SLOGAN CANCELLATIONS

Extract from: The "PHILATELIC BULLETIN", the official organ of the BRITISH POST OFFICE PHILATELIC BUREAU, EDINBURGH.

Several readers have written to ask why we have changed the position of slogans on the envelope so that they now obliterate the stamps. Perhaps a word or so of explanation will not be amiss.

All forms of postmarks are intended to cancel the stamps in order that they cannot be reused and to show the office and date of posting. To ensure that all the stamps are cancelled when more than one is used the cancellation takes the forms of wavy lines or a postmark slogan.

The datestamp details are impressed for essential Post Office monitoring and control and it is necessary for the information to be read clearly and easily. Whenever possible therefore, it is desirable that the town, date and time of posting are shown on the cover rather than on the stamp(s) and this consideration will become even more important should we ultimately resort to microfilming in our quality of service examinations of mail. It is for these reasons that we now impress the slogan to the right of the town die.

We gave careful consideration to the requirements of collectors but bearing in mind the special facilities offered on first days of issues and the special arrangements offered at various offices throughout the country we decided that operational considerations should take precedence on ordinary mail and that in order more easily to read the dies, the slogans will be used to cancel the stamp(s).

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