

British Philatelic Bulletin

Volume 29

Number 7

March 1992



*" You read the book, my pretty Vivien !
Oh ay, it is but twenty pages long,
But every page having an ample marge,
And every marge enclosing in the midst
A square of text that looks a little blot,
The text no larger than the limbs of fleas ;
And every square of text an awful charm,
Writ in a language that has long gone by.*

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Wales Prestige Book

Please note that the 18p stamps in the pane of six from the Wales book have phosphor band right of centre (as sheet stamps) and *not* at right as stated here in January (p.99) and February (p. 144). Apologies for any confusion. The 18p stamps in the mixed value pane do have stamps with band at right.

Stop Press — New Stamp Book

A new 10 x 2nd class "window book" printed by The House of Questa will go on sale at the British Philatelic Bureau, Collections, and philatelic counters on 31 March 1992. The cover will bear the British Olympic and Paralympic logos as shown on the earlier books produced by Harrisons and Walsall (issued 21 January 1992). As no new stamps are involved, no first day of issue facilities are being provided.



New Postbus Service

A new postbus entered service on 30 September 1991, between Huxley, Tattenhall, Hargrave Waverton, Christleton and Chester. The new service operates Monday-Friday.

The Royal Mail operates a unique network of postbus passenger services which travel through some of the most beautiful and remote parts of Britain. Postbuses combine delivery and collection of mail with stops en route to pick up and put down passengers. For local people, postbuses can be a lifeline for getting to school, work or to the shops and they offer a communications link for rural areas or villages with little or no other form of public transport. The arrival of the postbus is an event to look out for, to the housebound, for whom postmen are often willing to carry out small tasks such as taking a prescription to a chemist or doing emergency shopping, it means a great deal. For visitors, travelling by postbus offers the rare opportunity to explore the countryside in the company of local people, and to experience the hustle and bustle of traditional market towns — all for a very modest fare.

The first postbus service was introduced at Llanidloes in mid-Wales 25 years ago (see February *Bulletin*, page 127. There are nearly 40 postbus services in England and Wales and over 130 in Scotland.

Helping the Homeless

Royal Mail Stamps doubled its donation to the charity Crisis giving £100 raised in its Christmas raffle. Staff also donated clothes for its annual Christmas appeal which this year provided shelter, food, medical treatment and clothing to about 1,800 homeless people.

7 April 1992



Five stamps under the Europa title will be issued on 7 April; all have a Spanish flavour to the designs. The stamps commemorate the 500th anniversary of Columbus's landfall in the Americas, British participation in the 1992 Olympic and Paralympic Games and the universal exposition EXPO '92, to be held in Seville.

The set will comprise three 24p and two 39p stamps covering basic inland first class and EEC rate, and the basic rate for airmail letters. The first 24p stamp will feature a representation of Columbus's famous ship the *Santa Maria*. A horizontal se-tenant pair of 24p stamps will show flags bearing the logos used by the British teams at the Olympic and Paralympic Games. The British contingents to both Games are being sponsored by Royal Mail as part of an extensive package of sport and youth sponsorships.

The first 39p stamp will be of similar format to the *Santa Maria* stamp, featuring the sail training ship *Kaisei* (meaning "Ocean Planet") – which will be taking part in "Operation Raleigh" – part of the Grand Regatta Columbus, 1992. With the support of the Raleigh Trust, which benefits from the sponsorship of the Royal Mail, a group of young Britons are following Columbus's route to America aboard the *Kaisei*, a two-masted brigantine of 180 tonnes.

The second 39p value features the British Pavilion at EXPO '92 which is being staged in Seville from 20 April to 12 October 1992.

Christopher Columbus

Christopher Columbus (1451-1506), a woolcomber's son from Genoa in Italy is traditionally credited with the discovery of America. A highly skilled seaman, he was obsessed as early as 1474 with discovering a westward sea passage to India after the fall of Constantinople had blocked the overland East-West trade routes. He studied accounts, maps and charts concerned with previous Atlantic voyages and gained practical seafaring experience, voyaging to the British Isles and down the African coast. His planned "Enterprise of the Indies" required considerably finance – refused by his home city

and the governments of England, France, and Portugal. Eventually King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella of Spain agreed to fund his expedition, and provided him with a letter of introduction to the Great Khan of China. On 3 August 1492 he set off, with about 120 men sailing on three ships – the *Niña*, *Pinta*, and the famous *Santa Maria*. His expert knowledge of the prevailing winds brought his ship safely across the Atlantic. The first sighting of the New World came off the Bahamas on 12 October. He sailed near Cuba and landed on Haiti, which he named Hispaniola. He returned



to Spain, a hero, in March 1493, and was made a duke. Further voyages followed (1493-6, 1498-1500 and 1502-4), although Columbus never landed on the American mainland. He didn't find the gold and spices he was seeking and having failed to find a western passage to India, lost his reputation and died almost disgraced at Valladolid in 1506. He was buried at a monastery near Seville. Columbus went to his grave believing he had reached Asia.

Over 200 projects are in hand to celebrate the quincentenary of Columbus's expedition. Replicas of Columbus's three vessels left the Canaries in November 1991, for a tour of American ports, ending up in New York on Independence Day (4 July). There will be numerous sporting events – Columbus World Cup (sailing), Columbus Bowl (American football), and Columbus Cup (football). The anniversary has led to the making of films and the writing of books

on Columbus, not all of which show the navigator in a favourable light. Great Explorer or "a nasty piece of work", we will all hear much of Columbus and his exploits in the months ahead.



Operation Raleigh

Operation Raleigh represents Britain's contribution to the Grand Regatta Columbus 92, a massive cavalcade of sailing ships that is making a trans-Atlantic crossing to mark the 500th anniversary of Columbus's historic voyage. Much of the voyage is programmed as a series of races and, after departure from Spain, the main contest follows a course across the Atlantic to San Juan in Puerto Rico. From here, the vessels will sail to New York for the Independence Day celebrations on the Hudson River. The final leg will be the return trans-Atlantic race from Boston to Liverpool where the ships will gather for a historic review on the River Mersey.



Olympic and Paralympic Games

The 1992 Olympic and Paralympic Games (for the disabled) will be held in Barcelona Spain from 25 July-9 August and 3-14 September respectively. (The 1992 Winter Olympics were held at Albertville, France from 8-23 February.) Athletes and officials will use the same venues and facilities. The original games, held at Olympia in honour of Zeus, included running, jumping, boxing, wrestling, discus, javelin and

equestrian events – all had military application; they were accompanied by competitions in the arts, a kind of Greek cistoddod. The Games, first held in 776BC, were discontinued in 394AD. The revival of the Olympics is credited to the French educator Baron Pierre de Coubertin (1863-1937); the first of the modern Olympic Games was staged in Athens in 1896. Subsequent games have been held in Paris, 1900; St Louis, 1904; London, 1908; Stockholm, 1912; Antwerp, 1920; Paris, 1924; Amsterdam, 1928; Los Angeles, 1932; Berlin, 1936; London, 1948; Helsinki, 1952; Melbourne, 1956; Rome, 1960; Tokyo, 1964; Mexico City, 1968; Munich, 1972; Montreal, 1976; Moscow, 1980; Los Angeles, 1984 and Seoul, 1988. The first Winter Olympics were staged at Chamonix in France in 1924. Articles, by Bob Wilcock, on the Winter Olympics, and on the London Olympics of 1908 and 1948 were published here in July, October and November 1988.

Special stamps have been issued by the host and/or some participating countries for most, if not all, games. For the Montreal Olympics in 1976, the Canadian Post Office issued no fewer than 12 sets of stamps! The 1948 Olympics in London were commemorated by a set of four British stamps – the subject of an in-depth three-part article by Douglas N Muir in the *Bulletin* of February, March, and April 1989. Stamps for the 1992 Barcelona Games have been issued by several countries, including, of course the Spanish Post Office. Already some stamps have been issued to promote the 1996 Games to be held in Atlanta, Georgia, USA.

EXPO '92

Since the Great Exhibition in London's Hyde Park in 1851, international fairs have been held to celebrate a nation's identity at home and abroad. Expo '92 to be held at Seville, in southern Spain, from 20 April to 12 October 1992, will include exhibitions from 108 nations on the theme "The Age of Discovery". It is expected to break all records for such events, including its predecessors in Belgium (1958), Canada (1967 and 1986), and Japan (1985). Some 18-20 million visitors (half from overseas) are expected to see the 500-plus acre hi-tech exhibition. A new transport infrastructure has been built and entire forests of trees and plants cultivated to complement the buildings. Some 55,000 cultural events are planned, and the car-park, for 40,000 vehicles, is said to be the largest in the world. Although not sited in the city



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EUROPA '92
Royal Mail Mint Stamps



Seville, Cadiz, is the starting point of Operation Raleigh, a spectacular voyage to celebrate the quincentenary. Also in the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games are being held in Seville, while the city of Seville is the site of Expo '92.

Format: horizontal
Size: 77mm x 39mm
Perforations: 14/1 x 14
Number per sheet: 100
Paper: unwatermarked phosphor-coated Gum, PVA Backing
Post design: Keith Beesford
Text: Tim Shackleton
Made and printed in Great Britain by
Rushley, Lancashire
Further details about British postage
stamps and philatelic facilities can be
obtained from the
British Philatelic Bureau
FREEPOST
20 Brandon Street
Edinburgh EH4 3HN

Kaiser photograph: Gary Norman
de Bry engraving: Columbus portrait
and Reccell map: National Maritime
Museum, London



centre, the staging of EXPO has led to restoration and cleaning of many of the city's fine buildings and the building of a ring road. Some US\$1.8 billion will have been spent by the Spanish government on the exhibition by the time it opens.

The British pavilion, designed for the event, and encompassing a waterfall, will be a showcase of our achievements as a nation.



Designer

The stamps were designed by Keith Bassford. The ships on two of the stamps were drawn by Stanley Paine and engraved by Chris Matthews. The other three were photographed by Victor Watts. Mr Bassford and Mr Paine designed the 1984 Royal Mail stamps showing mail coaches. Mr Bassford also has to his credit the 1985 British Films, 1986 Industry Year, and 1989 Microscopes sets. Chris Matthews of Harrisons engraved the 1988 and 1992 Castle high values, and the 1990 Stamp World '90 miniature sheet.

Printing Details

The 24p *Santa Maria* and 39p Operation Raleigh stamps were printed in intaglio (recess) and offset-litho by Harrison and Sons Limited, the other three stamps have been printed in offset-lithography by The House of Questa. All are of "almost square" format (37 x 35mm), printed on phosphor coated paper, in sheets of 100 with PVA Dextrin gum. Perforation measures 14½ x 14.

First Day Cover

The Royal Mail first day cover will be available from the British Philatelic Bureau, Collections, philatelic counters and main post offices approximately two weeks before 7 April, price 21p. Two pictorial postmarks will be used for the first day cover service — one for the Bureau, the other for Liverpool where the Tall Ships Race will end.

A first day cover service will be provided by the Bureau with the official Royal Mail cover addressed to the destination required and the stamps cancelled with the requested postmark. Application forms, available from the Bureau and main post offices, should be returned not later than 7 April.

Collectors may send their own cards/covers for the pictorial postmarks; these should be sent on the first day of issue in a stamped outer envelope endorsed "Pictorial First Day of Issue Postmark" to: British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, EDINBURGH EH3 5TT (Bureau postmark) or Northern England Special Handstamp Centre, Royal Mail Newcastle, Forth Street, NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE NE1 1AA (Liverpool postmark). Collectors wanting their cards/covers returned under cover should enclose a suitable addressed envelope. This need not bear additional postage stamps, the postage being already paid by the stamps affixed to the covers for postmarking.

First Day Posting Boxes will be provided at most main post offices for those collectors who wish to post covers to receive the standard, non-pictorial "First Day of Issue" handstamps.

In addition, pictorial "First Day of Issue" postmarks will be used at City of London EC (shows City coat of arms), and Durham (Cathedral). Reposting addresses: London North SHC, Royal Mail City and International, King Edward Street, LONDON EC1A 1AA (City of London handstamp); and Northern England SHC, Royal Mail Newcastle, Forth Street, NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE NE1 1AA (Durham). These handstamps were introduced on 17 January 1989 and 22 March 1988 respectively.

Presentation Pack

The pack (No. 227) will cost £1.80. It was designed by Keith Bassford with text by Tim Shackleton; made and printed by Raithby Lawrence of Leicester.

Royal Mail Stamp Cards

Cards, featuring enlargements of the stamp designs, will be available approximately two weeks before the stamp issue, price 21p each. They are numbered 143A-E.

Souvenir Cover

A souvenir cover, of similar design to the first day cover, will be available from Collections and philatelic counters from 8 April, price 21p. This will be on sale for one year.

New Scottish Aerogramme

THE NATURE OF SCOTLAND

Designed by Newton Engert Partnership
Printed by McCorquodale Envelopes Limited
for the British Post Office



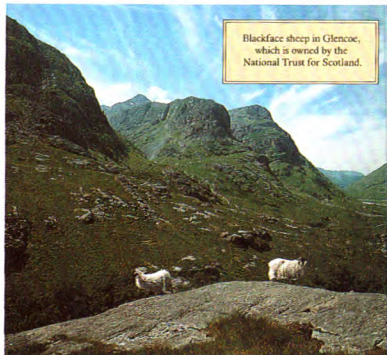
TO OPEN SLIT HERE/GU FOSGLADH YDARHIAN SEO

By air mail

Par avion

Aerogramme

Tomhais phost-achairil, leas-shìr



Blackface sheep in Glencoe, which is owned by the National Trust for Scotland.

Photographs of Glencoe, Glen Affric and Isle of Skye by Peter MacQuibban
Photograph of peregrine falcon by C. C. MacQuibban
Photograph of otter by James Campbell



The saving of the peregrine falcon in the Scottish Highlands - a conservation success.



Glen Affric Forest Nature Reserve - protecting a remnant of the native pinewoods.

THE NATURE OF SCOTLAND

SECOND FOLD HERE/IAN DARA F'LEACH AN SEO

Postcode

An aerogramme should not contain any enclosures/Na cair nuid sam bith beith a' sìgh de'n lùr seo.



Official sponsor of the 1992 British Olympic team

Pictures from 'The Nature of Scotland: Landscape, Wildlife and People'. This book was initiated and sponsored by the Scottish Post Office Board with the following aims: 'to inform, to celebrate and to raise awareness of Scotland's glorious natural heritage, and to inspire those who would it to become guardians of their land'.

Designed by Newton Engert Partnership
Printed by McCorquodale Envelopes Limited
for the British Post Office



FIRST FOLD HERE/IAN CEUD F'LEACH AN SEO



The Isle of Skye. Traditional crofting encourages wildlife. Inset: The otter still thrives in the western Highlands & Islands.

Shown here is the new Scottish aerogramme to be issued on 14 April; it features scenery from "The Nature of Scotland" book recently published jointly by Canongate Press PLC and the Scottish Post Office Board. The aerogramme, designed by Newton Engert Partnership, will be available from post offices in Scotland, the British Philatelic Bureau, Collections, and philatelic counters, price 44p (includes 34p postage). Scottish aerogrammes were introduced in 1974; this is the 35th in the series. "The Nature of Scotland" book was reviewed here last month.

Castle High Values

24 March 1992

A new set of Castles High Values will be issued on 24 March 1992; they were originally scheduled for issue on 26 November 1991. These stamps – £1, £1.50, £2 and £5 are in the same basic designs as the Castle stamps issued on 18 October 1988, but incorporate a range of security features. The Queen's portrait has been changed from a Machin definitive stamp style head to a silhouette as used on special issues; it is printed in optically variable ink. This is the first time such ink has been used in postage stamp printing. Another interesting security feature is the elongated perforation which has been used on telephone bill and TV licence savings stamps for some years.



The castles have been entirely re-engraved, by Chris Matthews, to give an improved, richer appearance to the finished stamps. An article by Mr Matthews on his engraving of the 1988 Castles was published here in November 1988.

The background story to these security features was given by Martyn Fry, of Royal Mail Stamps, in the October 1991 *Bulletin* (page 31).

A short account of each of the castles (Carrickfergus, Caernarfon, Edinburgh, and Windsor) featured on the stamps was also given in that issue.

Perforation Changes

The introduction of the elongated perforation on the new High Values marks the first major change to perforation since the first official perforated stamps were issued in 1854. Private experiments in separating stamps began in the 1840s and the work of Henry Archer (1799–1863), the leading pioneer in stamp perforation, is well-known – see *Gems from the R M Phillips Collection* in last month's *Bulletin*.

Jack Peach, a Friend of the National Postal Museum, has brought to our attention an interesting perforation format suggested by Mr J O Lefebvre of New York, to the Postmaster General in 1946 (Post Office Archives, ref. E10726/99 File 36). Mr Lefebvre's idea comprised the omission of perforation holes in the four corners of each stamp, producing an upright,



equal-sided cross at the intersection of a block of four stamps. In his letter to the PMG, the Earl of Listowel, Mr Lefebvre wrote: "This new perforation for stamp herewith enclosed was inspired to me by so many soldiers that have lost an arm in the war and cannot separate the present stamp, and people in general that have a difficulty in separating the present stamp. As you can easily see this new and more practical perforation puts a starter on each stamp and makes it so much easier to separate, even if one has lost the use of one hand." He was of the opinion that after 100 years of "the present perforation ... this new perforation ... would be welcome throughout the world, as a needed improvement." He pointed out that he was the holder of American and Canadian patents for this perforation but hoped the PMG "... would accept it as a gift to your government. In return I only want the privilege to be the sole agent for the United States and supply you with a flood of demands with all the power at my command." He signed the letter "Yours for better stamps".

The reply from the PMG's office was short



CARRICKFERGUS CASTLE



CAERNARFON CASTLE



EDINBURGH CASTLE



WINDSOR CASTLE



ROYAL MAIL
HIGH VALUE
DEFINITIVE
STAMPS

ROYAL MAIL FIRST DAY COVER



and to the point: "... suggestions for altering the perforation of postage stamps on the lines you suggest have been considered in the past and turned down for practical reasons." The letter continued "Perforation is intended to facilitate the easy separation of stamps but, nevertheless, the amount of paper left between the stamps must be sufficient to hold them securely together in the sheet until they are needed. It is considered that the perforation of stamps issued in this country is adequate for all reasonable needs and if it were modified by enlarging the holes at the corners, the sheets of stamps would tend to break and come to pieces in the course of handling and conveyance between manufacture and sale to the public thus causing much inconvenience."

It has taken nearly 140 years for the standard perforation to be altered. It should be noted that the elongated perforation is on the sides of the stamps, not at the point of intersection – thus whilst helping to deter forgery of stamps, will not result in sheets or blocks of stamps falling apart.

Technical Details

The new Castle stamps have been printed in intaglio (recess) by Harrison and Sons Limited, on the Giori press, in sheets of 100. The sheets contain four panes of 25, divided by horizontal and vertical gutters.

First Day Facilities

The Royal Mail first day cover envelope, price 21p, will be available from the British Philatelic Bureau, Collections, philatelic counters and main post offices approximately two weeks before 24 March. First Day posting boxes will

be provided at main offices for collectors to post covers to receive the standard "First Day of Issue" handstamps. Pictorial "First Day" handstamps will be provided for the British Philatelic Bureau and Windsor. Application forms for serviced Royal Mail covers with the Bureau or Windsor postmarks can be obtained from the Bureau. Collectors may send their own covers for these cancels to: British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, EDINBURGH EH3 5TT or South East Special Handstamp Centre, Royal Mail Windsor, Peascod Street, WINDSOR SL4 1AA. Please indicate that "High Values Pictorial First Day of Issue" postmark is required. The Windsor Philatelic Counter handstamp features Windsor Castle – requests for this cancel should be sent to the South East SHC (address above) asking for "Philatelic Counter handstamp No. 2133". Details of other relevant handstamps will be found in the *British Postmark Bulletin* – the Royal Mail's fortnightly magazine for postmark collectors. It is available on subscription from the British Philatelic Bureau: £9.35 UK, £11.50 Europe, £20.75 Rest of World (Airmail).

Presentation Pack

The presentation pack (No. 25a), was designed by Sedley Place Limited with text by Mike Barden, will be available from the Bureau, Collections, philatelic counters and main post offices, price £9.80.

Withdrawal of Old Castle Stamps

Stocks of the 1988 Castle stamps and presentation pack will be withdrawn from sale at post offices, the Bureau, Collections, and philatelic counters at close of business on 23 March. They will remain valid for postage.

Themes of British Special Stamps

6. Paintings

G E DRABBLE

The representation of the works of artists has always been a popular subject for stamp design in many countries, and British special (commemorative) issues have devoted six issues to this theme. In July 1967, three stamps were issued under the title "British Paintings"; the issue was described as "the Post Office's first venture into the world of art" (*Bulletin*, February 1979). The final issue of 1967, celebrating Christmas, also was devoted to paintings, this time with subjects appropriate to Christmas. August 1968 saw a second issue of "British Paintings", on this occasion, four stamps. What had half-promised to become an annual, or at least, a regular issue, proved in the event not to be so; this was the final issue specifically to be titled British Paintings. "Ulster Paintings", a set of three, appeared in June 1971, and Britain asserted itself again in an issue of July 1973, titled "British Painters". Finally, the bicentenary of the birth of J M W Turner was marked in February 1975 by an issue depicting four of his works.



The first venture into the art world in July 1967 was the responsibility of the printers, Harrison and Sons, and it was unique to the extent that for the first time, no specific designer was named. Harrison and Sons produced the

stamps from photographs of the original works. Such design as was necessary, such as choice of size, colours, and layout, was undertaken by themselves. The issue was also noteworthy in being the first stamps of recent years to be printed on unwatermarked paper. The 4d ordinary letter-rate stamp was 30 x 41 mm in vertical format, and depicted one "Master Lambton" in contemporary opulent red velvet suit with lace at collar and cuffs, seated on what at first glance might be mistaken for a rock face, but was more probably a skin rug cast over a large armchair. The value and The Queen's head, both in gold, were the only superscriptions, except that HARRISON, and the painter's name, LAWRENCE (Sir Thomas Lawrence, 1769-1830) appeared in tiny print on the lower margin. The two other values were in contrasting horizontal format, albeit the same size, with the values, 9d and 1/6, in black, and The Queen's head, somewhat capriciously, black on the lower value and gold on the higher. The 9d subject was "Mares and Foals in a Landscape" by George Stubbs, 1724-1806. The 1/6 brought us sharply into the present century with Thomas Lowry's "Children Coming Out of School". At the time of issue, Lowry was still living. The three stamps are pleasing in their simplicity of design, and colouring, but the lack of a unifying theme across the three subjects, and the odd and unexplained Queen's head in black detracts slightly from the quality of the issue as a set.

Religious Paintings

The Christmas 1967 issue marked the second essay in art representation, and was again undertaken by Harrison and Sons in the dual role of designer and printer, and again using photographs of the originals. On this occasion, there was of course a unifying theme. The 30 x 41 mm size was adopted, the two low values, 3d and 4d in vertical format, and the 1/6 in horizontal. But again there appears to have been a deliberate avoidance of uniformity of layout for the low values; on both of them, The Queen's head in gold occupies the upper right corner, but the value for the 3d is in the upper

left corner and for the 4d, in the lower left corner. The contrasting 1/6 stamp, showing Louis Le Nain's version of "The Adoration of the Shepherds", has the interesting feature that the value is printed fully in words in gold on a horizontal dull gold panel. Even more interesting is the circumstance that the printing disappears completely when the stamp is viewed at a



certain angle to the light! The siting of The Queen's head was also odd; it was placed low down at the right, just above the value panel, instead of the upper right corner, and has the somewhat unfortunate appearance of a bust that has been left standing on the rock floor. The group clustering around the Babe convey the impression of studiously ignoring Her Majesty! There seems little reason for choosing this setting, but these minor criticisms apart, the three subjects were pleasing, Murillo's "Madonna and Child" on the 4d contrasting with the "Adoration of the Shepherds" of the 3d from the School of Seville.

August 1968 saw a third issue by Harrison and Sons doubling as printer and designer, with four stamps celebrating British paintings. The style and general layout were very similar to the earlier Christmas issue, but the lack of uniformity and size created a problem arranging the set on a single page for those collectors who cherish an orderly and symmetrical layout. The 4d, 1/- and 1/9 were all 30 x 41 mm, but the first two were vertical and the last horizontal. And to compound the problem the remaining 1/6 stamp was 33 x 40 mm. The four subjects were "Queen Elizabeth I", artist unknown; "Pinkie"

by Sir Thomas Lawrence; "Ruins of St. Mary Le Port" (bombed church in Bristol) by John Piper; and Constable's "Hay Wain". Harrison and Sons retained The Queen's head and valuation in gold, and the artist's name, along with their own, on the lower margin, now including the date of each work. Though the style was very similar to the earlier issues, this was probably the best of the three, largely because the variable size and layout clearly eschewed any attempt at a unified "set". The representation of "Pinkie" (Miss Sarah Moulton-Barrett) might have been improved by placing The Queen's head in the upper corner, against a convenient portion of sky, and making the almost invisible "1/-" somewhat clearer.



Irish Landscapes

The designer Stuart Rose made his debut in the stamp arena in June 1971 with a set of three stamps marking the Ulster Festival of that year, the chosen theme being three Irish landscapes by Ulster painters. The subjects were "A Mountain Road" by T.P. Flanagan, "Deer's Meadow" by Thomas Carr, and "Slieve na brock" by Colin Middleton, MBE. The issue was incidentally the first set of special stamps having values in decimal coinage. This was a very attractive set, the pictures themselves occupying about three-quarters of a horizontal format, with a narrow panel on the right, and the set title, "Ulster 71 Paintings" sideways on the left. Panels and titles were printed in an appropriate dominant colour

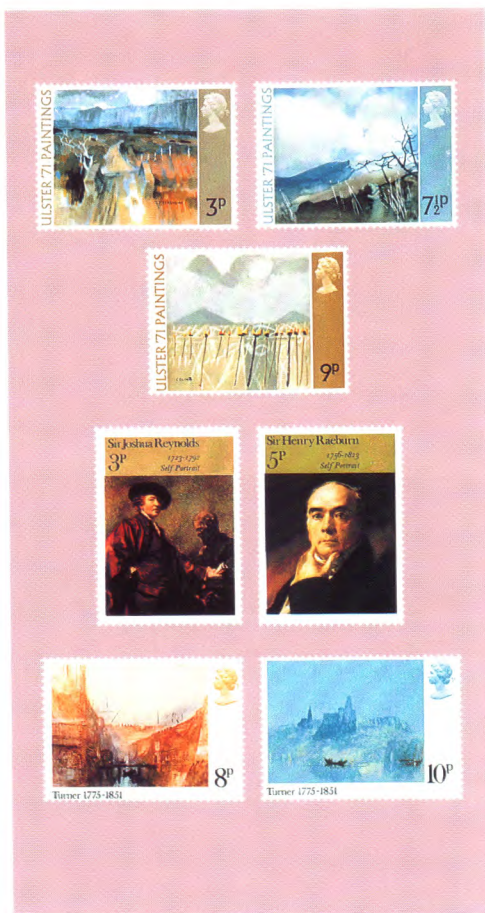
of the picture: respectively stone, light blue, and light brown. The panels bear The Queen's head in photogravure, with the values in black. The set was a worthy recognition of a part of the British Isles which has perhaps received less than its due from British philately.

Stuart Rose, CBE, FSIA was at the time Design Adviser to The Post Office, and was again commissioned in July 1973 to produce the next set devoted to art; a set of four, with the title "British Painters", and one detects a similarity of style between this set and the previous one. The artists represented were Reynolds and Raeburn. The 3p and 5p showed self-portraits of the two artists represented: Sir Joshua Reynolds, and Sir Henry Raeburn, the issue marking anniversaries of the two. The 7½p and 9p depicted portraits painted by them: Reynolds' "Portrait of Nellie O'Brien" and Raeburn's "The Skater" (the Rev. R. Walker). Again, the pictures occupied about three-quarters of the space. The format this time was vertical, with a panel, this time at the top, bearing The Queen's head in gold, the value, and the subject title. The panel was again coloured in sympathy with the dominant tone of the painting.

Turner Bicentenary

In February 1975 Stuart Rose was again entrusted with the design of the final set to date celebrating art: a set of four stamps marking the bicentenary of the birth of J M W Turner. The design was extremely simple. Four of Turner's pictures were represented, and in each case, the picture occupied most of the horizontal space, on a plain white background. A broad white margin at the right bore The Queen's head, in photogravure this time, tinted in sympathy with the picture, and the value. A narrow margin along the base bore simply the words "Turner 1775-1851". The four subjects, not printed on the stamps, were: "Peace: Burial at Sea" (4½p); "Snowstorm - Steamer off a Harbour's Mouth" (5½p); "The Arsenal, Venice" (8p); "St. Laurent" (10p). The issue was a worthy celebration of one of Britain's most notable painters, and also a welcome addition to the collector's album.

There is scope for controversy as to the representation of works of art on stamps. When the subject is a picture, this puts a limitation on the designer, whose prime aim must be a highly accurate representation. Modern techniques, including use of the camera, can of course deal with this. It can be argued that the only correct



place for a picture is hanging on a wall, preferably in a gallery, or saving that, in a properly-lit room. The stamps in this group, however, serve to show that pleasing results can be obtained when the subject is a painted picture, and few would argue that the practice does any disservice to art. Perhaps surprisingly, during the last 16 years, there has been no further issue devoted to paintings; six issues, comprising a modest total of 21 stamps might be thought to be perhaps a somewhat inadequate tribute to our artistic heritage.

In the article on Flower stamps (October 1991) it was stated that the 1987 Flowers set was designed by Alfred Lammer. Whilst the photographs were by Mr Lammer, the stamps were designed by Jeffery Matthews. Co-operation between Mr Lammer and Mr Matthews increased the regard each held for the other's professional skills.

Six Month Digest

Listed below are the issues of the past six months and the proposed dates of issue for stamps until August 1992. Any change in these dates will be notified in the Bulletin. British Philatelic Bureau order codes are quoted where known.

3 Sep	Maps stamp cards (AQ179)
10 Sep	6p Def. – lime green (DS060)
10 Sep	18p Def. – light green (DS182)
10 Sep	24p Def. – rust (DS242)
10 Sep	28p Def. – slate blue (DS283)
10 Sep	34p Def. – purple (DS344)
10 Sep	35p Def. – old gold (DS351)
10 Sep	39p Def. – rhododendron (DS390)
10 Sep	50p book – Archaeology (TB009)
10 Sep	£1 book – Punch 1 (TB010)
10 Sep	New Defs. Pack (DP014)
16 Sep	£1.32 book (33p stamps) (UB043)
16 Sep	£1.56 book (39p stamps) (UB044)
16 Sep	18p Coil (XL-500) (DC851/DC051)
16 Sep	24p Coil (YL-500) (DC852/DC052)
17 Sep	Maps stamps (AS474)
17 Sep	Maps pack (AP099)
17 Sep	NPM Maps cards (NQ909)
1 Oct	Mixed Value Coil (DC855/DC055)
8 Oct	Christmas aerogramme (QX013)
29 Oct	Christmas stamp cards (AQ184)
Oct	“Our World” Vol. 3 (PA124)
Oct	50p book – Archaeology (TB011)
Oct	£1 book – Punch 1 (TB012)
12 Nov	Christmas stamps (AS479)
12 Nov	Christmas pack (AT100)
12 Nov	Christmas stamp book (UB045)
12 Nov	1991 Collectors’ Pack (DS183)
12 Nov	1991 Yearbook (AR023)
12 Nov	NPM “Old Christmas” cards (NQ909)
19 Nov	Enschede 18p (DS183)
3 Dec	N Ireland 18p (IS181)
3 Dec	N Ireland 24p (IS241)
3 Dec	N Ireland 28p (IS282)
3 Dec	N Ireland 39p (IS390)
3 Dec	Scotland 18p (SS182)
3 Dec	Scotland 24p (SS241)
3 Dec	Scotland 28p (SS282)
3 Dec	Scotland 39p (SS390)
3 Dec	Wales 18p (WS182)
3 Dec	Wales 24p (WS241)
3 Dec	Wales 28p (WS282)
3 Dec	Wales 39p (WS390)
3 Dec	Country Stamp Pack (CP010)
31 Dec	Wintertime stamp cards (AQ190)
1992	
14 Jan	Wintertime stamps (AS485)
14 Jan	Wintertime pack (AP101)

14 Jan	Snowdon Shepherd book (PA127)
21 Jan	3p Def. Redrawn numerals (DS032)
21 Jan	50p Def. ACP (DS503)
21 Jan	50p book – Archaeology 2 (TB013)
21 Jan	£1 book – Punch 2 (TB014)
21 Jan	4 x 2nd class book/W (UB047)
21 Jan	4 x 1st class book/W (UB048)
21 Jan	10 x 2nd class book/W (UB049)
21 Jan	10 x 1st class book/W (UB050)
21 Jan	10 x 1st class book/H (UB051)
22 Jan	Happy & Glorious stamp cards (AQ196)
28 Jan	Greetings stamp book (JB004)
28 Jan	Greetings stamp pack (JP001)
6 Feb	Happy & Glorious stamps (AS491)
6 Feb	Happy & Glorious pack (AP102)
6 Feb	NPM Queen’s Accession cards (NQ911)
6 Feb	NPM K. Edward Building card (NQ912)
11 Feb	33p Coil (DC857)
11 Feb	39p Coil (DC858)
25 Feb	Prestige Stamp Book (Wales) (YB003)
25 Feb	Tennyson stamp cards (AQ202)

Forthcoming

3 Mar	Smiles Greetings Book Reprint
10 Mar	Tennyson stamps and pack
24 Mar	Revised High Value stamps and pack
24 Mar	Europa stamp cards
7 Apr	Europa stamps and pack
14 Apr	Scottish aerogramme
28 Apr	50p & £1 stamp books
6 May	NPM People in the Post cards
2 Jun	Civil War stamp cards
16 Jun	Civil War stamps and pack
7 Jul	Gilbert & Sullivan stamp cards
21 Jul	Gil & Sull stamps and pack

Notes:

The NVI stamp books (21 January) have British Olympic and Paralympic logos on the outer cover and revised information about the use of NVI stamps on overseas mail inside. The stamps are as those in the August 1991 books. The 50p and £1 books (October) have corrected postal rate information on the covers; there was no specific first day of availability. The Smiles Greetings book reprint (3 March) has revised information about the use of NVI stamps on overseas mail; the stamps are as the original issue (26 March 1991).

New Postal History Society

A Cumbria Postal History Society has recently been formed, intended to meet twice yearly. Details and subscription forms from: M Batty, 84 Chamwood Avenue, Thurmaston, LEICESTER LE4 8FJ.

Gems from the R M Phillips Collection

195. 1d Red and 2d Blue on Registered Covers

This month we feature two attractive registered covers from the 1850s. The first, sent from Truro, Cornwall to a solicitor at Saxmundham, Suffolk in May 1851, bears a strip of three imperf 2d blue with white lines (lower letters HA-HC) and two imperf 1d red, cancelled with the Truro "814" numeral handstamp. The 8d in stamps covered the postage of 2d (1 oz. or under) and 6d registration. The registration fee was reduced from 1s. to 6d in March 1848. The cover is inscribed "Registered" at lower left.

The second cover, sent from Penrith, Cumberland to Lancaster in January 1856, bears a strip of five perforated 2d blue (lower letters BC-BG). This strip – of the 1855 printing, Watermark Large Crown, Perf. 16, Die 1, Alphabet II, Plate V – is described as "wonderful" by Robson Lowe in his book on the Phillips Collection, *The British Postage Stamp of the nineteenth century*. The stamps

were cancelled with the Penrith "606" handstamp; the cover bears no fewer than four impressions of the Penrith datestamp. The 10d worth of stamps covered postage of 4d (2 oz. or under) and 6d registration. In this case a label inscribed REGISTERED LETTER, in red, was affixed. Mr Phillips described this item as "remarkable for the quality and the centering. The stamps are the scarce plate 8 watermark Large Crown perforation 16."

These interesting covers can be seen on page 7 of Volume XXIV in the R M Phillips Collection in the National Postal Museum. The Museum, in London's Chief Post Office, King Edward Street, EC1, is open Monday-Thursday 9.30am to 4.30pm, Friday 9.30am to 4pm. Admission is free. The Museum is a few minutes walk from St Paul's Cathedral (and underground station) and the Museum of London.



NPM News

The National Postal Museum issued five new postcards on 6 February 1992: NPM92/1-4 reproducing unadopted designs for 1953 Coronation stamps and one, unnumbered card, showing the King Edward Building which houses the London Chief Post Office and the Museum. The four cards featuring Coronation stamp designs cost 20p each, the KEB card 15p.

aspects of Post Office work: the medical services, engineering and chemical developments; the Post Office in time of war; postmen; and women in the Post Office.

Other displays, in the main gallery, will be: 25 February until 1993: new R M Phillips display "Victorian Revenues & Other Fiscals". This section of the Phillips collection was not written up and has now been thoroughly researched for the first time.



Orders should be sent to: National Postal Museum (Mail Order), King Edward Street, LONDON EC1A 1LP. Handling charge 24p on orders under £24, £2.14 on orders over £24 (sent by registered post). Minimum order 80p.

Further sets of cards will be issued on 6 May (People in the Post), 15 September (Artefacts), and 10 November (Christmas) – details to be announced in due course.

The two current NPM exhibitions "Maps and the Post Office" and "Stamping the Mail" will close on 20 March and 24 April respectively. Both have proved very popular with visitors. There will be five new exhibitions opening in 1992. The main one is "People in the Post" beginning on 6 May and lasting until April 1993. Covering the period from Victorian times to the present day, this exhibition features selected

21 April-10 July: "The Queen's Stamps" – celebrating the 40th anniversary of the accession of HM The Queen.

21 July-4 September: "Symphony of Stamps" – in conjunction with the Philatelic Music Circle, and coinciding with the issue of the Music (Gilbert & Sullivan) stamps.

14 September to end 1992: "Art in the City" exhibition.

Details of these exhibitions will be published in this Bulletin.

Friends of the NPM

About 90 of the 420 Friends of the National Postal Museum attended the AGM on 23 November at which the Secretary Ray Pottle reported a successful year. After the business

session and lunch, the Friends were entertained to a slide-show history of the Ordnance Survey by David Harris and Graeme Smith of the OS's exhibition centre.

The Autumn 1991 issue of *Cross Post*, journal of the Association of Friends of the NPM, is now available; the first to be edited by Allan Daniell, former Editor of *Stamps* magazine. It contains interesting articles on Rural Post Shelter Huts by Tony Gammons (who is depicted working the replica Pearson Hill stamp-cancelling machine in a feature on the Museum's 25th birthday). John Armstone and *Bulletin* Editor John Holman write on the Centenary of the Railway Letter Service – the subject of their talk at the Friends meeting on 11 May 1991. Dr J W M Stone continues with extracts from the "Peover Papers" – the earliest day-to-day record of the detailed administration of the Post Office, dating from the 1670s. The Autumn 1991 issue of *Cross Post* is available to non-members of the Friends, price £2 (members £1.25).. Orders/enquiries: Hon. Secretary Association of Friends, National Postal Museum, King Edward Street, LONDON EC1A 1LP.

The Friends have a full and interesting programme, including visits to the Forces Postal Service at Mill Hill, the British Philatelic Bureau, Post Office Archives, British Telecoms Museum, Post Office Research Centre. The 1992 AGM will be held on 21 November and will include a talk on slogan postmarks – the first of which was used 75 years ago this year. The annual subscription to the Association of Friends of the National Postal Museum is just £10 which includes all National Postal Museum postcards, issues of *Cross Post* and regular newsletters. For full details contact Ray Pottle, Hon. Secretary, at the address given above.

Farewell Harry

Over the years many visitors to the National Postal Museum have been greeted in the main gallery by custodian Harry Reeves. Always cheerful, Harry has pointed visitors to the Museum's main treasures and answered thousands of visitors' questions about the Museum, stamps and the postal service. Harry has recently retired from the Museum; visitors will join with his colleagues in wishing him a long and happy retirement.

Harry's successor on the reception desk in the Museum's main gallery is Henry Berry who will be well-known to regular visitors.

Competition



Win £75 worth of British stamps

Enter this month's competition and stand a chance of winning £75 worth of current British philatelic products of your choice — stamps, stamp books, postcards, albums, etc. Answer the questions below, the answers will be found in this month's *Bulletin*, and send with your name and address on a postcard to: March Bulletin Competition, National Postal Museum, King Edward Street, LONDON EC1A 1LP to arrive by 30 April.

The sender of the first all-correct entry drawn will be invited to order £75 of philatelic products; five runners-up will be sent presentation packs of the 1992 Europa stamps. Answers and winners' names will be published in the June *Bulletin*.

1. Name the three ships in Columbus's 1492 expedition.
2. What kind of ink is used to print the Queen's silhouette on the new High Value stamps?
3. The present-day "Union Jack" dates from which year?
4. Who designed the 1992 Europa stamps?
5. On what date is "The Nature of Scotland" aerogramme being issued?

The competition is not open to staff (and their families) of Royal Mail Stamps and its agents. No correspondence will be entered into; the Editor's decision will be final.

The winners of the December competition were:

P Child of New South Wales (£75 worth of Royal Mail products); Mrs M Colver of Dorset; D Bracken of London; E Clarke of North Humberside; Mrs J Dewell of Kent; and A Pond of Hampshire (Greetings stamp books).

The answers were: 1. Fallow Deer; 2. Brecon, Powys; 3. 8 October; 4. Roses stamps; 5. 56.

Our thanks to all who entered.

Post Office Archives Cards

Shown here are the four postcards released by Post Office Archives on 25 February 1992; they feature mail coaches from *Fores's Coaching Recollections*: "Changing Horses", engraved by John Harris after Charles Cooper Henderson, 1842 (Post Office Collection No. 159); "All Right", engraved by Harris after Henderson, 1842 (No. 160); "Pulling Up to Unskid" by Harris after Henderson, 1842 (No. 161); and "Waking Up" by Charles Hunt after Henderson, 1843 (No. 162). The cards cost 25p each and can be ordered

from: Post Office Archives, Mount Pleasant Sorting Office, (Phoenix Place Entrance), LONDON EC1A 1BB.

Archives moved into their new home in November 1991. The improved facilities have been much appreciated by researchers.

Mrs Jean Farrugia, Archivist, writes: "Due to the formal Opening Ceremony for our new Archives & Records Centre which is to take place on Friday 20 March, it will not be possible for us to open our Search Room on that day and operate our normal services for visiting researchers. I am sorry for any disappointment or inconvenience that this might cause."



Railway Letter Stamps

The Mid-Hants Rly issues a 25p stamp on 17 April - number 3 in its "Locomotives" series, showing West Country locomotive "Swanage". Available singly or in sheets of six from: Postal Co-ordinator, Mid-Hants Rly, ALRESFORD, Hants, SO24 9BG. Send SAE for details of FDCs and stock list of earlier issues.

The new 25p Nene Valley Rly stamp, on 7 April, reproduces a painting by David Weston of the Polish locomotive "Kriegslok"; it commemorates the 150th anniversary of Polish

railways. Available singly, in sheets of nine, or on FDC - £2.50 or £4.90 signed by a celebrity and the artist. Covers bear special railway and Royal Mail cancels. Proof sheets (limited number) signed by the artist cost £24. Postage 50p. Orders/enquiries: Nene Valley Rly (Stamp Issues), PETERBOROUGH PE8 6LR.

The North Yorkshire Moors Rly will issue a 25p stamp marking the return to traffic of the Black Five locomotive "George Stephenson" on 21 July. For details and stock list send SAE to: Mrs M Atkins, 5 Tiber View, Brinsworth, ROTHERHAM, S Yorkshire, S60 5EA.

Greenwich Meridian, 1984

British Special Issues: No.171

FRANCIS KENNEDY

Greenwich Mean Time – and its necessary meridian – have become so much a part of world usage it is difficult to appreciate that it was only 108 years ago that this time-honoured innovation was established internationally.

It was in 1880 that Britain adopted GMT as a legal standard. Elsewhere other time standards were in use but in 1884 an international conference of delegates from 25 major countries accepted a meridian passing through Greenwich as the international zero line of longitude. Until 1884, the Paris Observatory was considered the base from which time was calculated for much of continental Europe. Eventually, broadcasting by radio of the GMT “pips” brought complete international recognition to the British time standard.

The deciding factors were that for a century previously the Royal Observatory at Greenwich was the source of the internationally used British Nautical Almanac, and that the USA and Canada had already based their time zones on GMT. The advent of radio time signals, as early as 1910, gave international recognition to GMT and, today, the familiar time “pips” are accepted world-wide.

The series of stamps was issued on 26 June 1984 as part of the centenary celebrations of the accepted Meridian. The **16p** stamp shows a view of the Earth from the Apollo II space flight, the designer having drawn in the Meridian passing through Greenwich as it encircled the Globe (to become the 180 longitude – the International Date Line – in the Eastern Hemisphere). Space Mission Control at Houston, Texas, used the Meridian as the co-ordinating link when controlling Apollo II. On the **20½p** stamp, the Meridian is drawn to show how it crosses the English Channel, one of the busiest shipping lanes in the world. The **28p** value gives an aerial view of Greenwich Observatory with the Meridian drawn across the actual building in whose courtyard a brass line marks the exact spot from which time calculations are made. The **31p** denomination diagrammatically represents the transit telescope built by Sir George Biddell Airy (1801-1892), the Astronomer

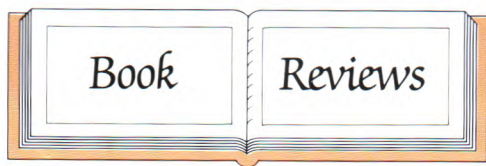
Royal, in 1850, the stamp designer having drawn the Meridian passing through the telescope which was in active service until 1954 for making accurate measurements of the solar system. After 600,000 observations in a working life of 103 years, Airy's telescope remains functional and can be seen at the Greenwich Observatory, now part of the National Maritime Museum.

The stamps were designed by free-lance Howard Waller who was commissioned by Sedley Place Design and, exceptionally, were printed by The House of Questa in lithography in sheets of 100 (two panes, 5 x 10), perf. 14 x 14½ (S.G. catalogue; the Post Office presentation pack says 14 x 15). No printing varieties, major or minor, are recorded by Gibbons. The 16p stamp was printed from no fewer than 10 different plate combinations.



The simple but effective “First Day of Issue” cancellation used at Greenwich, London SE10 on 26 June 1984 contained the inscription GREENWICH LONGITUDE and “0 00' 00”. The Bureau postmark recorded the Edinburgh longitude – 3 11' 57”.

By the withdrawal date, a year later, quantities issued to counters had amounted to 16p – 36,238,700; 20½p – 7,066,100; 28p – 6,485,600 and 31p – 6,189,200. The PHQ postcards were numbered 77a to 77d; 170,000 sets were produced.



There is no shortage of books on philately. Most, however, are unsuitable for beginners, containing bewildering technical terms and insufficient illustrations to enable the collector to see, and appreciate, what he is reading about. Those new to the hobby should have no such problems with **The Beginner's Guide to Stamp Collecting** by Neill Granger. This large format book – profusely illustrated with well-chosen subjects – will encourage beginners to read on rather than give up. In his Introduction, Mr Granger sets out his aims: "...to lead you from first ideas about saving postage stamps towards beginning a specialized collection. There is information about buying and using the philatelic tools necessary to start a collection and useful initial guidance on some of the advanced aspects of philately. Basic know-how on valuing stamps and spotting forgeries or repairs is followed by some examples of spectacular varieties to whet your appetite. You could be luck enough to buy one of these from your local post office..." Mr Granger tells of his lucky find – some 1½p Machins on uncoated paper (now catalogued at £110 each). Chapter 1 explains concisely the History of the Post – familiar enough to established collectors but useful background information to the beginner. Some classic stamps are shown, together with a Bishop Mark, the Mulready and postal stationery. Chapter 2, "What You Need to Start" gives advice on albums, mounting (hinges and "plastic mounts") and tweezers. How to obtain stamps, through dealers, exchange, or philatelic bureaux is the subject of chapter 3; addresses of some of the main bureaux are given. Chapter 4, "About Your Stamps", reviews different kinds of stamps with help on sorting and identification, and understanding the anatomy of stamps – perforation, watermark, paper, gum, etc. "Collectors' Techniques" provides guidance on arranging stamps in albums, using catalogues and colour guides, measuring perforations, before moving on to the beginnings of specialisation in "Developing Your Collection". Here we are introduced to covers, postmarks and postcards. The two final chapters deal with "Valuing Your Stamps" and "Stamps not Found

in the Catalogue" – Telegraph, Railway, Local stamps, labels, etc. The book concludes with a useful glossary of "Philatelic Terms". The book has been well-designed, but the colour illustrations vary somewhat in quality. Some would look better against dark rather than light backgrounds. But this minor quibble does not detract from a worthwhile beginner's guide. 96 pages, hardback. Available from Stanley Gibbons Strand shop or from the publishers: Quintet Publishing Ltd, 6 Blundell Street, LONDON N7 9BH. Price £8.95. ISBN 0-8317-0748-8.

Collectors of special handstamps will be only too aware (or they should be!) of **Special Event Postmarks of the United Kingdom**, originally compiled by the late George Pearson. The third edition, compiled by Alan Finch & Colin Peachey, listing over 5800 British handstamps used from 1851 to the end of 1983 was published in 1984. Now Mr Peachey and John Swanborough have produced a more detailed volume 1 of a 4th edition covering the years 1851-1962. The 3rd (1984) edition will continue for the time being as Vol 2 for the handstamps of 1963 - 83. For subsequent years collectors will refer to the listings in the *British Postmark Society Quarterly Bulletin*. The new "Vol 1" includes much new data including discoveries from the well-known George King postmark collection. Research has led to the amendment of the listings for the popular postmarks of the 1890 Guildhall and 1924/25 Wembley exhibitions and the 1957 Scout Jamboree. Improved background data is given for the major exhibitions including more data on locations and date of the exhibitions. The useful introduction includes a table showing the number of handstamps used in 1862-89 and subsequent decades under thematic headings: Exhibitions; Agricultural/Horticultural Shows; British Association; Congress; Philatelic; Conferences; Aviation; British Industrial Fairs; Wimbledon Lawn Tennis Championship; Scouting; Maritime; Church Scotland and others. It is interesting to note how many handstamps were used for agricultural shows in the 1920s and 1930s. Of the 795 handstamps used between 1862-1962, no fewer than 202 were for agricultural shows. 88 pages, hardback. ISBN 0 900214 02 3. This new book is available at £6 plus £1 postage (£1.50 overseas). The 1984 book, providing the listing of handstamps for 1963-83 is still available, price £8 plus £1 postage (£1.50 overseas). Orders/enquiries to: British Postmark Society, 19 Moorland Road, HEMEL HEMPSTEAD, HP1 1NH.

United Kingdom Flags and Arms

Part 2

JAMES NEGUS, FRPSL

Union Jack of 1801

The familiar, present-day flag dates from the Act of Union which formed the then United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland. It became official on 1 January 1801.

A preceding Order in Council gave Heralds the unenviable task of adding the Cross of St Patrick to a design that was already composed of the crosses of England and Scotland. In so doing they were to recognise that Scotland's white saltire took precedence over Ireland's red – but without offending Ireland in the process. Convention dictates that the more “honourable” half of a flag is the hoist (next to the staff). The Heralds therefore placed the white (Scotland) above the red (Ireland) in both quarters there, shown by making the uppermost white strips wider. Then, ingeniously, Ireland is given broad red strips above Scotland's white in the two remaining quarters. (As before, a tidying up has also been introduced: a narrow white border to separate red saltire from blue field.)

Giving the two saltires precedence in their own halves of the flag was a clever solution but it is often nullified by the flag being flown upside down by mistake. Then a narrow white strip appears uppermost at the hoist when it should be the wide one.

Good illustrations of the Union Jack (correctly flown) can be found on British stamps, with due allowance for artistic style and any minute variations in colour registration. The enlarged versions on Royal Mail Stamp Cards (“PHQ”) are particularly useful for any flag thematic. Many collectors will also want related material like souvenir and first day covers; presentation packs and the Royal Mail Year Books also give much helpful information.

The Union Jack can be seen several times in multinational displays. The European Free Trade Association set of 1967 shows it on both values and it is among the flags of 15 NATO countries on the 1s 6d stamp in the 1969 Anniversaries series. For the first direct elections to the European Assembly in 1979, Stafford Cliff has a neat design of national flags as voting slips. All four values have flags in the same order

seen from different angles. Another novel design had marked the United Kingdom's entry into the European Community in 1973. Nine interlocking pieces of a jigsaw, the then number of members, include one piece as a Union Jack.



The 1984 Economic Summit was held in London and a 31p stamp that year shows the flags of the seven major industrialised nations that participate in this regular event. (There is a footnote to this article identifying the flags of the various foreign countries.)

The first flight of Concorde in 1969 is remembered with a set of three stamps. The 9d includes the Union Jack alongside the tricolour



of our partners, France. The French flag is shown with its blue stripe to the right, giving the curious impression of the two national flags flying from one staff.

In celebration of the bicentenary in 1988 a joint issue with Australia used a flag background in a se-tenant scheme. Australia's national flag

still symbolises the British connection by having the Union Jack in the upper hoist. The blue field of the flag is charged in white with a large seven-pointed star, one point for each of the States in the federation, together with the traditional symbol of the Southern Cross constellation. The complete flag is seen across each pair of values, 18p and 34p. The corresponding Australian stamps were denominated 37c and \$1.

Three further appearances of the Union Jack form part of the collection. The Lord Mayor of London's annual show was marked in 1989 with five stamps in a strip illustrating the progress of



the procession. Among the busy scenes against London landmarks the flags waved by the crowds on three of the stamps include Union Jacks. The Boy Scout in the 1982 Youth Organisations set (26p) is holding the flag and it is shown flying over the historic Tower of London in the 1978 British Architecture series (9p). Tourists in the capital eagerly scan the facade of Buckingham Palace because a flag is flown when the Queen is in residence (London Landmarks, 1980 10½p). However, this will be Her Majesty's Royal Standard, not the Union Jack.

Wales and Northern Ireland

The former independent kingdom of Wales was subdued by conquest in the Middle Ages and, legally, was joined to England in 1536. Edward I's eldest son had been created the first Prince of Wales in 1301, a title borne ever since by male heirs to the throne.

When HRH Prince Charles was invested with the title in 1969 stamps were issued which

included three 5d values se-tenant. David Gentleman has shown the Welsh flag flying over three features of Caernarfon Castle and this is a traditional Red Dragon on a field of white above green; in this style it was given royal approval as recently as 1959. The Red Dragon as symbol has been used in all the Welsh country definitives since their introduction in 1958.

After the formation of the Irish Free State in 1922 (now the Republic of Ireland), the political designation of the union became the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. A semi-official flag formerly in use in



Northern Ireland showed a crowned white star of six points (one for each county) on the Cross of St George, with the Red Hand of Ulster in the star. The Red Hand as symbol appears in all the Northern Ireland country stamps since 1958, but the flag itself has not been depicted. With direct rule in Ulster since 1972 the Union Jack is now the official flag.

The Channel Islands and the Isle of Man are technically not part of the United Kingdom: they belong to the Crown but are self-governing politically (and postally). The several islands have their own flags, which have been illustrated on numbers of interesting stamps, outside the scope of this article. The Union Jack has featured as part of the flags of many British Dependencies and can be found illustrated on numerous issues from foreign countries, too.

State Arms

Of equal interest to the flag thematic collector are the many stamps depicting coats of arms. For the United Kingdom the Royal Arms symbolise the state and two engraved stamp designs show these in detail. Percy Metcalfe's £1 issued at the time of the 1951 Festival of Britain

has the Arms complete except for the so-called "compartment", the area below the shield. Less heraldic ornamentation appears on Edmund Dulac's version for the superb 1939-42 2s 6d and 5s stamps. Small representations of the shield alone will be found on the 5d "Jubilee" definitive of 1887, whose design remained unchanged except for the Royal portrait when reissued in 1902.



The shield is quartered, with 1 and 4 each occupied by the three lions derived from the banner of Richard I (1189-99), the "Lionheart" Crusader, and symbolic of England. The second quarter shows the Red Lion of Scotland while the third has a harp for Ireland.

The shield is surrounded by the Order of the Garter, inscribed *Honi soit qui mal y pense* (Shame on him who thinks evil of it). The supporters are a lion (England), wearing the imperial state crown, and a unicorn (Scotland) with a crown around its neck and a chain. The £1 stamp includes below the shield the motto *Dieu et mon droit* (God and my right).

Note identifying flags

Left to right, from top. Germany is the then German Federal Republic.

1967 EFTA: UK; Finland; Austria; Denmark; Norway; Portugal; Sweden; Switzerland. (This called for unprecedented nine-colour printing.)

1969 NATO: Belgium; Canada; Denmark; France; Germany; Greece; Iceland; Italy; Luxembourg; Netherlands; Norway; Portugal; Turkey; UK; USA.

1979 European Elections: UK; France; Denmark; Belgium; Germany; Italy; Netherlands; Irish Republic; Luxembourg.

1984 Economic Summit: UK; USA; France; Canada; Germany; Japan; Italy.

In addition, the orange, white and green behind Gandhi's portrait (1969 1s 6d) are the colours of the Indian national flag.

Posting Boxes

128. Garden Posting Boxes

This month's boxes are both located in gardens. The first – a lamp box of the reign of Edward VII – is to be seen at Blackhills, a private estate near Elgin, Morayshire. The gardens are open to the public once a year as part of the Scotland Garden Scheme programme. The box is no longer used for posting letters; a notice POST YOUR DONATIONS HERE – BLACKHILLS GARDEN FUND indicates its current use. We are obliged to William Tait of the Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh for the transparency of this Blackhills box.



The second illustration shows an EIRR pillar box in the Parade Gardens, St Helier, Jersey, Channel Islands. A plate attached to the top reads: "This Elizabeth II Pillar Posting Box commemorates the centenary, 23 November 1952 of the erection here of one of the first four pillar boxes in the British Isles, all four were erected in St Helier". Mr M Smith of Nottingham who submitted the photograph says he "cannot recall ever seeing a post box in Jersey in this series." Sadly none of the four boxes sited in St Helier in 1852 now survive although a near contemporary box remains in use in St Peter Port on Guernsey. This featured in No. 1 in this "Posting Boxes" series, in July 1978.

I have on file, awaiting publication, a considerable number of illustrations for this "Posting Boxes" feature. I regret I cannot accept any more and should be grateful if readers would not send any more in. Thank you. Editor.

Commemorative Covers

Information given here is based on details supplied by the cover producers; requests for further information should be directed to the relevant producer and not to the Bulletin office.

Pembrokeshire Coast National Park. A special two-colour cover has been produced to celebrate the Park's 40th anniversary. The Park, one of 11 national parks in England and Wales, was so designated on 29 February 1952. The cover features attractive line drawings of five birds including the puffin, chough and peregrine falcon, which breed around the Pembrokeshire Coast. The buff cover bears the 33p Wintertime stamp showing the Redwing, a common winter visitor to Pembrokeshire, cancelled by a special handstamp used at St David's, Britain's smallest cathedral city, on 29 February 1992. The cover has been produced in a limited edition of 2,000. Price £1.75. Orders/enquiries: Pembrokeshire Coast National Park, County Offices, HAVERFORDWEST, Dyfed, SA61 1QZ.

St Nazaire Raid. To mark the 50th anniversary of the Raid, the Royal Naval Association has produced 200 covers with a photograph of HMS *Campbeltown* embedded on the Caisson of the *Normandie* Dock shortly before she exploded. The cover bears the VC stamp from the 1990 Gallantry set and 28 March 1992 datestamp. Price £3. Enquiries: R McCulloch, 156 Hurst Lane, Shard End, BIRMINGHAM B14 7HE.

Tennyson: Revenge. Sir Richard Grenville's famous sea battle in the Azores was commemorated in Tennyson's poem "The Revenge". Benham have commissioned artist Gordon Davies to recreate the battle scene for use on a special first day cover for the Tennyson stamps (10 March). The cover will bear the Tennyson stamps cancelled with a postmark, featuring the "Revenge", used at Stowe (Grenville's family home) in Cornwall. Some covers will be taken to the Azores for additional Azores postmark or stamp; others will be carried around the Horn on sailing schooners *Eye of the Wind* and *Soren Larsen* as part of the Columbus celebrations. Covers with full set of Tennyson stamps cost £4.99, with additional Azores mark £7.99, carried on schooner £9.99. Postage 45p extra. Major credit cards accepted. Orders/enquiries: Benham (A Buckingham) Ltd, The Bayle, FOLKESTONE, Kent, CT20 1SD.

Tennyson: Charge of the Light Brigade. This is the subject of Benham's second cover for the

Tennyson issue. Benham have commissioned Charles C Staddon, leading military artist, to produce a painting of the Charge. Covers will bear the Tennyson stamps with pictorial Winchester postmark. Price £4.99 or £7.99 signed by one of the top serving British Army officers. Postage 45p extra. Orders/enquiries: Benham, address above.

Christopher Columbus. One of the five Europa stamps (7 April) features Columbus's ship *Santa Maria*. Benham have commissioned Gordon Davies to produce a painting of this ship for use on a first day cover. Covers will bear a special Greenwich postmark; a few covers will be carried on board a ship sailing from Genoa to America in the Columbus celebrations (these will bear an appropriate cachet). Carried covers cost £9.99, signed by the captain £11.99. Postage 45p. All offered to safe arrival. Orders/enquiries: Benham, address above.

40th Anniversary of Sooty. A commemorative first day cover was produced on 6 February to celebrate Sooty's 40th anniversary and to raise money for the Royal National Institute for the Blind's Sunshine House Fund for blind and partially sighted children. Some 2,100 covers were serviced with the Happy & Glorious stamp showing The Queen as head of the Royal Family holding baby Prince Andrew. A special Sooty handstamp was applied. Price £2.50 or £10 signed by the RNIB President His Grace the Duke of Westminster (50 covers only) or Matthew Corbett (100 covers). Orders/enquiries: Patsy B Marketing, Sooty World, Windhill Manor, Leeds Road, SHIPLEY, W Yorkshire, BD18 1BP.

RAF Regiment. The RAF Regiment was founded on 1 February 1942 on instructions from Winston Churchill, and was at the time the largest regiment in the British Forces numbering 78,000 men. They were called Ground Gunners and served in the defence of the RAF airfields all over the world. They have served in every conflict since 1942: Palestine, Aden, Cyprus, Malaya, Borneo, Falklands and of course the Gulf to name a few. A commemorative cover, designed and produced by members of the RAF Regiment Comrades Association to commemorate their 50th anniversary, is now available with a special Bath handstamp dated 1 February 1992. Orders/enquiries: Mr D Shiels, 21 Inverness Road, BATH BA2 3RX, price £5. Cheques payable to "RAF Regiment Comrades Association". Please enclose stamped self-addressed envelope with order (minimum 9 x 5").

March Digest

Issued in March

3 March: Greetings (Smiles) Stamps Book with revised instructions re use of NVI stamps on overseas mail. The stamps are the same as those in the original book of 26 March 1991.

Note: 3 March is first day of availability from the Bureau, Collections, and philatelic counters; the revised books will go on sale elsewhere as existing stocks are used up.

10 March: Tennyson stamps – 24p, 28p, 33p and 39p.

Designer: Irene Von Treskow.

Printing: Harrison and Sons Limited, photogravure, 35 x 37mm, perf. 14½ x 14, sheets of 100, PVA Dextrin gum, Phosphor Coated Paper.

Pictorial First Day of Issue postmarks: British Philatelic Bureau and Isle of Wight.

Presentation Pack: No. 226, price £1.55.

11 March: Tennyson souvenir cover, price 21p. Available from Collections and philatelic counters; on sale for one year.

24 March: Modified High Values with re-engraved castle designs and Machin silhouette of The Queen (as used on special stamps) printed in optically variable ink. Designs as 1988 issue: £1 Carrickfergus, £1.50 Caernarfon, £2 Edinburgh, £5 Windsor.

Designer: HRH The Duke of York, engraving by Chris Matthews of Harrison & Sons Limited.

Printing: Harrison & Sons Limited, intaglio (recess) in sheets of 100, PVA Dextrin gum, perf. 15 x 14 with elongated "security" perforation.

Pictorial First Day of Issue postmarks: British Philatelic Bureau and Windsor.

Presentation Pack: No. 25a, price £9.80.

24 March: Europa 1992 stamp cards, price 21p each.

Withdrawn in March

4 March: Scientific Achievements stamps, presentation pack, stamp cards, and souvenir cover.

12 March: Scottish Aerogramme – Rugby.

18 March: Agatha Christie £6 Prestige Stamp Book.

23 March: 1988 £1, £1.50, £2 and £5 Castle High Values and presentation pack.

Note: To be withdrawn from sale at post offices as well as from the Bureau, Collections, and philatelic counters.

Astro Space Stamp Society

This society was launched in 1986 to cater for astro-philatelists who specialise in space exploration, manned space travel, rockets, and astronomy. The December 1991 issue of the Society's quarterly *Orbit* includes an extensive check list of space craft stamps and a *Directory of Space Stamp Collectors* is to be published in 1992. All enquiries to the Secretary: Peter Talbot-Ashby, 32 Palleg Road, Lower Cwmtwrch, SWANSEA SA9 2QE.



A self-adhesive British National Space Centre label will be sent to all who write to Mr Talbot-Ashby for membership details, if mentioning this announcement in the *Philatelic Bulletin*.

British Philatelic Bulletin

ISSN — 0953-8119

The *British Philatelic Bulletin* is published monthly by Royal Mail (The Letters business of The Post Office).

Compiled and typeset by J. R. Holman at:
National Postal Museum
King Edward Building
King Edward Street
LONDON EC1A 1LP

Editorial Adviser Douglas N Muir

Annual Subscriptions
UK and Europe £6.75
Rest of World (Airmail) £10.25

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

Single copies from Collections and philatelic counters: 60p

Binders, to hold 24 issues, are available by post from the British Philatelic Bureau, price £6.75. Also available, to callers only, at the National Postal Museum sales counter.

Printed in Great Britain by Raithby, Lawrence & Co Ltd, Leicester LE3 5AY for Royal Mail.