an additional £38,300 from the Post Office Mails and Agency services. Printing of stamps and stamped stationery amounted to £34,700 on the Post Office and Mails side and £20,715 on stamp design fees and expenses.

No. 2 1972 Report. Ref. 300-360/1/2(2) 1973 R.C. - 12. Price 10p. The sorting office at Falduet was closed during 1972 as it was uneconomical to operate. A new office built to Departmental specifications was opened in Central Market, St. Helier to replace the Beresford Street (Le Riches Stores) office. 20,909 covers were serviced on 14 February 1972 to commemorate the demise of £SD definitive stamps, bringing in a useful £6,564 additional income. The French Post Office donated the original blocks from which the wartime pictorials were printed, together with proof sheets of the stamps.

No. 3 1973 Report. Ref. 300-360/1/2(3) 1974 R.C. - 11. Price 20p. Senator Kricheski, in his Foreword, detailed how philatelic income had continued to expand: "This in spite of the activities of certain gentlemen who endeavoured to corner our new issues of stamps." The new style stamp vending machines were modified by (wait for it) the Sewerage Board. Stopford Road sub office was closed, being replaced by one at Town Mills. This new office was to have catered for people living in the area covered by Grands Vaux (where the postmaster had resigned). However, the public secured a reprieve for twelve months for this latter office.

No. 4 1974 Report. Ref. 350-360/1/2(4) 1975 R.C. - 13. Price 25p. The Greve d'Azette sub office was closed, following the resignation of the sub postmaster. In order that the local residents could receive an improved service in this newly built-up area an office was opened at Le Squez. A resignation at Carrefour Selous resulted in its closure and subsequent re-opening close-by at Six Rues.

No. 5 1975 Report. Ref. 350-360/1/2(5) 1976 R.C. - 9. Price 25p. A joint Tourist Board and Philatelic Bureau mailing was made during the year of 400,000 items of mail, the largest ever single mailing from the islands. Stamp printing and Agent's commissions amounted to £155,000.

No. 6 1976 Report. Ref. 350-360/1/2 1977 R.C. - 10. Price 30p. During March and April and October to December an experimental stamp cancelling machine was put through operational testing in the Sorting Office.

No. 7 1977 Report. Ref. 350-360/1/2 1978 R.C. - 13. Price 50p. Lack of suitable applications resulted in three sub offices being closed at St. Brelade's Bay (March), Stion (April) and St. John's Church (June). St. Aubin sub office closed on 31 December 1977 but re-opened shortly afterwards along the road at new premises. The £2 definitive stamp accounted for a massive 26% of the total philatelic revenue for the year.

No. 8 1978 Report. Ref. 350-360/1/2 1979 R.C. - 13. Price 50p. St. John's Church sub office was re-opened on 1 February. Carrefour Selous closed on 30 September as no suitable applicant could be found.

No. 9 1979 Report. Ref. 300-360/1/2 1980 R.C. - 13. Price £1. The highlight of this Report must surely be the review of the first ten years of the Administration. Mr. Orbell, the Director, outlined future policies, past performances and detailed the need to maintain a prudent new issue policy. The importance of philatelic income, whilst extremely relevant to the overall success of the Administration, is not the only contributing factor to its success, as the postal service is self-supporting and profitable in its own right.

No. 10 1980 Report. Ref. 200-360/1/2 1981 R.C. - 13. Price 50p. Augres sub office closed on 30 September due to it being the least viable of all offices.

No. 11 1981 Report. Ref. 200 1982 R.C. 17. Price £1 50. All island school-children were given both the Battle of Jersey and the Royal Wedding presentation packs, with the compliments of the Jersey Post Office.

No. 12 1982 Report. 150/1983/R.C. 23. Price £1. Grands Vaux closed on 30 November because a suitable applicant could not be found. The year saw a marked decline in overall sales due to the worldwide recession, requiring a change in marketing techniques and a re-scheduling of issue programmes.

No. 13 1983 Report. 200 1984 R.C. - 24. Price £1. For the first time since independence the Post Office and Mails side made more profit than the Philatelic service. Five Oaks sub-office operations were suspended on 17 March, public service being carried out at premises nearby on a mornings only basis by Headquarters staff until 25 August when a new sub-postmaster was appointed. St. Martin sub-office closed on 31 August due to the resignation of the sub-postmaster. Service was provided at St. Martin's public hall until 11 November also on a mornings only basis staffed by Headquarters staff pending the opening of Maufant on 14 November. All delivery rounds were re-organised during the year due to changes in island mail posted and received together with the increases in homes and offices over the years.

The Reports also go into much detail with regard to operating profits, letters received/despached, counter services, staffing levels and a host of other facts and figures.

All thirteen reports are currently available at the prices shown from: States of Jersey Bookshop, States Greffe, States Buildings, Royal Square, St. Helier, Jersey (Telephone: 0534 73060). Allow for postage and packing and make cheques payable to The Treasurer of the States.

In conclusion I would add that it is all too easy to look upon the Jersey Department of Postal Administration as only being a producer of attractive stamps and associated material. In truth these Reports show that principally the Post Office is a business that offers one of the finest postal services of any country in the world. The local inhabitants are indeed fortunate.