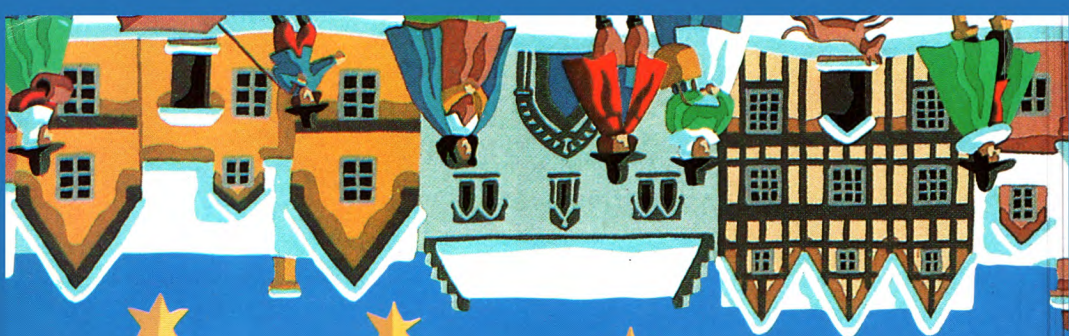


British Philatelic Bulletin

Volume 24
Number 3
November 1986



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Philatelic Price Increases

From 20 October new tariffs came into being for postage both inland and overseas. The most important basic changes were: *inland* second class letters 13p, first class letters 18p; to *EEC countries* basic letter rate reduced to 18p.

Most philatelic products have also increased in price (or are about to). It is now two years since there was any price rise for these items and in some cases (including the *Bulletin*) it is three and half years since prices changed. It is with regret that we announce new prices which are set out below. The table also shows when the increases come into effect.

Items	New Price	Date of change
Yearbook	£15.95	(unchanged)
First day envelope*	16p	From Christmas issue (18 November)
Collector's Pack	(+) 67p	"
Presentation Pack*	(+) 22p	"
PHQ Postcard*	15p	From Flowers 1987 issue
Philatelic Bulletin		
Inland (& Europe)	£4.00	} 20 October 1986
Airmail	£6.50	
Single copy	35p	
Binder	£5.00	
Postmark Bulletin (Home)	£7.00	
Europe	£9.00	} 20 October 1986
Airmail	£16.00	
FDC Album	£10.95	
Extra leaves	£3.00	
FDC Album (half size)	£7.50	
Postcard Album	£10.95	} 20 October 1986
Extra leaves	£3.00	
Stamp Bug Album	£3.95	
Stamp Starter Kit	£9.95	
Post Box (Wings)	£4.50	
Royal Mail Stamps Album	£39.95	} 20 October 1986
Continuation pages	£3.50	

*Bulk discounts at The British Philatelic Bureau remain unchanged.

British Philatelic Bulletin

It is with regret that we have to announce a price increase for the *British Philatelic Bulletin*. As of this issue the cost of an annual subscription will be £4 inland and Europe and £6.50 airmail, with single copies now costing 35p each. This is the first increase for three and a half years, during which time the number of pages has grown from 16 to 24 which will now be the standard size, giving more space for news and articles of interest and reference value.

Special Handstamps		
One Day	£185.00	} 20 October 1986
One Month	£200.00	
Subsequent months	£200.00	
Additional Handstamps	£50.00	(unchanged)
Handstamping Charges	3p	(unchanged)
Postmark Slogans		
Basic charge	£92.00	} 20 October 1986
First die	£60.00	
Subsequent dies	£55.00	
Time charge per week	£8.50	

No price increases will occur for the Bureau service or handling charges.

Christmas Discounts

2 December 1986

The 12p Handstamp



The Post Office will be issuing three special items on 2 December to help keep down the cost of Christmas postings, and as a boon for customers. The most important item for stamp collectors will be a new 12p Christmas stamp in the same design as that of the 13p and this will have a separate first day cover service. Also on sale will be a special Christmas pack of 36 x 13p Christmas stamps to be sold at £4.30, a saving of 38p (previously this was to be issued on 18 November with the normal Christmas set), and there will be a discount stamp book of 10 x 13p definitives to be sold at £1.20. All these items will be on sale at normal Post Office counters, philatelic counters and the British Philatelic Bureau from 2 December until 24 December when they will be withdrawn from sale. At Post Office counters the 12p Christmas stamp will be available only in units of 10 stamps, and only one pack or up to 30 stamps made up of a combination of books and units of 10 x 12p stamps can be purchased at any one time. The British Philatelic Bureau, however, will provide its normal service.

Christmas 12p Stamp



The 12p Christmas stamp will be printed in the same design as the 13p denomination depicting the legend of the Glastonbury Thorn, designed by Lynda Gray. Unlike the 13p, the 12p stamp will have the captions and value printed in gold. Otherwise, printing will be the same as the other values — in photogravure by Harrison & Sons in sheets of 100, perf. 15x14 on PVA Dextrin gum. There will be one centrally placed phosphor bar.

The specially discounted stamps will be on sale at Post Office counters in units of 10 stamps and no more than three units will be sold to each customer at

a time, though the Bureau will operate its normal service. The Post Office will accept the stamps as paying second class postage for the basic weight step for the period 2 — 24 December.

There will be no presentation pack or PHQ card for this stamp.

A first day cover price 16p will be available and the usual first day of issue facilities will be provided on 2 December at offices with philatelic posting boxes.

The British Philatelic Bureau first day cover service will have the official Royal Mail cover, addressed to the destination required and the stamp cancelled with a pictorial postmark with the same design as that used for the Christmas set issued on 18 November. The charges will be 44p (inland) and 39p (overseas). Application forms, available from the Bureau and at Head Post Offices should be returned no later than 22 November.

Customers requiring only the special pictorial postmark may obtain it under the reposting facility by sending on the first day of issue a stamped addressed envelope under an outer cover endorsed 'Special First Day of Issue Handstamp' to British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, EDINBURGH EH3 5TT.

The stamps will be available until 24 December when they will be withdrawn from sale everywhere (unless stocks are exhausted beforehand).

As this is a late addition to the 1986 programme the 12p stamp will not be included in either the 1986 Year Book or the Collectors' Pack. However, customers who purchased their books from the British Philatelic Bureau will be sent their 12p stamp after 2 December. Those customers who obtained their books from a post office counter will be able to claim their stamp free of charge by returning a reply paid card inserted in the yearbook.

Christmas Discount Stamp Book

A special Christmas discount stamp book will go on sale on 2 December containing 10 x 13p definitive stamps selling for £1.20, a saving of 10p.

The cover which depicts a mother and daughter cooking traditional Shetland yule cakes, was designed by Lynda Gray.

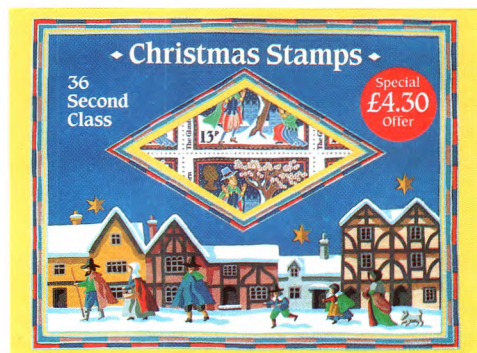
Stamps were printed by Harrisons in



photogravure with a single central phosphor bar on the Chambon press, with the covers printed on the Libra bookmaking machine. The paper has stars printed on the back.

Cylinder numbers will appear on every sixth book and the books will be in both left and right hand formats.

As with the other discounted items the sales period will only be from 2 December to 24 December or while stocks last. It has been announced that 5 million books are being issued to offices and sales are to be limited to three per customer.



Christmas Stamp Pack

As announced last month a special Christmas Stamp Pack of 36 x 13p stamps will go on sale costing £4.30, a saving of 38p. The issue date will now be 2 December and not 18 November as stated earlier, and the pack will be on sale until 24 December or while stocks last. It has been announced that 4 million are being issued to offices and sales at counters are limited one per customer.

The stamps will be printed in sheetlet form of 3 x 12 stamps separated by a horizontal gutter, thus producing two panes of 18 stamps.

Printing was on a special cylinder on Jumelle in photogravure by Harrisons, four sheetlets



comprising one cylinder revolution. Each sheetlet will bear one set of traffic lights but cylinder numbers will not be shown. (The cylinders used were 2A 1B 1C 1D 1E 1F with phosphor cylinder B85). Sheet numbers will appear on every second sheetlet. The 13p stamps will have a single central phosphor bar and will be backprinted with a star design.

The packs were printed by Moore & Matthes, specially designed with a cut-out which allows the stamps to be seen, and they are sealed within a polypropylene sachet.

Both the pack cover, designed by Lynda Gray, and the sheetlet layout are illustrated.

1986 Special Stamps Poll

Shown here are the special stamps issued by The Post Office during 1986, 39 in all. We would like you to write to us nominating your three favourite stamps of the year, using the enclosed form. Let us know why you like your first choice and we will send a 1986 special stamps yearbook to the three readers whose comments we feel are the most original and interesting. Closing date for votes is 5 January 1987 and the results will be published in the *British Philatelic Bulletin*.



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Royal Mail Special Stamps 1986 Yearbook

MIKE BARDEN

Of all the successful innovations in recent British philatelic development, the yearbooks must surely have carved a special niche of their own. First introduced in 1984, the yearbooks attain their third birthday in November with the publication of Royal Mail Special Stamps 1986. In a very short space of time, they have become firm fixtures in the philatelic world, a fact highlighted by the prices now being quoted by stamp dealers for the two earlier editions.

The decision for a Royal Mail Yearbook came appropriately from The Post Office Marketing Department — now Royal Mail Stamps & Philately. Market research had established not only the existence of a large potential market for this type of item but also that it should be a high-quality, lavishly-illustrated, hard-bound edition. After a careful evaluation of sales levels, production costs and the whole paraphernalia of marketing, the decision was taken to proceed. From then on, the Design Co-ordinator, Angela Reeves, became a major driving force behind the yearbook.

I can recall a cold, wet day in January 1984 when I sat in Angela's office in Finsbury Square as she revealed to me the embryo idea which was to bear fruit as the yearbook. Angela was very clear on what she wanted — a prestige publication which would tell the stories behind the stamps in a way that would appeal to both the serious and casual alike. Since then, she has guided, pleaded with, and sometimes even had to bully the rest of us involved in the book's production — all to good effect. Quite honestly, without Angela Reeves there would be no yearbook.

Soon after that meeting in January 1984, Angela introduced me to Mike Dempsey and Pamela Harrington of Carroll, Dempsey & Thirkell who were to design the book. The yearbook is one of those publications where the designers and writer need to work very closely together. In the first year, I must admit we did not have much time to get to know each other's way of working — the schedule for the 1984 book was far too short for that. It was simply a question of getting the book done.

The first inkling of impending success was the news that the British Philatelic Bureau in Edinburgh was receiving hefty advance orders for the book. And that was after only minimal publicity! Within

weeks of publication, the book was completely sold out.

A few months later, Carroll, Dempsey & Thirkell received Design & Art Direction (D&AD) gold and silver awards, thoroughly deserved tributes to their really beautiful and imaginative design of the 1984 book.

By then, we were well advanced with the 1985 edition. In fact, we had started it before the 1984 edition was published. The final product often disguises the amount of work which goes into it. For example, we started the 1986 edition last autumn. I spent all of November 1985 travelling around the south and south west of England to interview the designers involved in the 1986 stamp programme. It was a fairly hectic schedule but also enjoyable since it had many compensations, not least being Ken Lilly's fairly potent home-made wine and Ralph Steadman's less-than-reverent anecdotes!

Carroll, Dempsey & Thirkell meanwhile were involved in picture research for the book. The final choice of illustrations is but the tip of an iceberg. For every picture used, there are ten or twenty considered and discarded for one reason or another. As the credits in the book indicate, these come from a variety of sources, — museums, photo libraries and some less likely sources.

As the project developed, Pamela Harrington and I consulted each other virtually on a daily basis, enabling us to dovetail design and text requirements closely together. For example, some illustrations amplify points in the text while others highlight aspects which do not need to be mentioned in the text at all. This knowledge proved very helpful in finalising the words, especially where text space was at a premium.

Right in the middle of the project came the announcement of the Royal Wedding and of a new stamp issue. There is no way you can just tag on a couple of extra pages and it was only after considerable discussion that we agreed on where the necessary adjustments could be made — one outcome of this was that the tail of Halley's Comet became somewhat shorter.

One of the problems with a publication like the yearbook is the fact that it is published in November, some months after all the text and design have been finalised. A lot can happen between final copy and



publication dates and, if you're unlucky, unforeseen events in the interim can leave you with egg on your face.

For instance, even though we had an inkling of it happening, it was not until the morning of the Royal Wedding that we had official confirmation that the Royal couple were to be known as The Duke and Duchess of York. By then, of course, the book was at an advanced stage of production. Nevertheless, the necessary changes to text were made, a far from simple task for Pamela Harrington since 'The Duke of York' unfortunately does not fit the same space vacated by the words 'Prince Andrew'.

The greatest challenge for the designers and

writer of a very visual book like this is to distil all the disparate research material into a cohesive whole. This is really a matter of finding just the right balance — between one chapter and the next, between visual and written word and between the treatment of stamp subjects and the story of the artists who designed the stamps. And each year, you attempt to better the previous effort.

In the final analysis, the writer depends on the designers to create the impression that the book could not have been done any other way. It is a measure of Carroll, Dempsey & Thirkell's skills that the score with the yearbooks on this count is now a resounding three out of three.

Lynda Gray: Designer of the Christmas Stamps

There are moments in life when one feels the joy of being given the Right Task, through being in the Right Place at the Right Time. This was so in the late 1950s when, in the Shanklin Girl Guides production of 'A Christmas Carol' I was picked to play the diminutive 'Ghost of Christmas Past', with a torch bulb strapped to my head, emitting a spectral glow. It was also the case when, much more recently, I was commissioned to do a set of Christmas stamps. This remains my favourite season, though I would rather see less tinsel, merriment and gluttony, preferring dark evenings, flickering candles, ghost stories (once *de rigueur* at Christmas) and old customs with half-remembered origins.

When researching likely Christmas customs as stamp subjects, I was particularly interested to discover the existence of the 'Dewsbury Knell', for as a lapsed bellringer myself (late of Godshill Church, Isle of Wight), I think I understood why people of all ages are happy to prise themselves from deep armchairs on dark, drizzly nights, climb steep belfry

Halley's Comet over Greenwich, Lynda Gray's 1985 Christmas card.

Lynda Gray was born in 1947 in Braintree, Essex. She studied illustration at Portsmouth and Leicester Colleges of Art and has lived in London, working as a full-time freelance illustrator since 1971.

ladders and take part in a mathematical ritual that requires sharp concentration and some dexterity. Why was I so willing to do just this? Disembarking from the Newport bus, clutching a torch and stumbling along the road towards the dark pinnacled silhouette of the church tower on the hilltop, I think I felt I was taking part in a ritual that had a hint of mystery about it; mystery was hard to come by and I was eager to participate. I was also eager for any excuse to visit the fifteenth century church, well-endowed with carved recumbent nobles, wall painting fragments and elaborate hatchments (all of which looked better by torchlight).





Looking back, I can see that my childhood, spent as it was on the Isle of Wight, with its hilltop monuments, Victorian Gothic cottages and a perfect half-ruined castle, has probably sown the seeds of my present obsession with architectural oddities and ruins. During travels round the country now, any sighting of monument, obelisk, odd spire or castellation can mean a considerable detour, in order to sketch and photograph the object in view. It's a long task, self-imposed and thoroughly enjoyable. I can only add that if you are so fortunate as to have some such architectural freak in the neighbourhood, or even (!) in your garden, do please pay it a visit this Christmas; make sure it's in good repair (and complain if it's not) for I may be on my way, sketchbook in hand.

A Merry Christmas to all who read this, especially bellringers and Ghosts of Christmas Past.

New 13p and 18p Stamp Rolls

Three new stamps rolls became available from 20 October at philatelic sales counters and from the British Philatelic Bureau.

The NL roll (containing 500 x 18p stamps, price £90) is reeled for endways delivery. The stamps are printed on phosphor-coated paper with PVA Dextrin gum.

The KL roll (containing 500 x 13p stamps, price £65) is also reeled for endways delivery. The stamps were printed with a central phosphor bar and the gum is PVA Dextrin. This is not a new type of roll as KL rolls were first issued on 3 September 1984 and have now been reintroduced.

The SB roll (containing 1000 x 13p stamps, price £130) which is reeled for sideways delivery has the stamps with a single central phosphor bar on PVA Dextrin gum.

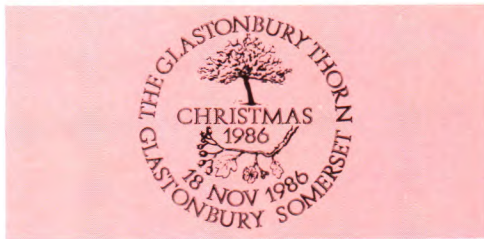
All three stamp rolls were printed by Harrisons in photogravure.

Christmas Covers

These are some of the commemorative first day covers being prepared for the Christmas issue to be put on sale on 18 November. All special postmarks can also be obtained under the reposting facility from the Head Post Office concerned.

Glastonbury Thorn. Featured on the 13p stamp this also forms the basis for a special handstamp and cover by A G Bradbury. Costing £4.50 with the full set (£2 with 13p stamp) the covers are obtainable from him at 2 Fairholme Road, LEICESTER LE2 6GL (overseas add 50p). A similar cover will be available for the 12p stamp on 2 December with the handstamp in use for one month. Cost £2.

G K Eldridge. A set of five matching covers with appropriate special handstamps for each of the stamps. Cost £5.50 per set from G K Eldridge, 177 Mousehole Lane, Bitterne, SOUTHAMPTON SO2 4TD.



Christmas 1986 Cylinders

The cylinder numbers and colours of the Christmas stamps to be issued on 18 November are:

13p

deep blue 2A	greenish yellow 1B	vermilion 1C	deep brown 1D	emerald 1E	gold 1F	phosphor B86/P86
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18p

myrtle green 1A	yellow 1B	vermilion 1C	deep blue 1D	black 1E	reddish brown 1F	gold 1G
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22p

vermilion 1A	olive-bistre 1B	dull blue 1C	deep brown 1D	deep green 1E	gold 1F
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31p

deep brown 1A	yellow 1B	vermilion 1C	violet 1D	deep dull green 1E	black 1F	gold 1G
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34p

violet 1A	lemon 1B	vermilion 1C	deep dull blue 1D	reddish brown 1E	gold 1F
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The 13p from the Christmas packs and the 12p stamp due on 2 December have the same colours as the 13p listed here. The phosphor cylinder on the 13p is B65, however, though this was guillotined before delivery. The cylinders for the 12p stamp are: 1A 1B 1C 2D 1E 2F P86.

The Genesis of the Machin Design

Part 5

DON STADDON

The next significant step taken by Arnold Machin was to change from the coinage head to one on which The Queen is wearing the diamond diadem depicted on the Wilding definitives. This new cast was based on a photograph by John Hedgecoe. In some publications I have seen this photograph, and even photographs of the cast taken at Harrison & Sons Ltd., attributed incorrectly to Anthony Armstrong Jones.



Artwork with SIX PENCE in words

Machin was closely involved with George York, General Manager and later Works Director at Harrisons, in the interpretation of his casts. Particular attention was paid to the photography for which Don Langley, Assistant Process Manager, was responsible. Machin particularly wanted to avoid retouching, and was prepared to modify the cast or the mould, even to the extent of producing a new cast if necessary. However, despite their best efforts it was later found that some retouching was necessary to produce a range of stamps with tones in exactly the right places.

Other members of Harrisons' staff involved in the development were Arthur Porter (photographic) and Lance Thornton (retouching).

A key question which arose in discussion between George York and Arnold Machin was whether it was mandatory to include the words



The second cast based on Hedgecoe's photograph with the background blackened.

A photograph of the second cast as used.



'Postage' and 'Revenue' in the design. As no international treaty required the former it was agreed by the Post Office that it would be left out. And, by agreement with the Inland Revenue, the latter was also dropped. These decisions made a vital contribution to the ultimate simplicity of the final design.

One essay of the cast of the Hedgeroe portrait

head has the value depicted in capital letters below the portrait. This idea was subsequently adopted, not without controversy, for the 1985 British Composers stamps.

Other essays of this head show some experimentation with the neckline but after seeing these The Queen expressed a preference for a design with a corsage.



Essays with 'small bust' and no value (second cast)



Essays with 'medium bust' and value at right (second cast)



Essays with full bust and no value (second cast)

Telecom Card for Christmas

Telecom Technology Showcase are issuing a special card (Ephemera 15) for the Christmas season on 18 November. It features a Victorian Christmas greetings card from the collection of the late Mr O F Laffineur and the mint card will cost 10p. Serviced on the first day of issue with a Christmas stamp it will cost £1.20 and both are available (with a handling charge of 40p on mail orders) from Telecom Technology Showcase, 135 Queen Victoria Street, LONDON EC4V 4AT with cheques payable to British Telecommunications plc.



Gems of the R. M. Phillips Collection

139. The Early Letterpress Era: 1855-1879

When postage stamps were first introduced they were printed by the line-engraved or recess process. From the penny black right up until 1879 all low value stamps (up to 2d) were printed in this way by Perkins Bacon. With the need for higher values a different method was employed and embossed dies were used at Somerset House to produce stamps up to 1s in value. However, this process was slow and cumbersome and so in 1855 it was decided to change to letterpress or surface-printing. This was cheaper and quicker, did not require dampening of paper which made perforating difficult with line-engraved stamps, and utilised fugitive inks which guarded against cleaning and fraudulent re-use. De La Rue were chosen to carry out the work as they were the only British firm which had the skill and experience



Essay for the 6d value (small white corner letters)

part is printed. To make the printing plate an original die is cut in reverse in steel, in the case of De La Rue by Jean Ferdinand Joubert de la Ferté, a Frenchman. This design is then transferred by pressure to lead blocks the size of the stamp. The required number of these are then locked in a frame with the correct spacing separating the various items and the forme is placed in an electro-chemical bath to receive a thin coating of copper. This is backed and mounted on a cast iron plate. The plate is now ready for printing with all stamps from this period being printed on hand presses. At all stages proofs or pulls are taken to ensure perfection and any flaws are removed. All stamps were perforated at Somerset House by the Board of Inland Revenue until 1880.

The stamps of the early and middle Victorian periods are rather difficult to sort into simple sets. Unlike later 'unified' issues they tended to be issued singly as and when required and any changes took quite some time to extend across the entire range. However, the stamps in the display of letterpress issues fall into five sections which follow each other in rough chronological order. These are:

1. No corner letters: 4d, 6d, 1s — 1855/7 (Frame 20)



1855 4d Plate 1 imprimatur (no corner letters)

required in producing exact duplicates of a die to make the moulds forming the letterpress printing plate. They continued to print all the higher values throughout the Victorian period and from 1879 they gained the contract for the lower values as well. In the Phillips collection is a superb array of material produced during this period ranging from artists' drawings and essays through die proofs at various stages and colour trials to the issued stamps represented in imprimaturs, plated singles and remarkable multiples. The new open display in the National Postal Museum shows some of the best examples.

In essence, letterpress printing (or surface-printing) consists of a surface being inked and, when pressed into contact with paper, yielding an impression of the surface design. Only the portion of the design which stands 'proud' or up from the printing base receives the ink and therefore only that

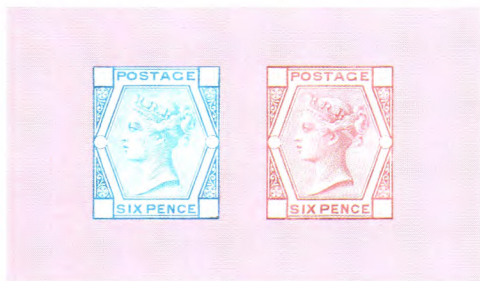


Colour trials from 3d plate 8 made in 1872 (large white corner letters)

2. Small white corner letters: 3d, 4d, 6d, 9d, 1s — 1862 (Frame 21)
3. Large white corner letters: 3d, 4d, 6d, 9d, 10d, 1s, 2s — 1865/80 (Frames 22-6)
4. Large coloured corner letters 2½d, 3d, 4d, 6d, 8d, 1s — 1873/81 (Frames 27-31)
5. Tender for letterpress 1d stamp, 1879 (Frames 32-4)

A few of the stamps included did not actually appear until after 1879 but they belong to the series in existence before that date. High value stamps, also printed letterpress towards the end of this period, have been excluded.

In each section the Phillips collection contains examples of all the stages from artist's drawing to issued stamp.



6d die proofs of late 1872 (coloured corner letters)

De La Rue had been awarded the contract in 1855 for printing the first letterpress stamps because they had the skills and the experience. They were already known to the Board of Inland Revenue, which was responsible for the production of stamps for the Post Office, as they had printed 'Draft' and 'Receipt' stamps for them in 1853. It was on the basis of the quality of these that they were asked to print first the 4d, then later the other values with denominations over 2d.

In the first section of the display (for stamps with no corner letters in the design) there are some of the finest examples of letterpress-printed stamps ever produced. Great care was taken with the dies as the proofs show and the finished stamps, mint, printed on blued paper, are imprimaturs.

The second section (for stamps with small white corner letters in the design) is notable for its imprimaturs. These were cut from the first sheets, specially printed, which were checked to see if general printing could commence. Examples taken from these first sheets are thus always fresh and generally imperforate. Some never came to be printed (called 'Abnormals') or issued and all of these are shown. Five examples of 'Abnormals' are in the 3d plate 3 with white dots (2), the 9d plate 3 (1) and the 1s plate 3 inscribed 2 (2). All are imprimatur examples.

Some ten frames are taken up by the next two sections which cover the period 1865-81. Large white corner letters give way to large coloured corner letters but with the exception of the 6d and new values, designs remained basically the same. Here, over the period and the various new values, there are a large number of die proofs, plate proofs, colour trials and imprimaturs, as well as particular copies of issued stamps from the various plates used in their printing. Of note again are some of the 'Abnormals' (Frame 25):

- (with large white lettering): 6d mauve plate 10 (2)
- 6d chestnut plate 12 (1)
- (with large coloured lettering): 6d pale buff, plate 13 (1)

Abnormals were often only printed in quantities of some five sheets of which only a few were ever removed and so are extremely rare.

The 6d grey imperforate (Frame 25) is not an imprimatur and is one of the many very rare items. Die proofs of the 2½d and 3d and an artist's drawing for the 4d design (Frames 25, 26 and 27 respectively) are also typical of the depth and breadth of the Phillips collection of the period.



1879 letterpress tender essays from Perkins Bacon.

In the final three frames (32 to 34) there are examples from the 1879 Tender for the letterpress 1d stamp. Until this time Perkins Bacon had printed this stamp by the line-engraved method. Now, this was regarded as no longer efficient enough and this must partly have been due to the success of De La Rue in printing the other values by letterpress. Perkins Bacon's contract was terminated and a competition held for seven British printing firms to see who could print the 1d best. Although not the cheapest tender, De La Rue won the contract and the 1d Venetian was printed later that year. Some of the entries for the 1879 Tender from Perkins Bacon, McCorquodales, Charles Skipper and East and De La Rue itself are shown together with the die proofs for the final accepted design.

Letterpress printing, thereafter, was used for all British stamps until the George V high values when a return was made to the line engraved process.

Stamp Book Advertising

DR JEAN ALEXANDER

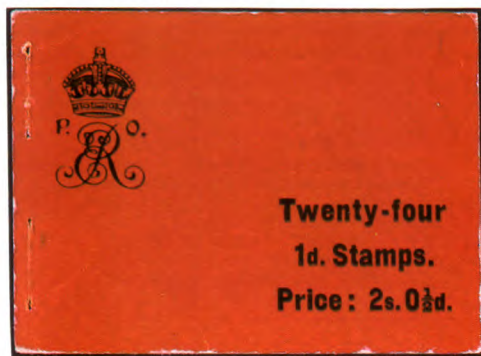
Stamp books produced by the Post Office have been in existence since almost the beginning of the century. Although a high proportion were sold over Post Office counters, many were sold from vending machines. Nowadays, there is no advertising in the normal book but the issue of special (prestige) books, devoted to advertising one particular company or organisation has occurred quite regularly. This article describes the earliest examples of books with advertisements.

The first Post Office book of stamps to be issued was in 1904 (Fig.1). The book contained 24 x 1d stamps and was put on sale at a cost of 2s 0½d. Illustrated is the Post Office Notice (Fig.2) for the new books of postage stamps. The cost of producing the book was estimated to be ½d and so ½d was added to the cost of the stamps. Interleaves in the first book between the panes of stamps were plain grease-proof paper with no advertising printed on them but advertising was later introduced on to the interleaves. From Book (2) the contents were changed to a total of 1s 11½d in stamps.

All the original books were unnumbered. The various editions (up to 14) have here been given the accepted listing by according them numbers printed in brackets.

In April 1907 it was decided by the Post Office that advertisements would be printed on the interleaves of the next book ordered — Book (4) — to test public opinion.¹ The Treasury agreed to the idea of trade advertising on booklet interleaves but subject to the stipulation that strict censorship be

Fig.1 Cover of the first book in 1904



exercised by the Postmaster-General. By October 1907 invitations had been sent to 24 potential advertisers inviting them to consider advertising in future books. By July 1908 none of the 24 advertisers circulated had shown any interest in advertising in Book (4) and the Postmaster-General decided to use all but one of the interleaves for Post Office advertisements. These were printed in red throughout the booklet, the remaining space being used to announce that the Postmaster-General was prepared

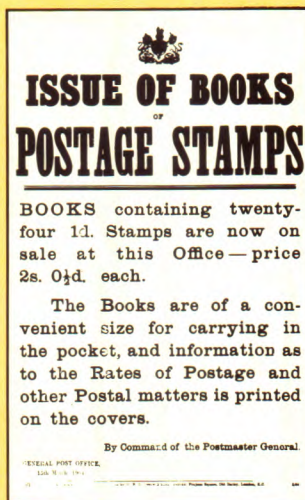


Fig.2

to consider offers for trade advertisements in future booklets.

Trials for printing interleaves were made up in the covers for Book (4) and consisted of plain paper instead of stamps and the waxed interleaves were printed with the 'Laws of Bridge'. The printing was in any one of three colours — black, red or blue — but only one colour was in any one booklet. Although the centering was very poor it was consistent throughout any one booklet. Other trials for advertisements also took place with Book (4) and for advertising in Book (5) but this time trade advertising was actually included.

Book (5) contained the following advertisements:

1. Marine and General Mutual Life Office
2. London and Lancashire Fire Insurance Co.
3. Chas. Baker and Co.
4. London and Lancashire (shield advertisement)
5. Robbialac
6. Cambridge Bibles and Prayer books.

Book (6) had, with the exception of two advertisements, the same as those included in Book (5). The exceptions were:

3. Brimsdown Lamps
6. Post Office Telephone Service.

In October 1910, a circular was sent to the advertising contractors and agents stating that the insertion of trade advertising would allow the future sale of stamp booklets at face value instead of adding an additional $\frac{1}{2}$ d to cover the cost of manufacture. The contents were then changed to a total of 2s in stamps as from Book (8).

On 8 October 1910 the Post Office wrote a letter to Messrs Sells accepting their offer to secure advertising for the stamp books. When Sells first agreed to take over the advertising they made one or two suggestions² to the Post Office, the first being that the advertising should be divided into districts like the telephone directories. Their next suggestion was that they would like to sell the bottom half of the front covers for advertising, retaining the top half for postal information. It was not until 1917 that this idea of advertisements on the lower half of the front cover was accepted.

The tender submitted by Sells Advertising Agency was accepted in January 1911. A proportion of the payments was to go to the Post Office and the new arrangements were to commence with the issue of booklets in June 1911. Book (7), issued in June 1911, had interleaves of plain white paper with Post Office notices and the announcement of Sells' appointment printed in green, as follows:

1. Sells Advertising Agency
2. Books of Stamps. Reduction in cost.

Advertisement proofs for Book (6) showing proposed pagination

3. Books of stamps. New Issue.
4. Books of Stamps. Advertisements.
5. New Issue. 2s Books of Stamps.
6. Sells Advertising Agency.

With the first George V booklets, both the contents and the cover were changed, the stamps being now the first with the new monarch's head and the cover having his cypher. Due to the fact that everyone wanted to advertise in the first King George V book it was decided to issue three books concurrently.³ Books (8), (9) and (10) were all issued together on 10 August 1911. Sells made a request that Book (8) be distributed chiefly in London, with the others more evenly spread. The result was that issue figures were:

	London	Provinces
Book (8)	$\frac{3}{4}$ million	$\frac{1}{4}$ million
Book (9)	$\frac{1}{3}$ million	$\frac{2}{3}$ million
Book (10)	$\frac{1}{4}$ million	$\frac{3}{4}$ million

These books can be distinguished by the advertisements on the first page, i.e.

- Book (8) Aitchison and Co.
 Book (9) Gresham Life Assurance Society Ltd.
 Book (10) Empire Hotels

The unnumbered books continued with books (11), (12), (13) and (14) but these had different front covers incorporating first inland postage rates and then foreign and colonial rates as well. All had advertisements very similar in style to books (8), (9) and (10).

These books can be distinguished as follows:

- Book (11) Cover — inland postage rates; first advertisement — Marsuma Cigarettes

3rd page

Brimsdown (COLLOID TUNGSTEN) PATENT.
Metallic Filament Incandescent Lamps.
THE BEST BRITISH LAMP.
 MADE THROUGHOUT BY
 THE IMPERIAL LAMP WORKS (BRIMSDOWN) LIMITED.
 WORKS: BRIMSDOWN, MIDDLESEX.

6th page

POST OFFICE TELEPHONE SERVICE.
 FOR TERMS APPLY:—
 LONDON.—GENERAL MANAGER, GENERAL POST OFFICE SOUTH, E.C.
 GLASGOW.—GENERAL MANAGER, RENFIELD STREET, GLASGOW.
 BRIGHTON.—MANAGER, 82, GRAND PARADE, BRIGHTON.
 OTHER PLACES.—LOCAL POSTMASTER, OR SECRETARY GENERAL POST OFFICE, LONDON, EDINBURGH, OR DUBLIN.
 POST OFFICE TELEPHONES AFFORD FACILITIES FOR:—
 Local and Long-Distance Conversations;
 Despatch and Receipt of Telegrams and Express Letters.

5th page

THE PERFECT Permanent Enamel Paint
"ROBBIALAC" 8809.
 House Decorating, Motor Cars and Cycles, Yachts and House Boats.
JENSON & NICHOLSON, LTD.
 "ROBBIALAC" WORKS, Stratford, London.
 STOCKED BY
 ARMY & NAVY STORES (AUXILIARY), BENEFITS, LTD. BELFRIDGE'S, LTD. A. W. GAMAGE, LTD. W. WHITELEY, LTD.

LONDON & LANCASHIRE FIRE INSURANCE CO.

FIRE ? BURGLARY

Are you convinced that your Insurances are in order.
 How about Fire — Burglary Domestic Servants.

ACCIDENT MOTOR CARS

45, DALE ST., LIVERPOOL.

LONDON & LANCASHIRE FIRE INSURANCE CO.

FIRE BURGLARY

Have you a PERSONAL ACCIDENT POLICY?
 Are you Insured against BURGLARY?

ACCIDENT MOTOR CARS

WRITE FOR LATEST TERMS TO
 45, DALE ST., LIVERPOOL.

CHAIRMAN—SIR THOS. BUTTERLAND, G.C.M.G., LL.D.

NON-FORFEITABLE ENDOWMENT ASSURANCES

EXCEPTIONAL PRIVILEGES

MARINE & GENERAL MUTUAL LIFE OFFICE

ESTABLISHED 1862.
 A Policy issued in 1852 shows an average Annual Bonus throughout the 55 years of £2 4s. for each £100 insured.
 Average Premiums. Liberal Conditions. Current Bonus, £2 0/- p.a.

APPLY FOR INFORMATION TO—
 14, LEADENHALL ST., LONDON, E.C.

- Book (12) Cover — inland postage rates; first advertisement — Palethorpes Sausages
- Book (13) as before but with stamps with watermark Simple Cypher
- Book (14) Cover with inland, colonial and foreign postage rates.

On 13 January 1913 book numbering was introduced, and this was started at number 8 (since this was the 8th book issued in the reign of George V, I should like to suggest that this was the reason it was numbered 8 rather than 15 as might have been expected) and subsequent books were numbered consecutively.

Dates of Issue

Book (1) 16 March 1904	Book (8) 10 August 1911
Book (2) 1 June 1906	(9)
Book (3) August 1907	(10)
Book (4) August (?) 1908	Book (11) 12 April 1912*
Book (5) August 1909	Book (12) 3 July 1912*
Book (6) August 1910	Book (13) 13 September 1912*
Book (7) June 1911	Book (14) 20 November 1912*

* dates for advertisers' voucher copies.

References

¹Post Office Archives Post 30 E6854/1913

²Alexander, J *GB Journal* Vol. 24 (3), p.45

³Post Office Archives Post 30 E3429/1911

Philatelic Terms Explained

KENNETH F CHAPMAN

6. Postal Fiscals

The most familiar adhesive stamps are those used to prepay postage. However, other adhesive stamps, of older origin have been issued specifically for use on legal contracts, as a tax on receipts for cash payments in ordinary business and for other fiscal, or revenue, purposes. These issues are known as fiscal stamps and nowadays are less collected than postage stamps, possible exceptions being when a specialist collector of a single country will include fiscal stamps of that country because of their similarity in design to the contemporary postage stamps, providing a link with other work of the same designers and printers.

In 1881, certain British fiscal stamps were authorised, without any amending overprint, for use as postage stamps and, among philatelists, these acquired the classification 'Postal fiscals'. In mint condition, there is no way of distinguishing the fiscal or postal status of these stamps but because they could

have come from printings available for postal use they are considered, even mint, as postage stamps.

However, when used, the cancellation is the guiding factor. Many fiscal cancellations were either manuscript signatures and/or dates; others were by departmental office rubber stamps, generally applied in violet, blue, green or red ink. Postal cancellations on postal fiscals are identical with contemporary postmarks and are usually in black. Ideally, these issues are best collected on cover when the postmark ties the stamp or stamps to the cover but in this state they are quite scarce and can be worth up to ten times as much as used examples off cover.



Illustration ex R. M. Phillips Collection, courtesy National Postal Museum.

The overprint alters their status and the stamps become postage stamps in the normal way. Examples occur in India (1866) and Grenada (1888).

In 1883, British postage stamps hitherto inscribed merely POSTAGE began to appear inscribed POSTAGE & REVENUE, thus serving a dual purpose. This did not obviate the need for certain classes of fiscal stamps such as those specifically used as receipts for payment of British consular fees paid abroad.

Because most *postally* used fiscal stamps are more valuable than the same stamps in *fiscally* used condition, care should be taken to check that fiscal cancellations have not been cleaned off and forged postmarks applied in their place.

In the case of Great Britain, large quantities of fiscal stamps were used up postally as a deliberate policy but some postal fiscals are emergency issues during a temporary lack of stocks of postage stamps. They are authorised for postal use for a very limited period. Examples can be found in Hong Kong and Tristan da Cunha.

On occasions, supplies of fiscal stamps have been overprinted POSTAGE before issue for postal use.

The Museum Piece

Greetings Telegrams

Items held elsewhere in the Post Office are constantly being added to the National Postal Museum's collections. Recently received was an official collection of greetings telegrams as issued up to 1979, to be added to the Museum's own accumulation of such items.

Illustrated is the first greetings telegram issued for St. Valentine's Day. It was to be used on 14 February 1936 only and other types of greetings telegrams were not to be used on that day. A record of the number of forms in the new design actually delivered was kept by the Telegraph Delivery Offices. This was the first special form for St. Valentine's Day and was designed by Rex Whistler. It shows cherubs holding hanging clusters of fruit linked with ribbon bows. A total of 48,540 were sent.

References

Green, D M, *The Greetings Telegrams Service*, 1967
Post Office Archives file P3129/1933 (Post 33/5448).

OFFICE OF ORIGIN		SERIAL NUMBER	
OFFICE OF RECEIPT		DATE	

DESIGN WHISTLER

14. 2. 36.

Book Reviews

Postage Stamps of Great Britain and their History by J J Wijman. 396pp limp bound. £10 post paid.

This is a fully illustrated history of all GB stamps (with the exception of such things as postage due labels and country definitives) from 1840 to 1986, with background notes about the reason for issue and the period. It is particularly weighted towards modern special issues and is thus of greatest use to thematic collectors. The book can be ordered from

the author at v. Veldekestraat 4, 5671 VD NUENEN, The Netherlands (Bank giro No. 3648885).

Silver Jubilee of King George V — Stamps handbook by A J Ainscough. 56pp limp bound. £4.60 (+ 25p post inland).

This gives an extremely detailed catalogue listing (unpriced) with well illustrated flaws of all the British, Dominion and Colonial issues celebrating George V's Silver Jubilee. Available from the author at Ainwhel Developments (Phil.), Delph House, Parbold, Nr Wigan, Lancashire WN8 7AA.

The Railway Letter Service

JOHN HOLMAN

In six articles in the *Bulletin* (October 1984-January 1985, March-April 1985) I gave details of the railway letter services operated by British Rail and fifteen minor railways. The articles were written during the Summer of 1983 (with some later updating) and a number of developments and new issues can now be recorded. During 1985 the West Somerset Railway became the sixteenth minor railway to start an officially-authorized railway letter service, the Gwili Railway in South Wales issued its first (unauthorised) adhesive stamp and British Rail reinstated its service for carrying souvenir mail connected with the 150th anniversary of the Great Western Railway. Details of changes to the service, new stamps and cancels are given below, the minor railways being dealt with in alphabetical order.

British Rail

The service was terminated in June 1984, BR stating that the operation of the service was no longer economic. Demands by collectors/dealers for some philatelic souvenirs of GWR 150 prompted BR to reinstate the service for the carriage of mail on certain special trains. In conjunction with cover-dealers Benham of Folkestone, BR issued a miniature sheet of four 55p stamps on 22 January 1985, day of issue of the five Post Office 'Famous Trains' stamps. The BR stamps featured three famous locomotives — *Iron Duke*, *City of Truro*, *Great Western* and a modern Western Region High Speed Train. The stamps were available for use on souvenir covers on special trains operated on 22 January and subsequent dates and on mail conveyed on a special Exhibition Train which toured Western Region (and a few other places) from May to September. For the most part the stamps are to be found on souvenir covers produced for BR by Benham although a few collectors arranged their own covers. Sadly the arrangements for individual collectors left rather a lot to be desired and none of the covers I have seen were properly dealt with — the railway stamps were either left uncanceled or cancelled at the town of posting rather than despatch. I have the impression that railway letter stamp collectors were not too impressed by BR's handling of this issue and it is to be hoped that any future reinstatement of the service for other anniversaries will be given greater thought. The rate of 55p was a special concessionary one, the

fee at the time the service was withdrawn was £2.08 (including VAT).

The Festiniog and Talylllyn Railways wished to commemorate the GWR anniversary and BR gave authority for them to transfer covers for carriage on BR's Cambrian Coast main line; such covers were franked with FR or TR 20p stamps and the BR 55p issue. These arrangements lasted only for the period 14 June-31 August. British Rail operates the railway letter service on its narrow-gauge Vale of Rheidol Railway in mid-Wales, the normal 'minor railway rate' of 20p is charged. In order to facilitate the carriage of mail on the V of R and then transfer to the main line system, the 55p stamps were surcharged 'VALE OF RHEIDOL/+ 20p' and issued in June. Details of these and the FR and TR operations are given below.

Bluebell Railway

In connection with the 25th anniversary of the reopening of the railway, the 1975 10p stamp showing the London & South Western Rly. locomotive No 488 was issued surcharged 20p on 30 July 1985.

East Somerset Railway

No further stamps have been issued since the first set released in April 1984, and I have received no information about future plans.

Festiniog Railway

Two special railway cancels have been used — one on 22 January 1985 to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the GWR, the other on 23 July 1985 to mark the 30th anniversary of the first stage of the re-opening of the Railway. Both cancels have a railway ticket as the basis of their design. In mid-June 1985 as part of the GWR activities, the Railway transferred mail to BR for onward transmission to the Talylllyn and Vale of Rheidol Railways and for posting on arrival at Shrewsbury, covers being carried on the GRW Exhibition Train on its return journey from Aberystwyth. All covers seen by the writer were properly handled, the FR stamp being cancelled with the Railway's oval handstamp, the BR stamp by a special cachet worded 'The Great Western Railway/150th/Anniversary/Railway Letter Service'. The postage stamps were cancelled with special handstamps at Abergynolwyn or Shrewsbury. The

arrangement continued until the end of August, a cover sent to the writer endorsed 'To be Posted At Shrewsbury' was put on to the Shrewsbury-York TPO and received the TPO handstamp.

To commemorate the 150th anniversary of the opening of the railway for goods traffic a miniature sheet containing three 20p stamps was issued on 18 April 1986.

Great Central Railway

No new issues have been made since the two 25p stamps released in May 1983. At one point I wondered if the service had been discontinued but a cover carried in May 1985 bears witness to its survival.

Keighley & Worth Valley Railway

This Yorkshire line issued three stamps during 1985. The first — issued on 22 January — features the locomotive *City of Wells* hauling the Golden Arrow Train. This locomotive is occasionally steamed on the KWVR. The second issue — on 9 May — comprised two stamps, printed se-tenant — depicting preserved British and American locomotives. They are not perhaps the most attractive stamps issued by the Railway but as they have a link with the 40th anniversary of the end of the Second World War (the set is described as 'Locomotives for Victory') they will undoubtedly prove popular with thematic as well as railway letter stamp collectors. The final issue — on 8 August — was a single stamp commemorating the locomotive *The Brontes of Haworth*. This depicted the three sisters, (Anne, Charlotte and Emily) with the front of the locomotive and its name-plate. Again this stamp has a strong thematic appeal; an earlier issue featured their brother Branwell (see *Bulletin*, March 1985, p.116).

Kent & East Sussex Railway

This Company seems to have put the service into 'moth-balls'. There have been no new stamps since May 1981 and requests for information have gone unanswered. It is likely that the service has not been withdrawn but has simply become moribund.

Llanberis Lake Railway

The service is still operated although no new stamps have been issued; the 20p definitive stamp issued in August 1981 remains in use.

Mid-Hants Railway

Although the Company has not withdrawn the service, it no longer carries railway letters as it has not issued a new 20p stamp to cover the current rate nor prepared a 5p adhesive or rubber stamp for use with the 15p issue.

North Yorkshire Moors Railway

This Company was busy on the railway letter stamp front during 1985. Mention was made in the *Bulletin* for March 1985 (p.117) that the company carries parcels as well as railway letters and issues parcel stamps. These can also be used as letter stamps and despite their rather unattractive, utilitarian design, are accepted and collected by most railway letter stamp collectors. A new printing of the four parcel stamps was made late in 1984 and released on 22 January 1985; these can be found on souvenir covers carried on the line and franked with PO 'Famous Trains' stamps. A new series of railway letter stamps was issued on 8 June — two at 5p, three at 10p and one at 20p, they feature scenes from the railway's history including four station views. The stamps are printed in se-tenant panes of six, two panes to a sheet, in black, red and gold. Unfortunately the reproduction of the historical vignettes, printed in black, is not as good as it might be. Nevertheless the designs are quite pleasing and it is an interesting set. It was issued to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Whitby & Pickering Railway which initially operated between Whitby and Grosmont. The inscription '1835 GROSMONT 1985' appears in the margin between the two panes in the sheet.

This company has a rather innovative approach to railway stamps and on 8 June also issued a telephone stamp. The idea behind this is simply that the addressee of a 'To be Called For' letter can, (if the sender has paid the fee) be telephoned from one of the Company's stations to be informed that a letter awaits collection. The 10p stamp is also valid for use



as a railway letter stamp and covers exist bearing three telephone stamps to make up the 30p inclusive charge.

Railway Preservation Society of Ireland

This Society is entitled to operate the railway letter service in both Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. Letters handed in north of the border are subject to the minor railway rate of 20p, those tendered south of the border are subject to the same rate as charged by the state-run Coras Iompair Eireann (Irish Transport Company). In September 1984 the RPSI reissued its three 20p stamps surcharged 'IR£1' for use on covers carried in the Republic. These provisionals had a relatively short life being replaced in May 1985 by four stamps of value £1.23 (£1 plus 23 per cent VAT). These — together with eight 20p stamps released at the same time — are of the same high standard of design and printing as the original issue; they depict preserved locomotives hauling trains. The stamps can be found on souvenir covers and on covers prepared by collectors and carried on special Raitour trains organised by the Society during the Summer. The writer has covers carried on the 'Portrush Flyer' and 'Steam Enterprise' trains. The railway stamps were cancelled at Whitehead Station, the Society's headquarters.

Ravenglass & Eskdale Railway

The Company issued an attractive 20p definitive stamp in May 1985, this features the front portion of one of the Railway's locomotives. The stamp is dated '1985', the Company intends to issue one new stamp each year.

Romney, Hythe and Dymchurch Railway

After nearly two years of no new issues, the RHDR issued four triangular-shaped stamps in December 1983 to mark the centenary of the opening of the standard-gauge railway to Dungeness (now closed to passengers but used by trains to the power station). A similar set was issued in April 1984 to mark the centenary of steam trains at New Romney. These stamps were issued in sheets of twelve, containing three 'blocks' of four.

Talyllyn Railway

A special cancellation was used on 22 January 1985



when the PO 'Famous Trains' stamps were issued, this depicts the crests of both the GW and Talyllyn Railways and is inscribed 'TALYLLYN RAILWAY SALUTES THE OTHER FAMOUS TRAINS'. The same cancel was used again on 31 August when the two 20p stamps showing locomotive *Sir Haydn* (issued 1981) were reissued overprinted 'GWR 150/1835-1985' in red. Mail carried on the day of issue was given a cachet worded 'GWR 150/CARRIED ON THE/TR's SPECIAL/GWR MAIL TRAIN/HAULED BY No. 3/"SIR HAYDN", THE OLDEST WORKING/GW LOCOMOTIVE'. A new definitive stamp is expected during 1986.

The Company joined with the Festiniog Railway and BR in transferring covers from mid-June to the end of August 1985 as part of the GWR anniversary activities. Covers were dealt with in a similar way to those handled by the Festiniog Rly (see above).

Vale of Rheidol Railway

No new stamps — with the exception of the surcharged BR 55p stamps (detailed above) — have been issued since 1982 when the current 20p stamp showing the locomotive *Prince of Wales* was issued.

Welshpool & Llanfair Railway

No new stamps have been issued since May 1982 when the current 20p stamp was put on sale to coincide with the reopening of the Railway into Welshpool.

West Somerset Railway

The West Somerset Railway became the sixteenth minor railway to operate the service on 23 May 1985 when its first stamp was issued. Post Office authority to start the service was given on 3 May. The Railway's 20p stamp is in similar design to the original railway letter stamps of 1891 and like them is printed in green (see *Bulletin*, October 1984, p.21). It

is inscribed '1st CLASS LETTER FEE/PAID', printed in sheets of ten, rouletted. One thousand sheets were produced.

The Railway is the longest preserved railway in the UK — it runs from Bishop's Lydeard, five miles from Taunton, to Minehead, nearly sixteen miles. There are seven intermediate stations at — Crowcombe, Stogumber, Williton, Watchet, Washford, Blue Anchor and Dunster. The line was completed to Minehead in 1874 and closed by British Rail in 1971. It has been reopened under new management since 1976, both steam and diesel railcars are used. The railway letter stamps and details of the train services can be obtained from: West Somerset Railway PLC, Railway Station, MINEHEAD, Somerset, TA24 5BG.

Mention was made in the introduction to this article of the Gwili Railway. This railway runs from Bronwydd Arms to Penybont near Cardigan in Dyfed. A railway letter service of sorts is operated although the Railway has not signed the Railway Letter Agreement with The Post Office. Initially the Railway issued covers bearing an imprinted 15p stamp, non-pictorial, worded 'GWILI RAILWAY/RAILWAY/LETTER/SERVICE' with the value '15p' in the centre. These exist in orange (1982) and orange and black (1983). Apparently a 20p adhesive stamp was issued in August 1985 but at the time of writing the author has not seen a copy. It is to be hoped that the Company will regularise its arrangement by signing the Railway Letter Agreement.

The Nene Valley Railway has recently become a party to the Post Office's Railway Letter Agreement. On 4 June they started their Railway Letter Service, using a colourful railway stamp showing BR Standard Class 5 locomotive No. 73050 *City of Peterborough* in steam. The 25p stamp covers 20p for the standard Minor Railways' letter fee and a 5p surcharge for the Railway's extension fund.

Orders and inquiries should be addressed to: Nene Valley Rly, FREEPOST, Wansford Station, PETERBOROUGH, PE8 6LR.

"War in Burma" Display

Illustrated are two of about 300 items forming a display of stamps and postal history during World War II in Burma. With letters, maps, photographs and other artefacts they recall the story of "The Forgotten Army". These are from the collection formed by Gerald Davis, who served in the Royal Engineers in the Burma campaign. The display will be in the National Army Museum, Royal Hospital Road, Chelsea, LONDON SW3 from Monday 3 November until Sunday 21 December. The

Museum's opening hours are: 10.00 a.m. to 5.30 p.m., Mondays to Saturdays and 2.00 p.m. to 5.30 p.m. Sundays. Admission is free.

The items shown are marked undelivered and were returned to sender in the United Kingdom because of no service in one case or, in the other, because it was found in undelivered mails from territory formerly occupied by Japanese forces.



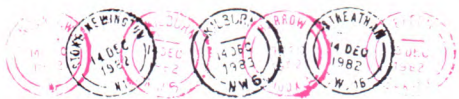
Definitive Withdrawals from P.O. Counters

Following a review of the definitive stamp range available after the introduction of the new postal rates on 20 October the Post Office has found that three values will no longer be needed. These are 7p brick red, 12p emerald green and 17p steel blue.

As a result these three values, including the 12p and 17p Country stamps, were withdrawn from general sale at close of business on 18 October.

Collectors will be able to buy the stamps for a further 12 months, or until stocks are exhausted, from philatelic sales counters, or by post from the British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, EDINBURGH EH3 5TT.

Letters to the Editor



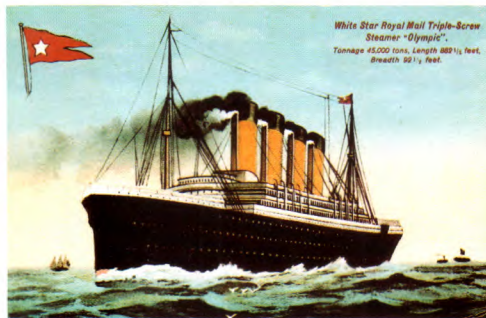
Sea Post Offices

Sir,

I found the article on Sea Post Offices in the July *Bulletin* (p.228) very interesting as I have been collecting Seaposts for about 50 years now. In my collection I have a number of cards with the Transatlantic Post Office cancellation.

The card illustrated shows the White Star Royal Mail triple-screw steamer *Olympic* and it was actually posted on board the ship with a cancellation of 9 May 1913.

Hamburg, West Germany ARNO GOTSPENN



White Star Royal Mail Triple-Screw Steamer "Olympic".
Tonnage 45,000 tons, Length 680 1/2 feet,
Breadth 95 1/2 feet.



Wing Margins

Sir,

May I offer some comments arising from Mr Chapman's article (*Bulletin* August issue p.251)?

First, it seems to me that the key to understanding some of the puzzling features of these issues lies in the combination of two things: one is that the placing of the watermarks was sufficiently critical for the pattern of the panes to be designed into the paper, and the other is that the authorities generally

arranged that the value of a row and a "sheet" (ie pane) should come to a round sum. Thus, on "emblems" or "spray of rose" papers, used for the 3d and its multiples, the stamps are in fours with the wing margins in the D/E and H/I gutters, while on the garter papers, used only for 4d and 8d, the stamps are in sixes with wing margins in the F/G gutter. The 10d is perhaps anomalous, being on spray paper, with the corresponding wing margins, but the 2 1/2d, printed in twelves without wing margins, could be said to conform to the round-sum rule since it has only 16 rows or 192 stamps per sheet (value £2).

You do not mention the Two Shillings, and indeed Beaumont and Adams (*The Postage Stamps of Great Britain* Part 3, page 22) expressly say that values above One Shilling did not have wing margins. Nevertheless, it was printed on spray of rose paper. Did it really not have wing margins?

And finally, you give an end date of 1883. In fact, there are no wing margins on crown watermarked paper, which was in general use by 1881, and some plates were actually altered to remove the wing margins.

Royston, Herts.

JOHN M SMITH

K F Chapman's definition was adequate to recognise the majority of cut-down wing margin stamps and we are grateful it prompted Mr Smith to provide this additional and interesting information. The date "1883" was an error for "1873". — Ed.

Trinity House

Sir,

As one, who during my boyhood lived in the vicinity of St. Catherine's Point, Isle of Wight, you can imagine my interest in Barbara Last's excellent article "Trinity House" (September *Bulletin*). The long succession of wrecks on the southern coast of the island had led in very early times to the idea of a warning beacon-light on the Downs, but it was not until 1314 that the wreck of the *St. Marie* of Bayonne, brought about the building of the first "lighthouse". This ship carried a cargo of wine belonging to a monastery, and when she was wrecked in nearby Chale Bay, the wine was seized by Walter de Godeton, a local landowner. The church authorities hearing of this, ordered Godeton, as a penance, to build and endow a lighthouse chapel on St. Catherine's Down, some 800ft above where the present St. Catherine's Lighthouse stands. Thus, the Oratory of St. Catherine came into being, and the resident priest kept a brazier burning in the upper part of the 35ft 6in octagonal tower, now still standing and known locally as the "Pepper Pot", much visited by tourists with its magnificent view.

During my boyhood days we were, of course, very proud of the present St. Catherine's Lighthouse, built in 1838/40, which, according to us boys, was the most powerful lighthouse in the world with a light of 15 million-candle-power. The light also reflected, just below the revolving lens, a red prismatic beam to another famous lighthouse at the head of the world-renowned landmark of the Needles Rocks, about 18 miles to the southwest. The red beam, if seen by any ships, was a warning to keep out further to safer waters of the Channel.



Unfortunately, no mention was made of this important venue of Trinity House, whose area Depot is situated on the island, at East Cowes, and across the Medina River, near to West Cowes, stands the island's third lighthouse, at Egypt Point.

I should like to call attention to an interesting item, if only of cinderella collecting status, that gives the Needles Point pride of place on a label produced in August, 1934, by the (then) Portsmouth, Southsea and Isle of Wight Aviation Ltd., under the mistaken belief that the labels' use would be sanctioned by the Post Office, which had recently granted a contract to Railway Air Services.

According to Francis J Field, of aero-philately fame, on 2 August, 1934 the company flew 20 letters bearing the company's label from the Isle of Wight to Heston Airport, where they were reposted. The Same day, on the return journey, 20 letters were carried and posted at Ryde on arrival. A further experimental flight was made from Ryde to Portsmouth City Airport, when 21 letters were carried in special Imperial Airway's envelopes for the

first regular airmail for Australia and New Zealand. The date was 7 December, 1934. the label exists in sepia and also in blue, in booklet blocks of four.

Originally classed by one writer as an item "which should be expunged from collections as purely speculative", it would now be a valuable asset to any subject, particularly Trinity House. The Needles, I understand, will very shortly become an unmanned lighthouse.

Leatherhead, Surrey

HAROLD J KING

Wings – An Activity Pack for Young Collectors

The new Post Box product "Wings" was put on sale on 16 September with the RAF special stamp issue. Containing exciting and informative visual aids and fact sheets on many aspects of aircraft, it is intended for children between the ages of 6 and 12. It contains a first day cover of the RAF issue.

Sales of the new Post Box product have made an encouraging start. Initial results suggest that Post Box is a popular addition to the range of products sold by the Post Office. Consideration is now being given to producing a second Post Box in 1987.

The Wings pack is an ideal Christmas gift and is available from all philatelic counters and the British Philatelic Bureau, price £4.50.



November Digest

Issued in November

4 November **13p Scottish definitive** printed by The House of Questa in offset litho.

4 November **Standard aerogramme on new paper**

4 November **Christmas PHQ cards** (Nos 98A-E) 14p each.

18 November **Christmas stamps** 13p, 18p, 22p, 31p, 34p

designer: Lynda Gray

printing: Harrisons, photogravure, 41mm x 30mm, perf. 15 x 14, sheets 100, PVA Dextrin gum, phosphor coated paper (except the 13p — one central phosphor bar)

Bureau f.d. service alternative handstamp — Llandeilo

presentation pack £1.40

18 November **Christmas aerogramme** 30p

18 November **1986 Collectors' pack** £10.32

18 November **1986 Yearbook** £15.95

Withdrawn in November

3 November **50p machine-vended book of 4 November 1985**

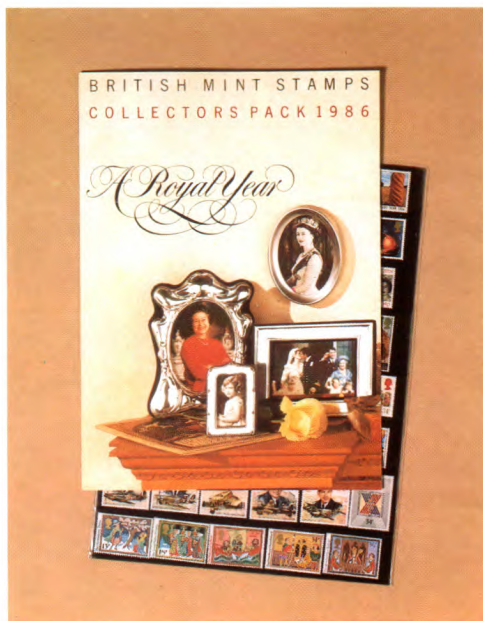
18 November **Christmas 1985** — all items

18 November **1985 Collectors' Pack**

18 November **1985 Yearbook**

Collectors' Pack 1986

As announced last month the Collectors' Pack 1986 will go on sale on 18th November costing £10.32. It will contain all the special stamps issued during 1986 with the exception of the 12p Christmas discount stamp.



Royal Mail Stamps Album: Continuation Pages for 1986

Continuation pages for the special issues of 1986 will be issued on 18 November for the Royal Mail Stamps Album. Four pages will be supplied in a white envelope printed in two colours with the Album crest design on the envelope front. The pages, which cost £3.50, cover special stamp issues only — all of those for 1986 including the 12p discount version of the 13p Christmas stamp. The pages will be available from philatelic counters and the British Philatelic Bureau.

Commemorative Cover

Crystal Palace Fire. A cover from the Crystal Palace Foundation will mark the 50th anniversary of the Crystal Palace fire. Costing £2, it will bear a 17p Sports stamp or a 17p Queen's Birthday stamp cancelled by a special handstamp at London SE19 on 30 November. Remittances (with 30p handling charge — £1 overseas) to Covercraft, CPF Agents, PO Box 713, LONDON SE19 2HH.

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