

More Than Just Stamps to Collect

By Glenn H. Morgan B.P.F.

WITH A BURST of publicity two new stamp issuing authorities with the imposing titles of the States of Guernsey Post Office Board and the States of Jersey Department of Postal Administration, were launched on October 1, 1969.

Artists were commissioned and the huge administrative operation was underway. As soon as the artwork designs and values were announced in the philatelic press, orders and requests for information packs flooded in to the Bureaux. Vesting Day was subsequently changed to October 1, giving much needed extra preparation time. The rest is history.

Collectable items

Since 1969, many highly collectable items have emanated from the Channel Islands including definitives, commemorative and special stamps,

the Royal Insurance Group.

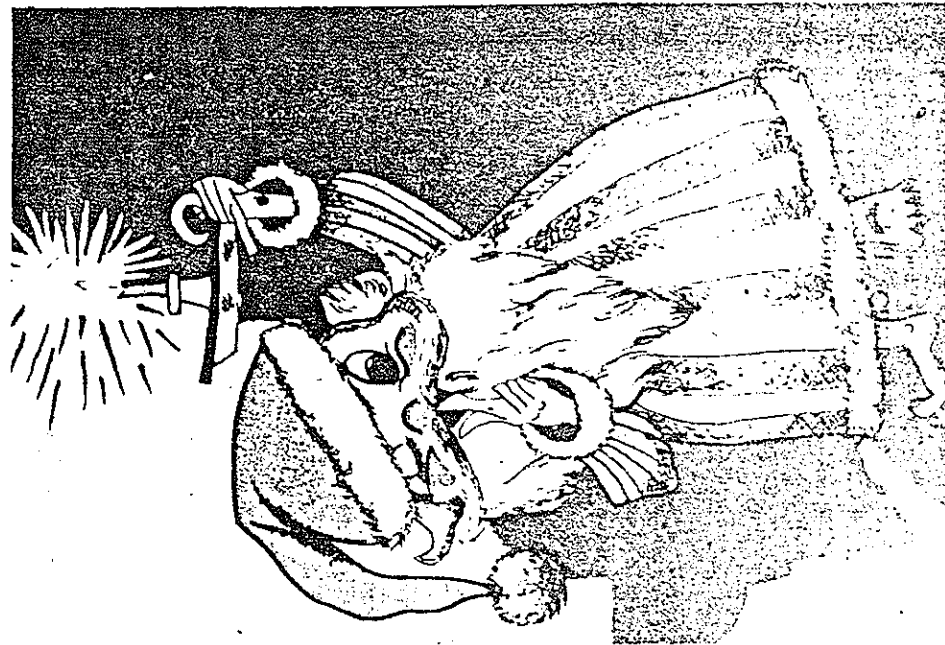
Every year since 1970, the President of the Guernsey Post Office Board has prepared a special Christmas card for distribution to overseas postal administrations and VIP's. Various types of card have been used over the years, the early ones being most desirable as they have affixed to them a set of that year's Christmas stamps and, from 1972, a single circle cancellation dated December 25 at the top of the card.

Last Christmas a cartoon picture showing the Head Post Office in Smith Street, a vehicle from the Post Office fleet and Father Christmas walking along the road with a sackful of toys was used. The design was in black except for the vehicle and robes of Father Christmas which were in bright blue. Earlier that year Guernsey had changed the colour of its logo, vehicles and pillar boxes from red to such a blue!

In the early days of the Jersey Administration a supply of red vinyl covered booklets containing transparent sleeves for insertion of F.D.C. filler cards or Hagner sheets was requisitioned. They were used to make presentations to dignitaries and always contained normal sales stock.

In celebration of the fifteenth Interpex exhibition a special presentation folder was made available to visitors by the Guernsey Post Office. The pack was printed by the Guernsey Press Company in green on white card stock and on opening day contained one of each of the standard presentation packs then available (seven in all) held together with a white silk cord. For the remainder of the show only the Guernsey Mailboats Series Two pack was included.

The folder was free, the customer paying only the cost price of the packs, and a mere 300 are in existence.



Jersey Post Office has a Santa Mail which replies to letters posted to Father Christmas. This is the 1974 version of which only 72 are said to have been posted.