

I have been a member of the Club of Channel Islands Collectors for three of its five year history and have always found the contents of the *Reporter* to be most informative. The latest issue requests that members take-up their pens and I have therefore decided that it is time that I ceased being a 'sleeping partner' in the club and the following is the result.

My interest in Channel Islands stamps started in 1968 when postal independence was imminent. Since then I have specialised in the modern issues and whilst looking through my collection the other day I realised that I have acquired much material that has never seen the inside of a stamp catalogue or, at best, has only been given a very brief mention.

Channel Islands Commentary

Glenn H. Morgan

With our editor's permission, I intend making these articles an occasional feature of the *Reporter*, recording and illustrating such items as I hope will be of interest to the modern Channel Islands specialist and occasionally delving into the earlier periods.

A Personal View

I strongly believe that the modern Channel Islands collector tends to be looked down upon by many fellow philatelists (in the United Kingdom at least), as being something of a junior collector who just likes filling albums with 'pretty pictures'. If, however you are into German Occupational material or earlier you tend to be accepted as one of the clan and I would like to know what the feelings are in the United States amongst our membership and whether anybody else feels the way that I do over this issue. We have proofs, errors, scarce postal markings (try obtaining the Guernsey Collings Road skeleton on cover!), original artwork and the like to embellish our collections and I fail to see why we should be regarded as the poor relation.

Changing Values

I was thumbing through my press cutting files recently whilst researching another article when I came across an item that appeared in the 20 November 1953 issue of *Stamp Collecting Weekly* that O.W. 'Bill' Newport had written concerning material then available to the Channel Islands collector. He concluded, 'Should the Channel Islands have their own stamps, and it may happen at some future date, all the material I have mentioned will be eagerly sought after. Why not get in on the ground floor now?' I wonder how many people took his advice?

He listed, for example, Ship Letters as ranging in value from '30 shillings (£1.50 or \$3.50 approx) to as many pounds.' The latest Stanley Gibbons Channel Islands catalogue prices them at from £250 (\$560 approx) to £4,000 (\$9,000 approx). Quite an increase, even after taking into account the intervening years and inflation.

Presentation Booklets

A couple of years ago I acquired at auction in England a plastic presentation booklet containing 1974 and 1975 commemorative stamps within a Hagner stockcard which in turn were inserted into transparent plastic sleeves. In the front sleeve was a Postal Committee 'with compliments' card.

Being curious as to its origin I wrote to Mr Orbell, Director of the Jersey Post Office, in the hope that he could enlighten me. His reply is printed below.

The item which you appear to have is, I think, one of the many thousands of plastic folders which the Department had manufactured in the early days of the administration, many of which we still have in store. They were used from time to time as vehicles for the presentation of sets of our stamps to selected

recipients. The contents over the years have varied widely, as have the purposes of presentation. Sometimes the occasions have been those of visiting dignitaries, sometimes those of attendance by Postal Committee members or our own senior staff at functions, sometimes Postal Conferences of various types, sometimes those of politicians or officials visiting our stands at philatelic exhibitions, and so on. The folders are not sold to the general public as a rule, although I can recall one or two occasions at exhibitions when customers have happened to notice the remainder of the small supply carried in case of the need to make a presentation, and have been allowed to buy.

The folders are of no great significance and the card you mention is the standard Postal Committee compliments card which has often accompanied them, as it has other items when presentations have been made. The stamps or packs/filler cards which are inserted on any one occasion are geared to suit the particular presentation involved, and are always from our normal sales stock.

There is no record as to whom the folders have been presented, given (or sold) over the years, but the numbers so far must run into thousands and there is certainly no way of identifying any particular folder — even by contents, because these are obviously interchangeable.

All in all, my impression is that the first Postal Committee intended to have a means of conveying stamps as gifts, presentations, samples, etc., which would be of respectable appearance, not expensive to produce, and of no philatelic value or even very much interest.

I shall leave it to the reader to decide whether or not they are of any philatelic value or interest, suffice to say that I have not seen any others on the open market.

Stamp Cards

Last October each existing subscriber to the Jersey Post Office new-issue service was given the chance to order a special commemorative postcard depicting the Postal Headquarters at Mont Millais as seen on the current 40p definitive stamp designed by Gordon Drummond. The card measures 170mm x 106mm and was printed by the House of Questa and was available free of charge (subject to a maximum of four cards each, the customer paying only for the stamps), in two forms. The first was cancelled on the obverse (picture) side using the aforementioned 40p stamp, or secondly cancelled on the reverse using the two pairs of Europa 79 stamps.

A special cancellation was applied on 9 October commemorating Universal Postal Union day to a total of 28,920 cards (type one), and

21,342 cards (type two). Mint examples were subsequently placed on sale to collectors and are still available from the Bureau, priced 3p. Further cards may be placed on sale at a later date.

Guernsey entered into the increasingly popular field of issuing postcards on 1 May 1980 when a set of five 'stamp cards' were issued in readiness for 15 November when the stamps that they depict will be issued. Priced at 5p each they were printed at the House of Quetta in large sheets of twelve, subsequently guillotined into single cards. First Day of Issue cancelling facilities will be available. They were selling like hot cakes at the London 1980 International, despite the Post Office being compelled to add-on United Kingdom Value-Added Tax of fifteen per cent. Further sets will be issued 'as appropriate'.

Instructional Labels and Transfers

**GUERNSEY POSTAGE STAMPS ONLY MAY BE
USED ON ITEMS POSTED IN THIS BOX.**

**ONLY
FIRST CLASS SERVICE
FROM JERSEY**

**Jersey Stamps
MUST
always be used**

POSTAGE RATES
LETTERS UP TO 4oz 3p
POSTCARDS 3p

figure 1



figure 2

ONLY JERSEY STAMPS VALID

figure 3

When the Guernsey and Jersey Post Offices went postally independent they constantly used to (indeed still do!), have holidaymakers using British postage stamps on their postcards.

In an effort to alleviate the problem both islands prepared adhesive labels or transfers for affixing to pillar boxes advising people that they should only use Guernsey or Jersey stamps.

The Guernsey type (figure 1) is printed on gummed paper coated with plastic and is black on white. It measures 150mm x 40mm.

Jersey has used two types over the years. The first (figure 2) is a transfer measuring 92mm x 123mm and is printed in red, white and blue; the second type (figure 3), also a transfer, measures 130mm x 25mm and is printed in red and white.

Jersey Reflector Badges

In an effort to help protect local children in the dark lanes of Jersey, the Post Office in association with RoSPA (the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents), have been giving away reflector badges. They measure 58mm in diameter and have a loop at the top and are of a clear plastic type. They come with a length of string and a safety pin in a sealed 'see-through' pack.

YOU'RE SAFER WITH JERSEY STAMPS

Whether or not you're a stamp collector, the JERSEY POST OFFICE wants you to feel SAFE, and we know it will help if you wear this REFLECTOR at night — and face the traffic, so it GLOWS 'n' SHOWS! It comes with our compliments and best wishes for your happy future.

If you are a stamp collector, you know already that JERSEY STAMPS are a SAFE BUY — fascinating themes, quality design and printing, low cost to collect, always a talking point, lasting in value and gaining in appreciation.

If you're not a stamp collector, or would like to hear from us anyway, just fill in your name and address below and drop this card in the postbox — no stamp needed — and you'll be doubly SAFE. And never be sorry!

Your Name:

Your Address:

.....Post Code

BE A (B)RIGHT JERSEY STAMPWORM FOR A SAFER FUTURE

Reverse side of post-paid card

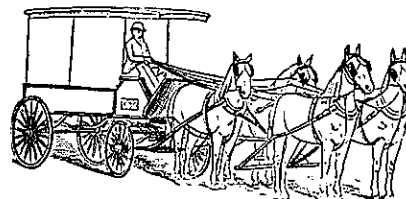
The Post Office took the opportunity of getting a bit of publicity out of the exercise and therefore each badge has a slogan on it. The two that I have seen are 'Be Bright Keep Right With Jersey Stamps Write P O Box 1980 Jersey' and 'Jersey Stamps Glow on for Life Write P O Box 1980 Jersey'. The text is in red and I believe that there is at least a third type in existence. The reverse of each badge bears the RoSPA symbol within a triangle. Manufactured by Hamax, Noss, Norway. Accompanying each badge was a post-paid card inviting people to obtain details of Jersey stamps.

Jersey Paper Join

The 25p value of the Jersey 1974 Paintings series exists with a paper join across the sheet. The sheet was marked for destruction before the gold colour was applied but was delivered in error to the Post Office and issued as normal stock. Only one sheet was discovered.

... and Finally

I welcome any correspondence with members concerning post-1969 Channel Islands collecting. All letters sent to me in England at the address stated in the CCIC Membership Directory will be answered.



*The
Market*

(We have had two insertions sent in recently for this department which quote prices — and prices are not printed in *The Market*. [These are more properly the area of our advertisements.] Obviously, items may be bought and sold through *The Market* — between members — but the agreed-on fees and prices are a matter of private arrangement through letters or other direct communication.)

GUERNSEY De La Rue commems (SG 59-62, Scott 56-9) available as singles and in block of four with sheet number. Most Guernsey issues mint, never hinged. Sell or trade for Guernsey occupation and forerunners, and for Herm covers. *Richard Langworth*, Box 385-A, Contoocook, New Hampshire 03229, USA.

INFORMATION on South African stamps from a member to anyone who will write him. *M.J. Campbell*, 20 Rover Road, Rondebosch 7700, South Africa.

I WOULD LIKE TO EXCHANGE Channel Islands and British stamps for United States issues; I can supply mint, used and first day — whatever is desired. *R. Sanders*, 38 Kyle Avenue, Whitchurch, Cardiff, Wales CF4 1SS.