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show a front of firmness and dignity and give the impression that we were taking everything in our stride. Such an attitude adopted by La Dame from the outset, together with her ability to speak German, made a strong impression on the two Officers and she was given permission to refer any difficulties to the Commandant of the Channel Islands in Guernsey.

In 1943 La Dame's husband was deported to Germany. Although Sibyl was fearful of her ability to run Sark unsupported, Bob had no qualms: he said on his way to Germany that she could manage not only Sark, but the United

States – and knit! This opinion may be paralleled with the Post Occupation remark in the House of Commons to the effect that she had been 'remarkably successful, mostly on her own, in keeping the German garrison in order.'

Prior to the War, plans had been drawn up for a new harbour to be built in Sark, but it was not until 1948 that it could be completed. In 1949 it was officially opened by HRH Prince Philip accompanied by Princess Elizabeth; a subsequent visit in 1957 by the princess, as Queen, is depicted on the 26p stamp, the first time a reigning monarch had landed on Sark. A photograph

signed by Her Majesty hangs behind the C Pleas table and may be seen on the 28p value

In 1974 La Dame was approached by W Douglas Home for permission to write a play based on her war-time experiences. Flatter approved the script and agreed to meet Cecil Johnson in July so that the actress could prepare for the leading role. In June she caught a cold which was unable to attend functions in the following month. On 14th July the people of her tiny community were shocked to learn of the death in her ninety-first year, of Sibyl Hathaway, of the British Empire and Dame of Sark.



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Foto nr.: 3

25th Anniversary of CEPT

Official CEPT design adapted by Clive Abbott Printed at The House of Questa
Issued on 10 April 1984

Guernsey's first participation in the annual Europa series took place in 1976, some two years after the Conférence européenne des administrations des postes et des télécommunications, the co-ordinating body of the European postal administrations, laid down that countries need no longer adopt a common design. To celebrate the Twenty-Fifth Anniversary of its foundation, the CEPT reverted to an abstract motif, a bridge intended to link the various territories involved. The design is the result of a competition, the winner being deemed the entry from Monaco. The artist responsible, Monsieur J Larrivière, described his symbol as one of liaison, exchange and communication.

The CEPT was inaugurated on 26th June, 1959, as a 'restricted union' within the Universal Postal Union. Its aim is to instil in the postal administrations of Europe a spirit of co-operation in the solving of their common problems and to attempt to harmonise and improve their



CONFÉRENCE EUROPÉENNE
DES ADMINISTRATIONS
DES POSTES ET DES
TÉLÉCOMMUNICATIONS

administrative and technical services. Member administrations take responsibility by rotating the conduct of the affairs of the union. The Guernsey Postal Administration's interests are represented at the CEPT by Great Britain.

One of the first recommendations of the Conference was that administrations should consider the annual release of a postage stamp embodying the idea of European unity. Although stamps bearing the designation 'Europa' have been issued as from 1956, the first to be released under the auspices of the CEPT were made by twenty member countries in 1960 and most have participated in subsequent years. The sense of unity was achieved initially by the adoption of a common symbolic design, to which administrations merely added their country designation, value, etc. In 1972 it was decided to replace the symbol by a specific subject within the framework of a basic common theme.



Foto nr.: 4

The Commonwealth 1984

Designed by Clive Abbott Printed at The House of Questa
Issued on 10 April 1984

to stamps to mark the island's links with the Commonwealth incorporate the Bailiwick of Guernsey's Cross of St George, fluttering proudly from the seat of government, the Royal Court; and the equally proudly over Castle Cornet is the Union Flag, a major symbol of the Commonwealth, appearing as it does in the flags of all member countries.

The Commonwealth evolved principally as a result of the dismemberment of the Empire, and its origin can be said to date from the formation of responsible government in the 1840's. This process was repeated repeatedly in Australia, New Zealand and Africa so that by the time of the 1926 Imperial Conference these four Dominions were regarded, with Britain, as 'autonomous communities within the British Empire, equal in status, united by a common allegiance to the Crown, and freely associated as members of the Commonwealth of Nations.' All

members, regardless of whether they retain the British monarch as Head of State, agree to accept him or her as head of the Commonwealth, the symbol, in effect, of their association.

Membership does not affect a country's sovereignty: each decides its own form of government, its policies and its other international links. Only independent countries can be members of the Commonwealth, but self-governing states associated with, and dependent territories of, member countries are also embraced.

The involvement of the Bailiwick of Guernsey in Commonwealth affairs takes two main forms. Since 1969 it has been active in the affairs of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, at least one delegate having attended at least one of each year's conferences, either Plenary or British Islands and Mediterranean Region. The CPA brings together Common-

wealth Parliamentarians who, irrespective of race, religion or culture, are united by a common community of interest, by respect for the rule of law and for individual rights and freedoms and by pursuit of the positive ideals of parliamentary democracy. The CPA provides the sole means of regular consultation between members of Commonwealth Parliaments and seeks to foster understanding and co-operation among them and also to promote the study and respect for parliamentary institutions.

On a practical note, the States of Guernsey Overseas Aid Committee was established in 1980 to direct an official aid programme. The aim has been to provide the means to enable people to help themselves, particularly in the areas of medicine, agriculture, education and the supply of clean water. In the last four years the Committee, acting on behalf of the people of Guernsey, has given over £300,000 for such projects, mostly in Africa and South Asia.

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Alderney is a paradise both for birds and the people who watch them. Gannets, puffins and other seabirds nest in large colonies and birds of prey on passage often spend a few hours in the island. Amongst the most commonly found species are those which live on the seashore. The island has sandy beaches, flat mud banks, pebble strands and sea-weed covered rock ledges.

9p: Oystercatcher The oystercatcher is the only wader featured which regularly breeds in Alderney. These large birds like to hold sway over big territories but, even so, many nest round the limited coast-line of the island.

13p: Turnstone This 'harlequin' bird is unlikely to be confused with any other shore species, the adult in breeding plumage being a striking mixture of black, white and chestnut. They can be found all around the coast as they like rocky, seaweedy shores as well as the sand and mud flats universally favoured by waders.

26p: Ringed Plover Ringed plover are to be seen most commonly in Braye and Longis Bays, a small flock often gathering at the north end of the latter, close to the causeway across to the fort on Raz Island. It is a lively shore bird, running quickly for a few steps and then stopping to pick

up a mollusc, worm or insect.

28p: Dunlin The dunlin seen in Alderney differ from the illustrations in most bird books. They are usually drawn in their breeding plumage with a black patch between the legs. Away from the nesting quarters, as they are in Alderney, the birds lose this patch and are more commonly seen with a grey-brown bib and white underparts.

31p: Curlew There can be no more haunting sound than the bubbling call of the curlew, named after its loud, melancholy 'coor-li' cry. It is the largest of the British waders and can be seen in Alderney through most of the year.





Foto nr.: 6

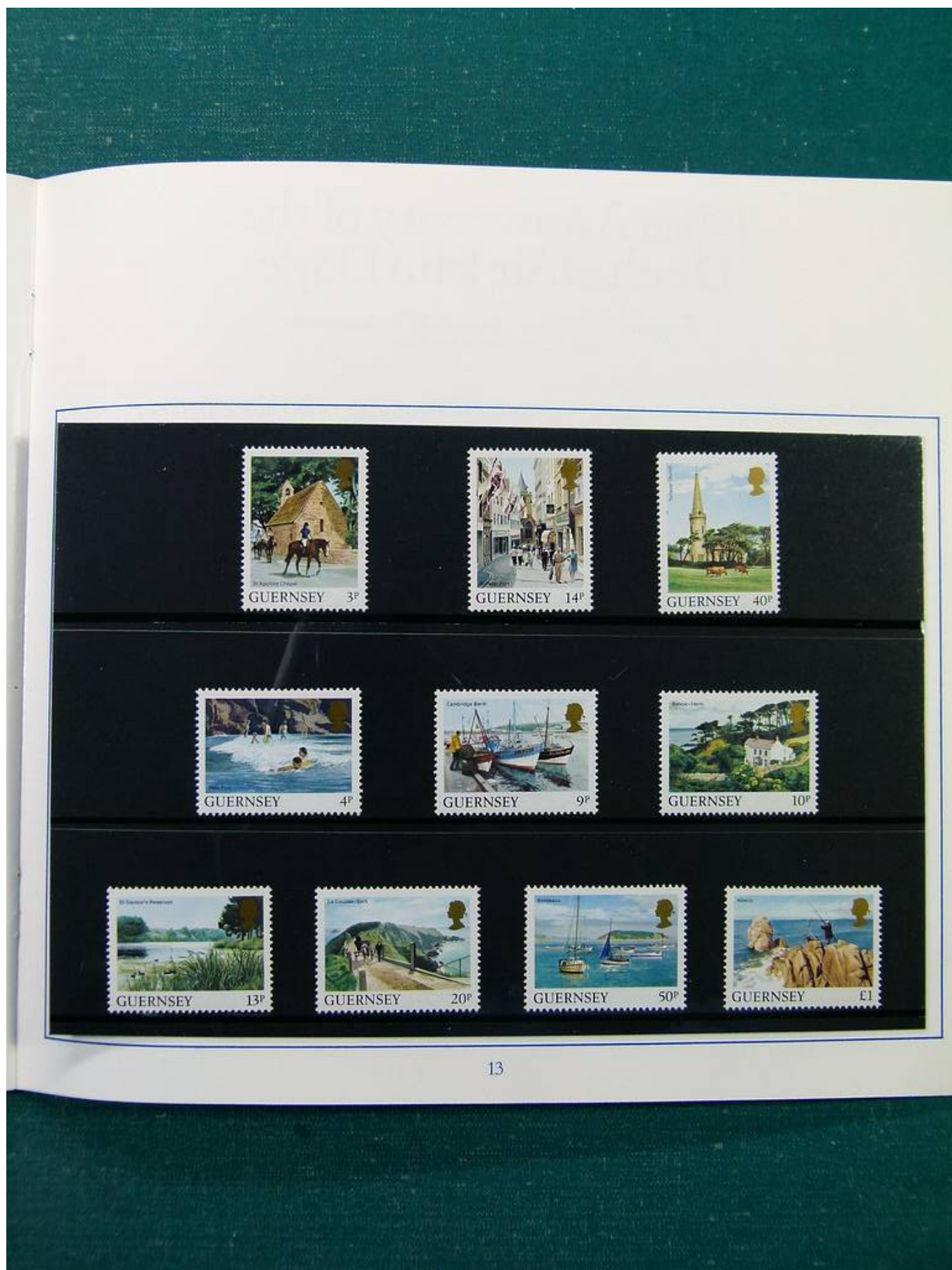


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to twice weekly. Later, in 1811, the Lieutenant-Governor assisted the Post Office, which had been hit by losses at the hands of privateers, by lending one of his scouts, or look-out boats, to carry the mail between the islands and possibly to and from England. In the following year Sir John attempted to remedy the lack of a mail service for Alderney, of considerable strategic importance during the French Wars, by again offering his scouts to the Post Office. The latter accepted this proposal for the benefit of that important Out Post and Mrs Watson, Guernsey's Postmistress, and Governor Le Mesurier in Alderney made up plans for conveyance. The 34p stamp shows this vessel en route approaching the Casquets reef; the three towers of the latter are based on a vignette by Thomas Carey.

The cessation of war with France in 1815 resulted in a reduction of the military staff in Guernsey and, despite remonstrances from the

States, or Parliament, meant the recall in the following year of Lieutenant-General Doyle. The Lieutenant-Governor had greatly endeared himself to the people of Guernsey and this feeling was mutual: some days before his departure, Doyle laid the foundation stone of Torteval Church and 'then endeavoured to address the assembly, being greatly moved not only by the ceremony but also because of his impending departure. He broke down and was assisted to an adjoining tent'.

A handsome cup was subsequently presented to him whilst the monument erected at Jerbourg Point in recognition of the respect, esteem and admiration of his high and distinguished talents encompassed simply the general sentiment 'Doyle - Gratitude'. The obelisk was removed during the Occupation but was replaced by a different design in 1953.

The fourth stamp in our set is a portrait of the

Lieutenant-General taken from a painting of 1817 by James Ramsey; in the background of the complete work can be seen the Jerbourg monument. Superimposed on the portrait is a reproduction of Sir John's Coat of Arms. A baronetcy had been conferred in 1805 and he had been awarded the Grand Cross of the Bath by the time that the painting was commissioned.

Promoted to General in 1819, Doyle became Governor of Charlemont. He returned to Guernsey in 1826 and received an enthusiastic reception; the Militia made him a presentation of a silver obelisk with his Coat of Arms.

A bachelor, Sir John died in London in 1834. He had experienced 23 general actions, was wounded eight times and received nine expressions of thanks in Parliament. The nicknames of 'Popularity Jack' and 'The Soldier's Friend' only confirm the high esteem in which he was held by the humblest and the highest.



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