

British Philatelic Bulletin

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New Pictorial Handstamp for London SW

A newly-designed pictorial handstamp will be introduced at the London South Western District Office on 6 May and will replace the handstamp currently on use.

Items for reposting should be sent to: Special Postmark Duty, SWDO, 53 Nine Elms Lane, LONDON SW8 5BB.

As part of our normal research we keep a check on facilities, services and products offered by foreign Philatelic Bureaux and administrations.

Very occasionally, as we did recently, we visit a major philatelic administration for further fact finding on the ground of their approach to problems and their solutions. Readers of the *Bulletin* may find it interesting to share my observations on my most recent visit. I should mention that the administration in question has a much longer history than our Post Office in the provision of philatelic service.

The first observation and in many ways the most striking was the small number of stamp formats available;— a corner stamp, a stamp plus margin, a block of 4 — no margin, and any number of stamps — but to be taken as supplied. The Bureau by way of comparison has in excess of 200 stamp formats available on standing order.

The format choice was limited by the simple expedient of trimming all printers marks including cylinder blocks and 'traffic lights' from the sheet.

For example if you wished to receive a corner stamp there would be no question of receiving a top right hand corner one, you simply take pot luck.

The second point of interest was that all formats other than the basic formats carried a handling charge for each item. Thus for a set of four corner stamps four handling charges would be raised. The Bureau by comparison raises a single flat-rate handling charge regardless of the format requested and the number of stamps in a set.

Finally it may be of interest to readers as conscious as we are of the cost of collecting that the administration visited issues annually 60% more special stamps than we at double the value of a years collection of United Kingdom stamps.

Special Stamps for Royal Wedding

A special stamp issue will celebrate the wedding of HRH Prince Andrew and Miss Sarah Ferguson. The stamps will be available at post offices nationwide on Tuesday, 15 July, before the wedding on 23 July.

Details as to values and first day of issue facilities will be provided later.

The date of issue of the Sport stamps (due on 22 July) may now be subject to change.

Medieval Life – Domesday Book 1086

17 June 1986

On 17 June the Post Office is issuing four stamps to mark the 900th anniversary of the compilation of that great survey of medieval England, now called the Domesday Book. The stamps were designed by Tayburn Design Consultants based on illustrations by Magnus Lohkamp and portray representations of various aspects of life at the time: the peasants and *servi* on the land (17p); the craftsmen in the town (22p); the knight with his soldiers (31p); and the lord in his castle (34p). These people, and many other classes, made up the highly complex society that came to full fruition after the Norman invasion and conquest of England in 1066.



After almost 20 years on the throne of England, William decided to have a precise reckoning of what he now held. His reasons were probably fourfold: to discover the value of properties which could be taxed; to find out what the great magnates held to determine what they owed to the king; to settle quarrels over land holding; and curiosity about his new kingdom.

The passage in the *Anglo-Saxon Chronicle* under the year 1085 about the decision to make the survey is now famous, even though written by a native, and therefore hostile, chronicler.



"At midwinter the king was at Gloucester with his counsellors...the king had much thought and very deep speech with his council about this country — how it was held and with what men. Then he sent his men over all England into every shire, and had them find out how many hundred hides there were in the shire, or what land and cattle the king himself had in the country, or what dues he ought to have annually from the shire. Also he had a record made of how much land his archbishops had, and his bishops and his abbots and his earls — and though I relate it at too great length — what or how much everybody had who was occupying land in England



in land and cattle, and how much money it was worth. So very narrowly did he have it investigated that there was no single hide nor a yard of land nor indeed (shame it is to relate it but it seemed no shame to him to do) was one ox or one cow or one pig left out, that was not put down in his record. And all these writings were brought to him afterwards."

The resultant description was edited into a regular format, probably at Winchester, the king's seat, although the records for Essex, Norfolk and Suffolk remained untouched and gaps were left unfilled for the returns for such important cities as



The Domesday Books c. 1953 with their previous bindings. Crown copyright, Public Record Office.

London and Winchester. This suggests that a time limit had been set for the completion of the work; and that the report was submitted incomplete to the King at that time, probably at Lammas (1 August 1086) some seven or eight months after the original instruction.

Although it is generally referred to as the Domesday Book, there are in fact two volumes. 'Great Domesday' is the finished version written in two columns. It consists of 413 leaves (707 pages of text) c. 14½" x 10" in size. 'Little Domesday' (475 leaves — 898 pages of text) has a smaller page size, c. 10½" x 7", is written in one column and consists of the unedited returns for Essex, Norfolk and Suffolk. 'Great Domesday' covers all the rest of the English counties excluding Cumberland, Westmorland, Durham and Northumberland. Flint was also included but only that part of Lancashire between the Ribble and the Mersey. Both books have end pages some of which include a few notations.

Originally, the books of parchment made from sheep skins were sewn but there is only a little evidence for the Norman bindings. In 1819, the oak boards were removed from Little Domesday and found to have been in use, re-covered and repaired for at least 600 years. Since then, the volumes have been rebound more than once and in 1985 it was decided to rebind them again. For the first time the binding is no longer in two volumes — on conservation grounds the large volume was split into two parts and Little Domesday into three.

In terms of content the survey provides details of landholders, property values, land use (whether arable, pasture, meadows, woodland, mills, fisheries) population and numbers of different categories of people. Questions were about the name of the estate;

who held it in the time of King Edward (the Confessor); who held it in 1086; how many hides there were (a variable land holding and tax unit); how many villeins, cottars, slaves, freemen and sokemen there were and so on. Places named numbered some 13,418 and the number of words runs to approximately 2 million.

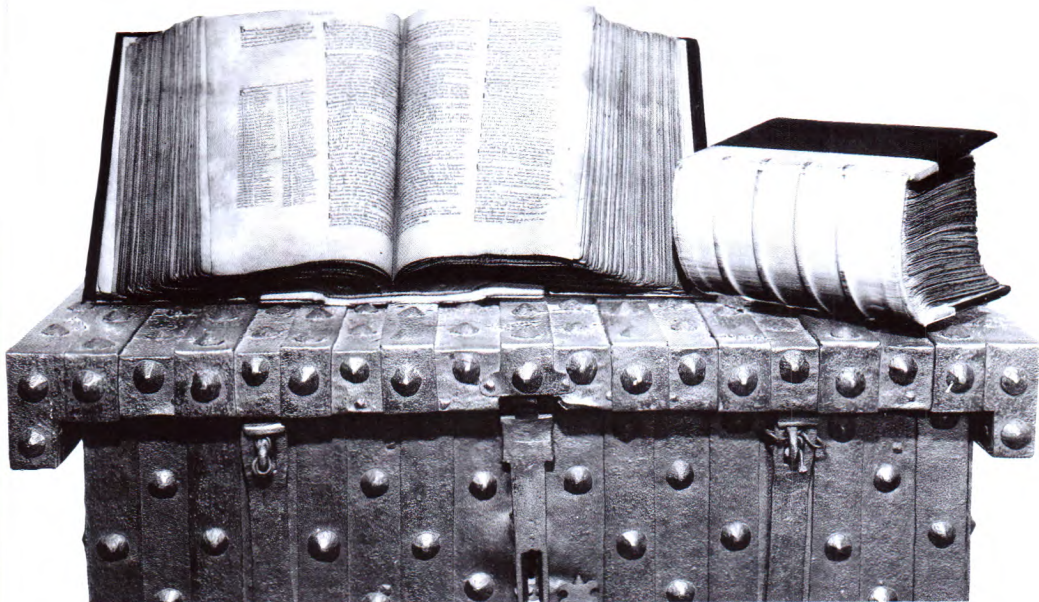
At first, in 1086, what is now called the Domesday Book was simply known as the *Descriptio Angliae* or 'Description of England'. About 1100 it was known as *carta* (document) or *liber* (book) and it was not until 1179 that the first mention of 'Domesday' comes.

Richard Fitz Neal, King Henry II's treasurer wrote of it:

"This book is metaphorically called by the native English 'Domesday' i.e. the Day of Judgment. For as the sentence of that strict and terrible last account cannot be evaded by any skilful subterfuge, so, when this book is appealed to on those matters which it contains, its sentence cannot be quashed or set aside with impunity."

The Domesday Book rebound 1985. Steven Morris, Public Record Office.





Great and Little Domesday on the chest of c. 1600 which contained them. Crown copyright, Public Record Office.

The record was first kept in the Treasury at Winchester, later being moved to the Tower of London and then to Westminster in the 13th century. Since 1859, apart from short intervals, it has been kept at the Public Record Office in Chancery Lane, London where it is now on public view.

Its importance was widely recognised immediately, and although some of its information went out of date quite rapidly its material about tenures and rights was to be of longlasting importance. Now, as the oldest public record in Britain, it is regarded as the most remarkable statistical record produced in any medieval kingdom. It is ironic that it was produced for a king who could not read.

Today the Domesday Book is available in a facsimile edition from photographs taken at the time of the latest rebinding. But the standard edition available to scholars has been published over the past 20 years by Phillimore in 40 county volumes, fortuitously completed this year. This provides both the Latin text and a modern translation, the first complete translation in 900 years.

Many activities are taking place in connection with the 900th anniversary of the compilation of the Domesday survey including a computer-based modern survey. A major exhibition is taking place from 3 April to 30 September at the Public Record Office in Chancery Lane, London WC2A 1LR, the home of the Domesday Book. The theme of the display will be the continuity of royal government

from William I to William, the young prince of today. This continuity can be seen in the survival of a state archive which stretches unbroken through miles of parchment, paper and magnetic tape for nearly a thousand years.

Writing implements of the period. Steven Morris, Public Record Office.



Technical Details

Designed by Tayburn Design Consultants and illustrated by Magnus Lohkamp, the stamps have been printed in photogravure by Harrison & Sons Ltd. In format they are horizontal, 41mm x 30mm, perf. 15 x 14 on unwatermarked, phosphor-coated paper, printed in sheets of 100 on PVA Dextrin gum.

PHQ Postcards

PHQ cards (Nos. 93 A-D) featuring each of the four stamps will be available from 3 June, price 14p each.

Presentation Pack

The presentation pack will cost £1.25 and was designed by Tayburn Design Consultants with text by Sarpendon Press Services.

First Day Cover

The first day cover, featuring the Great Seal of William the Conqueror, was designed by Tayburn Design Consultants and costs 15p. Two pictorial postmarks will be used for the first day cover service,



one from the 'British Philatelic Bureau, Edinburgh' depicting a symbolic Domesday Book, and the other from Gloucester with part of the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle for 1085 mentioning the 'deep speech' the King had with his councillors before the Domesday Survey was instigated.

A first day cover service will be provided by the Bureau with the official Post Office cover addressed to the destination required with all four stamps cancelled with either postmark. The charges will be £1.49 (inland) and £1.30 (overseas).

Application forms, available from the Bureau and at Head Post Offices, should be returned not later than 6 June 1986.

Customers requiring only the special pictorial postmarks may obtain them under the reposting facility by sending, on the first day of issue, a stamped addressed envelope under an outer cover endorsed 'Special First Day of Issue Handstamp' to the British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon St., EDINBURGH EH3 5TT, or Special Postmark Duty, Royal Mail House, Eastern Avenue, GLOUCESTER GL1 1AA.

First day of issue facilities will be available at offices with philatelic posting boxes. For many of these offices which are named in the Domesday Book special cancellations have been provided with the Domesday spellings as well as the modern ones.



Special Domesday First Day Cancels

Special first day of issue handstamps will be in use on 17 June at the offices listed below in connection with the Medieval Life issue. The handstamps will be non-pictorial and will feature the date, the wording 'First Day of Issue' and both the modern and medieval spelling of the town name. The medieval spelling will be that used in the Domesday Book and has been checked by Phillimore, the publishers of the standard modern edition of the Domesday Book.

Those collectors wishing to obtain these cancellations may do so under the reposting facility on the day of issue of the stamps. Covers bearing the Medieval Life stamps should be sent under separate cover to 'Special Postmark Duty, Head Post Office (or simply Post Office if marked thus*)' at the address shown.

These handstamps replace the standard first day of issue cancellations for this issue only.

Modern Name	Domesday Name	Reposting Address
Ashford* (Kent)	Essetesford	Tufton St., ASHFORD, Kent TN23 1AA
Aylesbury	Eilesberia	2 St. John's Rd., AYLESBURY, Bucks HP20 1AA
Barnsley*	Berneslai	Pitt St., BARNSLEY, S. Yorkshire S70 1AA
Basildon	Berlesduna	25 East Sq., BASILDON, Essex SS14 1AA
Basingstoke	Basingstoches	Priestley Rd., BASINGSTOKE, Hants RG2 1AA
Bath*	Bade	SSO, BATH BA1 1AA
Bedford	Bedeford	Ford End Rd., BEDFORD, MK40 1AA
Birmingham	Bermingeham	Royal Mail St., BIRMINGHAM B1 1AA
Bradford	Bradeford	Forster Sq., BRADFORD, W. Yorkshire BD1 1AA
Brighton	Bristelmestune	51 Ship St., BRIGHTON, Sussex BN1 1AA
Bristol	Bristou	BRISTOL BS1 1AA
Bromley	Bronlei	3 East St., BROMLEY BR1 1AA
Bury St. Edmunds	Villa Sancti Eadmundi	17/18 Cornhill, BURY ST EDMUNDS, Suffolk IP33 1AA
Cambridge	Grentebriqe	The Drill Hall, 197 East Rd., CAMBRIDGE CB1 1AA
Canterbury	Cantuaria	Military Rd., CANTERBURY CT1 1AA

Chelmsford	Celmeresfort	30 Victoria Rd., CHELMSFORD CM1 1AA
Chester*	Cestre	2 St. John's St., CHESTER CH1 1AA
Chesterfield*	Cestrefeld	West Bars, CHESTERFIELD, Derbyshire S40 1AA
Chichester	Cicestre	(As Fareham)
Chippenham*	Chepeham	41/43 Market Place, CHIPPENHAM SN15 3HR
Colchester	Colecastra	29/35 Head St., COLCHESTER CO1 1AA
Coventry	Coventreu	40 Bishop St., COVENTRY CV1 1AA
Crewe	Creu	2 Weston Rd., CREWE CW1 1AA
Croydon	Croindene	1-5 Addiscombe Rd., CROYDON CR9 6AB
Dartford	Tarentefort	50 West Hill, DARTFORD DA1 1AA
Deal	Addela	(As Canterbury)
Doncaster	Donecastre	24 Priory Place, DONCASTER, S. Yorkshire DN1 1AA
Dorchester	Dorecestre	DORCHESTER DT1 1AA
Dover	Dovere	(As Canterbury)
Eastbourne	Burne	(As Brighton)
Epsom	Evesham	18 East St., EPSOM, Surrey KT17 1AA
Fareham	Fernham	Slington St., PORTSMOUTH PO1 1AA
Folkestone	Fulchestan	(As Canterbury)
Guildford	Gildeford	Woodbridge Meadows, GUILDFORD GU1 1AA
Harlow	Herlaau	1 Stone Cross, HARLOW, Essex CM20 1AA
Harrow	Herges	51 College Rd., HARROW, Middx HA1 1AA
Hastings	Hastings	Cambridge Rd., HASTINGS, East Sussex TN34 1AA
Hemel Hempstead	Hamelamestede	Park Lane, HEMEL HEMPSTEAD HP1 1AA
High Wycombe	Wicumbe	15 Queen Victoria Rd., HIGH WYCOMBE HP11 1AA
Huddersfield	Oderesfelt	Northumberland St., HUDDERSFIELD HD1 1AA
Ipswich	Gepeswiz	Cornhill, IPSWICH IP1 1AA
Kettering*	Cateringe	17 Lower St., KETTERING NN16 8AA
Kingston-upon-Thames	Chingestune	(As Epsom)
Leeds	Ledes	Royal Mail House, 29 Wellington St., LEEDS LS1 1AA
Leicester	Ledecestre	200 Charles St., LEICESTER LE1 1AA
Lincoln	Lincolia	Firth Rd., LINCOLN LN5 7NU
Loughborough	Lucteburne	Sparrowhill, LOUGHBOROUGH LE11 1BX

Modern Name	Domesday Name	Reposting Address
Louth*	Ludes	15 Eastgate, LOUTH Lincs LN11 9ND
Lowestoft	Lothu Wistoft	(As Norwich)
Luton	Loitone	9/11 Dunstable Rd., LUTON LU1 1AA
Maidstone	Meddestane	98 Sandling Rd., MAIDSTONE ME14 1AA
Manchester	Mamecestre	63 Newton St., MANCHESTER M1 1AA
Mansfield*	Mamesfelde	Church St., MANSFIELD NG18 1AA
Milton Keynes	Mideltone	Dawson Rd., Bletchley, MILTON KEYNES MK1 1AA
Northampton	Hantone	55 Barrack Rd., NORTHAMPTON NN1 1AA
Norwich	Noruic	13/17 Thorpe Rd., NORWICH NR1 1AA
Nottingham	Snotingecham	1 Brook St., NOTTINGHAM NG1 1AA
Nuneaton*	Etone	3 Church St., NUNEATON CV11 4AA
Oxford	Oxeneford	Becket St., OXFORD OX1 1PR
Peterborough	Burg	Bourges Boulevard PETERBOROUGH PE1 1AA
Reading	Redinges	7-10 Friar St., READING RG1 1AA
Rochdale*	Recedham	SSO, The Esplanade, ROCHDALE, Lancs OL16 1AA
Rotherham*	Rodreham	Main St., ROTHERHAM, S. Yorkshire S60 1AA
Rugby*	Rocheberie	Mill Rd., RUGBY CV21 1AA
St. Albans	Villa Sancti Albani	Ascot Rd., WATFORD WD1 1AA
Salisbury	Sarisberie	24 Castle St., SALISBURY SP1 1AA
Sheffield	Escafeld	Pond St., SHEFFIELD S1 1AA
Skegness*	Tric	Roman Bank, SKEGNESS PE25 2AA
Stevenage	Stigenace	London Road, STEVENAGE SG1 1AA
Stratford-upon-Avon*	Stradforde	24 Bridge St., STRATFORD UPON AVON CV37 6AA
Swindon	Svindone	Fleming Way, SWINDON SN1 1AA
Taunton	Tantone	SSO TAUNTON TA1 1AA
Tonbridge	Tonebrige	20 Vale Rise, TONBRIDGE TN9 1AA



Wakefield	Wachefeld	Royal Mail House, 2 Denby Dale Road, WAKEFIELD, W. Yorkshire WF1 1AA
Windsor	Windesores	100 Wellington St., SLOUGH SL1 1AA
Woking	Wochinges	(As Guildford)
Wolverhampton	Hantone	Royal Mail House, WOLVERHAMPTON WV1 1AA
Worcester	Wirecestre	8-10 Foregate St., WORCESTER WR1 1AA
Worthing	Ordinges	(As Brighton)
Yeovil*	Givele	103 The Huish, YEOVIL BA20 1AA
York	Eboracum	4 Leeman Rd., YORK YO1 1AA

Nene Valley Railway Service

On 1 March the Nene Valley Railway near Peterborough became a party to the Post Office's Railway Letter Agreement and on 4 June they will start their Railway Letter Service and issue a 25p stamp covering 20p for the official Minor Railways' letter fee and a 5p surcharge for the Railway's extension fund. The stamp shows the BR Standard Class 5 locomotive No. 73050 'City of Peterborough' in steam. A special cover will be produced bearing one of the stamps cancelled at the Nene Valley Railway's Wansford Station together with the 17p Famous Trains stamp of 1985. Covers will be carried to Orton Mere Station aboard the 'City of Peterborough'. On arrival they will be posted at Peterborough Post Office. Covers are available at £1.95 (£3.95 signed). The mint 25p railway stamps (in sheets of 12) are at face value (overseas add 50p). Orders to Nene Valley Railway Freepost, Wansford Station, PETERBOROUGH PE8 6LR.

On 30 June, an extension of the railway into Peterborough will be opened by Prince Edward. A special cover will be arranged for that event.



Commemorative Covers

All postmarks are also available under the reposting facility.

Sumburgh Airport. To mark the 50th anniversary of Sumburgh Airport, Shetland a special cover with cancellation is being produced for use on 2 June. The first scheduled flight was made by a DH89 Dragon Rapide aeroplane and the commemorative cover and cancel will feature a Rapide. Cost is £2 (£5 signed) from SAGA Committee, Wilsness Terminal, Sumburgh Airport, Shetland ZE3 9JP.



Austin Rover. To mark the 80th year of the manufacture of Austin cars a cover bearing a 17p Industry Year stamp and cancelled on 21 April with a special handstamp will be available at £1 from Austin Rover Group Ltd., External Affairs, Canley Rd., Coventry CV5 6QX.

Durham County Spastics Society. Marking 21 years of service the Durham County Spastics Society is issuing a commemorative cover bearing a pair of 17p Queen's Birthday stamps. Cancelled on 21 April with a Durham special handstamp they will cost £2 (£5 signed). Orders to M G Ackroyd, 2 Whitesmoks Ave., North End, DURHAM DH1 4HP with a 9" x 6" sae, cheques payable to Durham County Spastics Society.

Guildford Cathedral. The Silver Jubilee of the consecration of Guildford Cathedral is being marked on 17 May with a special cover cancelled at Guildford. Cost with a single 17p stamp is £1 (£2 signed, with the full Queen's Birthday set £3 — other details on request). Orders with remittance made payable to Guildford Cathedral Common Fund to Alan Hammond, 71 Long Gore, GODALMING, Surrey GU7 3TW.

NPM Nature Conservation Cards

The National Postal Museum is issuing two cards on 20 May on the subject of Nature Conservation, to coincide with the issue of the Nature Conservation stamps. Illustrated are two winners of the photographic competition 'Preservation of Nature'

run jointly by the National Postal Museum and the magazine *Creative Photography*.

Cards SS39 (A & B) show 'Scavenging seagulls at council rubbish tip' photographed by Paul West of Saltburn, and 'Damsel fly ovipositing' by Alex Cleland of Penicuik. Prizes of Olympus photographic equipment were awarded to the winners.



Judges of the competition included Bill Oddie, the actor and naturalist, Colin Pawson and Angela Reeves of the Post Office, Stuart Douglas of Olympus and Barry Hunter of *Creative Photography*.

So many entries to the competition were received that they could not be counted — 'sackfuls' was the best description. Those shortlisted — some 50 photographs — will go on display at the National Postal Museum from 20 May until 18 June. The winner of the under-16 section was Michael Land (aged 14) of Exeter with 'Adonis Blue butterfly'.

Northeast Philatelic Weekend

The 10th Northeast Philatelic Weekend will be held at The Airport Hotel, Newcastle upon Tyne from 13 to 15 June. A private souvenir booklet is being produced containing 16½p and 17p Royal Mail Postage Labels and blocks of 1p, 2p and 3p National definitives. Cost is £2.50 and it is available from Dorothy M Martin, 46 Briardene Crescent, Kenton Park, NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE NE3 4RY (together with details of the weekend).

The Early Days of the Postal Service

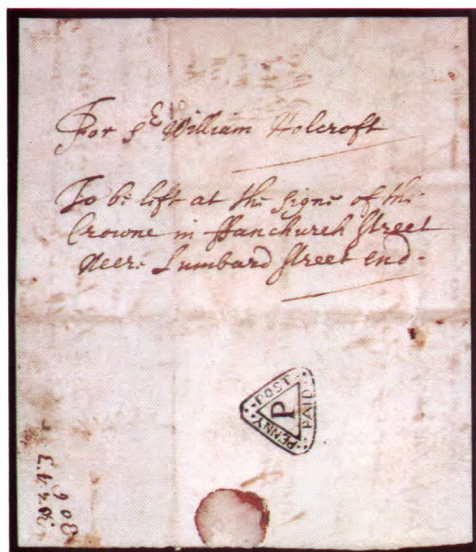
Part 4 Local and Cross Posts

TONY GAMMONS

London was the hub of the mail service. A letter sent from a town on one of the six great post roads to a town on another had to pass through London with the postage being charged on the total distance. The exception was the 'byletter' whereby "with each mail or packet there goes a bybag which is carried by the postboy about his middle in which all the byletters are put, that is, such letters as are sent from one town to another upon the roads, which never come near the Office". Despite being in the centre of things London had no 'local' service of its own, it being as easy to send a letter from London to Dover as it was to send one from one side of the capital to the other.

In March 1680 a London merchant, William Dockwra, and other 'undertakers', as they called themselves, organised a private local Post for London and its closest suburbs. Dockwra opened several hundred offices where messengers called for letters every hour and sent them out for delivery from four to twelve times a day. The postage was one penny and parcels were carried and insured by this post. Prepayment of postage was compulsory and letters for the General Post were accepted and delivered to the General Post Office in Lombard Street. Triangular handstamps were used by the Penny Post, inscribed Penny Post Paid with the word 'paid' upright at the base and a letter denoting the name of the office of stamping in the centre. In spite of its advantages the service had its enemies, such as the porters who lost much of their business.

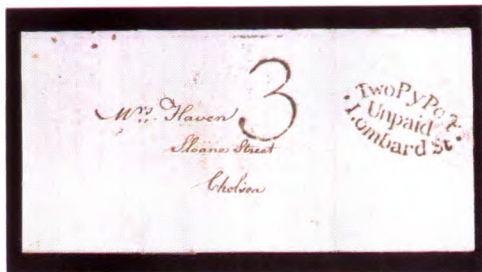
In 1682, with the service beginning to show a profit, the Duke of York complained that his monopoly was being infringed. The courts



Letter sent by William Dockwra's Penny Post. The handstamp is that used at the St. Paul's Office in Queen's Head Alley.

decided in the Duke's favour and within a few weeks of the action the Post Office had taken over the organisation and continued to run the Penny Post on much the same lines, with Dockwra as Comptroller from 1696 to 1700, although it was not authorised by Parliament until 1711, when its area was restricted to a radius of ten miles from the General Post Office. The Post Office continued to use triangular handstamps although in the GPO version all the words read inwards.

In 1794 prepayment was made optional, the delivery of Penny Post letters could be extended beyond the 10 mile radius and a second penny was charged for a letter from the more distant suburbs. In 1801 the rate for letters was raised to two pence and the Twopenny Post, later to become the London District Post, came into being. In 1805 an extra penny was charged for letters going from the suburbs into the central district. General Post letters delivered by the Twopenny Post in the 'country' areas had to pay 2d, over and above the General Post rate, on delivery. The Twopenny Post came to an end on the introduction of Uniform Postage.



From 5 April 1805 a '3' stamp was used on 2d post unpaid letters to and from the country area.



On General Post letters delivered by the 2d post in the country areas there was an additional charge of 2d for delivery. In 1830 this charge was shown by the handstamp above.

Cross Posts

In October 1696 the joint Postmasters General wrote to the Treasury outlining the "properest methods for establishing a post to goe twice a week betwixt Exeter and Bristol". This first, official, cross post was to run from Exeter through Tiverton, Wellington, Taunton, Bridgwater and Wells to Bristol and would cost the Department £259 10s in salaries. In 1719, one Ralph Allen, who had been assistant to his grandmother, the postmistress of St. Columb, and later to become Postmaster of Bath, offered to farm the bye and cross Posts. He renewed his farm constantly and when he died 45 years later, a wealthy man, he had revolutionised the postal service by setting Posts on the 'cross roads' all over the country.

Rural Posts

Up to 1764 the situation regarding rural Posts was, in the broadest terms, as follows: the Post Office carried letters to post towns only, but did not undertake to deliver them to the addressees and only London had a local post. In 1764 the Postmaster General obtained authority to set up in any city or town a penny post of the same kind that existed in London and in 1774 the Court of the King's Bench established the rule that within the limits of a post town letters should be delivered free of charge. In 1794, by Act 34 Geo.III cap.17, "it was provided that any penny post could be extended beyond the former 10 mile limit". It was not until 1793 that the first English Penny Posts were opened in Manchester, Bristol and Birmingham although a private Penny Post had been set up in Edinburgh in 1773.



Ralph Allen, Postmaster of Bath 1754

As far as the rural areas were concerned the villages generally employed their own messenger to collect the letter from the nearest town, paying him in some cases a fixed sum as wages and in others a penny or more on each letter. Sometimes the Postmasters of the towns undertook, as a private venture, the delivery of letters in the villages, receiving for themselves, and not for revenue, a fixed sum on each letter.

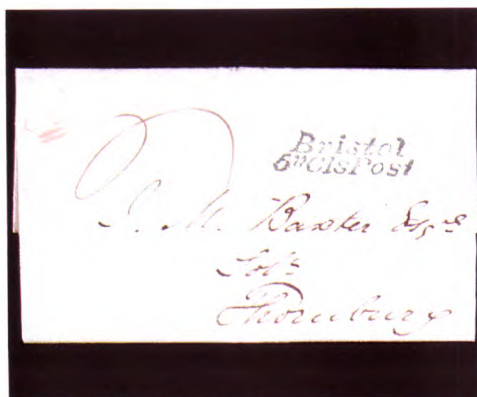


Letter showing a dated Bristol 1d Post postmark.



The first real effort to carry the posts into the villages was made in 1801. By the fifth clause of Act 41 Geo.III cap.7 the Postmaster General was authorised to make special arrangements in places 'not being post towns', for the collection and conveyance of their letters. This was the origin of the posts usually called 'fifth clause posts' or 'convention posts'. Another clause in the same Act enabled persons to guarantee posts which otherwise would not pay their expenses. By April 1803 there were 13 'fifth clause' posts which had only risen to 52 by 1838. The reason for the small increase was due, in part, to an omission in the 1801 Act. Inhabitants of villages served by a 'fifth clause' post insisted that 'franks' and newspapers should pass free as there was no legal power to charge for these on any 'fifth clause' post. It was this that finally crippled the 'fifth clause' posts and led to the setting up of many penny posts, already allowed for in the 1764 Act, in villages as under this system franks and

newspapers were liable to charge. By 1838, 1922 villages in the United Kingdom (including Ireland) were served by penny posts.



Letter carried by the Bristol 5th Clause Post.

'First Day Cover' 6 May 1840

JOHN MEMMOTT

For this month's 'Gem' from the R M Phillips Collection (Volume IV/3), I have chosen a cover handstamped on 6 May 1840, posted within the City of London, and bearing a single Penny Black stamp, check letters TG, the first day that the new adhesive postage stamps were available for postage. They had, of course, been made available for sale on 1 May 1840.

From examination the cover would appear to have been used as a 'wrapper' rather than an 'entire' as it contains no written message, bearing no clue as to the identity of the sender or his reasons for contacting a Solicitor in Newport Pagnell. However, our man of mystery could not have possibly imagined, for one moment, as he addressed his cover in his rather neat and stylish manuscript, that a hundred and forty six years later a photograph of his cover would grace the page of a magazine dedicated to the then, unknown, hobby of philately. That this cover should have survived at all, is due entirely to the fastidious filing habits of the Victorian Clerk.



Post Office Research Studentship

To mark the 350th anniversary of the Post Office in 1985 it was decided to set up a Post Office Research Studentship at University College London, that being chosen because of the connection with Dr Martin Dauntton, author of the Post Office's recent official history *Royal Mail: the Post Office since 1840*.

The intention is to sponsor post-graduate research into Post Office history for a period of about 26 years, when the results of individual Research Studentship projects can be utilised for a new, updated definitive history planned for c. 2016, when records unavailable to Dr Dauntton under the '30 year rule' will be available to the author of the new commissioned work.

The Post Office sees the objectives of the Studentship as being to:

1. make the Post Office's contributions in the fields of social and economic history better known in the academic world and to historians generally and to promote a greater knowledge of its history on the part of the public.

2. consider not only the Post Office's history within the United Kingdom but also further afield.

3. consider all aspects of the Post Office's history since 1635 except the development of telecommunications and the girobank service since these themes are likely to become the subject of commissioned research elsewhere. These would only be included as a relevant part of a particular study.

Invitations to post-graduates have recently been sent out by University College London and the selected student and chosen field will be announced shortly.

Questa Reprint National Definitives

As reported last month The House of Questa will in future be printing those definitives previously produced by Waddingtons.

Printed on ACP the 4p and 20p national definitives will be available printed by Questa from 13 May at philatelic counters and the British Philatelic Bureau. No first day of issue arrangements will be offered. Perforation will now be 15 x 14.

The Genesis of the Machin Design

Part 2

DON STADDON

David Gentleman describes himself in *Who's Who* as a designer, illustrator and painter with posters, book jackets and book illustrations to his credit as well as postage stamps.

Over the years, he has proved to be a prolific designer of British commemoratives and special issues. For example, in the comparatively short period between 1962 and 1966 he was responsible for four sets of special stamps, one part set (1964 Shakespeare Festival low values) and a further three sets in conjunction with Rosalind Dease.

David Gentleman did a lot of work in connection with the new definitives. Several of his ideas were based on photographic portraits by Mr Anthony Armstrong-Jones. On these, The Queen is wearing the diamond tiara referred to in my first article last month. In profile her head is thrust forward, and some only a part of the left eyebrow is visible.

Gentleman designs with Armstrong-Jones portraits.



Gentleman designs with Machin coinage head.

He also used the new Machin coinage effigy, also with the diamond tiara, but the head is more upright and the whole of the left eyebrow can be seen.

Unusually, on one of the Armstrong-Jones portraits The Queen is smiling. There was also another which is not a true profile and is therefore contrary to the brief.

A third group of Gentleman designs was developed from a photograph by Dr John Hedgecoe, RCA, FSIA, Professor of Photography at the Royal College of Art. This portrait shows Her Majesty wearing the diadem originally made for King George IV as on the Wilding definitives. *Who's Who* credits John Hedgecoe with a photograph for British and Australian postage stamps in 1966, although the Gentleman essays are dated 1965 and the new definitives were not issued until 1967. The Australian stamp I have been unable to identify unless it is one of the 1970 Royal Visit stamps.

On most Gentleman designs the head is couped (cut off above the shoulders) but on some a necklace is seen. Where there is lettering it is lower case, without serifs. Some of the essays illustrate the attention paid to colour, both of the head, and the background including one group on which the background is white.

Although the final decision went against him on the definitives, designs by David Gentleman were adopted for special issues. These were based on the Mary Gillick coinage head on which The Queen is wearing a laurel wreath. Several versions were produced in silhouette, and a range of variants created to show the suitability in various sizes for use on stamps with the head to the right hand side.

There are essays showing the head plain and embossed, both versions of which were subsequently adopted for stamp use. The first appearance of this new head was on the Landscapes stamps issued in May 1966, and it has been in regular use ever since.

We now come to Arnold Machin OBE, RA, a native of Stoke-on-Trent with, perhaps not unnaturally, a life-long interest in ceramics. At the time the new definitives were being developed he was Master of Sculpture, Royal Academy School, and had just recently designed the new coinage effigy of 1964 and 1967 (decimal coinage). Some years later, when opening an exhibition at the National Postal Museum to commemorate 10 years of the decimal Machin design, 1971-1981, Mr Machin commented as follows: "The Penny Black is remarkable for its simplicity and elegance, and if it is thought that my design has captured some of these qualities I have cause to feel flattered by your remarks. After 141 years the Penny Black still remains the one unchallenged masterpiece of the philatelic world, and so when I was asked to submit designs for the present stamp I thought it would be



Gentleman designs based on the Hedgcock photograph.

helpful to me in solving the design if I could discover why it was so satisfactory and so lasting".

Mr Machin went on to say that he was intrigued by the fact that the Penny Black is a portrait of the young Queen Victoria, yet it remained unchanged throughout her long reign without at any time appearing incongruous. Had this portrait been a

Based on the Gillick coinage head, Gentleman designs for the Queen's silhouette on special issues.



photograph, no matter how beautiful, he felt sure it would have needed to be changed from time to time as the Queen grew older. The portrait was in fact skillfully engraved from a very fine sculptured coin relief by Wyon, and this method produced not only a good portrait but created a classical and timeless symbol of Royalty.

And so, we who attended the exhibition ceremony at the National Postal Museum could understand the thought processes which led Mr Machin to believe that the best result for the new definitives would be achieved by a similar approach. He, therefore, based his design on a sculptured relief rather than a photograph from life, which with the modern photogravure printing technique would produce a convincing three dimensional cameo effect.

Trakback – A New Parcel Service

A new service for parcels came into operation on 28 April. Called 'Trakback', it will give proof of delivery by means of a bar-code label, similar to that on many packaged products in shops and supermarkets.

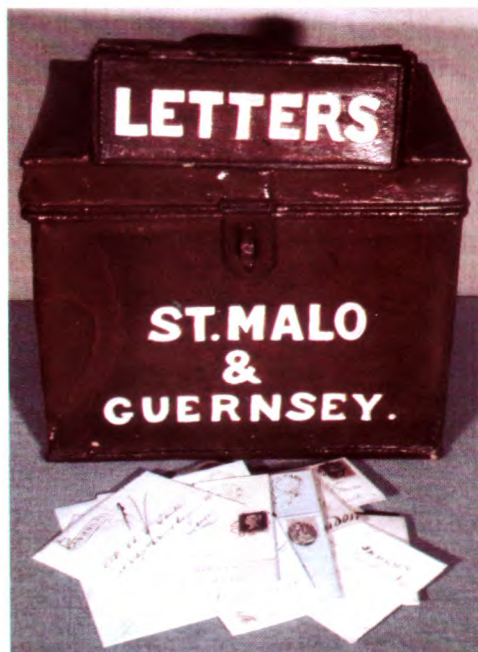
For 10p an item, business customers will be able to check when their parcels have been delivered. Each bar-coded label is unique, bearing computer-coded information including an individual parcel number. Under the Trakback service it is affixed to the parcel before the parcel is despatched. When it is delivered the postman receives a signature. The coded part of the label, along with the signature, is fed into the new Trakback Response Centre in Leeds where it is electronically stored.



Customers can then call the Response Centre free of charge on a special telephone number five days after the parcel has been despatched to check it has been delivered. For an additional fee of £2 the customer can quickly obtain a copy of the recipient's signature.

The new services have been offered to the 4,000 commercial users who already send 14 million items a year through the Royal Mail's Receipted Parcels service. It will be made available for all business customers nationally in July.

Posting Boxes



No. 82 Simon Coombe, Controller of Sales and Marketing of the Guernsey Post Office, refers to the article in the November 1985 Bulletin concerning moveable boxes which stated that the Guernsey — St. Malo mail service seemed to employ no moveable boxes. The Guernsey Museum and Art Gallery currently holds a moveable box which is clearly lettered St. Malo & Guernsey, the illustration being from a poster for a display of postal history in the Museum in 1981.

Withdrawn Items

Items due for withdrawal from philatelic counters and the Philatelic Bureau in May:

13 May — Composers stamps

First Direct Elections to the European Assembly, 1979

JAMES WATSON

At the European Council meeting in Copenhagen in April 1978, the Heads of State or Government agreed in principle that direct elections to the European Assembly should be held from 7 to 10 June 1979, with each member state deciding on which day it would vote. The first elections for the 81 representatives from the United Kingdom were held on 7 June. To mark the event the Post Office issued four special stamps on 9 May 1979 — values 9p,

10½p, 11p and 13p — depicting the flags of member states on different colour backgrounds.

Stafford Cliff's ingenious designs show hands — with thumbs prominent — inserting votes into ballot boxes; the votes are represented as the national flags of the countries belonging to the European Community, as follows (left to right from the top in each design): United Kingdom (Union Flag), France, Denmark, Belgium, German Federal Republic, Italy, Luxembourg, Ireland and the Netherlands, shown in nine boxes or 'compartments' on each design. The 'angle of insertion' differs in each denomination. An Australian by birth, Stafford Cliff came to London in 1965, and at the time of this first venture into the field of stamp design he was creative head of graphics and an associate director of Conran Associates, with experience of a wide range of projects including packaging, shop graphics and the design of books and catalogues.

The enlarged Parliament resulting from the elections comprised 410 seats allocated as follows: UK, France, West Germany and Italy, 81 seats each; the Netherlands 25, Belgium 24, Denmark 16, Ireland 15 and Luxembourg 6.

The stamps were printed in sheets of 100 (two panes of 50, 10 x 5) on unwatermarked, phosphorised paper. Recorded varieties include minor shifts of the red colour on the Union Flag and other similar flaws, mainly on the 9p stamp. Quantities issued were: 9p 47,510,000; 10½p 15,870,000; 11p 15,400,000; and 13p 14,820,000.

National Philatelic Centre

The British Philatelic Trust has purchased the freehold of 107 Charterhouse St., London. In addition to providing offices for the Trust, it is anticipated that the library and offices of the National Philatelic Society and the British Philatelic Federation will be housed there. There will also be accommodation for special projects such as the organisation of Stamp World London 90, the international exhibition to be staged in London 1990. The building has a basement and six floors and renovation is expected to be completed by the autumn of 1986. The Trust believes that this will enable the creation of a National Philatelic Centre.



Country Definitive Stamps – National Symbols

JEFFERY MATTHEWS

With the scheduled introduction of Decimal Currency I was commissioned by The Post Office to design a new range of 'Regional' definitive stamps (Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and Isle of Man), and these were first issued in July 1971. The design featured the Machin Queen's head, the appropriate value numerals and the national symbol of each country designed and drawn by me. These were the Lion of Scotland, the Dragon of Wales, the Right Hand of Ulster with Star and Crown, and the Three Legs of Man. The stamps were printed by Harrison and Sons Limited and the symbols were drawn specifically for reproduction by photogravure.



Scotland. (l. to r.) 1976 presentation pack artwork; as printed on first offset stamps; as redrawn.

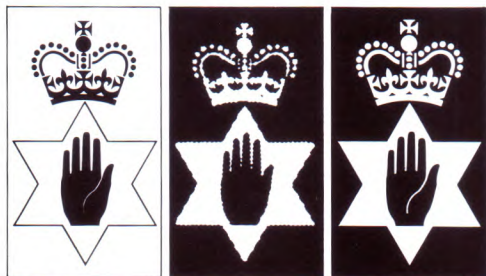
This artwork for the heraldic symbols continued to be used by Harrisons until 1980 when The Post Office placed the printing of Country definitive stamps with other printers. The stamps for Scotland were to be printed by John Waddington of Kirkstall Limited and the stamps for Wales and Northern Ireland were to be printed by The House of Questa Limited. Obviously, both printers required artwork for the designs which were to be reproduced by offset litho.



Wales. (l. to r.) 1976 artwork; as printed on first offset stamps; as redrawn.

In 1976 I had been commissioned by The Post Office to design Presentation Packs for Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. The main feature on the cover of each pack was the appropriate heraldic

national symbol. My drawings were almost identical to those I had originally drawn for the first decimal 'Regional' definitive stamps but, because of the difference in scale and means of reproduction, included subtle variations and details, such as the centre dots to the eyes of the Lion and the Dragon. These black and white drawings of the heraldic symbols took their rightful place in The Post Office files. Four years later, they were supplied to Waddington and Questa to enable them to prepare their originations for the Country definitive stamps, it having been assumed that these drawings of the symbols were exactly the same as those drawn by me for the first decimal 'Regional' definitives.



Northern Ireland. (l. to r.) 1976 artwork; as printed on first offset stamps; as redrawn.

In 1981, during the course of consultation with The Post Office and printers to define the problems associated with the production of Country and National definitive stamps printed by different processes and by different printers, I observed that the heraldic symbols on the stamps printed by Waddington and Questa did not accord with my original drawings as printed by Harrisons. However, at this eleventh hour, the stamps bearing the slightly different versions of the symbols had to continue in production. These circumstances provided the opportunity for The Post Office to commission me to create new artwork for the heraldic symbols, closely based upon the drawings I had originally made for Harrisons to print photogravure, but taking into account the fact that the stamps were to be printed by offset litho and, accordingly, modifying the weight of lines, spaces and areas. The only obvious difference being in the symbol for Northern Ireland where the Royal Crown is now

shown with the more usual heraldic convention of nine pearls on each arch instead of the seven which I had previously used — it being my considered opinion that this was the limit of fineness of detail which, in 1971, could be coped with by photogravure.

It will be readily understood that variations in the heraldic symbols are to be found because of the time needed to phase out the erroneously used designs and implement the re-drawn symbols.

Country Definitives printed by offset — National Symbols

Date of Issue & Values	Symbols printed from artwork of symbols designed & drawn by Jeffery Matthews for Presentation Packs in 1976	Symbols printed from artwork of symbols redrawn by Jeffery Matthews 1981/2
8 April 1981 11½p, 14p, 18p, 22p (blue)	Scotland Wales Northern Ireland	
24 February 1982 12½p, 15½p, 19½p, 26p	Scotland Wales Northern Ireland	
27 April 1983 16p, 20½p, 28p	Wales Northern Ireland	Scotland
2 November 1983 16p ACP		Scotland
10 January 1984 12½p, 16p perf. 15 x 14	Wales	
28 February 1984 12½p, 16p perf. 15 x 14	Northern Ireland	
28 October 1984 13p, 17p, 22p (green), 31p	Scotland Wales	Northern Ireland
25 June 1985 17p PVA		Scotland
1985 new plates 13p, 17p, 22p, 31p		Scotland
7 January 1986 12p		Scotland Wales Northern Ireland
25 February 1986 17p ACP	Wales	Northern Ireland
1986 new plates	Wales (22p)	Scotland (17p)
29 April 1986 12p, 17p, 31p Questa printing		Scotland (?)

In reverse from the redrawn artwork.



Stamplink '86

Stamplink '86 is a mobile stamp promotion co-ordinated by British Ferries in conjunction with the British Post Office, the PTT of France and the Post Offices of Jersey and Guernsey.

The exhibition will be on board the MV *Earl Granville* from 9 to 20 June while she operates her normal service between the ports of Portsmouth, Cherbourg, Guernsey and Jersey. On 15 June there will be an open day aboard in Portsmouth when a stamp auction and other events are due to be held.

There will be shops on board selling stamps together with special covers. Passengers will be able to post mail on board ship enabling the unusual paquebot system to operate. The paquebot facility will be available *only* to passengers on board ship.

Passengers will pay normal fares and will be able to join and leave the ship at any of the four ports. The MV *Earl Granville* is one of British Ferries' latest 'Club Class' ships, providing luxury cabins with modern conveniences as well as excellent shops and restaurant facilities.

The timetable is as follows:

Portsmouth depart 09.15

Cherbourg arrive 15.00 depart 15.30 (French time)

Guernsey arrive 17.30 depart 18.15

Jersey arrive 20.15 depart 21.30

Portsmouth arrive 07.15

The last trip will actually leave Portsmouth on 19 June. For further details write to British Ferries, Stamplink '86, Freepost, Southampton SO9 1BD.



New RDP Signatories

Three more international philatelists have been invited to sign the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists at Congress in Norwich this year. They are John Fosbery (U.K.) who has played an outstandingly important part in the development of philatelic studies relating to the republics of Central and South America; F B Sellers (U.S.A) President of the American Philatelic Society and already recipient of the highest American philatelic honours; and Paolo Vollmeier (Switzerland) who has formed outstanding collections of Italian postal history and written widely on the same.

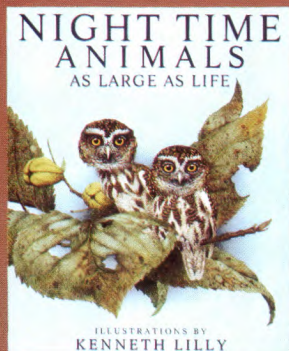
Ken Lilly: Nature Conservation Designer

The **Nature Conservation** stamps, due on 20 May, were designed by wildlife artist, Ken Lilly. Here he describes his background and his work.

Mercifully for us all, space here is limited, so without more ado and confounding those who knew me and were of the well formed opinion that I would never show any kind of enthusiasm for anything that didn't wear feathers or four legs, I'm married, have three children and at the time of writing, two grandchildren.

My maternal connections are very agricultural and among my paternal past there were, and indeed there still are, several artists of one kind or another. It is therefore not so surprising, with my inherent ability to draw a bit, that I should study and paint animals for a living. Indeed, my earliest recollections are of animals and in particular, a cat. It scratched me.

With experience, I've endeavoured to keep to a more respectful distance from my subject matter, especially if it looks even vaguely capable of matching the speed of a change of mood with tooth or claw.



Naturally enough, I spend much of my time with live animals. This inevitably poses the question, how much time can I spend watching them and how much time painting them? Field work is of course necessary, watching a delight and something in which I can indulge myself at great length when



given half a chance. I'm not a great sketcher. I've found animals to be rather reluctant models. So, apart from a few quick sketches to record movement, I prefer to take photographs. I can record two or more dozen aspects of a subject in the same time that it takes me to do one drawing. This photographic approach is particularly suitable for paintings that require fine detail such as the stamps. Indeed, there are times when even an enlarged photograph is inadequate. On these occasions I use study skins. These give me the finer details of claw, beak, shape of feather and fur texture. However, they are unreliable for anything other than these details for no animal in its right mind would care to look anything like a study skin.

With these references to hand, I set about the working pencil drawing. I may draw this several times before I'm satisfied enough to trace it down on to board or paper. Then, with watercolour, 'I fill it in and hope for the best'.

My most recently published work, apart from the stamps, are two books for Walker Books Ltd., *Daytime Animals* and *Nighttime Animals*. The creatures in both books are painted and reproduced life size.

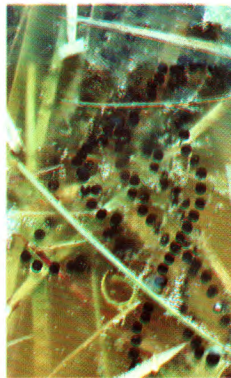
Conservation of Nature

Four special stamps, to be issued by the Post Office on 20 May, focus attention on the need to preserve Britain's wildlife. Each stamp highlights a species under threat of extinction — the pine marten, wild cat, natterjack toad and even the familiar barn owl. All four species are now at risk because their natural habitats are shrinking due to the impact of modern development. However, a £10 million British Wildlife Appeal has been launched in an effort to prevent further disappearance of the countryside and the creatures which inhabit it.



The presentation pack for the set of stamps is very informative about the species illustrated. It was written by Patrick Roper and was designed by David Driver. Among the illustrations are small maps by John Grimwade indicating where the declining species can now be found, together with remarkable photographs of the animals themselves in their natural habitats.

Shown here are four photographs taken from the pack of the animals in their young state. They show the young Barn Owl at about eight weeks old (photograph by Brian Hawkes); a Wild Cat kitten



about five weeks old (Jany Sauvaret); a Pine Marten cub (Lea MacNally); and Toadspawn (Robert Bridson).

Also taken from the pack is a woodcut combining all four animals. This is by Christopher Wormell.



Letters to the Editor



Too Many Stamps

The letter in the February *Bulletin* on the subject of 'Too Many Stamps', combined with comments by the Stamp Production Manager, Colin Pawson, provoked a large response. A selection of the views expressed is reproduced here.

Sir,

In the February issue of the *Bulletin* I see that Mr Atfield considers that the Post Office issues too many special stamps, so he will be pleased to read in the Forum section that their number in 1987 will be limited to seven issues of four stamps with five stamps at Christmas. I myself look forward with pleasure when the new stamps are due and have never thought that too many have been issued. I would like to congratulate you upon the excellence of most of your special stamps although I feel rather disappointed with the splashy-looking Halley's Comet ones.

The *Bulletin* continues to be full of interest — one of my favourite items is the Preliminary Designs. I keep my *Bulletins* in the binders and often read them again.

COVENTRY

Mrs K Franklin

Sir,

I was interested to read Mr Atfield's letter but dismayed to see at the end of Mr Pawson's reply a reference to an annual production 'typically consisting of seven issues of four stamps with a five stamps set at Christmas'. I assume that each issue in this typical year will consist of an inland first class value and values for overseas surface and Zones B and C airmail. If so, this would not only be unimaginative, but it would not reflect the postal need for such values.

Your January *Bulletin* showed that in 1984, with the exception of the Europa and Christmas issues, the supply of higher values was constant at about 7 million, with the demand for first class values being over five times greater, and that for the second class Christmas stamp being over 50 times greater.

Surely these figures indicate a greater need for the inland letter values, and the commemorative stamp-issuing programme should give these more prominence. If eight special issues per year are really required, then a suitable programme might contain say three four-value sets, three first- or first- and second-class values (one to five stamps each), one

two-value Europa set and one five-value Christmas set.

Such a policy would be to the benefit of the Post Office, philatelists and the letter-writing public.

UXBRIDGE

B E Ayres

Readers may be interested to learn the Post Office's reasons for selecting the four values normally used for special stamp issues:

The three overseas rates, plus inland first class are the minimum necessary to cover most of the world and enable our stamps to represent this country to the world at large. This also enables all philatelists to collect our new issues on cover.

The first class inland rate is preferred to second class because it makes the task of segregating mail into first and second class streams easier. In spite of the progress of our mechanisation programme much of this particular job is still done by hand and is much simpler if all special stamps merit first class treatment. Regular issues of second class specials in addition to the four other values would increase the cost of collecting and cause problems for some sorting offices. However, exceptions can be made to the standard four stamp set — most often at Christmas.

Sir,

I read with interest the letter from Roger J Atfield in the February *Bulletin* whose opinion was that the Post Office issue too many special stamps each year.

I do not agree with his views and feel that the Post Office have got the balance of issues each year about right.

However, what is most annoying is the practice this year and last of having one definitive with two phosphor bands issued only in the prestige stamp books (the 34p last year, 31p this year).

Most collectors like to keep a complete book and if you want a mint and used copy, a further two books need to be purchased at a total cost of £15. Or alternatively buy loose copies from a stamp dealer which I did last year with the 34p at a cost of £1.50 each.

I would have thought you would have discontinued this practice.

LONDON N17

Howard J Styles

Sir,

I entirely agree with the letters of Mrs Matthews (September 1985) and Mr Atfield (February 1986) and not with Mr Pawson (February).

None of the special issues are necessary on postal grounds, as values exist in the definitive series. I feel such issues can only be justified by the most important national or international events and surely no-one, except perhaps the Post Office, can accept that these occur at the rate of some seven every year.

My collection of GB stamps started with the purchase, which I still have, of the 1929 PUC low values from my local post office, but I have now stopped collecting such issues, thus saving not only the cost of the stamps but also the ancillary costs of albums and mounting. The money concerned goes on items of genuine philatelic interest.

WINCHESTER

G T Paul

Halley's Comet Designs

Sir,

I always thought that the Social Reformers issue of 1976 was an awful design and that things could only get better until I saw the Halley's Comet set — what the Design Committee must have been thinking of when they chose them I cannot imagine. From the superb Railway stamps of last year, design has now hit an all-time low. Indeed, the piece of nonsense masquerading as a 17p stamp is nothing short of an insult to the memory of a distinguished scientist.

These stamps are described as an individual impression, but few individuals can have such a distorted view of things to appreciate rubbish like this.

WINDSOR

Leslie Grout

Nature Conservation Covers

The following are some of the commercial first day covers being prepared for the issue for Nature Conservation (Europa) on 20 May. All postmarks can also be obtained under the re-posting facility.

British Wildlife Appeal. Produced by The Royal Society for Nature Conservation's British Wildlife Appeal in conjunction with J & M Arlington Ltd this shows the logo of the Appeal. With a full set of stamps cancelled at London it costs £3 (£10 signed) including post and packing from J & M Arlington Ltd., British Wildlife Appeal Offer, 45 Lakenheath, LONDON N14 4RL. All proceeds to the Appeal.

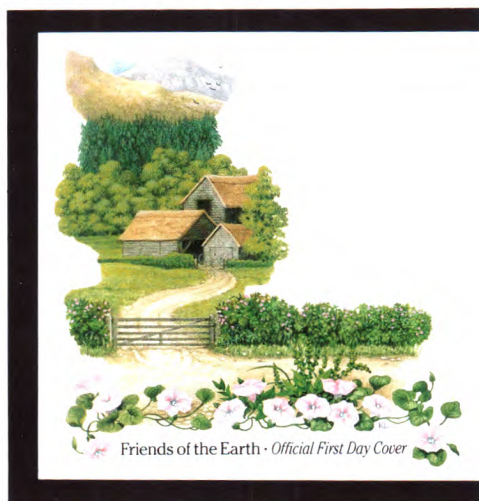
Ramblers' Association. Showing a country walk scene the covers bearing the full set of stamps will be cancelled at London SW8. Cost £2.25 with a single stamp or £4 with the full set (£7.50 signed). Overseas 50p extra for postage. Orders to A G Bradbury, 2 Fairholme Road, LEICESTER LE2 6GL.

Royal Society for the Protection of Birds — Benham. Featuring young barn owls this cover will be cancelled at Sandy, Bedfordshire. The cost is £3.80 including post (£5.80 signed).

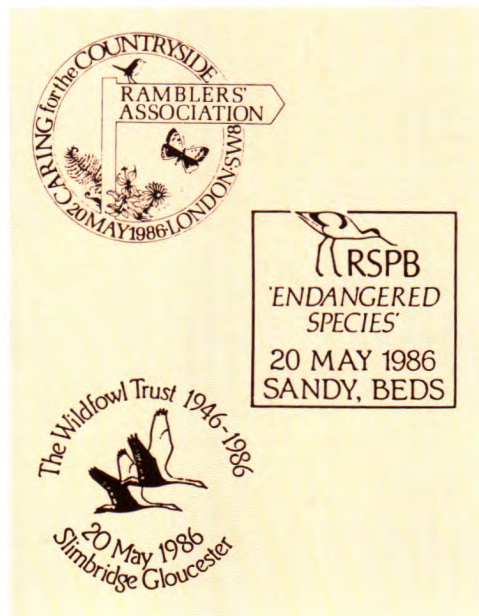
Wildfowl Trust — Benham. For their 40th anniversary the Trust is issuing a silk-look cover

featuring a Sir Peter Scott painting. With the stamps cancelled at Slimbridge it costs £3.80 (£6.30 signed).

Orders for both **Benham** covers should be sent to them at Westcliff House, Westcliff Gardens, FOLKESTONE, Kent CT20 1SZ.



Friends of the Earth. Designed by Ken Lilly, the artist for the stamps, this cover depicts the habitats of the species chosen. Costing £3 with the full set (or £5 signed by the artist) it is available from First Day Covers, Friends of the Earth, 377 City Road, LONDON EC1V 1NA.



Nature Conservation Cylinders

The cylinder numbers and colours of the Nature Conservation stamps, due on 20 May are:

17p

gold	greenish-yellow	rose	yellow-brown
2A	1B	1C/2C	1D
olive-grey	new blue	black	
1E	1F	1G	

22p

gold	greenish-yellow	reddish-brown	olive-yellow
1A	2B	2C	1D
turquoise-blue	grey-black	black	
2E	1F	1G	

31p

gold	bright yellow-green	magenta	light brown
1A	1B	2C	2D
ultramarine	olive-brown	black	
1E	2F	1G	

34p

gold	greenish-yellow	bright rose-red	bright green
1A	1B	3C	1D
grey-black	black		
3E	1F		

New Plate Numbers

New plates have been used in the printing of National issues.

2p National — Q11, Q12

5p National — Q13, Q14

New North Eastern Postcards

The North Eastern Postal Region will be issuing two postcards on 22 May, each depicting a group of four picturesque post offices with a centre insert of the appropriate philatelic counter.

NEPR 17 features offices at Hovingham, Old Malton, Terrington and Thornton Dale (all in the York postcode area) with the philatelic counter at Lendal, York in the centre. Cost is 14p mint, or 46p serviced from the Head Postmaster (Philatelic Counter), 22 Lendal, YORK YO1 2DA (Girobank acc. No. 6012116) or by cheque made payable to The Post Office.

NEPR 18 features offices as at Cherry Burton, Bishop Burton, Brantingham and Kirk Ella (all in the Hull postcode area) with the philatelic counter at Jameson St., Hull in the centre. Cost is as above,



Cherry Burton — One of the post offices featured on NEPR 18.

served from the Head Postmaster (Philatelic Counter) Jameson St., HULL HU1 3JG (Girobank acc. No. 6070116).

There will be a first day of sale handstamp for both of the cards. For mint cards on orders up to £18 there will be a handling charge of 18p (£1.28 for orders over £18).

One of the illustrations making up part of the postcards is illustrated.

British Philatelic Bulletin

Editor Douglas N. Muir

The *British Philatelic Bulletin* is published monthly by the Post Office.

Correspondence should be addressed to the Editor at:
National Postal Museum
King Edward Building
King Edward Street
LONDON
EC1A 1LP

Annual subscriptions (*Inland, Europe and overseas*)
Surface mail £3.50
Airmail £5.75

Subscriptions should be sent to:
British Philatelic Bureau
20 Brandon Street
EDINBURGH
EH3 5TT

Single copies from philatelic counters: 30p

Binders are available to hold 24 issues from the Philatelic Bureau price £4.00

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