

THE NEW PUFFIN JOURNAL



Autumn 2024

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Photograph by
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Lundy Postage Increases
Three editions of *The Coasts of
Devon and Lundy*

lundyclollectorsclub.weebly.com

Editorial

By James Thomas

I start with the sad news of the passing of Duane Larson of America who died on 2nd May at the age of 86. Duane was the founder of the Lundy Collectors Club when it was based in America and was responsible for printing and mailing the *Lundy Collectors Club Philatelic Quarterly*.

The Club's meeting in July was well attended with much of interest to occupy us throughout the day. Please read the full report on page 2.

I have been told by the Lundy management that it is planned to issue a new stamp set in 2025, however, at this stage I know no further details. Although most members collect Lundy stamps, many of us also collect the full range of Lundy collectables such as books, postcards, etc. This year a few new books have been published, details of which will be covered in this and future issues of this *Journal*. Because I have had three trips to Lundy cancelled over the last two seasons due to the *Oldenburg* being unable to sail, I have not had the opportunity to visit the Lundy shop to go through the postcards and other collectables. However, I will be attending the Club's five-day stay on Lundy next March which will give me ample opportunity to search out any new material.

In this issue are two feature length articles which have been extensively researched and I am glad to announce that more feature length articles are in the pipeline for future issues.

The 2025 Membership Renewal form is enclosed. Because of continuing prudence, I am glad to report that the subscription rate will remain unchanged for yet another year, despite the huge increases in postage throughout the year.

If you have any items that you would like to include in the next auction will you please send them to Jon Aitchison, Old Tithe Hall, Bishop's Stortford, Hertfordshire, CM22 7TF, no later than 31st December 2024.

I wish you all a happy Christmas and healthy New Year.

ATVB

James

2024 Summer Weekend

By James Thomas

The Club held its Summer Weekend on Saturday 6th and Sunday 7th July.

Just like last year, the planned trip to Lundy on the Saturday was cancelled at the last minute due to bad sea conditions which was very disappointing for those hoping to spend the day exploring the island.

On Sunday the annual meeting was held at the Durrant Hotel, Bideford and was again well supported. The Bourse opened at 10:30 with tables laden down with Lundy related goodies from Jon Aitchison selling philatelic material, Lucy Lo-Vel selling prints and homeware based on John Dyke artwork, André Coutanche selling Lundy literature and Jane Anning with the launch of the latest edition of *My Life on Lundy*.

The formal meeting started with the election of David Elliott as the Club's new Meetings Chairperson. I thank David for volunteering to take on this position and I offer him my full support for future meetings.

It was encouraging to have enough entries to hold three of the Club's four competitions. After viewing a good selection of interesting material, Tom Baker won *The Stanley Newman Trophy* for Lundy philately, Alan Rowland won *The R. E. Allen Trophy* for Lundy postcards, literature and ephemera and James Thomas won *The Keith Hand Memorial Shield* for Lundy photography.

After lunch Jon Aitchison held the Club Auction and was ably assisted by Julie Lester and Roy Bentley. The quality of the material in this auction was very high and attracted a lot of interest from postal bidders as well as from the room.

The Durrant Hotel has proved very successful for the last two years and it is planned to continue with this venue for future years.

Finally, I would like to thank Sue Leather for all of her hard work that was required for this event to go off so smoothly.

Lundy Stamp Proof Cards

By James Thomas

Since 1929, the main producers of Lundy stamps have been Bradbury Wilkinson & Co. Ltd., Harrison and Sons Ltd., Thomas De La Rue & Co., Walsall Security Printers, House of Questa and Cartor Security Printing S.A.

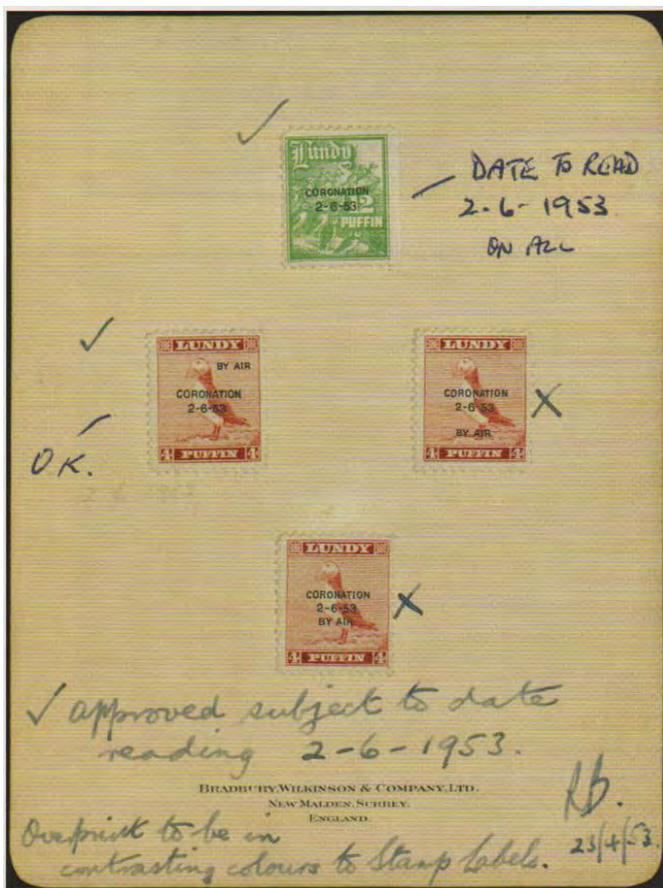
All of the printers have produced proofs in various forms for approval by the Harman family and later by the Landmark Trust/Lundy Company. Because Lundy has used some of the world's top security printers to produce its stamps, individual proof stamps are reasonably scarce with the Proof Cards even more scarce with usually no more than five proof cards made per set.

Proofs can be found in the British Library, the Landmark Trust Archive and many private collections.

Many of the Proof Cards are plain titled cards with one or more imperforate initial print stamps stuck to it. Sometimes the client's hand-written notes are on the card or in an accompanying letter. These are even more scarce because they give an insight into the adjustments made from the proof stage to the final print stage. The following two images show hand-written notes by an unknown person whose initials are RB commenting on corrections. Perhaps RB is R.R. Brice as mentioned on page 19.



Bradbury Wilkinson Proof Card for the 1953 Coronation Overprint set with various hand-written comments



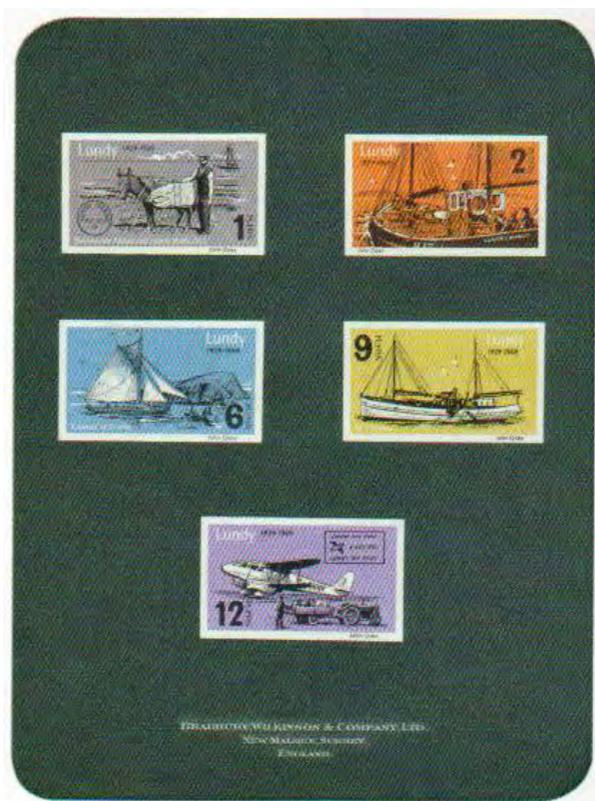
Bradbury Wilkinson Proof Card of the 1953 Coronation Overprint set showing the 4 puffin and 12 puffin stamps with variations of the "By Air" part of the overprint

The very first proof cards were produced by Bradbury Wilkinson & Co. Ltd., probably in 1928, and were for design ideas for the first issue of 1929, however, none of these designs were used.



1928 Bradbury Wilkinson Proof Card for an unadopted design

Later Bradbury Wilkinson cards were slate-blue in colour with a lightly textured surface but earlier cards are white or black with rounded corners. The slate-blue cards are very plain with just the company name in white text along the bottom edge. Bradbury Wilkinson are known to have placed the imperforate proof stamp of one or more values on a single card. Sometimes they have adhered a complete set on one card. They also used the cards for the approval of colour trials.

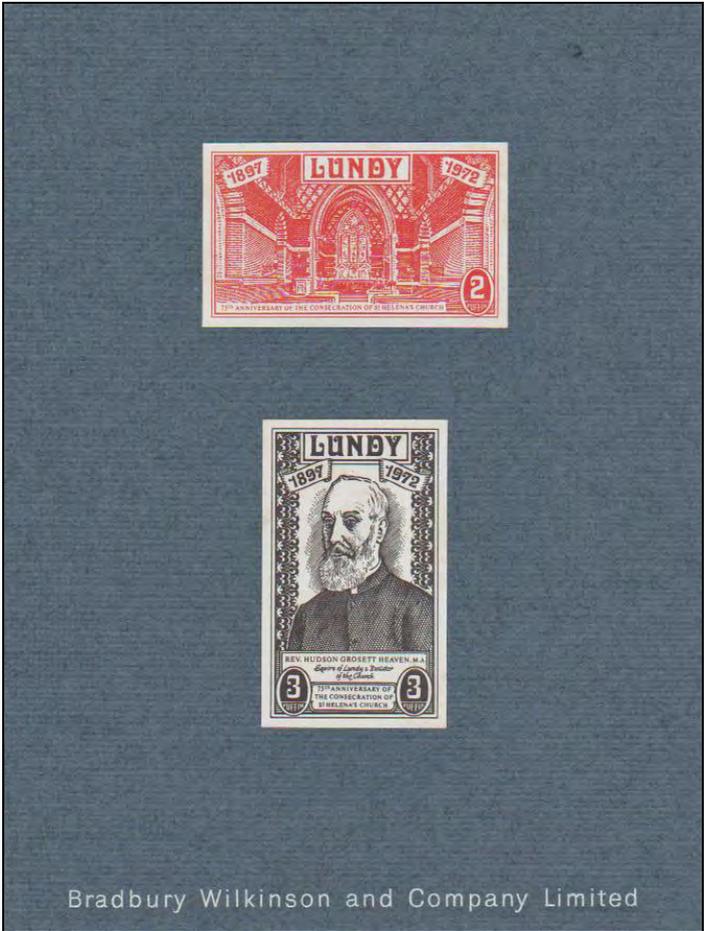


An older style Bradbury Wilkinson Proof Card for the 1969 Fortieth Anniversary of the First Lundy Stamps issue



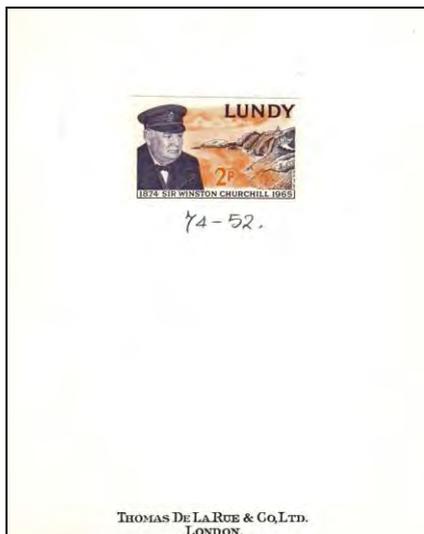
Bradbury Wilkinson and Company Limited

Bradbury Wilkinson Proof Card with a complete set of imperforate proofs indicating the issued values for the 1972 Trinity House 75th Anniversary of the completion of the North and South Lighthouses



Bradbury Wilkinson Proof Card for the 2p and 3p stamps from the 1972 75th Anniversary of St. Helena's Church set

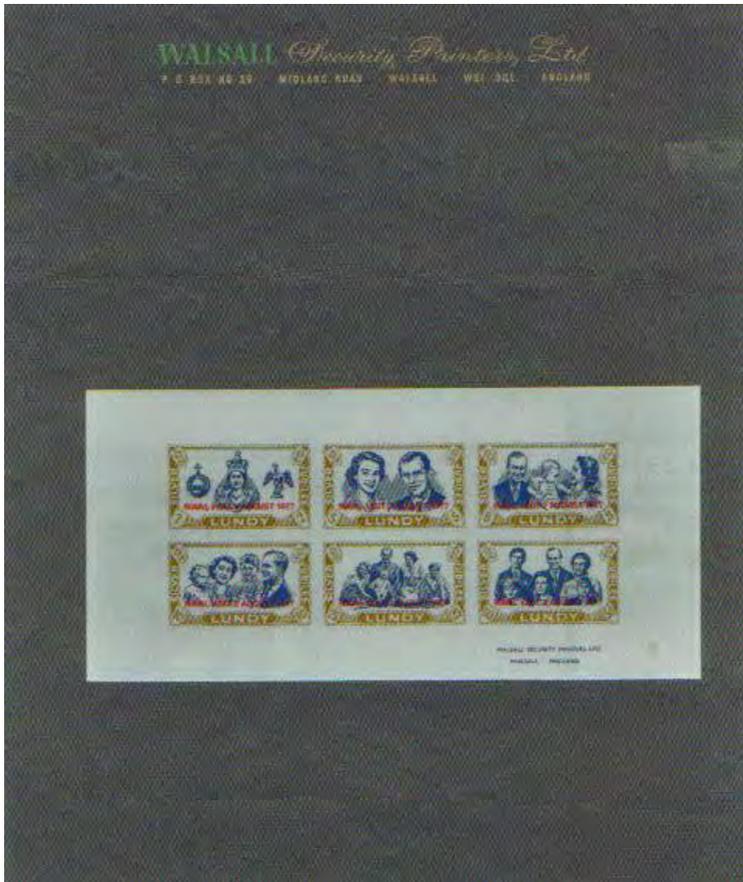
The Thomas De La Rue cards are plain white with the company name along the bottom edge. I have only seen cards from this company with one imperforate proof of each value adhered to it and every one has a handwritten reference number.



Two Thomas De La Rue Proof Cards for the 1964 Quatercentenary of William Shakespeare's birth set and the 1965 Sir Winston Churchill commemoration set

Walsall security printers produced 11 Lundy stamp sets between 1974 and 1979. Their Proof Cards are plain black with the company's name and address along the top edge in green and gold text.

I have only seen a few of this company's cards and they have all been of the design shown in this article with only one stamp or sheetlet stuck to it. Some have a glassine sheet stuck to the card and draped over the stamp for protection which is the case for the 50p stamp from the 1977 Royal Silver Jubilee set.



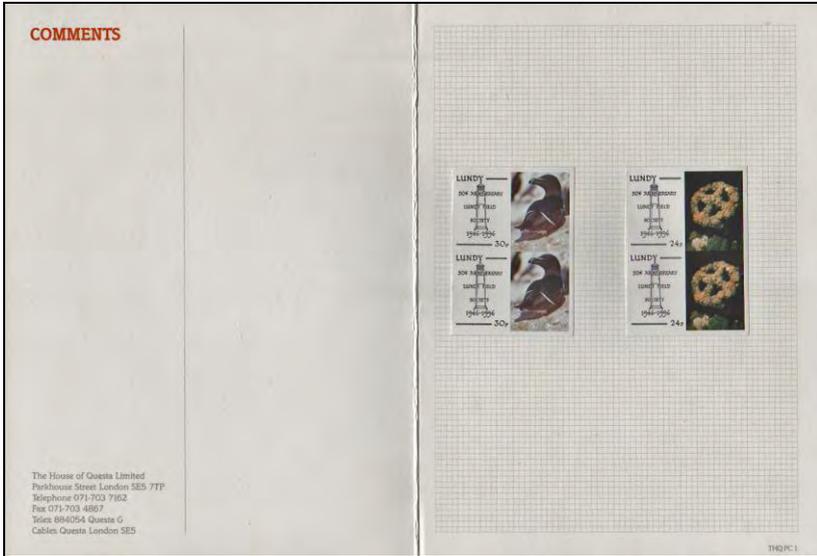
A Walsall Security Printers Ltd. Proof Card for the 1977 Royal Visit to Lundy souvenir sheet

The more modern House of Questa Proof Cards are more colourful and usually contain all of the stamps for one set, as is the case with this card for the 1996 *50th Anniversary of the Lundy Field Society* issue. In this example imperforate pairs for each of the two stamps have been fixed to the card. However, on this occasion, Norman Hunter, who at the time worked in the office on Lundy, wrote to the printers stating that these proofs are not the final version and although the stamp depicting a Razorbill was acceptable, the stamp depicting the Lundy Marine Nature Reserve needed to be made lighter and more in keeping with the photograph that was submitted. From this, I can only assume that there is at least one Proof Card for the revised stamp in existence. The House of Questa standard card design has a space for the customer to write their comments when returning the card to the printer.

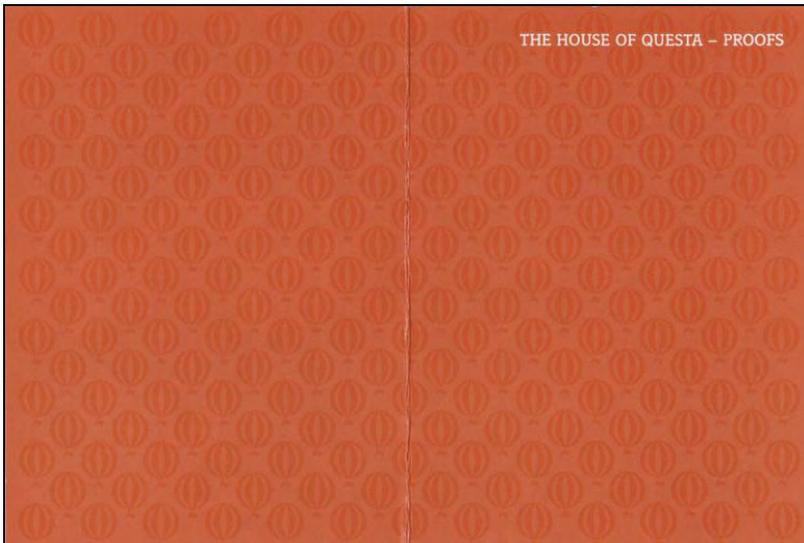
On one occasion, House of Questa fixed the proofs for two different sets to one card. The two sets were the *750th Anniversary of Marisco Castle* which was issued on 17th May 1994 and the *Landmark Trust Silver Jubilee on Lundy* souvenir sheet which was issued two months later on 12th July 1994. Lars Liwendahl, who was responsible for the design of this issue, stated that the reason for the two issues on the same proof card is that they were printed together. The large size printing sheet consisted of six miniature sheets (two rows of three sheets each) at the top and then a sheet of each value (in two rows) of the four Marisco stamps at the bottom. In those days it was still possible to print stamps all over the printing sheet. No printing sheets as described were kept and although it was discussed in depth because it affected the size of the issued Marisco miniature sheets, Lars did not see any.

The reason for printing two sets at the same time was to reduce printing costs.

It is believed that this is the only example containing two different sets, however, if you can prove me wrong will you please send me the details?



The inside of the House of Questa folded proof card for the 1996 50th Anniversary of the Lundy Field Society issue



The outside of a House of Questa folded proof card

Since the 75th Anniversary of the First Lundy Stamps set of 2004, Cartor Security Printing S.A. of France have printed the island's stamps. They can print stamps in relatively small quantities which is suitable for Lundy's requirements and something that Questa could no longer do after their change of business focus and available printing machines. One of their very last printed issues, regardless of country, was the Lundy 2002 Definitive set.

The Lundy Postal Policy of 1989, which was fully implemented with the 1991 Definitive set, included that the use of security stamp printers should continue. This policy also stated that amongst other things, stamp proofs should not be available for collectors and the private market. Everything produced and issued by Lundy should be available for all interested and in quantities meeting at least six months of sales. The intention was to maintain high professional standards and protect the reputation of Lundy stamps.



(l) Outer cover and (r) inner page of a standard Cartor Proof folder

The Postal Policy is now strictly adhered to and wholly supported by the Lundy Collectors Club. Because of the Landmark Trust/Lundy Company and Derek Green's responsible approach, Cartor Proof Cards have not been allowed to enter the private market but are securely deposited at the British Library for reference and study.

Because of our close working relationship, I have been given images of the 2017 Bird issue for you to see what a Cartor Proof folder looks like. Please excuse the quality of these images as they are photographs. The card that Cartor use for their folders is white.

Two New Lundy Books

By James Thomas

SAMLARMINNEN

By Lars Liwendahl

After over 50 years in the Cinderella Philately field and nine years of research and writing, this book was published in Spring 2024.

SAMLARMINNEN, or COLLECTING MEMORIES in English, is a broad book. With a focus on Cinderella Philately, the story and the evolution of stamp collecting as a whole is told. It is focussed on Sweden and the Nordic countries, but all is indeed put in an international context with continued outlooks to different countries. Cinderella collecting is very international and its history is similar in most countries.

Cinderella stamp collecting and the interest in its areas is not new, it is in fact the very beginning, even the forerunner, to ordinary stamp collecting! It started in the 18th century long before postage stamps first came into use. This, the dawn of philately as a whole, is one of the many subjects highlighted in the book.

You will read about all the collectors, researchers, writers, dealers and many others who have made and make our history with all its changes and development. There is a focus on all these persons, some known since the beginning, many not.

Also highlighted are all the main Cinderella areas, how they first appeared and later became of interest in the collecting world. Examples are: private/local stamps, freight stamps, fiscal documents and stamps, seals/labels & poster stamps and postal labels of different kinds. The important subject of how we actually define Cinderella Philately in different countries.

SAMLARMINNEN ends with a longer chapter about the future of Cinderella Philately and stamp collecting as a whole. Today our hobby is much more than just national postage stamps! It is cancellations, postal history, thematic, "home county collecting", Cinderella, Context Philately and much, much more. What unites them all? The subject "What do we collect? – In reality!" is highlighted and discussed.

The book is written in Swedish and has a long summary in English. With the summary and Google Translate (or similar tools) it is relatively easy for non-Swedish speaking readers to understand the history told. It is also very well illustrated with over 1000 illustrations in full colour! The book is in large size (28x22cm) and almost 500 pages, and bound with a designed layout. The weight is almost 2,5 kg. It is a coffee table book with a vast content of information. Nothing as comprehensive has never been written and issued before about the history of Cinderella Philately!

The price is: Euro 55, £45 or US \$55 + postage. For further information about postage & packing and payment please contact:

LARS LIWENDAHL. Telefonvägen 15, SE-126 37 HÄGERSTEN, Sweden
lars.liwendahl@hotmail.com

MY LIFE ON LUNDY 2024

Annie Alford and her sister Jane Anning and brother Peter Squire are Felix Gade's grandchildren and together have had a scanned print produced of the 1979 second printing of the much-respected book *My Life on Lundy*.

It is beautifully produced with hardback covers and additional pictures and is limited to 300 copies. It cost £43.00 plus £6.95 UK postage and packing. Please email Annie Alford at amalford@aol.com for further details and to place an order.

A full review will appear in a future issue of this *Journal*.

Two Mysteries About The 1957 Definitive Issue

By André Dufresne RNCP



1957 Definitive Stamp Set

1st February 1957 First day covers

The 1957 Lundy definitive issue has always been my favourite stamp issue for its sobriety, quality of execution and choice of colours. Early on (I started collecting Lundy stamps in 1967), I wanted a first day cover. We all know that the official first day of issue was 11th February 1957 but I remember reading, back in the 1970's or early 80's, that because the stamps were already on Lundy and the planned first day of issue was 1st February some Lundy collectors/islanders had arranged for FDC's to be postmarked on 1st February. I cannot now recall where I read this but this information set me off on a pursuit that lasted decades, until I found one 1st February FDC about 10 years ago.

While doing research to write this article I went back to my collection of the *Puffin Journal* of the Lundy Specialists Society, the *Lundy Collectors Club Philatelic Quarterly*, the *Lundy Collectors News*, *The New Puffin Journal*, the *Illustrated Lundy News* and the newsletter of the British Private Post Study Group, to no avail. Then I thought that I might have seen this information in an auction if such a cover had been offered for sale, so I went over all my Lundy stamp auction catalogues (maybe 40 or 50 of them?), and I was unable to find a 1st February FDC.

The official narrative about this issue can be found in Felix W. Gade's *My Life on Lundy* where he wrote on pages 519-520:

"Sea communications having been re-established Mr. Harman went ahead with preparations for the overdue issue of definitive stamps to supersede the Erik Bloodaxe Millenary stamps. He had always considered the three stamps issued on 1st November 1939 as the most dignified and beautiful of all the Lundy stamps and everybody was in agreement with him."

“Accordingly, Bradbury Wilkinson & Co. Ltd. were approached and undertook to produce six stamps, all of the same design, by Christmas, 1956. The date of issue was to have been 1st January 1957, but difficulty in getting a cancelling date stamp prepared in time, obliged the issue to be postponed until 1st February 1957.” (Mr. Gade then describes the values, colours and quantities printed and goes on):

“One thousand first day of issue covers were posted at Bideford, addressed to Mr. A.P. Harman on Lundy. They were to have been brought to Lundy on 1st February 1957, but a prolonged spell of extremely rough weather prevented the Lundy Gannet from putting to sea until 11th February which is therefore the virtual first day of issue, and that is the date on which full sets of the stamps, with which the covers were stamped on arrival, are dated.”



Mr. Gade told the same story on page 13 of his Postal History of Lundy. Some commercial mail that came in on 11th February 1957 also received a “FIRST DAY OF ISSUE” cachet.



In a letter addressed to James H. Barney Esq on 4th January 1957, Mr. Gade confirmed “This is to notify you that Lundy will issue six values of definitive ordinary mail stamps on 1st February 1957.” (Fig 1). In his letter he also confirms a printing of 150,000 copies of the 1 puffin value.

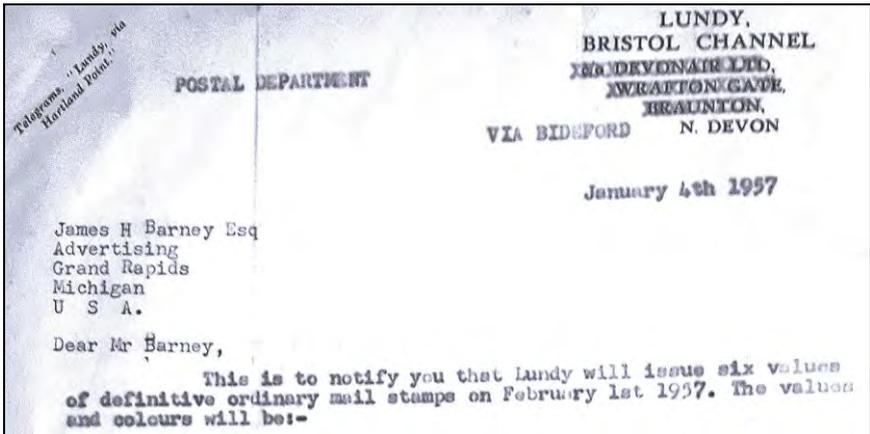


Fig 1

Imperforate proofs were prepared and submitted by Bradbury Wilkinson & Co. Ltd. on 23rd April 1956 (Fig 2) and the final colours were approved on the same day (see note reading "See approved card of proofs dated 23/4/56 for colours." (signed) R. R. Brice. There is a discrepancy in the dates because the next set of imperforate proofs in the approved colours is dated 25/6/56 and bears a note reading "To be used as working copy" (Fig 3).



Fig 2



Fig 3

Editor's Note. The initials in the bottom left corner are W.F.T. Mr. Tipper was working for MCH in the 1930s. Diana Keast described him as MCH's 'office boy'!

So, we know for sure that the final approval was given on 25th June 1956 and that the stamps had reached Lundy by January 1957 when Mr. Gade wrote his letter to James H. Barney.

What I find most interesting is that Lundy Islanders and those close to Mr. Harman or to Mr. Gade as well as regular clients prepared first day covers in view of the planned 1st February day of issue and several were processed while waiting for the Lundy Gannet to arrive with the mail. Because of the weather the boat did not bring the mail until 11th February which became the virtual first day of issue, but first day covers cancelled on 1st February had been prepared in good faith (fig. 4).

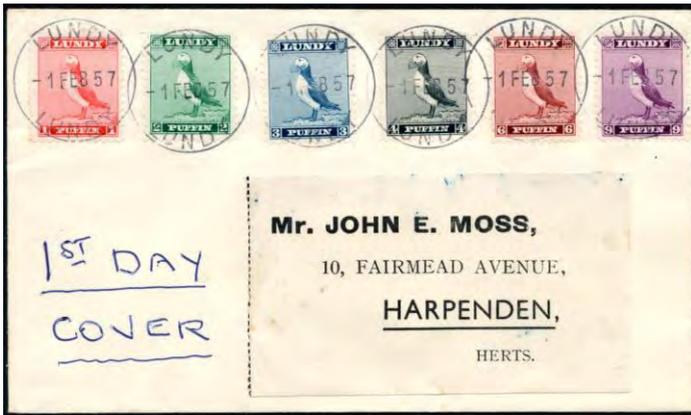


Fig 4

Mine bears Lundy stamps only, it is addressed to the well-known Lundy philatelist John E. Moss and there is a pencilled note on the back saying "Received 13-2-1957 Island cut off for over 3 weeks by gales storms". This implies that Moss was not on the island on February 1st and that his FDC's (I saw at least one other addressed to him) were prepared and sent to him under separate cover by Mr. Gade.

Since I found my copy, I saw at least two more so they are around but they are not common. So here is a case where we have two different first day of issue dates, the planned, advertised date of 1st February and the official date of 11th February, both types of FDCs apparently cancelled by Mr. Gade himself. But to me the first mystery that remains to be solved is: where in the world did I read about the 1st February First Day Covers in the first place? Can any reader help?

1962 Second printing of the 1957 1p definitive revisited

While doing my research I came upon an interesting bit of information about the 1957 definitives. I certainly read it when I received it in 1990/91 but I had forgotten about it until now. In 1990 Negev Holyland Stamps Ltd. (Michael Bale) published their "List of Lundy material available" which included the following item:

1957, 1p value, corner block of 4 of 1st printing + 1962 printing, guaranteed ex Printers Archives – pair blocks \$204.00

One year later the same firm ran its 3rd postal bid sale on 7th August 1991 which included the following lot:

Lot 349: Rare 1p value, two corner blocks four in very different shades of red, one block each from the original 1957 & later 1962 printing, ex Printers Archives sheets \$225.00

Now if there was indeed a second printing of the 1p value in 1962, how can we reconcile this with what Mr. Gade wrote in *My Life on Lundy* on page 527:

"The stock of 1 puffin stamps of the definitive 1957 issue having become exhausted, it was decided to revert to the use of the 1 puffin definitive stamp of 1929 of which a considerable stock remained, and this stamp was brought into use again on 1st August 1962. The issue of a completely new definitive series was discussed during 1963, but no decision was reached that year and eventually it was decided that 30,000 of the 3 puffin 1957 stamp should be surcharged 1 puffin, but this quantity was reduced to 18,000. The overprinting was done by the Gazette Printing Service of Bideford, Devon, England. (Note: the date of issue of the surcharge was 3rd April 1965). At the time the decision was made to have the 3 puffin stamp surcharged 1 puffin, a new definitive issue was envisaged in 1965, so that the surcharged stamps were merely to fill in a gap until the new definitive issue appeared, but the appeal to all of an issue in honour of Sir Winston Churchill, K.G., resulted in the abandonment of the plan to have a new definitive issue, and so, by 1st August 1965, all the 18,000 surcharged 1 puffin over 3 puffin stamps had been used, and, once again, it was necessary to revert to the use of the 1 puffin 1929 stamps." Of course, if the 1957 1p stamp had been reprinted in 1962, it would seem logical that the 1929 1p definitive would not have been pressed into service in August, 1962 and again in August 1965, and the 3p stamp would not have been surcharged 1p in April 1965. Furthermore, the Europa 1961 1p and Europa 1962 1p stamps were still plentiful so technically there was no need to reprint the 1 puffin definitive unless something unexpected happened.

The description of lot 349 in Negev Holyland's postal bid sale states that the two printings are in "very different shades of red" but I don't remember seeing this stamp in mint condition in a different shade of red. The stamps offered by Negev Holyland Stamps Ltd. in 1990 and 1991 prove beyond doubt that Roger Cichorz's hypothesis in the Spring, 2022 issue (no. 74) of *The New Puffin Journal*, where he surmised that there could have been a second printing of the 1957 1p stamp linked to the massive posting of an estimated 100,000 Pentothal advertising postcards between 2nd April and 28th April 1962. Here is what Roger wrote:

"Evidence exists from the Bradbury, Wilkinson archives that the 1957 1p definitive stamp (No. 142) used on the Lundy postcards was reprinted in February 1962, about two months before and in anticipation of the start of the Pentothal card mailshot, and the stamps produced from this second printing are apparently almost undistinguishable from the 1957 initial printing and do not warrant a separate catalogue listing. Whether or not this printing is included in the 150,000 printing totals cited for this stamp is uncertain."

However, in my opinion, it seems likely that it is because an initial quantity of 150,000 in 1957 would have been excessive compared to the quantities produced for each of the other stamps in the set. This second printing was apparently done to meet the demands of the Lundy Pentothal mailshot as still-available quantities of the 1p stamps from the initial printing were insufficient.

Regardless of how many of the original and reprinted 1p stamps were used for the Lundy Pentothal advertising postcards, one can conclude this massive mailing was responsible for exhausting almost all available 1p definitives, leaving less than desirable quantities on hand for Lundy's normal postal use in ensuing years. Consequently, this lack of 1p definitives after April 1962 likely necessitated Lundy's surcharged 1p provisional issues of 1965 and 1969. With so many of these 1p definitive stamps postally used by 1963, is it any wonder that, despite its 150,000-print quantity, mint examples of No. 142 catalogue at a high premium over the other denominations of this set despite the others' lesser print quantities?

On page 83 of the 6th edition of his *Stamps and Postal History of Lundy*, Jon Aitchison writes: "Bradbury Wilkinson file sheets exist including two for the 1p value. The first is dated 26/6/56 but the other is endorsed 8/2/62 which indicates that it was reprinted."

This date coincides with the mailing of the Pentothal cards which used a huge number of stamps and required this reprint as well as using up residual stocks of the original printing. The first printing was in a deeper red and the second was lighter and less intense but the difference is not significant enough to merit separate listings". Roger's article and Jon's note leave one question unanswered: they state that both printings are indistinguishable but Michael Bale did write that both printings are "in very different shades of red". I compared the 1p stamps on my Pentothal cards to my 1p stamps used on my FDC's and pre-1962 commercial covers and postcards and in my eyes, the red colour of the 1p stamps on my pre-1962 covers look a little brighter shade of red whereas on the Pentothal cards it looks a little duller, slightly darker shade of red. It could be a figment of my imagination because I don't know whether the 1p stamps used on my Pentothal postcards are from the first or second printing. Could it be that at least one proof sheet was produced by Bradbury Wilkinson in the rejected shade of reddish orange shown in Fig 2, which would have been what Michael Bale was referring to as a "very different shade of red"? Michael did state that his copies were from a sheet coming from the printer's archives. Is it the same sheet referred to by Jon in his catalogue?

Roger's study of the Pentothal cards does answer another question, which is: why did Mr. Gade not mention this second printing in his two books? The answer, as Roger wrote, is that "Apparently, the cards were all cancelled at a Bristol business facility and never stepped on Lundy soil as there is no evidence the type Nb canceller was ever used on Lundy". Roger further adds: "It is clear, however, that a campaign of this magnitude required the approval, help, and collusion of the Lundy authorities, for which they probably received a fee..." In short, discussions probably took place between Albion P. Harman and the Pentothal representatives and because the cards were not mailed from Lundy, Mr. Gade was possibly not informed of the mailing campaign nor of the second printing, which is why he makes no mention of either in his books. If the whole second printing was supplied to Pentothal, then there is very little chance that mint copies have survived so any mint 1p stamp in collector's hands would be from the 1st printing, except those originating from the one sheet broken down and sold by Michael Bale. To sum it up, the second mystery is: if, as it seems, there was a second printing in 1962 of the 1957 1p definitive stamp, did mint copies survive and can mint copies of the reprint be distinguished from the first printing? Can the purchaser of Michael Bale's 1990/91 lots shed some light? Would a London-area member of the LCC care to search the Harman archive at the British Library for possible correspondence between Mr. Harman and Pentothal and between Mr. Harman and Bradbury Wilkinson that would confirm the quantity of 1p stamps printed in 1962?

The Lundy Calendar

By James Thomas

Lundy calendars have been produced in various forms since the 1930s and have become another niche collecting area. However, we had to wait until 2010 for the start of the current format calendar.

The present style is a quality full colour glossy card landscape format A4 size calendar with each month having a full size colour picture on one side of the page and the dates and a selection of smaller images on the other side. Also shown on the current calendars are the sailing dates of the Oldenburg during the summer months and the flying dates of the helicopter during the winter season.

Each year the calendar for the following year is issued at the Lundy Field Society AGM in early March.

The 2025 calendar has been on sale since March this year and can be purchased for £12.00 including UK postage or £17.50 including overseas postage from the Lundy Shore Office.

