

LES ILES NORMANDES

JETHOU'S 1962 EUROPA ISSUE

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Early in 1962 Captain Cliff decided to issue another Europa set of stamps, but this time he wanted his stamps to bear a personalised design. He again appealed to Charles Coker, and

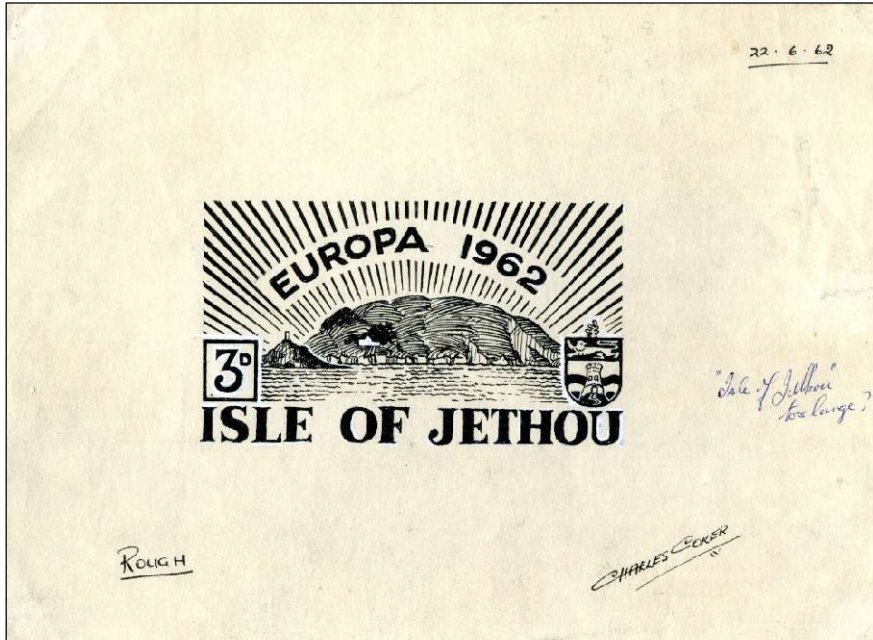


Figure 1

the artist submitted a first draft of his proposed design on 22 June 1962. It shows the island with the hotel and the small island of Crevichon at left. At the top, the words Europa 1962 figure prominently within a stylized representation of sunrays. The design is similar to the final issue but one of the main differences is the lettering of the words Isle of Jethou which is in serified letters. Another difference is that the Jethou crest is lower and lacks the motto "Vigilare et admonere" which is to be found on the issued stamps. More on the motto below. His proposed design of the 3d stamp (Figure 1) measures 113 x 66 mm

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on a sheet of thick artist's paper measuring 240 x 176 mm and it bears several marginal notations: the underlined date 22.6.62 is written in Coker's handwriting at top right, the word "ROUGH" appears at lower left again in Coker's handwriting, and his signature appears at lower right. All these notations are in black. There is an additional note in blue in the right-hand margin that reads "*Isle of Jethou*" too large ?

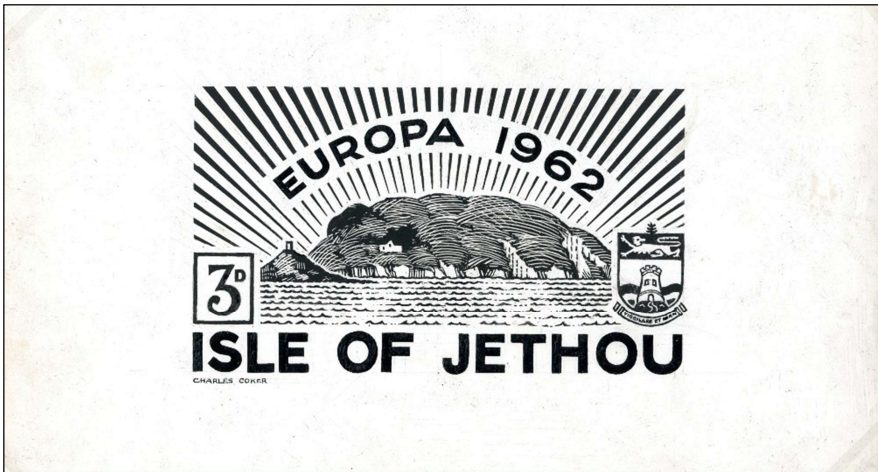


Figure 2

Obviously Capt. Cliff gave his comments on the design which was modified accordingly by Coker. The final drawing (Figure 2) measures 150 x 87 mm is on a sheet of paper measuring 270 x 151 mm.

The words "ISLE OF JETHOU" are now in sans-serif letters, but Coker was unable to write Jethou's motto in the small banderole at the bottom of the crest. A blow-up of the original design (Figure 2a on the right) shows that it reads "VIGILARE ET



Figure 2a

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ADMMA” instead of VIGILARE ET ADMONERE. He probably thought that once the design would be reduced to stamp size, nobody would be able to read the microscopic motto and detect the mistakes. He was wrong. Philatelists have sharp eyes!

Capt. Cliff’s idea was not yet settled about what the face values would be. The next step in the production of the stamps was to prepare bromides (Figure 3).

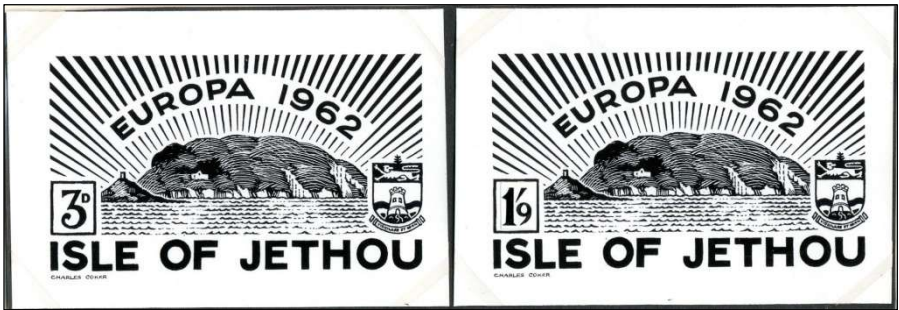


Figure 3

The design of each bromide measures 76 x 44 mm and the 1/9d value was pasted over the original 1/3d value.

The printer then submitted one-colour proofs (in black only, Figure 4, in red only or green only, both perforated and imperforate (Figure 5) and two-colour proofs (Figure 6).



Figure 4



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Figure 6

They also submitted two-colour essays for a 1/3d value including one in blue (*Figure 7*).

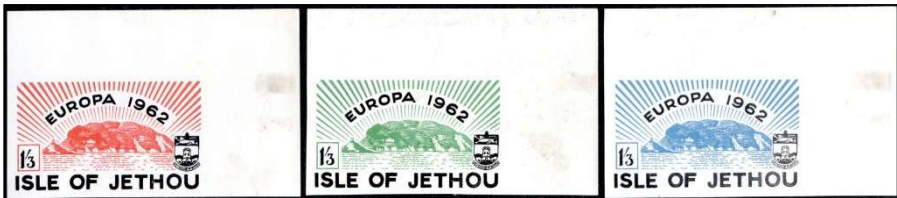


Figure 7

Capt. Cliff eventually settled for a two-stamp set, with a face value of 3d and 1/9d (proofs, *Figure 8*).



Figure 8

In order to promote this issue, he had an announcement printed with a representation of the two issued stamps at the top, most probably printed from the printer's plate (*Figure 9 on the next page*). The projected issue date was 17 September 1962.

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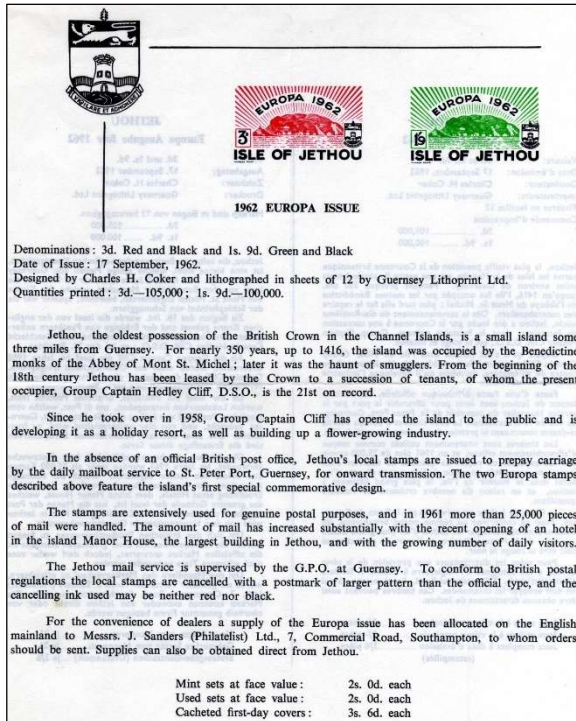


Figure 9

There are numerous perforation varieties with this issue and the printers, Guernsey Lithoprint Ltd., probably found it difficult to line-perforate so many sheets of stamps. The stamps were printed in large master sheets comprising 6 smaller sheetlets (2 across and 3 down), and each smaller sheet had 12 stamps (3 across and 4 down), with a total print run of 105,000 copies of the 3d value and 100,000 copies of the 1/9d value. As each printer's sheet included 72 stamps, it meant perforating nearly 3,000 master sheets, probably one sheet at a time and one row at a time, a time-consuming task as each smaller 12-stamp sheetlet needed 9 passes of the perforating device (4 vertical and 5 horizontal rows of perforations per sheetlet). One can surmise that the printer was not ready to repeat the experience in 1963, which might explain why Capt. Cliff had to resort to Thomas De La Rue & Co. Ltd. for his next issue.