

Correspondence

To the Editor of the *Journal*,

NAVIGATION AND PHILATELY

The year 1967 should not be allowed to pass without a word of acknowledgment to the Postal Services Department of the G.P.O. for the issue of two stamps of especial interest to Members of the Institute. The first of these was the 1s. 9d. stamp issued to commemorate Sir Francis Chichester's epic voyage, bearing an artistic impression of *Gipsy Moth IV* with a tiny but still recognizable figure standing by the mainmast. The second was one of a series of four stamps depicting discoveries considered to be British. This stamp, the 4d., printed in red, yellow and black, shows, alongside a silhouette in white of the Queen's head, a symbolic PPI display, three-quarters of an inch in diameter.

It is pleasing to note this recognition of a modern development such as radar but full allowance has to be made for artistic licence. For instance, while it may be normal for the afterglow from the yellow trace to be orange in colour, the echoes are printed yellow. The range rings are shown, not as they are traced, but as complete circles of even brightness. Perhaps this is acceptable as a subjective impression, and anyway they appear as such on most photographs. The 2° divisions on the bearing ring of this miniature radar may be seen under a magnifying glass to be not all evenly spaced; however, this is probably a niggling criticism of an artistic production. Alas, however, it cannot be denied that the set is clearly out of adjustment, in violation of the recommendations in *The Use of Radar at Sea*. The rotating trace is all too brightly visible, and any competent user would immediately turn down the brilliance control. And finally, what can be the origin of the two intriguing echoes, whose long curved tails suggest two bodies travelling at high speed around the radar site? Rejecting more rational explanations of this phenomenon, could these echoes possibly be attributed to a pair of inquisitive U.F.O's?

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