

December 1995



Royal Mail

# British Philatelic Bulletin

Volume 33. No: 4 The Royal Mail Magazine for Stamp Collectors Price 75p





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**Royal Mail**

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# British Philatelic Bulletin

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Editor: J R Holman

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**Front Cover:** Painting (detail) of Robert Burns by Alexander Nasmyth reproduced by kind permission of the Scottish National Portrait Gallery.

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## Main Feature

### The Portraits of Rowland Hill 108

James Mackay pays tribute to Sir Rowland on the occasion of the bicentenary of his birth (3 December 1795)



£2

**Royal Mail Stamps**

Eight at 25p

Hill on Royal Mail stamp book, April 1995

**The Directors and Staff of Royal Mail wish all Bulletin Readers a Happy and Peaceful Christmas and New Year.**

# Royal Mail News

## Robert Burns Stamps

Four stamps commemorating the bicentenary of the death of Robert Burns, Scotland's national poet, go on sale at post offices and philatelic outlets on 25 January 1996.

The stamps feature quotations from four of Burns's best-known works, a poem and three songs.

The **19p** stamp (inland 2nd class basic rate) bears the opening lines of "To a Mouse", one of Burns's best-loved nature poems. The text was taken from the Kilmarnock Edition of July 1786 and reproduces the mixture of fonts used by the printer John Wilson. At the time the Scottish language was in a state of transition, this explains the spelling *sleeket* and the obsolescent *cowran*, later changed by Burns to *sleekit* and *cow'rin* in the Edinburgh Edition (1787). The design is completed by a woodcut illustration of the fieldmouse, whose nest Burns turned up with the plough one wintry day in 1785.

The **25p** value (inland 1st class & EU basic

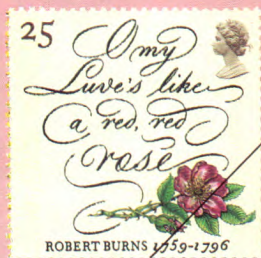
rates) features the title of one of Burns's best-known love songs. The issue of this stamp, in late January, is timely for use on Valentine cards. "O my Luve's like a Red, red Rose" is an amalgam of several old ballads and vividly illustrates Burns's genius for reworking folk material and producing a poetic gem of the first order. Burns's interest in folklore and traditional songs began in his childhood, listening to his mother and an elderly lodger reciting from their fund of ancient songs, jingles and rhymes. This song first appeared in *Selection of Scots Songs*, published in 1794 by Pietro Urbani, and two years later (shortly after Burns's death), in the 5th volume of James Johnson's well-known *The Scots Musical Museum*.

A copperplate script has been chosen for the stamp, closely resembling the style used by Johnson for his elaborate title pages. Below the quotation lies a wild rose in full bloom, with a rosebud alongside.

The **41p** denomination (airmail basic rate, to 10g) features, in bold seriffed typeface, the words "Scots, wha hae wi Wallace bled", the opening lines of the song sometimes known as "Robert the Bruce's Address to his Troops at Bannockburn" (1314). In 1787 Burns was deeply moved by his visit to the site of the Battle of Bannockburn. The song was however inspired by the capture, six years later, of Thomas Muir, an advocate of Parliamentary reform, after attempting to escape to Ireland. (Muir was later transported after being found guilty of sedition.) Thus what appears as a patriotic song of the War of Independence of the 14th century was actually a comment on the political struggles of the 1790s.

The lettering used on the stamp is reminiscent of that found on monumental inscriptions. The motif is the figure of Sir William Wallace taken from the stained glass window in the Wallace Monument near Stirling. Purists may cavil at his tartan plaid (a French import about 1471), and the type of sword (not in use till the late 15th century), but there are no authentic likenesses of Wallace and the window is widely regarded as conveying the best impression of the hero based on a description in an epic poem by Blind Harry the Minstrel.

The subject of the **60p** stamp (airmail letters to 20g weight) is something of a paradox. "Auld Lang Syne" is probably the world's most widely sung song, yet has been described as the song nobody knows. Even in Scotland, lines are misquoted, additional words inserted, and





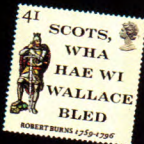
# ROBERT BURNS

## THE IMMORTAL MEMORY

204 25/1/96

Royal Mail  
Mint Stamps

FAIR fa' ye  
Great Chie  
Aboon the  
Painch, fr  
Weel are s  
As lang's

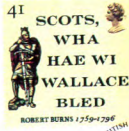
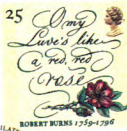


[NOTE 11]

SHOULD auld acquaintance  
be forgot,  
And never brought to mind!...

may recite the eight verses of *To a Haggis*.  
[NOTE 11] With great ceremony, the haggis  
is 'slain' at the lines: *His knife see rattle  
Labour dight, An cut you up wi ready slight...*  
[PLATE 11] \* THE SPECTACLE OVER, the piper  
is presented with a deserved glass of Scotch  
whisky before piping the haggis back to the  
kitchen to be...

hear a witty speech ribbing the female sex,  
blending modern observations with BURNS's  
own sentiments. The foibles and virtues of  
the ladies are examined, but a tribute is  
given to end on a conciliatory note. After this,  
*The Reelie Antient...*



# ROBERT BURNS

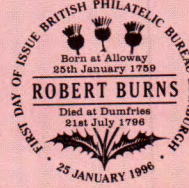
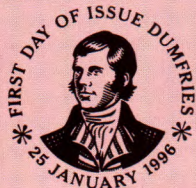
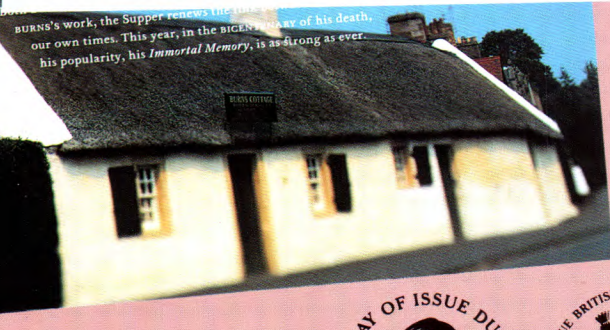
## THE IMMORTAL MEMORY



ROYAL MAIL FIRST DAY COVER

BURNS's work, the *Supper* renews the joy of  
our own times. This year, in the bicentenary of his death,  
his popularity, his *Immortal Memory*, is as strong as ever.

Mrs J Robinson  
200 Manorbie Road  
ILKESTON  
Derbyshire  
DE7 4AB



terrible liberties taken with the world's greatest song of parting. The stamp reproduces in Burns's rather spiky handwriting the opening line: "Should auld acquaintance be forgot" – actually one of the few lines in the song for which Burns cannot claim credit. Burns did not claim the song as his own, but his version differs radically from others. The earliest version was published in 1568, and the phrase "old-long-syne" was first used by Sir Robert Ayton (1570-1638). Burns's final version of the song was published in 1793.

The illustration on the stamp, showing a kilted highlander and a peasant girl dancing, is from the painting "A Highland Dance" by David Allan, now in the National Gallery of Scotland in Edinburgh. It is pleasing that it should be reproduced in 1996, marking the bicentenary of the death of Allan, often hailed as "the Scottish Hogarth". Another painting by Allan, "Scottish Highland Family" featured on the eighth Scottish aerogramme, May 1977.

The information published here was supplied by Dr James Mackay, author of a special Bulletin Publication on Burns and Burns stamps – see below.

#### Technical details

**Printer:** The House of Questa

**Process:** Offset-lithography

**Size:** 35 x 35mm

**Sheets:** 100

**Perforation:** 14

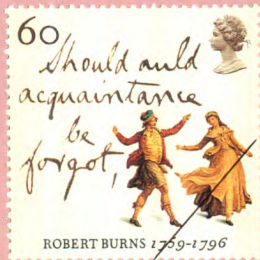
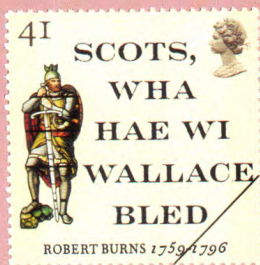
**Phosphor:** 19p – one phosphor band  
25p-60p two phosphor bands

**Paper:** OBA free (OBA = Optical  
Brightening Agent)

**Gum:** PVA



Robert Burns statue, Victoria Embankment Gardens, London (Photo: John Holman)



#### First Day Facilities

Unstamped Royal Mail first day cover envelopes will be available from main post offices, the British Philatelic Bureau and Post Office Counters philatelic outlets around a week before 25 January, price 25p.

The Bureau will provide a first day cover service – collectors may order the Royal Mail cover bearing the stamps, cancelled with a pictorial "First Day of Issue" postmark of the Bureau or Dumfries, price £2.12 (including VAT) to UK addresses, £1.81 overseas (no VAT). Orders for first day covers must arrive at the Bureau by 25 January 1996.

Collectors may send their own stamped covers on the day of issue, for these cancels, to: British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, EDINBURGH EH3 5TT, or Special Handstamp Centre, Royal Mail, Guild Hall, 57 Queen Street, GLASGOW G1 3AZ (for Dumfries postmark). The outer envelope should be endorsed "FD9601" (Bureau), or "FD9602" (Dumfries).

First Day Posting Boxes will be provided at most main post offices for collectors who wish to post covers to receive local (mostly non-pictorial) "First Day of Issue" handstamps.

Details of other special handstamps, sponsored by Royal Mail, stamp dealers and others, will be found in the *British Postmark*

*Blllletin* – the Royal Mail's magazine for postmark collectors. It is available on subscription from the British Philatelic Bureau: £10 UK and Europe; £21.75 Rest of World (Airmail).

Collectors are reminded that it will be in order to affix just the 19p Burns stamp to covers to receive all special cancels ("First Day of Issue", sponsored and philatelic counters), in use on 25 January. This concession to the normal 1st class rule applies only to Burns stamps; covers bearing other issues are subject to 1st class postage.

#### *Plate Numbers*

The plates used, seen at time of going to press are:

19p                      2A2A2A  
25p, 41p & 60p      1A1A1A1A1A  
Colours to be announced..

#### *Presentation Pack and Stamp Cards*

A presentation pack (No. 264, price £1.80) will be available from the Bureau, Post Office Counters philatelic outlets, main post offices. The text was written by Peter Westwood, Honorary President of the Burns Federation. Stamp cards (25p each) will be available from the Bureau, POC philatelic outlets, and main post offices.

Cards will also be available next July with Burns poem printed on the address side and printed stamp – the 1s 3d from the 1966 issue uprated to the current international postcard rate. Details later.

#### **NPM News**

Shown here is one of the new postcards issued by the Museum on 30 October; others feature a Second World War Christmas airgraph and delivering the mail in snowy weather. A set of four cards on the subject of Valentines will be

#### *NPM 1995 Christmas postcard*



available from 14 February 1996. Cards are on sale at the Museum shop (25p each), or can be ordered from the British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, EDINBURGH EH3 5TT (£1 per set).

Readers are reminded that a fine display of Victorian stamps, registration sheets, covers,

## UNIFORM Penny Postage

THE FOLLOWING  
**PETITION**  
TO THE  
HOUSE OF COMMONS,  
To Pass this Important Measure without delay,  
**Lies here for Signatures.**

**READER,**  
**Sign the Petition without a moment's delay,**  
BECAUSE  
**IT MUST BE PRESENTED BEFORE FRIDAY NEXT, JULY THE 12<sup>TH</sup>.**

*To the Honourable the Commons in Parliament assembled.*

The humble Petition of the undersigned Inhabitants of Westminster,

**Sheweth,**

THAT, an Englishman having invented the Uniform Penny Postage Plan, your Petitioners feel that the United Kingdom should not be behind France, and Belgium, and Prussia, and the United States, in getting it; they, therefore, humbly pray your Honourable House to give effect to the Uniform Penny Postage, payable in advance, during the present Session of Parliament.

And your Petitioners will ever pray.

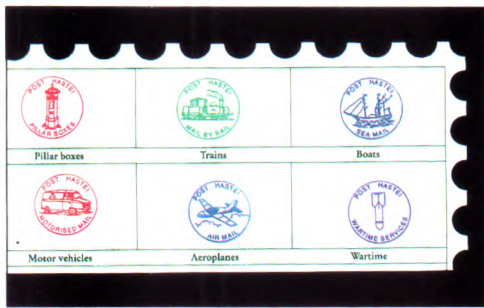
(EDITED BY T. ORREVELL, ROBERT FIDART, DISTASTART.)

*Uniform Penny Postage Petition – Victorian Posts exhibition, NPM*

essays and related material is now on show at the National Postal Museum. A report on the exhibition was published in the August *Bulletin* (pages 368-70).

The ground floor area (former London Chief Post Office) is now given over to an interesting display, entitled "Post Haste!" of posting boxes, vehicles and other artefacts. Visitors are given a free souvenir card which they can cachet with six self-inking handstamps provided at strategic points in the display. These cachets feature: Pillar Boxes, Mail by Rail, Sea Mail, Motorised Mail, Air Mail, and Wartime Services. See September *Bulletin* (p.10) for details of the Post Haste! display.

The Museum also includes the famous Reginald M Phillips Collection of British 19th century stamps, and an "All World" Collection –



*NPM Post Haste! exhibition cachets (on "Stamp-As-You-Go Souvenir" card)*

selections from which can be seen in pull-out frames in the main gallery. Stamps from countries not on display can be seen on request. The NPM is located in King Edward Street, LONDON EC1A 1LP, a few minutes walk from St Paul's Cathedral and underground station. Open Monday-Friday 09.30-16.30, admission free. Enquiries: 0171-239 5420.

### **End of Pictorial Stamp Book Covers**

In January 1996 Royal Mail will introduce a new style machine vended book cover, the design of which will integrate the machine books into Royal Mail's corporate image. The outside cover will have a red background, Royal Mail corporate logo, the price of the book, and a list of contents. The inside cover will carry relevant postal information. New £1 and £2 books containing four or eight 25p definitive stamps, printed by Questa with two phosphor bands (blue fluor) will be available from the Bureau and Post Office Counters philatelic outlets from 16 January. The new books will be available from vending machines as supplies of the books with pictorial cover designs are used up.

The introduction of pictorial stamp book covers was announced by the Postmaster General, Edward Short (now Lord Glenamara) when he opened Stampex in March 1968. The first book – 10s showing David Livingstone was issued on 25 March, followed by 6s (Kingfisher) on 4 June, 4s 6d (Cutty Sark) on 1 July, and 5s (Ightham Mote) on 27 November. Pictorial covers for the machine books started in February 1971. Pictorial covers for counter books were discontinued in 1988, superseded by the red "window" books.

The following vended books with pictorial covers are still available from the Bureau:

*50p Sea Charts*

*John O'Groats (February 95)*

*Land's End (April 95)*

*St David's Head (June 95)*

*Giant's Causeway (September 95)*

*£1 Inspiration for Victory*

*Violette Szabo (February 95)*

*Dame Vera Lynn (April 95)*

*R J Mitchell (May 95)*

*Archibald McIndoe (September 95)*

*£2 Sir Rowland Hill*

*Railway Director/Excursion Tickets (Feb 95)*

*Educationalist (April 95)*

*Secretary to the Post Office (June 95)*

*Postal Reformer (September 95)*

All books contain 25p definitive stamps printed by Harrisons. Stamps in the February and April 50p books are on Advanced Coated Paper (ACP), the June and September issues have two phosphor bands (yellow fluor). The February £1 book has ACP stamps, the April issue exists with ACP and two band (yellow fluor) stamps. Stamps in the Mitchell book (May) have yellow or blue fluor, all stamps in the September book have blue fluor. The February and April £2 books contain ACP stamps, the June and September issues have two band stamps with yellow fluor.

### **Rugby League Stamps launched at birthplace**

On 25 September representatives of Rugby League and the national and local press assembled at the George Hotel, Huddersfield for the press launch of the Rugby League stamps



*Alex Murphy (centre) at Rugby League stamp launch, George Hotel, Huddersfield, 25 September 1995 (Photo: John Holman)*

which went on sale at post offices the following week. The George Hotel has special significance as it was there in August 1895 that representatives from rugby clubs in Lancashire and Yorkshire met to form the break-away Northern Rugby Union, which in 1922 became the Rugby League. A plaque in the hotel records the event.

Guest speaker at the launch was Alex Murphy one of the 10 players in the Rugby League Hall of Fame who spoke eloquently of his days in the game and of some of the great characters he had encountered. Accompanied by players from Huddersfield Rugby League Club, dressed in 19th century rugby kit, Alex posed, with enlargements of the stamps, for photographers. Alex features in the presentation pack with other players from the Hall of Fame.



*Christian Birmingham, designer of Rugby League stamps (Photo: John Holman)*

Also present at the launch was the designer of Birmingham, John Orford, Sales Director of printers Harrison & Sons Ltd, and Steve Ellis, writer of the specially commissioned poem in the presentation pack.

### **Royal Mail Stamp Album – 1995 Continuation Pages**

Continuation pages for 1995 issues are in preparation and will be available from the British Philatelic Bureau early in 1996, price £11.95. The pages will accommodate new definitive, country, special, and greetings stamps, also the Mitchell pane (with commemorative label, issued 16 May), and NVI Stamp Pane (11 September). Provision is also made for the 25p definitive with two phosphor bands, issued in

December 1994, too late for the 1994 continuation pages.

The album, with pages for decimal issues from 1970 to 1992 costs £70; 1993 and 1994 continuation pages are available at £11.95 each.

### **1994 Special Stamp Quantities**

|                     |            |
|---------------------|------------|
| <i>Age of Steam</i> |            |
| 19p                 | 27,501,000 |
| 25p                 | 28,100,200 |
| 30p                 | 5,700,000  |
| 35p                 | 5,600,000  |
| 41p                 | 6,000,000  |
| Stamp cards (sets)  | 89,000     |

|                        |            |
|------------------------|------------|
| <i>Prince of Wales</i> |            |
| 19p                    | 28,501,300 |
| 25p                    | 29,901,900 |
| 30p                    | 6,500,000  |
| 35p                    | 6,500,000  |
| 41p                    | 6,900,000  |
| Stamp cards (sets)     | 90,620     |

|                            |            |
|----------------------------|------------|
| <i>Pictorial Postcards</i> |            |
| 19p                        | 28,900,800 |
| 25p                        | 30,101,200 |
| 30p                        | 6,000,000  |
| 35p                        | 5,900,300  |
| 41p                        | 6,100,000  |
| Stamp cards (sets)         | 91,520     |

|                       |            |
|-----------------------|------------|
| <i>Channel Tunnel</i> |            |
| 25p(x 2)              | 56,100,000 |
| 41p(x 2)              | 15,500,000 |
| Stamp cards (sets)    | 93,130     |

|                    |            |
|--------------------|------------|
| <i>D-Day</i>       |            |
| 25p(x 5)           | 45,806,300 |
| Stamp cards (sets) | 82,972     |

|                    |            |
|--------------------|------------|
| <i>Golf</i>        |            |
| 19p                | 27,301,300 |
| 25p                | 28,403,100 |
| 30p                | 5,900,000  |
| 35p                | 5,800,000  |
| 41p                | 6,200,000  |
| Stamp cards (sets) | 83,772     |

|                    |            |
|--------------------|------------|
| <i>Summertime</i>  |            |
| 19p                | 26,904,500 |
| 25p                | 28,101,500 |
| 30p                | 6,300,700  |
| 35p                | 6,200,400  |
| 41p                | 6,400,000  |
| Stamp cards (sets) | 76,008     |

## Medical Discoveries

|                    |            |
|--------------------|------------|
| 25p                | 26,692,900 |
| 30p                | 5,561,300  |
| 35p                | 5,482,300  |
| 41p                | 5,733,900  |
| Stamp cards (sets) | 71,505     |

## Christmas

|                    |             |
|--------------------|-------------|
| 19p                | 307,466,100 |
| 25p                | 170,522,000 |
| 30p                | 17,000,000  |
| 35p                | 13,557,500  |
| 41p                | 18,000,000  |
| Stamp cards (sets) | 82,940      |

## Bureau Prize Draw Results

During the summer the British Philatelic Bureau sent out details of the new £1 and £3 definitives, the VJ Day Philatelic Numismatic Cover, and other products to some 270,000 collectors on its mailing list. The information was contained in an attractive little brochure in the form of a Second World War ration book, complete with "Official Paid" device on the front cover. The mailing offered 10 first day covers of 1946 Victory stamps as prizes in a draw recently made by Royal Mail's Philatelic Marketing & Production Manager, Mr Alistair Sharp. Our photograph shows Mr Sharp (left) with Verne Greger, Operations Manager at the Bureau.



The 10 winners are: B A Barrall of Birmingham, A M Young of Stranraer, A Smyrniou of Greece, B Davies of Kings Lynn, W Seth of Faversham, P F Fincher of Aylesbury, P A Johnson of Nottingham, A Press of Bristol, P M Whittaker of Huddersfield, and D Canetti of Israel.

## Blue Fluor Varieties

Specialist collectors will be interested to know that sheets of 200 of the 1st and 2nd class NVI stamps have now been printed with blue fluor. These are now available from the Bureau. Collectors are reminded that an ultra-violet lamp is necessary to see the fluor on stamps.

## A New Year Gift to Bulletin readers

Next month's *Bulletin* will include a **free** copy of *Burns Bicentenary 1996* – the third title in the "British Philatelic Bulletin Publications" series. This lavishly-illustrated 16-page book, written by Dr James Mackay, a leading authority on Burns, records the man and the poet, with details of related stamps, postmarks, postal stationery, private labels, etc. The book has been specially designed as a companion to that published, and sent free to *Bulletin* subscribers, in 1966 when the first British Burns stamps were issued. This new book coincides with the four stamps, issued on 25 January 1996, to mark the bicentenary of Burns's death.

The book will be sent free to all existing *Bulletin* subscribers, and to those taking out a subscription before 29 February 1996. Additional copies may be purchased at the cover price of £2.95.

The two earlier titles in this series are still available from the British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, EDINBURGH EH3 5TT:

*British Special Stamps 1985/86*. By Francis Kennedy. Published 1993, price £3.95.

*British Stamp Design 1993: The Work of the Stamp Advisory Committee*. By James Negus. Published 1994, price £4.99.

## Good response to Soccer Stamp Poll

In the Stop Press to October's *Bulletin* we invited readers to nominate five out of 10 famous football players to feature on next year's "Football Legends" stamps to be issued to coincide with the European Football Championship staged in England. Over 500 *Bulletin* readers responded, many with comments and reminiscences about their favourite players. Nominations were also invited from the general

public through the national press. Steve Griffiths, Royal Mail manager in charge of the project, told the *Bulletin* that nominations from its readers were similar to those from the general public, with Danny Blanchflower more popular with *Bulletin* readers. The results of the poll will be announced next February and the stamps issued on 14 May.

Lists of famous players were drawn up by the Football Associations of England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland from which 10 were chosen by a panel of sports writers: Danny Blanchflower, Dixie Dean, Peter Docherty, Duncan Edwards, Alex James, Joe Mercer, Billy Meredith, Bobby Moore, Frank Swift, and Billy Wright. The final selection has been by public acclaim.

## Stamp Scene

### Scottish National Junior Competition

The Association of Scottish Philatelic Societies announces the 1996 National Junior Competition for the Caledonian Jubilee Cup. The competition is open to junior collectors up to the age of 18 years, resident or at school in Scotland. Entries will be judged in four age groups: up to and including 8 years; 9-12; 13-15; and 16-18. Four sheets are required for the under-9s; eight sheets for 9-15 year olds, and 12 sheets for those aged 16-18. Certificates and prizes will be awarded according to merit; the Caledonian Cup going to the best entry. All entries will be displayed at the Scottish Philatelic Congress at Falkirk on 23 March 1996. Entry forms, which should be returned by 26 January 1996, are available from: Frank N Soutar, ASPS Youth & Development Officer, 1 Campbell Drive, LARBERT, Stirlingshire, FK5 4PP.

### Society News

The Portadown & District Philatelic Society produced a limited edition (150) souvenir book for its annual exhibition and fair on 30 September. The front cover reproduced the datestamp of Scarva, a village about 10 miles from Portadown. The reproduction bears the date '22 JY 48'. Stapled within the book are eight pages of advertising (dealers and philatelic societies), and a Royal Mail 50p Sea Charts stamp book. The book is available at £1.25 plus postage from the Society's Secretary: J J Proctor, 15 Dorchester Park, PORTADOWN, Co Armagh, BT62 3EA. Some books for 1991, 1992 and 1994 are still available. The 1994 book featured here in December 1994 (page 101).

The Astro Space Stamp Society offers a first day cover of the 1992 Australia International Space Year stamps to the first 25 readers who request details of membership. This offer is restricted to readers in the UK who should enclose a 9 x 6" stamped self-addressed envelope. Enquiries: Brian Lockyer, 21 Exford Close, WESTON-SUPER-MARE, Avon BS23 4RE.

### New Railway Letter Stamp

The Nene Valley Railway issued a 25p "Santa Special" railway letter stamp on 30 October 1995, same day as the Royal Mail Christmas issue. The stamp depicts Father Christmas with a sack of toys, and a Christmas tree. Enquiries: Nene Valley Railway Letter Service, Wansford Station, Stibbington, PETERBOROUGH PE8 6LR

### Rowland Hill Major Error

GB dealer Mike Holt reports the discovery of a sheet of the 25p Rowland Hill stamp with Queen's head and value omitted. He has acquired 68 of the stamps; the remaining 32 were presumably used for postage. The stamps were purchased at a post office in Kent. Enquiries: Mike Holt, Tel. 01384 443317.



### Obituary – Roy Wright

Roy Wright, who died on 6 October, will be remembered as a most conscientious Editor of specialist society journals – *Railway Philately* (from 1982), *Journal of Chinese Philately* (from 1984), and *TPO Journal* (from 1990). In recent years, despite poor health he worked as a volunteer at the National Philatelic Society, helping in the library and with the despatch of auction lots and the NPS journal. Roy's enthusiasm was evident to all who met him, and despite several major operations and much pain he kept up his many philatelic activities almost to the end. He was ever helpful, cheerful and keen to get things done. He will be missed in many ways – the hobby needs such willing volunteers. Our condolences to his wife.

JH

# The Portraits of Rowland Hill

JAMES MACKAY

About 100 different countries have so far paid philatelic tribute to the man who started it all; the wonder is that more countries (especially in Europe) have not acknowledged the debt they owe to Rowland Hill, the father of the adhesive postage stamp, but it is to be hoped that this defect will be remedied in this the bicentenary year of his birth.

With a few exceptions, the stamps portraying Rowland Hill were issued in 1940 to mark the centenary of the Penny Black, in 1979 (centenary of Hill's death) and 1990 (150th anniversary of the Penny Black), the vast majority falling into the middle category.

Actually the first postal item to bear Sir Rowland's portrait was the correspondence card inserted in the pictorial envelopes issued in 1890 to celebrate the golden jubilee of Universal Penny Postage. This was a line drawing for the letterpress process and apparently derived from the engraving which appeared in *The Graphic* in August 1879, to accompany the lengthy obituary of Sir Rowland. Shortly before his death, Sir Rowland received the freedom of the City of London. Too feeble to leave his Hampstead house, he was visited by the Lord Mayor and aldermen, and it was a photograph taken on that occasion of the frail old man, bald and bespectacled, that graced the souvenir card 11 years later.

The same photograph, but reversed, was employed by Brazil for the sheetlet of 10 stamps issued in October 1938 in connection with the Brazilian International Philatelic Exhibition in Rio de Janeiro. In that instance although Hill's portrait occupied the centre of the design, a Penny Black (upper left) and a Bull's-Eye of 1843 (lower right) were also depicted. An excellent example of the *Graphic* portrait on its own was provided by El Salvador whose miniature sheet, marking the 150th anniversary of the Penny Black reproduced it in full colour on the first of six 2 cordoba stamps.

## The Vinter Portraits

In 1940 several countries used portraits of Hill on stamps to mark the centenary of the postage stamp. Dominica alone used the *Graphic* portrait (right way round), but others, notably Cuba, Paraguay and Portugal, favoured a portrait based on a photograph taken by J A Vinter, Photographer to Her Majesty Queen Victoria, in 1864 when Sir Rowland retired from the Post Office. He was then in his 69th year, balding and portly, with heavy white mutton-chop whiskers, and it seems to me unfortunate that this is the portrait by which he is chiefly remembered, and which, in one guise or another, has provided by far the bulk of the stamp designs so far.

*The first postal item bearing Hill's portrait – 1890 correspondence card*



"HE GAVE US PENNY POSTAGE"





*The J A Vinter portrait on 1940 issues from Cuba & Portugal*

At least three different photographs were taken by Vinter. Two of them are standing, three-quarter length portraits, the subject holding a glove in one hand and an umbrella in the other. In one, Sir Rowland, rests his right hand on a writing-desk, with stamped envelopes in a letter rack in the lower left-hand corner. In the other, he is resting his hand on the back of a chair. So far as stamp designs are concerned, however, only the upper portion of the picture has been reproduced, in many cases in a mirror print, so that Sir Rowland seems to be inclining his head to the right, instead of the left. In the third photograph Sir Rowland was shown seated at his desk, with a quill pen in his right hand.

Considering that steel-nibbed pens were commonplace by the 1860s this photograph is oddly symbolic, for Sir Rowland, like his brothers, was extremely old-fashioned in many respects. With the exception of Rowland, they all sported long beards, but the entire family had a penchant for black frock-coats and wide-brimmed hats which made them look like Hassidic Rabbis. Rowland, the least eccentric of

*1979 Bicentenary issues using variations of the Vinter portrait*



the family, was content with side-whiskers, but his mode of dress was ultra-conservative.

In both the seated and standing photographs Sir Rowland has his head inclined in a characteristic pose, as though listening intently to one of his subordinates. This accounts for the majority of the stamp portraits, even those in which the head alone was reproduced.

Sir Rowland next appeared on stamps in 1944, when Argentina issued a set on behalf of the Postmen's Benefit Fund. A Vinter photograph of Hill appeared on the 25c denomination. Two years later Guatemala used the same photograph for a full portrait bust. It was intended to release this stamp in 1940 for the stamp centenary but it was printed by Enschedé of Holland, and shipment of the stamps was held up by the Nazi invasion of the Low Countries, so that it was not until the war ended that the stamps could be released.

El Salvador produced a single 8c stamp in 1940, showing a view of palm trees, with a bust of Rowland Hill in the foreground. This faced right, and was not only a mirror image of the Vinter portrait but a rather crude imitation, setting the trend which was to be repeated all too often in 1979. By that time the effigy of Rowland Hill had become stereotyped – something that was instantly recognisable (to philatelists at any rate) and which had become stylised almost to the point of caricature in extreme cases (not unlike the Wyon profile of Queen Victoria, in fact, to judge from some of the reproductions of Penny Black that also graced these stamps).

### Unbuttoned Coat

As should have been expected, most of the stamps of 1979 had a portrait of Rowland Hill, if not on every stamp on the set, at least on one of them. Thus Britain set the example with Eric



*Eric Stemp's representation on British stamp. Note coat unbuttoned!*

Stemp's quartet in which Sir Rowland's full length standing figure was confined to the 10p value, the other three depicting aspects of the postal service in 1839-40. Stemp's portrait was based on the Vinter photographs, although it shows a curious aberration which Sir Rowland would never have tolerated – his coat is shown unbuttoned. Even when seated at his desk Sir Rowland usually kept his coat tightly buttoned.

The application of the Vinter portraits in 1979 was varied, and ranged from the excellent likeness (Taiwan) to the tiny heads tucked away, like some afterthought, in stamps from the Ivory Coast, Mali and Mauretania. The Cook Islands compromised with small Vinter busts in gold frames against aspects of posts and communications, past and present. The Cayman Islands, on the other hand, adopted an impressionist treatment, relegating poor Sir Rowland to a shadowy background against which reproductions of stamps could be set. Barbados used an outline portrait simulating a postmark, and applied this, like a cancellation, to the reproduction of stamps. Only the miniature

*Malawi miniature sheet showing reversed-Vinter portrait, and signature*



sheet (showing a Mulready envelope in the borders) had the "postmark" portrait clear of the reproduction of the early Britannia stamp.

The British Virgin Islands did not feature his portrait at all and were content to reproduce his signature. This was not quite as bad as Malawi whose set of four reproduced the Independence set issued in 1964 – with Dr Banda on all four. Only the accompanying miniature sheet remedied this, with a reversed Vinter bust and signature in the sheet margins.

## Hill and stamp collecting

The stamps with other portraits of the great postal reformer are relatively few. In 1950 Nicaragua celebrated the 75th anniversary of the Universal Postal Union with a set which included a bespectacled Hill on the 16c airmail and 20c ordinary stamps. In 1966 Belgium issued a 50c stamp with the theme of Philately for the Young and showed an elderly Hill with two children, poring over a stamp album. This was, in fact, a reproduction of a mural by J Van den Bussche and poses the interesting question, was Rowland Hill a philatelist? The records of the Crown Agents and Perkins Bacon indicate that specimens of foreign and colonial stamps were supplied to Rowland and his son Pearson for their own private purposes, and it would be nice to think that they were intended for Rowland's grandchildren. Liechtenstein echoed this by including Rowland Hill on a stamp of 1968 in the first series devoted to Pioneers of Philately (the Vinter portrait). Guinea Bissau (1979) likewise portrayed Sir Rowland in avuncular pose with a child and stamp album.

## Younger Portraits

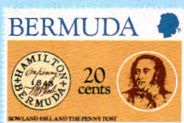
Several of the stamps of 1979, however, reproduced portraits of Rowland as a young man, around the period when he was engaged in agitation for postal reform. One portrait of the late 1830s shows a slim Rowland with quite a shock of hair and sideburns. It was reproduced on the stamps issued by Gibraltar but unfortunately the light tint of the hair gives the impression of quite an old man. In fact, it was based on a lithograph made in 1839 when Rowland Hill was hitting the headlines. It is interesting to note that lithography as a printing process was invented exactly 200 years ago, in the same year as Rowland was born. This portrait, but in reverse, has been used for the 19p stamp in Royal Mail's recent Communications set.

The lithograph derives from an oil painting of



*Belgian stamp showing Hill with young stamp collectors*

Hill executed in the 1830s. This shows Rowland in pensive mood, his right hand raised to his face. It is unusual in two respects, showing the coat unbuttoned to reveal a dark blue waistcoat and a white stock rather than the black cravat which he usually wore. This painting was reproduced in the margin of the miniature sheet 1979 and 1995 issues showing a younger Hill. The Belize and Bermuda portrait is by Mary M Pearson



issued by Belize.

A second painting, executed about 1850 by Mary M Pearson, shows an older, plumper man side whiskers now fully developed but still black, and dark hair receding from the forehead. This, too, shows the right hand raised to the side of the face and was faithfully reproduced on the 50p stamp issued by Ascension in 1979, as well as the cover of Royal Mail's £2 book released on 4 April 1995. A rather crude version of it, in reverse, appeared on the stamps issued by Bermuda.



*Hill in c.1870 (Botswana and British stamps) and the London statue (Jamaica)*

A photograph of Rowland Hill dating from about 1870, six years after he retired, was the basis of the half-length portrait used by Botswana and Christmas Island, and showing him seated with his left elbow resting on the back of the chair. This has been adapted for the 25p of Royal Mail's bicentenary set, adding a book (without which the hand would appear to be hanging in mid-air). Statues of Hill were erected in Kidderminster and Birmingham, but the best-known is the bronze figure by Onslow Ford which was erected in London in 1882. Originally it stood outside the Royal Exchange but was moved to its present location in King Edward Street, facing the former Post Office Headquarters, in 1923. It was reproduced on the stamps of Jamaica and Kenya issued in 1979.

© James Mackay 1995

*Editor's Note: Portraits based on Vinter's photograph of Hill are held by the National Portrait Gallery and National Postal Museum. The statues of Hill in Kidderminster and London were the subject of Midlands Postal Region and NPM postcards of 1974 and 1979. Portraits of Hill featured on NPM cards of 1979 (see September 1995 Bulletin, page 354) and 1990 (NPM/SWL 90/7).*

# 1995 Stamp Poll

**Vote for your favourite 1995 stamp – win £500 of current stamps**

For the 10th year running we are asking you to vote for your favourite stamps. Shown here are the special and greetings stamps of 1995. Tell us your top three sets and favourite individual stamp (numbered 1-53) on the enclosed voting

form. Also please state why you like your favourite set best. All voting forms will go into a prize draw – the sender of the first “out of the hat” will be invited to order £500 worth of stamps, books, stationery, etc on the current British Philatelic Bureau stock list. Runner-up prizes will go to the senders of the next 25 voting forms drawn. Voting forms should be returned by 26 January 1996. We look forward to hearing from you.

## A. Cats



## B. Springtime



## C. National Trust



## D. Peace & Freedom



## E. Science Fiction



## F. Shakespeare's Globe



25 26 27 28 29

## G. Communications



30 31 32 33

## H. Rugby League



34 35 36 37 38

## I. Christmas



39 40 41 42 43

## J. Greetings



44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53

# Decimal Stamp Books – 24

## Specialist Report

D G A MYALL

### New 4 x 35p book

A reprint of the retail book containing four stamps for the overseas postcard service was released during October. The stamps have blue fluor in the phosphor. It is the first of the three overseas rate books to be reprinted with the new additive and is always a popular book at this time of the year, when many Greetings cards are sent overseas. The book is printed by Walsall as before but there is a new plate combination: W3 W4.

### Rates and validity notices

The inside cover of the 4 x 35p book states that the stamps are valid for sending postcards to anywhere in the world by airmail. Of course, cards for European destinations cost less than 35p (unless they are over 40g), as is made clear by a price guide printed under the validity notice. It is interesting that the guide divides Europe into EU and Non-EU areas. The abbreviation EU stands for European Union which is the correct term and has replaced the former European Community. This is the same wording that appeared in the books with yellow fluor stamps.

**Airmail – Europe – Postcards and letters up to 20g**  
 EC countries 25p Non-EC countries 30p  
 UK – Postcards and letters up to 60g  
 First class 25p Second class 19p  
**Worldwide postcards (outside Europe)** 35p  
**Aerogramme** 36p

**Airmail – Rest of the World**  
 All destinations up to and including 10g 41p  
 All destinations up to and including 20g 60p  
 Each additional 20g: Zone 1 32p Zone 2 42p  
 Zone 1 (Americas, Africa, Middle East, India, SE Asia)  
 Zone 2 (Australia, Japan, China)  
 Please use airmail labels on all airmail items.

**Valid for sending postcards to anywhere in the World by Airmail**  
 • Please check and ensure that you have paid the correct postage  
 • Always use airmail labels on airmail items  
 • The full range of international mail products is available from post offices

**Price Guide for sending letters and cards abroad**

|                     | Europe |        | Worldwide |        |
|---------------------|--------|--------|-----------|--------|
|                     | EU     | Non-EU | Zone 1    | Zone 2 |
| Up to 10g           | 75p    | 80p    | 41p       | 41p    |
| Up to 20g           | 75p    | 80p    | 60p       | 60p    |
| Up to 40g           | 42p    | 42p    | 32p       | 42p    |
| Each additional 20g | 12p    | 12p    | 32p       | 42p    |

**Worldwide rate for Postcards 35p**  
 Zone 1 – Americas, Africa, Middle East, India, SE Asia  
 Zone 2 – Australia, Japan, China

4 x 35p books showing different European rates guide

These stamps are valid whatever the current postage rate and may be used for first class items up to 62g within the UK or up to 25g to countries in the European Union (EU). They can also be used as part payment for postage on heavier items to any country provided the full cost of postage is paid for the item.

Need to know a Postcode? Tel: 2445 101 222 (9am-5pm)

Printed by R. M. H. & Co. Ltd.

**Win a year's free shopping!**

Buy Sainsbury's The Magazine (July and August issues) for details.

Entry Voucher

Sainsbury book with European Union reference in full

In the overseas books, the changeover from references to the Community to Union occurred simultaneously with the change of cover design using a reproduction of a single stamp to a block design. Retail books, containing 1st-class NVI stamps, with one exception, still refer to EC or European Community. The exception is the book of 10 1st-class NVIs issued 26 June for the Sainsbury promotion and released through the Bureau and philatelic outlets on 4 September. The "Someone Special" book has only an abbreviated notice, since most of the space on the inside cover is taken up with details of the offer, and this makes no reference to Europe at all. Presumably, the covers of all other retail books of 1st-class stamps (those with 2nd-class do not make any reference to Europe), and of the machine vend books, will eventually be reprinted with the new wording and readers are advised to keep a lookout as they may not have any prior publicity. None of the books with blue fluor stamps seen so far has the new text.

### Blue fluor phosphor

The changeover from yellow to blue fluor in the phosphor inks used to print the definitive stamps is taking place faster than expected. The Bureau has decided to recognise them as new issues (although no official first day cover service can be provided), and has allocated stock letter codes to them, including books, both retail and machine vend, containing them. In my October article I mentioned that some apparently different covers contain stamps with both fluors.

Since the change is not detectable to the naked eye, how does the Bureau intend to distinguish them, you may ask. A number of methods are in use.

Probably the most important is that the labels on parcels of 1000 books mention the fact that the new fluor has been used. Illustrated here is the label from a parcel of the non-retail version of the "Someone Special" (Benjy Bear) book indicating that the new fluor has been used. Of course, all these books, both retail and non-retail versions, contain stamps with blue fluor stamps so maybe the indication on the label was not strictly necessary. However, the words BLUE FLUORESCENT appear on other parcel labels (and, incidentally, on parcels of affected sheet stamps).

Another way seems to have been used on the white labels with special barcodes that are attached to the shrink-wrapped bundles of 50 books. The ones on bundles of books of 4 x 35p with yellow fluor, for instance, have rounded corners while those on books with blue fluor stamps have square ones. This does not seem wholly reliable and some yellow fluor stocks will be withdrawn when they are replaced with the blue fluor version. (No announcement affecting books has been made but the Harrison 25p rolls with yellow fluor, for example, are being withdrawn from sale on 30 November although they were issued as recently as 16 May this year.) Make sure of your requirements while the yellow fluor versions are still available. To help you, the regular table of issues is updated this time, remember, however, that it is not possible for the Bureau to supply retail books with plate numbers to order.

### Christmas books

Last year there were two books, containing 10 x 1st-class and 20 x 2nd-class Christmas special issue stamps. There was also a special edition of the £2.40 book containing four 60p definitives (which was not issued in sheet form). This had a specially designed cover, four airmail labels and a pane of greetings stickers. This year there are three books, all containing 1995 Christmas issue stamps, featuring robins. The front covers reproduce the design of the stamps enclosed and are very attractive. As well as the usual books with 10 x 1st-class and 20 x 2nd-class stamps, there is a £2.40 book containing four of the 60p value, a recent addition to the range of special issue denominations. Like its definitive counterpart, the £2.40 book contains a pane of



*Christmas 4 x 60p book showing airmail labels and stamps printed together*

four airmail labels. Unlike it, however, the labels are attached to the pane of stamps instead of being stuck to the cover underneath them. The cylinder numbers appear on the inter panneau gutter, those seen on the books are:

£2.40 4 x 60p B1A silver, B2B orange-yellow, B1C red-orange, B1D bistre, B1E black, B1F blue and B6 (phosphor);

£2.50 10 x 25p B1A silver, B1B greenish yellow, B1C scarlet, B1D pale blue, B1E ochre, B1F black and B7 (phosphor);

£3.80 20 x 19p B1A silver, B1B greenish yellow, B1C vermilion, B1D orange-vermilion, B1E bistre, B1F black and B4 (phosphor).

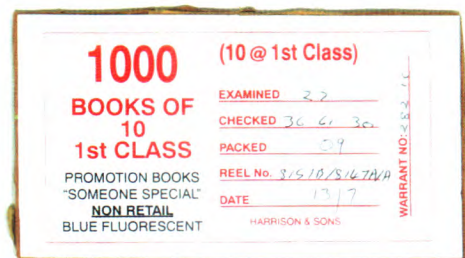
All the stamps in these books are overprinted with two blue fluor phosphor bands. The rates tables on the inside covers have the correct reference to EU and Non-EU countries.

### New books of 2nd-class NVI stamps

On 12 December two additions to the range of retail books are scheduled. Harrison are printing a book of ten and Walsall a book of four. Both contain 2nd-class NVI stamps with blue fluor. The stamps in the Walsall book are new for specialists as they are the first 2nd-class NVIs to be printed by this firm with the new additive. The books should appear in time to help meet the increased demand for the inland Christmas card rush as the last posting date (printed on the inside covers of the three Christmas books) is 18 December for 2nd-class (20 December for 1st-class).

### NVI and other retail books, plate update

The previous update was given here in June and a lot has happened since then. The following table contains all that were known to me at the time this article was submitted. Remember, the dates given are those when the books were first



Label from box of 1000 1st class books, marked BLUE FLUORESCENT

seen and they may differ from any announced officially. Moreover, since distribution is random, some may have been sold even earlier. All covers have the block stamp illustration, except where noted. All Walsall books with blue fluor stamps have the thinner card cover mentioned here in October.

Notes: 1. yellow fluor, 2. blue fluor, 3. thick cover card, 4. thin cover card, 5. single stamp design on cover, 6. date of philatelic release, 7. thin value, 8. exists in two versions, with and without a black box on spine.

| Printer  | Content                     | Barcode | Numbers     | Date     | Notes   |
|----------|-----------------------------|---------|-------------|----------|---------|
| Harrison | 10 x 1st 2B                 | 100197  | B5/B99      | 18. 7.95 | 2       |
|          | ditto; 'Someone Special'    |         |             | 4. 9.95  | 2, 8    |
|          | 4 x 2nd CB                  | 100272  | B6/B95      | 18. 7.95 | 2       |
| Questa   | 10 x 2nd CB                 | 100265  | Q20 Q20/Q2  | 7. 4.95  | 1       |
|          |                             |         | Q21 Q21/Q2  | 1. 8.95  | 2       |
|          |                             |         | Q22 Q22/Q2  | 29. 9.95 |         |
|          | 10 x 1st 2B                 | 100197  | Q4 Q4/Q2    | 26. 6.95 | 1, 6, 7 |
|          | ditto; Sainsbury offer      |         |             | 18. 7.95 | 2, 6, 7 |
| Walsall  | 4 x 1st 2B                  | 100180  | W23 W32 W32 | 3. 4.95  | 1, 3    |
|          |                             |         | W28 W36 W36 | 20. 5.95 |         |
|          |                             |         |             | 21. 6.95 |         |
|          |                             |         | W29 W37 W37 | 27. 6.95 | 1, 4    |
|          |                             |         | W29 W37 W38 | 28. 6.95 |         |
|          |                             |         | W29 W38 W39 | 18. 7.95 |         |
|          |                             |         | W31 W39 W40 | 18. 8.95 | 2, 4    |
|          |                             |         | W32 W40 W41 | 22. 8.95 |         |
|          |                             |         | W33 W41 W42 | 16. 9.95 |         |
|          | 4 x 1st 2B + Mitchell label |         | W25 W33 W33 | 16. 5.95 | 1       |
|          |                             |         | W27 W35 W35 | 20. 5.95 |         |
|          |                             |         | W38 W26 W33 | 26. 4.95 |         |
|          | 10 x 1st 2B                 | 100197  | W39 W27 W34 | 23. 8.95 | 1, 3    |
|          |                             |         |             | 20. 9.95 | 1, 4    |
|          |                             |         | W40 W28 W35 | 28. 8.95 | 1, 3    |
|          |                             |         |             | 9. 8.95  | 1, 4    |
|          |                             |         | W41 W29 W35 | 31. 8.95 |         |
|          |                             |         | W41 W30 W35 | 18. 8.95 |         |
|          |                             |         | W41 W30 W36 | 16. 8.95 |         |
|          |                             |         | W42 W31 W37 | 19. 8.95 | 2, 4    |
|          |                             |         | W39 W27 W34 | 27. 4.95 | 1, 5    |
|          |                             |         | W38 W26 W33 | 24. 4.95 | 1, 6    |
|          | Thornton's chocolates       | 101262  | W2 W3       | 16. 5.95 | 1, 3    |
|          | WH Smith offer              |         | W3 W4       | 5.10.95  | 2, 4    |
|          | 4 x 35p 2B                  |         |             |          |         |
|          | 4x 41p 2B                   | 101279  | W2 W1       | 16. 5.95 | 1, 3    |
|          | 4x 60p 2B                   | 101897  | W1 W1       | 16. 5.95 |         |

# 1995 Definitives, Country Stamps and Stamped Stationery Checklist

*Each December we publish a listing of definitives, country stamps and stamped stationery issued during the year. We hope this 1995 list will prove helpful to collectors in completing their collections. Please read the following notes carefully.*

## Notes

Stamps with no value indicated (NVI) are issued as definitives and as Greetings stamps. Some stamps were issued only in books and can be bought from Royal Mail only in complete books. To help collectors, we quote the relevant British Philatelic Bureau order number (prefixed TB, DS, etc.) as given on Bureau stock lists.

**Printers.** (H) Harrison & Sons Ltd., photogravure; (E) Joh. Enschedé Security Printing BV, photogravure; (Q) The House of Questa Ltd., offset-lithography; (W) Walsall Security Printers Ltd., offset-lithography.

**Perforations.** All definitive stamps, both National and Country (Regional), and all NVIs, are perforated 15 x 14; they also have a three-hole ellipse at left and right except where stated.

**Paper and Gum.** The paper, whether prepared for photogravure or for offset-lithography, is either: Non-phosphor coated, free of Optical Brightening Agent (OBA), and overprinted with phosphor bands, (OFNP); or Phosphor coated, free of OBA, (OFPP). Either may be gummed PVA or PVAD; details are given in the list.

**Phosphor bands.** The phosphor inks include a fluorescent additive which shows either yellow (Y) or blue (B) under an ultra-violet lamp.

## 10 January

Six retail books with revised cover design featuring a block of stamps instead of a single one. There were no changes to the NVI stamps contained in them.

76p Retail Book (UB100). Contents 4 x 2nd-class NVI stamps with one (Y) phosphor band in centre, (H), OFNP/PVAD.

£1 Retail Book (UB101). Contents 4 x 1st-class NVI stamps with two (Y) phosphor bands, (W), OFNP/PVA.

£1.90 Retail Book (UB102). Contents 10 x 2nd-class NVI stamps with one (Y) phosphor band in centre, (Q), OFNP/PVA.

£2.50 Retail Book (UB103). Contents 10 x 1st-class NVI stamps with two (Y) phosphor bands; (Q), OFNP/PVA.

£2.50 Retail Book (UB104). Contents 10 x 1st-class NVI stamps with two (Y) phosphor bands; (W), OFNP/PVA.

£2.50 Retail Book (UB105). Contents 10 x 1st-class NVI stamps with no phosphor bands; (H), OFPP/PVAD.

## 31 January

Mixed value stamp roll (DC066 roll, DC866 strip of 4), 3 x 5p plus 1 x 4p horizontally set-tenant, 700 strips per roll, no ellipses (H), OFPP/PVAD.

## January

During this month revised Swiftpacks (some of polythene) bearing a second peel-off barcode for use in destination countries went into distribution. Sizes affected were: DL, £3; C5, £3.25; C4, £4; C3 £4.99 Europe, £6.49 rest of world, prepaying postage to 50g, 100g, 150g and 500g respectively.

*Note: Swiftpacks are available from main post offices but are not stocked by the Bureau.*

## 7 February

50p Machine book (TB040); Sea Charts No. 1 – John O’Groats. Contents 2 x 25p stamps with no phosphor bands and two “postcode” labels; (H), OFPP/PVAD.

£1 Machine book (TB041); Inspiration for Victory No. 1 – Violette Szabo. Contents 4 x 25p stamps with no phosphor bands; (H), OFPP/PVAD.

£2 Machine book (TB042); Sir Rowland Hill No. 1 – Railway Excursions. Contents 8 x 25p stamps with no phosphor bands; (H), OFPP/PVAD.

*Note: Available from Bureau and philatelic outlets from the date shown; on sale from machines at post offices as stocks of earlier books were used up. The stamps were the same as in the earlier issues.*

## 14 February

£2.50 Retail Book, Thornton’s chocolates offer (UP005). Contents 10 x 1st-class NVI stamps with two phosphor bands; (W), OFNP/PVA.

*Note: Available from Bureau and philatelic outlets from the date shown; on sale from post offices and retail outlets as stocks of earlier books were used up. The stamps were the same as in the January issue of Walsall books. The offer ran until 30 June 1995.*

### 21 March

£2.50 Greetings (The art of Greeting) book (JB010). Contents 10 x 1st-class pictorial NVI stamps with two (Y) phosphor bands featuring details from works in various art media, and 20 greetings labels; (W), OFNP/PVA.  
Presentation Pack No. G4 (JP004) containing the Greetings book pane and labels, price £2.85.  
A set of ten Greetings stamp cards (JQ023), price £2.50.

### 4 April

Scottish Aerogramme (QS035) marking the 150th anniversary of the Glasgow School of Art. Price 45p including aerogramme postage indicated by a 1(st) postage paid impression and the Machin head.

### 4 April

50p Machine book (TB043); Sea Charts No. 2 – Lands End. Contents 2 x 25p stamps with no phosphor bands and two “postcode” labels; (H), OFPP/PVAD.

£1 Machine book (TB044); Inspiration for Victory No. 2 – Dame Vera Lynn. Contents 4 x 25p stamps with no phosphor bands; (H), OFPP/PVAD.

£2 Machine book (TB045); Sir Rowland Hill No. 2 – Education Reform. Contents 8 x 25p stamps with no phosphor bands; (H), OFPP/PVAD.

*Note: The stamps were the same as in the earlier issues. (The £1 Dame Vera Lynn book is known with stamps having two phosphor bands but this was not intended; see 16 May.) The listed books were available from the Bureau and philatelic outlets from the date shown; on sale from machines at post offices as stocks of earlier books were used up.*

### 4 April

£2.50 Retail Book (UB107). Contents 10 x 1st-class NVI stamps with two (Y) phosphor bands; (H), OFNP/PVAD. It replaced issue UB105 of 10 January.

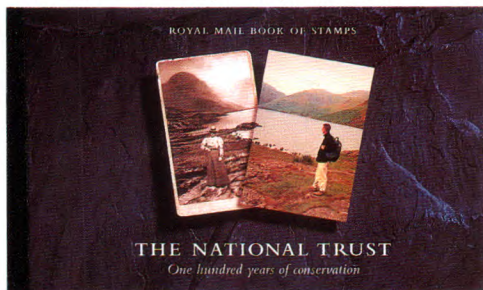
### 11 April

2p sheet definitive (DS027) with elliptical perforations and two (Y) phosphor bands; (E), OFNP/PVA. This stamp was formerly printed by Harrison.

### 24 April

£2.50 Retail Book (UP006). Contents 10 x 1st NVI stamps and featuring a special offer of 50p off the price of a range of stationery from W H Smith shops. The stamps had two (Y) phosphor bands and were unchanged from previous issues; (W), OFNP/PVA.

*Note: These books were not available from philatelic outlets until 3 October, after the promotion ended.*



*National Trust prestige book (25 April)*

### 25 April

£6 National Trust Prestige Stamp Book (YB009). Stamp contents, four panes:

pane 1 6 x 25p National Trust special issue, “Protecting Land” (as issued 11 April); with two phosphor bands; no ellipses;

pane 2 mixed pane of nine comprising a pictorial label and eight National definitives se-tenant, viz: 1 x 10p two bands, 1 x 19p right band, 1 x 19p left band, 2 x 25p two bands, 1 each of 30p, 35p, 41p, all with two bands;

pane 3 pane of six Country stamps comprising: 1 x 19p right band and 1 x 25p two bands for Scotland, Wales and N. Ireland, horizontally and vertically se-tenant;

pane 4 pane of six 19p National definitives, three with right band and three with left band, horizontally se-tenant.

Pane 1 was on OFNP/PVAD, (H); the others were on OFNP/PVA, (Q). All the phosphor bands had yellow fluorescence.

### 16 May

£1 Machine book (TB046); Inspiration for Victory No. 3 – R J Mitchell. Contents four 25p stamps with two (Y) phosphor bands; (H), OFNP/PVAD. See August for this book containing stamps with (B) phosphor bands.

*Note: The stamps officially had phosphor bands for the first time. (A few of design No. 2, Dame Vera Lynn issued in April, had them inadvertently.) Available from the Bureau and philatelic outlets from the date shown; on sale from machines at post offices as stocks of earlier books were used up.*

## 16 May

£1 Label Retail Book (UL002). Contents 4 x 1st NVI stamps attached to the left of a label commemorating the birth centenary of R J Mitchell. The stamps have two (Y) phosphor bands, (W), OFNP/PVA and are unchanged from previous issues.

*Note: The complete pane was folded into the cover during production. Unfolded panes available from the Bureau (UC003), price £1.*

## 16 May

Three Retail Books containing stamps for overseas mail and having a revised cover design featuring a block of stamps instead of a single one. There were no changes to the stamps contained in them.

£1.40 Retail Book (UB108). Contents 4 x 35p with two (Y) phosphor bands, (W), OFNP/PVA.

£1.64 Retail Book (UB109). Contents 4 x 41p with two (Y) phosphor bands, (W), OFNP/PVA.

£2.40 Retail Book (UB110). Contents 4 x 60p with two (Y) phosphor bands, (W), OFNP/PVA.

## 16 May

New rolls of 25p stamps. These had two (Y) phosphor bands and replaced the rolls on Advanced Coated Paper (November 1993). The new rolls were issued in two sizes, both coded CL (but shown as CLP on Bureau stock lists), viz: 500 stamps (DC067) and 1000 stamps (DC068).

Single stamps or strips from these rolls were sold by the Bureau at 25p per stamp (DC867 and DC868). They were, of course, identical from each roll length.

*Note: These rolls and single stamps were withdrawn from sale at the Bureau on 30 November 1995, superseded by versions with blue fluor, 18 July 1995.*

## 6 June

50p Machine book (TB047); Sea Charts No. 3 – St David's Head. Contents 2 x 25p stamps with two (Y) phosphor bands and two "postcode" labels; (H), OFNP/PVAD. The phosphor bands on the stamps were short at the top.

£2 Machine book (TB048); Sir Rowland Hill No. 3 – Postal Districts. Contents 8 x 25p stamps with two (Y) phosphor bands; (H), OFNP/PVAD.

*Note: These issues completed the change-over to phosphor-banded stamps in machine vended books. Available from Bureau and philatelic outlets from the date shown; on sale from machines at post offices as stocks of earlier books were used up.*

## 26 June

£2.50 Retail Book (UP007) containing a voucher to enter a competition run by J Sainsbury to win a year's free shopping at their stores. Contents 10 x 1st-class NVI stamps with two (Y) phosphor bands; (Q), OFNP/PVA. All stamps in this book had the type 1 value mentioned in August Bulletin (page 364).

*Note. The promotion ran during July and August but the books were not available from the Bureau or other philatelic outlets until 4 September.*

## 4 July

Pictorial aerogramme (QC003) commemorating the European Youth Olympics. Price 45p including aerogramme postage indicated by a 1(st) postage paid impression and Machin head.

## 18 July

Scottish Aerogramme (QS036) featuring prehistoric sites in Scotland. Price 45p including aerogramme postage indicated by a 1(st) postage paid impression and Machin head.

*Note. Available only from post offices in Scotland, the Bureau and Post Office Counters philatelic outlets.*

## 18 July

New rolls of 19p and 25p stamps. These have blue (B) fluor phosphor bands and replaced the rolls with yellow (Y) fluor issued on 16 May. The 19p stamps had a single central band and the 25p had two bands. Both were (H), OFNP/PVAD. The new rolls were issued in two sizes, viz: 500 stamps (19p DC070; 25p DC071) and 1000 stamps (19p DC072, 25p DC073).

Single stamps or strips from these rolls were sold by the Bureau at face value; 19p (DC870 and DC872); 25p (DC871 and DC873). They were, of course, identical from each roll length.

## 18 July

Five Retail Books; changed stamp contents from yellow (Y) to blue (B) fluor phosphor bands.

£1 (UB118) containing 4 x 1st NVI stamps with two (B) phosphor bands; (W), OFNP/PVA. It replaced issue UB101 of 10 January.

£1.90 (UB117) containing 10 x 2nd NVI stamps with one central (B) phosphor band; (Q), OFNP/PVA. It replaced issue UB102 of 10 January.

£2.50 (UB116) containing 10 x 1st NVI stamps with two (B) phosphor bands; (Q), OFNP/PVA. It replaced issue UB103 of 10 January.

76p (UB114) containing 4 x 2nd NVI stamps with one central (B) phosphor band; (H), OFNP/PVAD. It replaced issue UB100 of 10

January.

£2.50 (UB115) containing 10 x 1st-class NVI stamps with two (B) phosphor bands; (H), OFNP/PVAD. It replaced issue UB107 of 4 April.

## July

New post paid envelopes produced by McCorquodale Envelopes Ltd went on sale with a new design. These replaced the Machin head within a black octagonal frame with one surrounded by the words POSTAGE PAID POSTAGE PAID, with a service indicator – 1ST or 2ND – at the right. The former were printed in blue with two phosphor bands; the latter were printed in green with a single phosphor band. The sizes and other details are as follows.

| Size etc.         | 1st-class   | 2nd-class   |
|-------------------|-------------|-------------|
| DL                | 30p (RX009) | 24p (RX010) |
| DL (window)       | 30p (RX007) | 24p (RX008) |
| C5 (paid to 60g)  | 31p (RY012) | 25p (RY013) |
| C5 (paid to 100g) | 42p (RY010) | 33p (RY011) |
| C4                | 43p (RZ007) | 34p (RZ008) |

*Note. These envelopes are available to business customers from Royal Mail Retail and to collectors from the Bureau.*



£1 and £3 definitives (22 August)

## 22 August

New £1 and £3 definitive stamps. The £1 value ceased to be part of the high value range and was issued in the small size Machin series (DS101); (E), OFNP/PVA. It was printed in "Iridin" ink with two (B) phosphor bands. The Carrickfergus design in the Castles series was re-used for a £3 value (FS301) printed in intaglio (recess) by (H), OFNP/PVAD.

*Note. The obsolescent £1 Carrickfergus stamp was not withdrawn but sold to exhaustion at post offices.*

Presentation pack (FP010) for the £3 stamp, price £3.35.

*Note. There was no presentation pack for the £1 stamp; this was included in a new Low Value Pack issued 21 November 1995.*

Stamp cards for £1 definitive (DQ002) and £3 high value (FQ008), price 25p each were issued on 15 August.

## August

Retail Books; further change from yellow to blue fluor stamps.

£2.50 (UB119) containing 10 x 1st NVI stamps with two (B) phosphor bands; (W), OFNP/PVA. It replaced issue UB104 of 4 January. The stamps were the same as those in the book of four issued 18 July.

## August

Machine stamp book; further change from yellow to blue fluor stamps. £1 (TB052), Inspiration for Victory No. 3 – R J Mitchell. Contents four 25p stamps with two (B) phosphor bands; (H), OFNP/PVAD. This issue succeeded TB046 of 16 May.

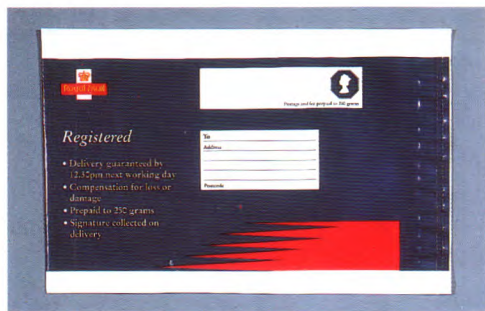
## August

Sheet definitives; further changes from yellow to blue fluor stamps.

19p (DS194) with one central (B) phosphor band; (H), OFNP/PVAD.

25p (DS253) with two (B) phosphor bands; (H), OFNP/PVAD.

41p (DS412) with two (B) phosphor bands; (E), OFNP/PVA.



Registered C5 "plastic" envelope (4 September)

## 4 September

New envelopes for the Special Delivery, Registered and Registered Plus services. These are produced from "plastics" rather than from paper materials. There are two sizes for each of the three services:

| Size | Special Delivery | Registered  | Registered Plus |
|------|------------------|-------------|-----------------|
| C4   | £4.00 RZ011      | £4.30 RZ009 | £4.90 RZ010     |
| C5   | £3.30 RY016      | £3.60 RY014 | £4.20 RY015     |

*Note. The old style envelopes were withdrawn from post offices as the new ones became available.*

### 4 September

Philatelic release of the £2.50 Sainsbury book; *see* 26 June

### 4 September

£2.50 Retail Book (UP008) with "Someone Special" offer of miniature ceramic figures of Benjy Bear and Harry Hedgehog. Contents 10 x 1st NVI stamps with two (B) phosphor bands; (H), OFNP/PVAD. The stamps were the same as those in issue UB115 of 18 July.

There were two versions of this book. Those for sale through retail outlets had a small hollow black square adjacent to the spine on the back cover; those for sale through post offices did not. The purpose was to enable the response to the offer to be monitored.

### 4 September

50p Machine book (TB049); Sea Charts No. 4 – Giant's Causeway. Contents 2 x 25p stamps with two (Y) phosphor bands and two "postcode" labels; (H), OFNP/PVAD. The stamps were unchanged from previous issues.

£1 Machine book (TB050); Inspiration for Victory No. 4 – Archie McIndoe. Contents 4 x 25p stamps with two (B) phosphor bands; (H), OFNP/PVAD. The stamps were the same as those in part of the Mitchell book, No. 3 in the series, issued in August.

£2 Machine book (TB051); Sir Rowland Hill No. 4 – Mulready envelopes. Contents 8 x 25p stamps with two (Y) phosphor bands; (H), OFNP/PVAD. The stamps were unchanged from previous issues.

*Note: Available from Bureau and philatelic outlets from the date shown; on sale from machines at post offices as stocks of earlier books were used up.*

### 11 September

Reprint of stamp pane without the Boots logo. It contains one 1st-class NVI stamp with change to two (B) phosphor bands; (Q), OFNP/PVA. Price 25p (UC004).

### August/September

Some Country stamps with blue fluor became available during this period; there was no official date of issue.

25p Scotland (SS251) and 25p Wales, (WS251) both with two (B) phosphor bands; (Q), OFNP/PVA.

### October

Further Country stamps with blue fluor – 19p Scotland (SS193) 19p Wales (WS193), also 4p definitive (DS046).

### 3 October

Philatelic release of the £2.50 promotional book for W H Smith stationery; *see* 24 April.

### 3 October

Christmas Aerogramme (QX019) featuring the Robin. Price 45p including 36p aerogramme postage indicated by a 1(st) postage paid impression and Machin head.

*Note. On sale at post offices until 23 December; available from the Bureau and philatelic outlets until October 1996.*

### October

£1.40 Overseas Retail Book (UB120); change of fluor. Contents 4 x 35p with two (B) phosphor bands; (W), OFNP/PVA. It replaced issue UB108 of 16 May.

### 10 October

25p sheet definitive, first printing by Enschedé stamp has two (B) phosphor bands; (E), OFNP/PVA. There were two batches using paper stock with slightly different coloured gum – one with a blue/green tinge (DS254), the other white/opaque (24 October) (DS255).

### November

Sheet definitives, further changes to blue fluor. 2p (DS028); 2nd NVI (DS195); 1st NVI (DS256).

### 21 November

Low Value definitive stamp pack No. 34 (DP017) price £5.45 containing one each of 1p, 2p, 4p, 5p, 6p, 10p, 19p, 20p, 25p, 29p, 30p, 35p, 36p, 38p, 41p, 50p, 60p and £1. These are all from sheet printings by Enschedé except for the 19p and 25p which were from sheets printed by Harrison and the 60p which is from books of four printed by Walsall. The (H) stamps have PVAD gum; the others have PVA.

### 12 December

Two additions to the Retail Book range.

76p (UB121) containing 4 x 2nd NVI stamps with one central (B) phosphor band; (W), OFNP/PVA. This was the first Walsall 2nd-class NVI with blue fluor.

£1.90 (UB122) containing 10 x 2nd NVI stamps with one central (B) phosphor band; (H), OFNP/PVAD. The stamps were the same as those in issue UB114 of 18 July.

*Royal Mail is grateful to D G A Myall for compiling this listing. The Editor regrets he is unable to engage in correspondence regarding the contents of this annual listing.*

# Varieties of Yesteryear-10

## KGV "Seahorses" High Values: A Variety of Varieties!

FRED GEE

When the King George V high value definitives were originally issued in July 1913 there were four stamps in the set: a £1 value as well as the 2/6d, 5/-, and 10/-. But the £1 stamp had a relatively short life, being withdrawn towards the end of 1915 as there was, apparently, little demand at that time for a stamp of such high value. It is an interesting commentary on how times have changed that the current GB £1 stamp is one of the *low* value series!

However, the other three denominations, which remained in use for some 26 years, present the collector with a variety of varieties. For the specialist, there are varieties resulting from the use of different inks, different papers, and different gums, and even of perforating pins of different diameters. But the varieties on which I want to focus attention in this article are those which actually altered the surface appearance of the stamp design. As it happens, these three remaining high value definitives of George V offer several varieties of this type.

The original set of four was printed by Waterlow Bros & Layton. From December 1915 until December 1918 the high values (without the £1) were printed by De La Rue & Co, and from then on by Bradbury Wilkinson & Co Ltd. The Bradbury Wilkinson printings offer us two variations from the original size: whereas the stamps printed by both Waterlow Bros & Layton and De La Rue were 22mm in height, the BW printings were a little larger. The design became "stretched" vertically because Bradbury Wilkinson used rotary plates, unlike those which had been used by the two earlier printers. From 1918 the stamps were 22.75mm high, then from 1927 (when BW made new printing plates and adopted a printing technique which "stretched" the design even more) they were 23mm high. The 22.75mm versions nearly all have a tiny dot (the same colour as the stamp) just above the centre of the upper frame line, but this dot is absent from the 23mm stamps.

### Re-engraved

At the end of 1933 a new contract for the production of the high value definitives was

awarded to Waterlow & Sons and for this printing the dies were re-engraved. The new issue appeared in October 1934 and there were numerous minor differences between these 1934 re-engravings and those of the original stamps. But the most obvious difference is to be seen in the vignette containing the portrait of George V. In the 1913, 1918 and 1927 versions the background to the King's head consists solely of horizontal lines, whereas in the 1934 stamps this background is cross-hatched with diagonal as well as horizontal lines. This variety occurs in all three high value denominations still in current use in 1934, but is not of course found in the £1 stamp, which was never reprinted after 1915.



*Seahorses varieties: 1913 2/6d with lined background to King's head, and frame 22mm high; 1918 5/-, still with lined background, but frame now 22.75mm high, and tiny dot over top frame line (this stamp overprinted in Erse in 1922 for use in the Irish Free State); 1927 10/-, still with lined background but now 23mm high – and no dot; and 1934 re-engraved 5/- with cross-hatched background to King's head.*

In respect of most of the stamps which have featured in this series of articles I have been able to reassure the reader that the cost of purchasing examples of the varieties should not be too great, but I must acknowledge that the KGV high value definitives, whilst not exactly rare, are likely to be rather more expensive than the other stamps which I have written about. Nevertheless, if you have any of these stamps in your collection, it is worth picking up that magnifying glass to study the background to the King's head – and, in the case of those with only horizontal lines of shading, to check whether they are 22mm, 22.75mm, or 23mm high. You may just have one of the more valuable Varieties of Yesteryear!

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## Origin of First Day Covers

*Tony Buckingham, Chief Executive of Benham, writes:* "George Wilson of Devon (September Postbag) brings up a very interesting point. I have wondered at what point people started actually producing first day covers. Although certainly in 1870 when the first postcards came in people posted them as a curio as the first of a service. I have seen examples where someone wrote the major events of the day on the card and suggested it would be worth keeping as it could have a future value – very prudent advice, considering that they cost something like £500 today.

"I do know that collectors produced first day covers in reasonable numbers for the new stamps of King Edward VII, and the 10d (or 4p) which was put on the covers seemed quite a lot of money in those days. This shows that some of them were very keen. In all likelihood the 1890 Jubilee envelope was perhaps the trigger point. The hobby grew rapidly in the early part of the century, the first illustrated envelope being in 1911 for the coronation of George V. One or two even managed to get the covers posted in Westminster Abbey, one of the rarest postmarks on a first day and they are, of course, exceptionally valuable.

"The first commemoratives in 1924 and 1925 brought forward a boom in first day cover collecting and of course by the 30s first day cover collecting was well established. I know of many collectors who specialise in the 1937 Coronation first day covers – and one boasts of over 200 different illustrated covers.

"The enormous growth in first day cover collecting and specialisation was brought to a rapid end with the Second World War although some collectors managed to keep up producing first day covers throughout the war, including the high values which are, of course, exceptionally rare.

"After a slow start with the period of austerity after the war and the shortage of paper, cover collecting gradually grew in popularity until, in 1964, I have seen statistics stating that 300,000 covers were posted for the Queensferry

postmark for the Forth Road Bridge. Of course, it was during 1964 that the Post Office first decided to cash in on the popularity, produced illustrated envelopes and then promptly stopped producing them in 1965, only to restart them again. The hobby has evolved from it just being a date on any scruffy envelope to today, where the quality of the cover, the postmark and the whole effect is important.

"In fact, first day cover collecting is very much like stamp collecting, there are so many facets, so many parts to it. If any *Bulletin* readers would be interested, I've just written a guide to first day cover collecting which reflects my 30 year experience as a specialist first-day cover dealer and editor of *Collect First Day Covers* for over 20 years. It is completely free and you can either phone Benham at 01303-226777 and ask for a free copy or drop a line to Benham, Benham House, Tontine Street, FOLKESTONE CT20 1SD. In exchange, if any of your readers can give me information about any Victorian first day covers actually produced as first day covers I would be very grateful. Similarly, information about major errors on first day covers is a subject on which I would like to do more research."



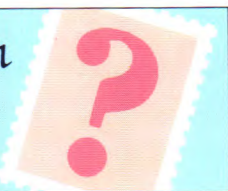
## Rugby League Stamps

*John T Rees, President of Llanelli District Rugby Union, writes:*

"Congratulations on your Rugby League Centenary stamps issue and the excellent feature in the September issue of the *Bulletin*. It's a strange coincidence that the Rugby League Centenary and the issue of the stamps comes at the very time that the Rugby Union is shedding its amateur outlook. The main reasons today are very much as they were 100 years ago with the League clubs, but much stronger plus the advent of sponsorships. Also my congratulations on the excellent and very true poem 'anding off the tackles of Time' which brings back many memories of Rugby in days 'long gone by'. Indeed the poem stirs tears of emotion."

# Competition

SPONSORED BY:  
OMNIPHIL APPROVALS



## Win a 1891 QV £1 Green Fine Used!

The prizes for this month's competition have been supplied by OMNIPHIL, specialists in supplying fine stamps on approval, without obligation, by post.

\* 1st prize: GB 1891 QV £1 green letters C-D, fine used with registered cancels, minor wrinkles, well centred with excellent colour, SG 212, cat £375 plus 50% premium for well-centred, lightly used.



\* 2nd prize: GB 1884 QV £1 brown-lilac letters DR, very good used example with oval registered cancels, faint vertical crease at left, otherwise good colour and perfs. SG 185, cat £950.

\* Four 3rd prizes: GB 160 Europa 1s 6d – the striking "Dropped Scroll" colour shift, a very popular early QE colour shift, each prize in superb unmounted mint condition.

## Introducing OMNIPHIL APPROVALS

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If you have not already tried OMNIPHIL APPROVALS you may be in for a pleasant surprise. One of the most important features of their service is that they offer each and every stamp individually available, without obligation, upon 12 days home approval so that you can fill your empty gaps.

Presently Omniphil are offering all *Bulletin* readers the chance to participate in their "WE'LL PAY YOU £100" Discounts Promotion – so if you have not already applied now is your chance.

The promotion has, not surprisingly, proved popular and all *Bulletin* readers replying have

received absolutely FREE OF CHARGE a GB 1841 2d blue, catalogued £35. Naturally there is a limit of one reply per household, so if you have not already replied you are invited to do so now, to receive your free 2d blue plus a selection of approvals without obligation to purchase.

The organisation of their stock does not permit them to handle wants lists or latest issues, but if your collection is missing stamps from 1840 to the 1980s all you have to do is tell them ALL the countries/areas that you collect and they will send a suitable selection as available without obligation.

Write now stating all countries you collect and whether you collect mint and used to:

OMNIPHIL APPROVALS  
BULLETIN BLUE OFFER  
PO Box 29  
STROUD  
Glos GL6 6RW



To enter the competition answer the questions below and send, with your name and address, on a postcard or back of an envelope to: December Bulletin Competition, Royal Mail, 22 Finsbury Square, LONDON EC2A 1NL to arrive by 26 January 1996. You may submit as many entries as you like but each must be posted separately; multiple entries in one envelope will be disregarded.

1. Who is the new Chief Executive of The Post Office?
2. Where will the Scottish Philatelic Congress be held in March 1996?
3. Who wrote the text in the forthcoming Burns stamps presentation pack?
4. In what year were pictorial stamp book covers introduced?
5. Who posed for photographers at the George Hotel, Huddersfield on 25 September 1995?

The answers will be found in this *Bulletin*. The competition is not open to employees, families or agents of Royal Mail or Omniphil Approvals.

The winners of the September competition were: M Jansen of Germany (1st prize), N Dykierman of Middlesex (2nd) and C S Dixon of Norfolk (3rd).

The answers were: 1. Prince George (George V); 2. 1959; 3. W E "Bill" Mole; 4. Atlanta; 5. McCorquodale & Co.

Our thanks to all who entered.

## Out of the Arc...

### Curiosities from the Post Office Archives

#### 15. Prisoner of War Mail

The packet illustrated was one of 25, containing a total of 4000 letters, which arrived in Liverpool, via London, on 3 September 1941. They contained letters from British Prisoners of War who were imprisoned in Stalag XXB, which was in Marienburg, near Danzig. The Germans had also enclosed letters for German Prisoners of War in England.

Frank O'Neill  
Information Manager



Post Office Archives is open to the public Monday-Friday, 09.00-16.15. A leaflet giving details of the services can be obtained by sending a DL size stamped addressed envelope to: Post Office Archives, Freeling House, Mount Pleasant (Phoenix Place Entrance), LONDON EC1A 1BB. The office will be closed for Christmas/New Year from 23 December – 1 January inclusive.

The 7th in the Post Office Archives Historic Miniatures series is now available – a delightful figurine of a Second World War Postwoman, complete with GPO mailbag. The background story, by PO Archivist Kevin Squelch, was published here last month.

Price £21.95 if ordered by 31 December – please state Bulletin offer and add 60p for postage. Price from 1 January will be £25. Orders/enquiries: Post Office Archives, address above.

## Posting Boxes

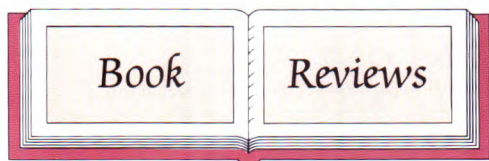
#### No. 158. Victorian Box A-hoy!

Our photograph this month was submitted by Norman Holden of the Fraser Valley Philatelic Club of British Columbia. It shows a Victorian box on the remote island of Hoy in the Orkney Islands. Mr Holden writes: "I first discovered this box while stationed on Hoy in 1942-43. Our British Army Signals camp was located a few hundred yards from this. It is located just south of the small village of Melsetter on the Lyness-Longhope road, at the turn off leading to the 'Admiral's House'. The photo was taken in the 1980s by a friend revisiting the area. The box was still in use at that time – a letter was mailed to me."

Another Orkney box – on the island of Eday – was featured here in November 1989.



Readers interested in letter boxes should consider joining the Letter Box Study Group which has some 700 members. For details send a stamped addressed envelope to the Secretary: Sally Jones, 43 Miall Road, Hall Green, BIRMINGHAM B28 9BS.



The 1996 (15th) edition of **Collecting British First Day Covers**, compiled by N C Porter and edited and published by A G Bradbury, is now available. The General Notes section has been expanded, giving more details of types of covers and postmarks, more illustrations, and further tips on collecting. The listings are clearly arranged under separate "Commemorative" and "Definitive" headings, the latter including Booklet Panes, Coils, Postage Dues, Framas, and Regionals. All FDC and postmark types are listed in an easy-to-follow format. Prices for special handstamps are given in a two column price structure, i.e. prices for ordinary (or commercial) covers and a price for the official (or sponsored) cover. Also priced are relevant circular datestamp (cds) and slogan postmarks. The definitive listings include covers bearing varieties – changes to perfs, papers, and phosphors – where the issue dates are known.

Whatever one thinks of first day covers (many purist collectors wouldn't touch them with the proverbial barge-pole), it is now a well-established "hobby within a hobby" and even a cursory glance at this catalogue will show that many covers are now of considerable monetary value. FDCs of the Penny Black and Twopence Blue are priced at £20,000 and £25,000, but even some fairly recent examples are priced in hundreds of pounds. For example, the 1965 UN and 1966 World Cup sets on covers with International Co-operation Year, Reading and World Cup City Sheffield slogans are priced at £450 and £425 respectively.

In recent years there has been increased interest in covers with relevant local cds, usually obtained by sending covers by priority services (Registered, Registered Plus, or Special Delivery). Some examples are illustrated – e.g. Naseby, Northampton (1992 Civil War), Swanpool, Lincoln and Britannia, Porth, Mid-Glam (1993 Swans and £10 definitive).

Collectors who prefer pictorial philatelic handstamps rather than operational postmarks are well-catered for with each new issue attracting a considerable number. These are all listed here, with many illustrations. For the most

part these handstamps are well-designed and of considerable interest to thematic as well as FDC collectors. No fewer than 37 such handstamps are listed for the 1994 Summertime set, with D-Day coming a close second with 35 different postmarks. Ordinary (non-pictorial) "First Day of Issue" handstamps for non-relevant offices are priced only to the end of 1970.

196 pages, card covers, ISBN 0-9517463-4-0. Price £4.95. Available from good stamp shops or direct from publisher: A G Bradbury, 3 Link Road, LEICESTER LE2 3RA. Postage £1.55 UK. Collectors ordering from the publisher will receive five free covers with their catalogue.

It is somewhat significant when the Editor asks you to review a new book then return it to him by first class post! So it is with the **Connoisseur Catalogue of Machin Stamps Tenth Edition** 1995. As the publisher claims, it is a work of reference that covers the subject in depth, with plenty of explanatory notes and illustrations for the better understanding of a very complex subject.

Boring to some they may be, but to many others the Machins represent an accurate portrayal of operational changes in Royal Mail, contemporary postal history in fact. This catalogue provides detailed information, including retail values, about single stamps, cylinder and plate blocks, coils, booklets, first day covers and postal stationery. It is three years since the last edition, in which time more than 100 pages have been added to the text and £3 only added to the price.

Comprehensive it may be but *fully* comprehensive it is not! For example, on pages 50 and 51 the catalogue admits to adopting a simplified approach to the important subject of the Machin head types. It claims that users only require to distinguish between head types A1, B1 and B2, all of which have a dark background and two curved lines of shading in the hair. I find it hard to agree with this as the pale background stamps were developed for specific operational reasons (to provide for adequate colour distinction between stamps in the definitive range) and should be included in an important work of reference such as this. I certainly found the lack of such information to be a weakness when doing some work for the National Postal Museum on the Jeffery Matthews colour developments in 1984 and 1989.

Ease of use has also been criticised, specifically because the redrawn numeral types have been

separately classified, even though they may come in the same paper/gum category. This means that users have to jump about between the pages to check off their own stamps. For example Harrison Decimals ACP/Dex appear on pages 84-5 and again as Redrawn Numerals ACP/Dex on pages 95-98.

On the other hand it is extremely good in the area of prices. According to trade friends they present a very accurate picture of current retail values, some of which have not moved much in the last three years. It may amaze you that Scottish aerogrammes continue to fetch only a few pence despite rumours of very low production figures, but that is the way the market is!!!

Many other prices have moved upwards and I can draw attention to a small selection from different sections of the book as follows:

|                                                                                           | 1992   | 1995 |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|------|
| Northern Ireland 17p Deep Blue ACPB/Dex plate block Q1Q1                                  | £95    | £295 |
| Q2Q2                                                                                      | £95    | £295 |
| £2 Edinburgh Pale Indigo highly glazed paper low OBA, single Harrison Window Book 4 x 27p | £22.50 | £95  |
| no rate/leaflet information on inside cover, cylinder B1                                  | £25    | £40  |
| Folded Booklet 90p Llangollen Canal, right selvedge, cylinder 25 E                        | £175   | £275 |
| Harrison 25p PCP1 Dex APS                                                                 |        |      |
| Cylinder block 2 dot                                                                      | £55    | £60  |

I have not included any of the more exotic material such as imperfs, or missing phosphors as these speak for themselves usually but not always in big bucks!

Since 1992 the catalogue has been expanded to take in all important new developments and is complete up to the end of June 1995. The pace of change does not slacken however and I for one would appreciate a supplement in due course covering the blue fluor introduction which we are in the middle of right now. It would be a shame to have to wait another three years for this. One major revision has been in the listing of broad bands with more varieties now having been recorded. Coil leaders have been included for the first time.

And the FDC section has been expanded to the extent of now including covers which have been prepared by dealers and collectors for the first day of known availability. Indeed this cover section has been significantly expanded from six pages in the 9th edition to 24 in the 10th.

The stitched booklet section has been

reworked making it much more user friendly. All the important information about perforation types, cylinder panes and varieties is now brought together in a pane index section.

The price of £19.95 plus postage and packing is not cheap but is not expensive for the amount of information provided in one handy publication. Not only that but the publisher has included a £10 voucher in each copy redeemable with four major Machin dealers who have taken advertising space in the catalogue. Not a bad offer I think.

Finally, to complete the picture there are advertisements for the British Decimal Stamps Study Circle, and the GB Decimal Stamp Book Study Circle.

Want to know more? Then I suggest you contact Connoisseur Publications, 2 Pinewood Avenue, SEVENOAKS, Kent, TN14 5AF, tel. 01732 74338.

*Don Staddon*

## New Post Office Chief Executive



Mr John Roberts CBE has been appointed Chief Executive of The Post Office, succeeding Mr Bill Cockburn who moves to W H Smith Ltd. A graduate of Exeter University, Mr Roberts joined The Post Office in 1967 and during his career has been Director, Chairman's Office; Secretary to The Post Office; and Managing Director, Counter Services – in charge of the UK's 20,000 post offices. He was appointed Managing Director, Group Services in 1993, responsible for services such as information technology, purchasing and training. Mr Roberts, aged 51, was made a CBE in 1991; he is a Companion of the Institute of Management, a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts, and a Freeman of the City of London. His recreations include squash, golf, gardening, and music.

## December/January Digest

*To be issued in December 1995/January 1996*

**12 December:** Stamp Books – 4 x 2nd class printed by Walsall, 10 x 2nd printed by Harrisons. Multistamp cover design; stamps have blue fluor.

**16 January:** Machine Books – £1 and £2. New Royal Mail logo cover design.

**18 January:** Robert Burns stamp cards.

**25 January:** Robert Burns stamps and presentation pack.

**30 January:** NVI stamp books with Olympic/Paralympic logo on cover – 10 x 2nd Harrison, 10 x 1st and 4 x 1st & 2nd Walsall, and 10 x 2nd Questa.

*Note:* Some items are available only from the British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, EDINBURGH EH3 5TT and from Post Office Counters Ltd philatelic outlets at main post offices in: Bath, Belfast, Birmingham, Brighton, Bristol, Cambridge, Canterbury, Cardiff, Chester, Colchester, Coventry, Croydon, Durham, Edinburgh, Exeter, Glasgow, Gloucester, Guildford, Leeds, Leicester, Liverpool, London (Lombard Street, EC3 & Trafalgar Square, WC2), Manchester, Newcastle upon Tyne, Nottingham, Oxford, Plymouth, Portsmouth, Romford, Southampton, Southend on Sea, Stratford upon Avon, Truro, Windsor, and York.

*To be withdrawn in December 1995/January 1996*

**5 December:** Stamp Book – Walsall 4 x 2nd, issued 6 December 1994.

**16 January:** Cats stamps, presentation pack and stamp cards

## Events – December 1995/January 1996

**until 31 December.** Display of St Kitts 1991 Flowers issue (stamps, artwork, proofs, etc) at British Library Philatelic Collections, Great Russell Street, London WC1. Open Mon-Sat 10.00-17.00; Sun 14.30-18.00. Enquiries: 0171 412 7635/6.

**until February 1996:** Designing Messages: European Stamp design exhibition at Design Museum, Shad Thames, London SE1. Open weekdays 11.30-18.00; weekends 12.00-18.00. Admission £4.50 adults, £3.50 concessions. Enquiries: 0891-715944.

**until April 1996:** "Victorian Posts" exhibition at National Postal Museum, King Edward Street, London EC1. Open Mon-Fri 09.30-16.30. Admission free. Enquiries: 0171-239 5420.

**1-2 December:** Thematica II-95 exhibition at Carisbrooke Hall, 63 Seymour Street, London W2. Open Sat 10.30-19.00; Sun 10.30-17.30. Admission free. Enquiries: Thematic Exhibitions, 0181-343 2434 or Brian Sole, 01372-467652 (evenings).

1996

**2 January-31 March:** Display of Ascension 1995 Flowers issue (artwork, essays, proofs, issued stamps) at British Library, Great Russell Street, London WC1. Open Mon-Sat 10.00-17.00, Sun 14.30-18.00. Enquiries: 0171-412 7635/6.

**8 January-23 February:** Colin Gifford Railway Photographs exhibition at National Postal Museum, King Edward Street, London EC1. Open Mon-Fri 09.30-16.30. Admission free. Enquiries: 0171-239 5420.

**20 January:** Telford Phil Soc Stamp & Postcard Fair at Belmont Hall, Wellington, Telford, 10.00-16.00. Enquiries: P Morris-Jones, 01952-223926.

**24-28 January:** Spring Stampex at Business Design Centre, 52 Upper Street, Islington, London N1. Enquiries: 0171-490-1005.

