

# The Channel Islands 3<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary Liberation Commemorative Stamps

## The stamps that the GPO Officials did not want to be issued

During World War Two the Channel Islands, consisting of the Bailiwicks of Guernsey and Jersey, were occupied by German Forces. The Occupation started on 30<sup>th</sup> June 1940 and ended on the 9<sup>th</sup> May 1945.

In March 1946 there was an Inter-Island Conference to discuss how to revive the tourist industry in the islands following their liberation. As a result, the Lieutenant-Governor of Jersey wrote to the Home Office requesting that the Islands should have their own postage stamps or at least a slogan cancellation to publicise the islands. The Home Secretary, Mr. Chuter-Ede, supported this request and asked the Post Master General, the Earl of Listowel to make it happen.

The Director General of the Postal Services Department and his staff vigorously opposed such a move. They created many obstacles and, instead, tried to have some regional definitives for the six UK regions produced. Political pressure was brought to bear so, eventually in June 1947, it was agreed to issue two stamps. The design brief on the subject of "Vraicing – Channel islands" was issued to eight designers.

The stamps are sometimes known as the "Seaweed" issue and were issued on the 10<sup>th</sup> May 1948.



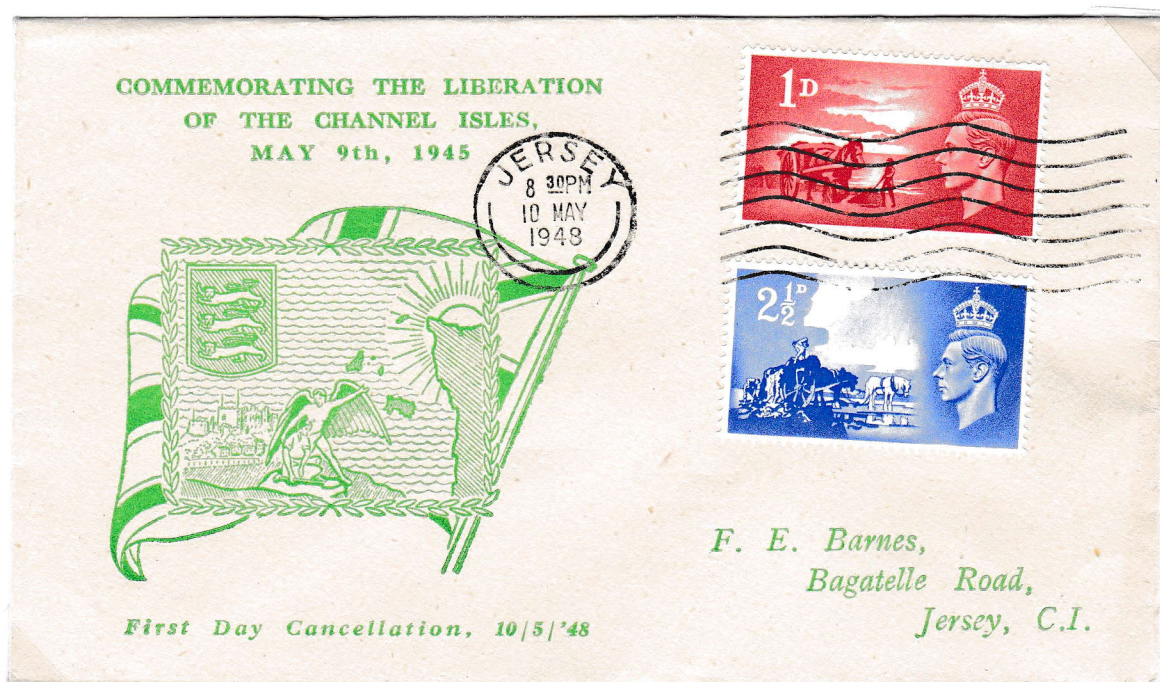
1d 'Gathering Vraic'

Designed by J R Stobie



2½d 'Islanders Gathering Vraic'

Designed by Edmund Blampied



An example of the many designs of the First Day Covers